

THE WIRE

A JTF Journal



Helping wounded warriors heal
SUDS takes on GTMO diving

Operations security
What you need to know at GTMO



Build your career, find a mentor

**Air Force Chief Master Sgt.
Wallace L. Harper**
474th ECES Chief of Operations

As a young gentleman growing up, my father deserved considerable credit for encouraging me to pursue whatever interested me. If I needed something to follow a particular path, if it was within his means, he always managed to provide for it. I cannot recall him ever complaining about having spent his hard-earned money on something that interested me. He was especially supportive of my educational growth and always encouraged me to pursue what I wanted. His praise for my educational pursuits was an important buttress for those early years. I was not always a great student, but I do not recall any nagging about my educational failings or under achievements.

A mentor is defined as a trusted counselor or guide who, with their experience and wisdom, guides another person to develop both personally and professionally. Mentors provide support, counseling, friendship, reinforcement and constructive examples. Mentors are good listeners, caring and want to help others.

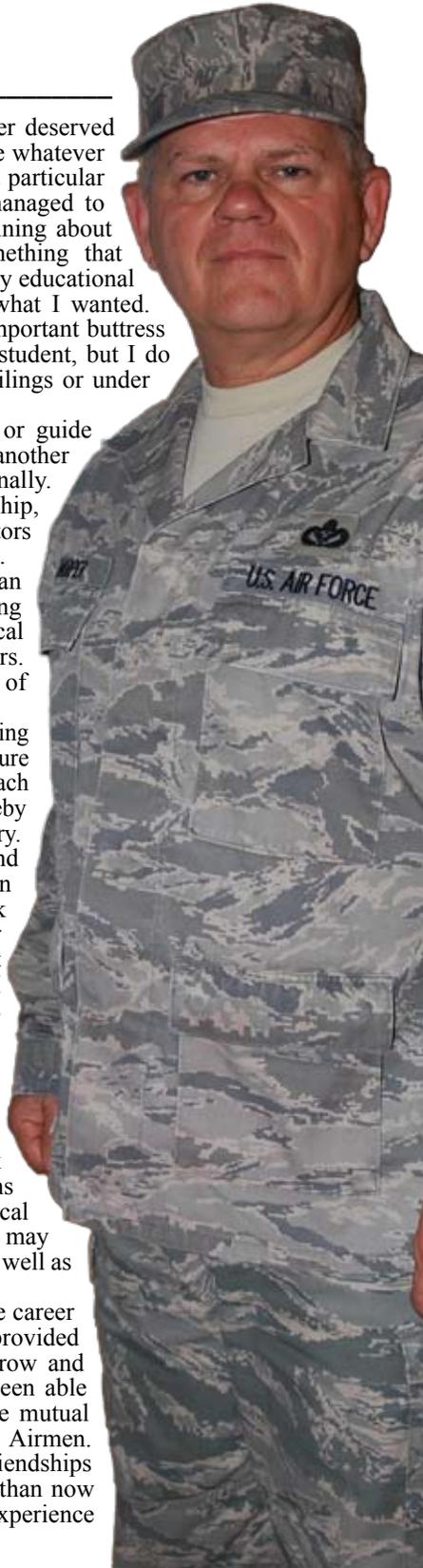
Mentoring is a powerful form of human development. Some organizations believe mentoring improves the talent of management and technical jobs as well as helps to shape future leaders. Mentoring is not a new concept. It has been part of formal development programs for some time.

Mentoring is an essential ingredient in developing well-rounded, professional and competent future leaders in the military. The goal is to help each individual reach his or her full potential, thereby enhancing the overall professionalism of the military.

We all need mentors throughout our lives and careers. If you are new to the military, this is an extremely critical time for you to find and work with someone who can be a positive mentor for you. Find someone you respect and trust so that you can be honest and open with each other. I encourage you to seek several mentors, perhaps one in your career field and someone from a different field within the military. In today's technological world, your mentor can be from any base, city, or state – it is most important to find the right mentor that works for you.

There are many private organizations that seek to develop professional skills and associations for individuals in many career fields and technical specialties. Membership in such associations may provide additional opportunities for mentoring as well as broaden technical expertise.

The mentors I have met through my Air Force career have helped guide my military career and provided me with leadership opportunities to help me grow and develop personally and professionally. I have been able to listen to their personal experiences and share mutual concerns about the future of the Air Force and Airmen. These mentor relationships have turned into friendships that will last a lifetime. There is no better time than now to engage with a mentor to make your military experience rewarding and satisfying. ☆



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COVER:

Wounded warrior Sgt. Marco Robledo receives underwater instructions from a certified scuba instructor, May 24. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Joshua Treadwell



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.

New enlisted leadership takes reins of 525th

**Army Staff Sgt.
Blair Heusdens**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The enlisted leadership of the 525th Military Police Battalion and the 193rd Military Police Company at Joint Task Force Guantanamo recently changed hands.

Army Command Sgt. Maj. Steven M. Raines replaced Army Command Sgt. Maj. Gary J. Fowler as the senior enlisted leader of the 525th during a ceremony at Troopers Chapel, May 27. Fowler currently serves as the Joint Detention Group command sergeant major.

Raines has extensive experience in military detention operations and more than 25 years of service as a military policeman. His most recent assignment was as the director of operations sergeant major for the United States Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Leavenworth.

The 525th Military Police Battalion was established at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay in Oct. 2004 to provide a guard force for the JTF. Troopers from the 525th provide internal security within the detention facilities in support of the JTF mission to provide safe, humane, legal and transparent care and custody of detainees.

In a separate ceremony, May 26, Army 1st Sgt. William L. Gamble took responsibility from Army 1st Sgt. Mark R. Provost as the senior enlisted leader of the 193rd Military Police Company, which serves under the 525th. Gamble was recently laterally promoted from master sergeant to first sergeant.

Gamble enlisted in 1985 and has served in several corrections capacities. His most recent assignment was as the detainee camp non-commissioned officer-in-charge for the 189th Military Police Company at JTF Guantanamo and he completed a previous tour as



Army Command Sgt. Maj. Steven M. Raines

the JTF battalion training NCO for Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment of the 525th.

Raines feels prepared to continue the 525th legacy of fair, firm and impartial treatment of detainees at JTF Guantanamo.

"I have high expectations that each and every Soldier within this organization will take them seriously," Raines said. "I have high expectations that each and every Soldier within this organization will take the opportunity to improve oneself for the good of the organization." ★



Army 1st Sgt. William L. Gamble, incoming first sergeant for the 193rd Military Police Company, Army Capt. Pedro E. Vazquez, commander of the 193rd and Army 1st Sgt. Mark R. Provost, outgoing first sergeant stand together during a change of responsibility for the unit's senior enlisted, May 26. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Michael Baltz



Army 1st Sgt. William L. Gamble

Operations security: What you need to know

**Army Staff Sgt.
Blair Heusdens**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

“Loose lips sink ships” is a phrase most service members associate with operations security, or OPSEC. The phrase has been around since World War II when it was used as a slogan to limit the possibility of people inadvertently giving useful information to enemy spies. Here at Joint Task Force Guantanamo, operations security plays a major role in ensuring the safety of not only the detainees, but also the service members, civilians and residents who call this place home.

Operations security is a process that identifies critical information to determine if friendly actions can be observed by adversary intelligence systems, determines if information obtained by adversaries could be interpreted to be useful to them and then executes selected measures that eliminate or reduce adversary exploitation of friendly critical information.

At JTF Guantanamo, General Order No. 2 dictates the policy on operations security and punitive measures applicable to those who violate the policy. As a JTF Trooper, it is your responsibility to be familiar with this order and the critical information specific to your workplace.

A large part of maintaining operational security starts with discussing sensitive information only with those who have a need to know, according to the JTF OPSEC manager. Keep your work at work and refrain from discussing work-related matters in public places where others may overhear.

Communications on the telephone or Internet must also be guarded. Never discuss classified or sensitive information on non-secure telephone or Internet lines.

Information that may be sensitive includes: specific numbers of Troopers assigned to the JTF, exact numbers of detainees and their locations within the camps, any information on detainee movements, information regarding force protection measures on

the base and within the camps and any information regarding future operations.

More specific information on Essential Elements of Friendly Information (EEFI) specific to JTF Guantanamo can be found in Policy Memorandum No. 8, Essential Elements of Friendly Information.

Written communications can also be sensitive. All printed e-mails and documents concerning the JTF should be shredded. JTF Guantanamo has a 100% shred policy for all documents to ensure critical information doesn't fall into the hands of others.

Troopers should also consider their individual presence on

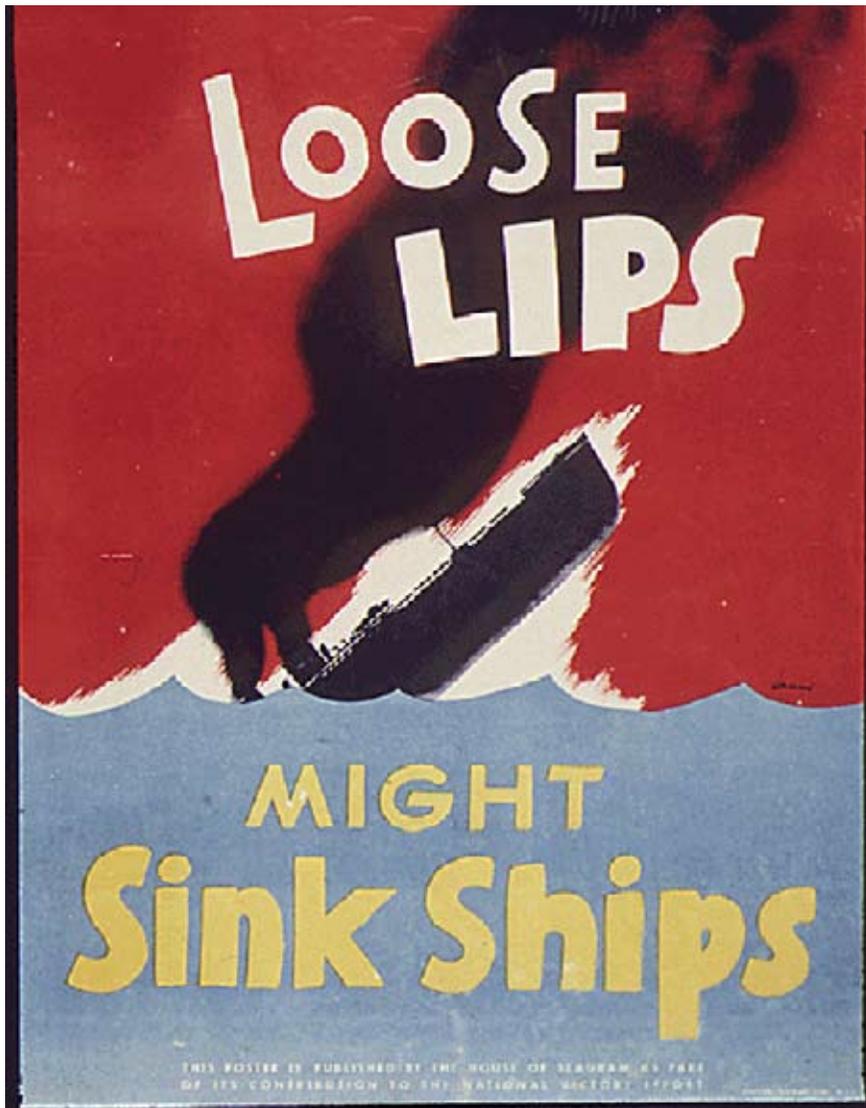
the Internet. Individuals with personal Web sites or social networking sites with detailed personal information or distinctive names may be easily linked with the JTF or their specific jobs here. Troopers have the choice about what personal information they want released about themselves and their jobs here.

Photos can also reveal sensitive information about the JTF. Troopers should avoid taking photos in the JTF area as well as photos of structures located on hilltops or photos taken from hilltops around the naval station.

Other measures to protect yourself: keep security badges tucked away when not in a secure location, lock computers when you walk away from them, keep all communications or storage devices out of areas where sensitive information may be located, never transport classified information without the proper locking containers or devices and always wear a “sanitized” uniform when in the presence of detainees.

Maintaining operations security while deployed to GTMO is an important part of keeping the base secure. Any questions about operations security at JTF Guantanamo should be directed through your chain of command. All JTF personnel should schedule an outbriefing prior to leaving the base with the operations security section.

For copies of General Order No. 2 and Policy Memorandum No. 8, visit the JTF intranet site. 📌





Maintaining the ELC

Senior Airman John McClung, a heating, ventilation and air conditioning technician with the 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron, repairs an air conditioning unit, May 22. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Pfc. Christopher Vann

**Army Sgt.
Michael Baltz**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron continuously maintains the Expeditionary Legal Complex at Joint Task Force Guantanamo by utilizing the three sections of their squadron; power production, heating ventilation and air conditioning, and electrical to make sure the facilities are always ready in case military commissions begin again.

“Even though commissions may be coming up, our mission has stayed the same,” said Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Wallace Harper, chief of operations. “Since day one we have conducted maintenance and preventative maintenance on the ELC in order to keep it a state of the art facility.”

As part of maintaining the ELC, the 474th ECES posts an airman from each shop inside the courtroom during commissions to ensure that the proceedings are not negatively affected by conditions within the building.

“Before a power outage occurs, we have to have a plan on how we are going to restore the power in a very minimal amount of time,” said Air Force Staff Sgt. Guy Conley, an electrician with the 474th ECES. “It is critical for the commissions to carry on.”

Conley and his shop prepare for a

possible power outage by training on the equipment regularly. The 474th Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning unit also prepares by having a weekly preventative maintenance checklist.

“We have a weekly schedule that we go by,” said Air Force Tech Sgt. Stacy Branham, a HVAC technician. “Before commissions start, we go over our checklist to ensure everything is good to go, so the commissions will not be interrupted.”

Another section of the squadron is power production. This shop is responsible for maintaining all power for Camp Justice and the ELC. There are back-up generators if the generators in use break down.

“If there is a generator failure, it is our responsibility to get power up and running,” said Air Force Staff Sgt. Brian Walker, a power production airman. “The back-up generators would simultaneously start if the ones in use failed.”

As well as maintaining generators, airmen with the 474th ECES are also responsible for pest control.

“We spray the ELC with pesticides,” said Air Force Senior Airman Natasha Conley, an entomologist. “There have been cases in the past when we had to relocate snakes’.”

“We are also responsible for managing weeds,” Air Force Tech. Sgt. Raphael Jones added. “Weeds are our biggest challenge.”

The 474th ECES maintains all aspects of the ELC and will continue to do so in

The 474th ECES supports Joint Task Force Guantanamo by maintaining the Expeditionary Legal Complex and Camp Justice facilities and infrastructure. The squadron has been working on the shore power mission, which will supply the ELC and Camp Justice with electricity.
– JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Michael Baltz



support of the JTF mission.

According to Harper, “[Troopers] have high morale because they feel they have a hand in the Global War on Terror by maintaining the ELC.” ☆

Antagonizer's head coach Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Gilbert Arizaga allowed his players to shave his head after winning the men's softball championship, May 29. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Michael Baltz

Bring out the shears; Antagonizers take championship

Army Sgt. Michael Baltz

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Antagonizers' head coach, Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Gilbert Arizaga told his players that he would let them shave his head if they won the men's softball championship. On May 29, Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Rhett Madden, a Joint Task Force Guantanamo Trooper, turned on the shears and shaved away after the Antagonizers' 14-4 victory over the GTMO Latinos at the Cooper Sports Complex.

The first inning provided hope for the Latinos as they maintained a solid defense and a few hits, even with a two-run home run by Antagonizers' first baseman Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Christopher Cross, a Trooper with the Naval Expeditionary Guard Battalion.

The Antagonizers continued to get base hits that led into runs in the second inning. At the end of the second, the Antagonizers had a comfortable lead at 7-1.

During the third inning the Antagonizers stretched out their lead by adding seven additional runs.

Neither team posted runs in the fourth inning, but at the top of the fifth the Latinos tried to save their season.

The Latinos scored two runs and had two outs, when a routine grounder went to the pitcher who beamed it to the first baseman to end the softball season and begin the Antagonizers celebration.

The Antagonizers, who finished the season at 11-1, were undefeated in post-season play as they approached the championship game. Their solo loss in

"We have a lot of diversity and talent," said Arizaga, a Trooper from Naval Station Guantanamo Bay. "Our team pretty much started out with players from different areas. We have four different services represented, and players' ranks are from [E-3 to E-8]."

Arizaga continued by saying, "the biggest thing is that every player on this team loves this sport."

The Latinos, who finished the season at 8-4, lost the first game of the softball tournament to the Untouchables and immediately went to the losers bracket. They won five straight games just to get to the championship game, and when they got there, they had to beat the number one seeded team twice in order to claim the title of champions.

"We are resilient to [come] back from the loser's bracket into the championship game," said Charles Savinon, a GTMO Latino player. "We had a good season. The ingenuity, creativeness and the coaching have been key parts in our success."

Cross stated that he feels fortunate to play on the state-of-the-art facilities and enjoys playing, because softball has been something to keep him busy while away from work.

"We were good this year, but next season, we will be even better after off-season acquisitions," Cross added. ★

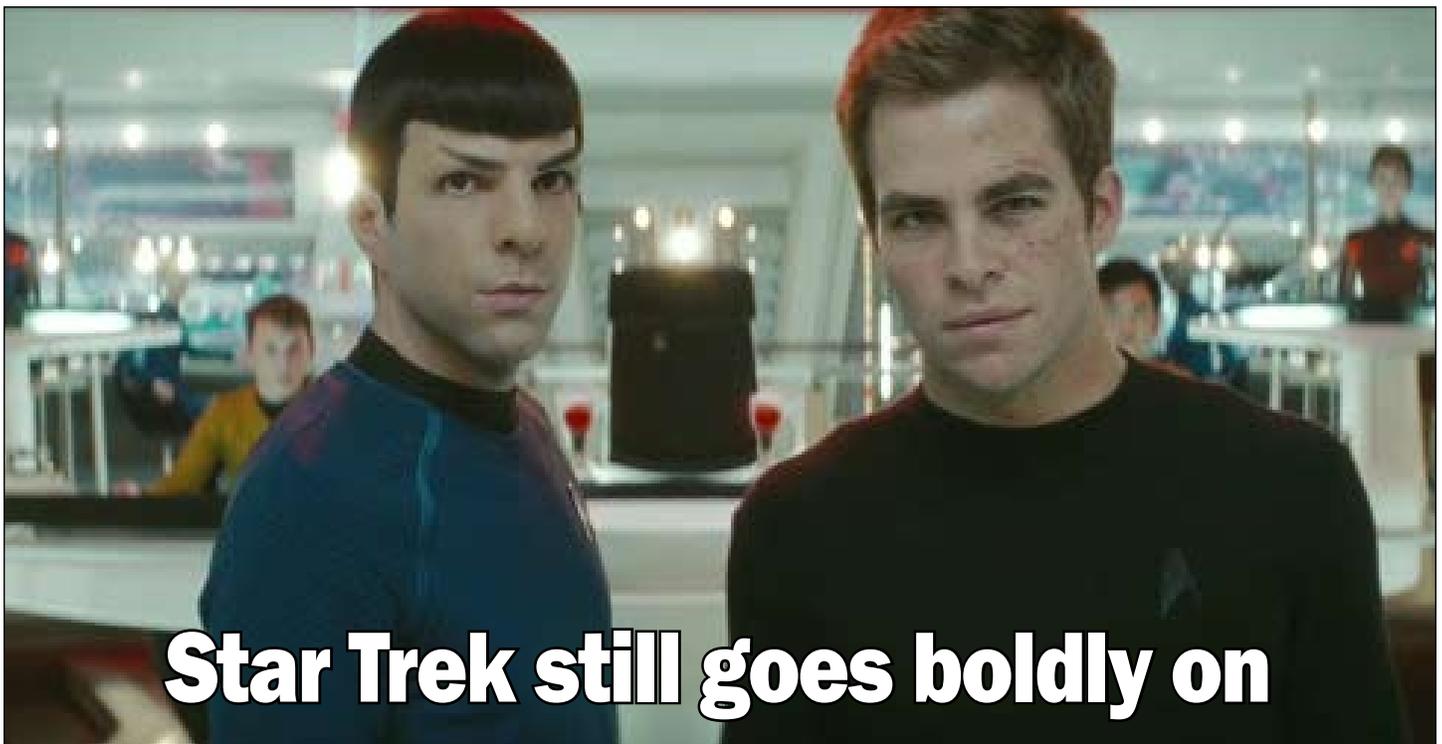


The Antagonizers pose for a team photo after winning the men's softball championship. The Antagonizers finished the season at 11-1 and went undefeated in the tournament. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Michael Baltz

the season was by one point to USCG Mariners, so when they took the field, their expectations were high.

"We expected to do well," said Cross, who had five runs batted in during the game. "We had some good base hits and didn't make many errors."

According to Arizaga, the Antagonizers were successful for many other reasons.



Star Trek still goes boldly on

**Army Sgt.
Emily Greene**

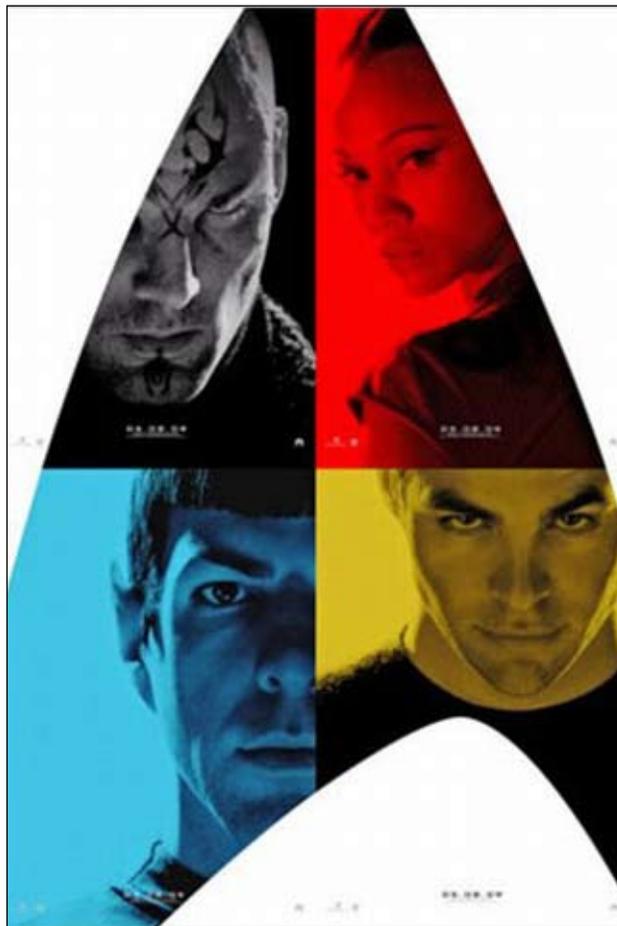
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

“Star Trek” has held the imaginations of its fans captive for decades, and continues to do so in the latest spinoff from the influential television show. This movie is a testament of the power of television and movies to tell the fundamental story of humankind; who we are and where we came from.

Staying true to the original utopian fantasy first appearing on television screens around the nation in 1966, “Star Trek” is a vision of an enlightened future where all races (human and otherwise) are united by the desire to explore the universe and all that lies within it. The movie, directed by J.J. Abrams, takes the viewer back to the moment before the primary characters first assembled aboard the U.S.S. Enterprise. It delves into the origins of these essential characters, focusing on James Tiberius Kirk and Spock (Chris Pine and Zachary Quinto).

Like any great story of friendship, the two men take an almost instant dislike to one another. Their fundamentally divided motivations of body (Kirk) and mind (Spock) give the story emotional and dramatic force and drives the characters towards each other, even as they try to keep apart.

Abrams manages to direct a



PG-13
127 minutes

Rating: ★★★★★☆

film that stays true to the spirit of “Star Trek,” but is not bound by the literal translations of the past. He keeps the fun and some of the kitsch, while delving into topics that are often dark. However, the movie manages to retain a sense of hope that transcends all the doom.

As is to be expected, there are a variety of expensive-looking special effects, one of the most spectacular being an enemy warship that resembles a jellyfish with its enormous tendrils. There are, of course, the flashing lasers and representation of a number of alien species.

Pine and Quinto manage to distill the essence of their characters without becoming carbon copies of their predecessors. Steering clear of outright imitation, the two portray Kirk and Spock in a way that is both believable and touching.

Written by Roberto Orci and Alex Kurtzman, the story is fundamentally about two men engaged in a continuing conversation about civilizations and their discontents. Representing polar opposites, Kirk and Spock together are the characters we all know and love.

“Star Trek” captures the spirit of adventure and embraces of rationality that define the original show. The film and the performances of its main players prove, once again, that audiences are not done with this tale of humanity. ☆

Wounded warriors tackle diving



Danny Facciola, a certified scuba instructor with Soldiers Undertaking Disabled Scuba, leads a class of wounded warriors learning open water diving. Wounded warriors participating in SUDS visited Naval Station Guantanamo Bay to complete their open water diving certification, May 21-26. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Joshua Treadwell

**U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class
Joshua L. Treadwell**
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

“If I can do this, I can do anything!” is the motto for wounded warriors participating in disabled sports. Six wounded warriors partaking in Soldiers Undertaking Disabled Scuba reinforced this belief while completing their open water diving certification at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, May 21-26.

The SUDS program, based out of Walter Reed Army Medical Center and Bethesda Naval Hospital, is designed to help improve the lives of injured service members returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

John Thompson, SUDS president and certified scuba instructor has certified 140 injured Troopers in three years with the program. “It’s the most rewarding project I have ever been involved in,” Thompson said. “Many things are just easier to do in the water with these types of severe injuries.”

The program does much more than assist with physical therapy alone, Thompson added. “It’s part rehabilitation, part confidence building, part adventure. Diving is an emotional and physical pain reliever.”

Recently, SUDS combined efforts with Intrepid Sports, a similar program at Brooke Army Medical Center, in San Antonio, Texas. “The combined programs will help open more diving opportunities for injured service members returning from Iraq and Afghanistan,” said Mark Heniser, Intrepid Sports president.

Both programs currently teach adaptive scuba to service members disabled in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom who participate in physical therapy or occupational therapy programs. The programs begin with pool training and end with open water dive certification at various locations.

Army Capt. Ravi Venkataramani is a member of the Warriors

See **SCUBA/12**



Wounded warrior Lance Cpl. Robert Smith, center, receives underwater instructions from Danny Facciola, a certified scuba instructor. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Joshua Treadwell

Karaoke night at GTMO: Something for everyone



Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Dennis Fetter works the sound board during karaoke at the Windjammer, May 13. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. David W. McLean

Army Spc. David W. McLean

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The house lights – merely glowing embers from 20 or so dying cigarettes. The performance stage – a cement slab left vulnerable to the varied elements of rain, humidity and attack mosquitoes. The audience – service members and a few eager iguanas. While this scene does not often conjure immediate thoughts of musical concerts or Broadway shows, it is in this atmosphere that a slew of Joint Task Force Guantanamo’s musical artists demonstrate their vocal talents every Wednesday.

Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Dennis Fetter, a member of JTF Guantanamo, is the mic master at the Windjammer’s weekly karaoke review, providing both tunes and enthusiasm.

“Basically I like getting the crowd all riled up,” said Fetter, who started out hosting karaoke nights at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., as an entertaining past time.

Now providing lyrics and melodies to JTF Troopers, Fetter said he never seems to experience a dull evening, and gets to cheer on a varied assortment of performers.

While many singers tend to stick to classic favorites or mellow ballads, no act is exactly the same.

“There is no such thing as a typical night of karaoke,” Fetter said. “I even have a couple of guys who come down and I’ll throw on some hip-hop music and instead of doing the words to those songs they will just go ahead and do their own freestyle thing.”

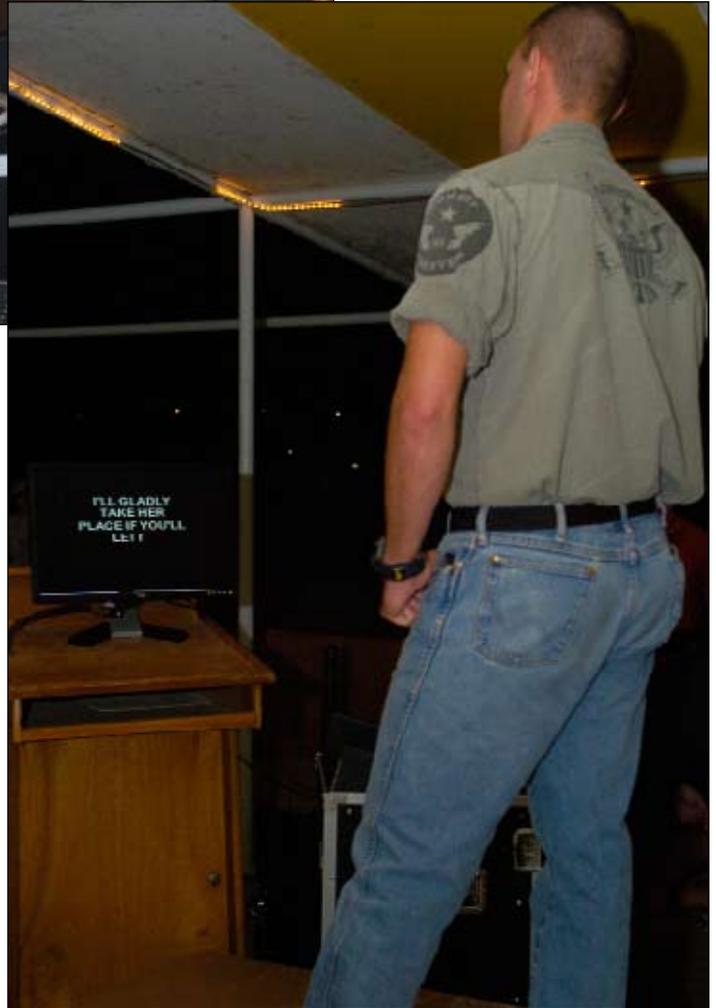
To keep deployed Guantanamo Bay Troopers singing and dancing their stress away, Fetter uses a standard laptop, iTunes, a basic karaoke program, an external hard drive, monitor, power deck and 1,000-watt speakers to project lyrics and melodies. Combined with two wireless microphones and one brave soul or an ensemble, the fun begins.

“I like to sing with a big group of friends,” Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Danielle Mugford said. “That way it’s less noticeable if my voice cracks or if I forget the words.”

With 40,000 MP3s and 45,000 karaoke songs there’s something for everyone, not to mention classic tunes that keep the crowd singing along.

“Anything from the 1940s to November of last year. I could probably play for just about four months without ever repeating a song,” Fetter said.

The mic man sets up every Wednesday evening at 5:30 and



Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Vincent Reibers sings during karaoke at the Windjammer, May 13. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. David W. McLean

takes requests from about six until midnight, and during the course of the evening plays everything from country to hip hop, based on the requests of the brave talent.

“I usually sing ‘Don’t Take the Girl’ by Tim McGraw,” said Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Vincent Reibers, who generally limits his singing to the shower or small groups.

Regulars are common to the Guantanamo Bay hot spot.

“They will sing the songs they know, they won’t deviate. Those are the songs they are going to sing and that’s the end of it,” Fetter said.

While he does appreciate variety, Fetter said he also recognizes several factors contribute to the success of the weekly performers.

“It’s always a good time,” Fetter said. “As long as they’re having fun, everybody is having fun.” ☆

Diving provides fun, therapy for the wounded

SCUBA from 10

in Transition Battalion at Brooke Army Medical Center and the Wounded Warrior Project, a program that assists severely injured service members during the time between active duty and their transition to civilian life.

“Scuba keeps my mind off the pain and has helped me with my rehabilitation,” Venkataramani said.

Guantanamo Bay offers a unique diving experience for those fortunate enough to dive here, according to Jessie Keenan, a diver at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay. The SUDS divers were able to dive off many of the naval station beaches that are generally off-limits to residents, offering a pristine view of underwater life unseen by many.



Wounded warrior Sgt. Kisha Makerney receives underwater instruction for her open water diving certification, May 24. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Joshua Treadwell

“I couldn’t believe how beautiful the weather and water is,” Venkataramani said. “It is very therapeutic.”

Venkataramani says that diving helps him get back into an active lifestyle and

thanks the many people who assisted in the event to make it run smoothly.

“Most of all, the volunteers who helped with diving, lodging and food made the whole trip a success!” ☆

Boating Tips

Did you know that waterways are second only to highways when it comes to accidental deaths, and that alcohol is a major contributing factor in recreational boating casualties?

- Learn to swim before boarding a vessel
- Abide by the manufacturer’s load capacity plate on the boat
- Always leave a float plan with a friend or marina operator
- Ensure everyone wears an approved Coast Guard personal flotation device
- Discourage alcohol use
- When passing marinas, fishing areas, or swimming areas, reduce speed to prevent wakes
- Check the forecast and watch the weather while you’re under way

Prevention Works!

For more information, please e-mail safety@jftgtmo.southcom.mil



Cardboard Boat Regatta draws a crowd

The Cabiness family approaches the finish line on their boat, "Cuban Missile Crisis," at the end of the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Cardboard Boat Regatta, May 30. Participants raced each other using boats made entirely of cardboard and duct tape. Air Force Troopers from the Joint Task Force came in first place with their boat, "The Blue Pearl." – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Michael Baltz

Boots on the Ground

by Army Sgt. Michael Baltz

Who do you think will win the NBA championship?

Navy Petty Officer 1st Class
Ron Murchison



"Lakers."

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class
Eddie Miramontes



"L.A. all day!!!"

Navy Senior Chief Petty
Officer Ronald Carpenter



"Lakers have too much
playoff experience."

Army 2nd Lt. Joe Cho



"L.A. will win."

Finding a safe harbor

**Army Capt.
Scott Brill**

JTF Guantanamo Deputy Chaplain

“A ship in harbor is safe – but that is not what ships are for.” (John A. Shedd, “Salt from My Attic”).

The Apostle Paul is the perfect example of this quote. He boldly faced the challenges that came with “The Great Commission.” I marvel at his history.

“Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; In journeying often, in perils of waters...” 2 Corinthians 11:25, 26

No doubt about it, we are called to set our sails, and meet the challenges of life head on. We also need to know that the ship builder, the Captain of our Soul, in wisdom, provides harbors. “For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion.” Psalms 27:5

World War II veteran Joseph B. Wirthlin wrote this inspired counsel, which has been a compass in my life.

“After a long journey across the Atlantic Ocean, which was hazardous at that time because of the war, I rejoiced when I saw that wonderful beacon of freedom and democracy, the Statue of Liberty. I cannot express to you my relief when we finally reached that safe harbor. I imagine I felt something of what the disciples of Jesus

Christ felt on that day when they were with the Savior. They set sail upon the Sea

of Galilee. The scriptures tell us that Jesus was weary, and He went to the back of the ship and fell asleep on a pillow. Soon the skies darkened, and ‘there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves.’ The storm

Savior still slept. At last, they could wait no longer and they awakened Jesus. You can almost hear the anguish and despair in their voices as they pled with their Master, ‘Carest thou not that we perish?’” Mark 4:38



Many in today’s world feel troubled and distressed; many feel that, at any moment, the ships of their lives could capsize or sink. When you feel tossed by the storms of life and when the waves rise and the winds howl, on those occasions it would be natural for you to cry in your heart, “Master, carest thou not that I perish?” When these times come, think back upon that day when the Savior awakened in the stern of the ship, rose up and rebuked the storm. He can and does rebuke the storms in our day. He is the same “Yesterday, today, and forever.” Do not fear. He is still at the helm. “Peace, be still.” Mark 4:39

Continue to use your ingenuity, your strength and your might to resolve your challenges. Seek the support of others who can show you the chartered course that leads to safe harbors. Do all you can do and then “Let go and let God.”

Draw close to the Lord, be of good cheer. Keep the faith and doubt not. The storms will one day be stilled. God is at the helm.

When our souls are anchored in the safe harbor of the Lord, we can say as did Paul, “We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed.” 2

Corinthians 8:4-9 ☆

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.



Documenting history

Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Mickey Petersen places security barriers at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, February 26. Petersen, a member of the Commissions Support Group at Joint Task Force Guantanamo, is currently working on a project to document the Department of Defense's response to Hurricane Katrina. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Linda Andreoli

Army Staff Sgt. Blair Heusdens

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

A Joint Task Force Guantanamo Trooper is helping to record a small piece of history by putting together information on the military's response to Hurricane Katrina, the deadly hurricane that ravaged the Gulf Coast in 2005. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Mickey Petersen, the operations non-commissioned officer for the Commissions Support Group, has been working with the 1st Army History Group to compile lessons learned from the storm for use in future disaster planning.

"They just send me a million documents – every piece of paperwork the units who were involved in the response generated – and I go through and break it down piece by piece," Petersen said.

Petersen was chosen to participate in this project based on research work he did for the emergency and disaster response degree he is pursuing through the American Military University. Petersen is a master-at-arms in the Navy Reserve and a police officer in the civilian world with more than 12-years experience in law enforcement.

As a local law enforcement officer in Tucson, Ariz., Petersen often responds to disasters within the state. This project helped him to better understand disaster

response at the national level and how federally-declared disasters tie into the National Response Plan.

"It has allowed me to learn more about emergency response planning, the Department of Defense's role in disasters and homeland security issues," Petersen said.

In addition to documentation from the units, Petersen uses newspaper and magazine articles and audio interviews from the commanders in the field to generate an accurate assessment of what happened on the ground and where improvements can be made.

Hurricane Katrina was one of the first times the Department of Defense coordinated a large-scale response to a natural disaster in addition to the traditional statewide response. The after-action reports will look at the process it took to get the active duty involved and how it can be streamlined in the future.

Petersen's work is focused primarily on the Marine Corps response to Katrina as well as the response by the Navy Seabees. The Marine Corps portion is in the final editing process and is currently being distributed and used by emergency planners for future operations.

At the end of his tour at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Petersen plans to return home to continue his studies and go back to work in law enforcement. 🇺🇸



Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Mickey Petersen with the Commissions Support Group is working to compile historical information from Hurricane Katrina into a report for future disaster planning purposes. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Blair Heusdens



Air Force Capt. Ryan J. Silva, a member of the Commissions Support Group, receives a congratulatory dousing of water after his promotion to captain from first lieutenant, June 1. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Cody Black



Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Ryan F. Lee, a master-at-arms assigned to Joint Task Force Guantanamo, re-enlisted at the military working dog kennel, June 1. Lee requested a unique re-enlistment by having a military working dog by his side as he raised his right hand. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Tiffany Addair

Around the

JTF



Racers push off at the start of the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Cardboard Boat Regatta, May 30. Participants raced each other using boats made entirely of cardboard and duct tape. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Michael Baltz