

THE WIRE

A JTF Journal



Welcome Aboard
MSST at the helm

Future leaders show promise
West Point Cadets visit JTF



What is the BEEF?

**Air Force Senior Master Sgt.
Phil Groll**

474th ECES Operations Supervisor

Many personnel around Guantanamo Bay hear the term, “BEEF” and may think of cows. However, the U.S. Air Force and Air National Guard have a different meaning for the word. The acronym “BEEF” stands for Base Engineer Emergency Force. The Air National Guard has approximately 84 Prime BEEF units throughout the United States, made up of approximately 50-person teams and varies in many Civil Engineer Air Force Specialty Codes.

Prime BEEF teams respond to many emergency situations. Members assist in military and civilian communities for the recovery of natural disasters which include; Hurricane Camille in 1969, Hurricane Agnes in 1972, Hurricane Fredrick in 1979 and Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Prime BEEF teams also have what is called, “Deployment for Training” or DFT. These deployments are to assist any and all bases approved by the National Guard Bureau in projects around those bases. This serves two purposes, it saves the government money by eliminating base contracts and it also trains the Civil Engineering members in their specialty codes.

September 1, 2007 was a huge date as members of the BEEF deployed to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, making history and supporting a \$10.2 million construction project for Phase I of the Expeditionary Legal Complex used for Joint Task Force Guantanamo military commissions, at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay. After settling into “Tent City,” now known as Camp Justice, and without realizing the date significance, this project broke ground on September 11. Approximately 100 Air National Guard Civil Engineering members from six different states combined efforts to help ensure trials are provided for the detainees held at JTF Guantanamo.

Blueprints designed by another group known as RED HORSE, (Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers) called for converting an abandoned airfield into an expansive campus that would include all the amenities needed to facilitate the Office of Military Commissions. The BEEF was to work on a six-month deployment with the 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron on pre-specific construction goals.

The BEEF, assigned to the 474th ECES, used their exceptional and innovative skills to overcome unforeseen obstacles to complete their dedicated contributions to this project. The logistics of acquiring the materials by airplane or via a barge from Florida were nightmarish to say the least. Weather aside, the logistics of this mission were uncontrollable and truly tested the ability of the units to beg, borrow and network materials for the project. Focus, teamwork and island community support were incredible assets to the mission’s success.

It has been my Air Force career experience to learn how well Prime BEEF is known throughout all the services. It is always an experience to work beside our counterparts in the different branches of service such as the Navy Seabees. Along with the construction responsibilities inherent to civil engineering, we are also the back-up force for our security forces.

If there was any advice I could give to a confused new recruit it would be – start in any branch of service in the construction area. It is a great experience in the service and outside the service as well. ☆



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COVER:

Runners race past the historic light house near Phillips Dive Park during a 5K run which was held June 6. – 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 1,000.

JTF welcomes new senior enlisted leader

**Army Staff Sgt.
Blair Heusdens**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

In the coming month, Joint Task Force Guantanamo will see new leadership on both the enlisted and officer sides. The JTF's new senior enlisted leader is already on board, spending his first few weeks meeting and greeting the Troopers and getting accustomed to daily life at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay.

Navy Master Chief Petty Officer Scott Fleming recently began a two-year tour as the new JTF command master chief.

Like many others who come here, Fleming was curious about what to expect upon his arrival at GTMO. In his short time on island, Fleming has had the opportunity to observe Troopers throughout the JTF at their day-to-day mission and has gained a better understanding of the JTF mission and the Troopers who make it happen.

"It's obvious to anybody who walks through that the people here understand their business and do it very well," said Fleming. "The perceptions that exist externally are most decidedly not true."

Fleming is no stranger to detention operations. During his most recent assignment, he served as the command master chief of Navy Provisional Detainee Battalion 5, which conducted detention operations at Iraq's largest detention facility at Camp Bucca for nine months. Fleming explained that the difference between the environment in Iraq and at GTMO is that his involvement in Iraq was more at the tactical level. However, his experience has given him an appreciation for the broader detention mission.

"I see the importance in understanding how troops deal with all of the things on their plates here," he said.

In addition to keeping a finger on the pulse of the Troopers here, Fleming plans to look at ways each entity within the JTF can better work together to accomplish the mission. Fleming will work with senior leaders at all levels to increase coordination and ensure the success of the mission.



Navy Master Chief Petty Officer Scott Fleming recently began a two-year tour as the command master chief for Joint Task Force Guantanamo. – JTF Guantanamo command photo

"I see myself as the person who is looking at everything to figure out where we can implement some process improvement," Fleming said.

As the senior enlisted leader of the JTF, Fleming has high expectations of the Troopers and expects that the same high, professional standards that have been followed since the detention facilities opened in 2002 will continue until the facilities close.

"The core concepts of standard operating procedures and good order and discipline continue to be crucial here," Fleming said.

As the JTF prepares to close the detention facilities, Fleming believes it is still important to focus on the day-to-day mission and continue to provide safe, humane, legal and transparent care and custody to each and every detainee until the mission is complete. He has some advice for Troopers to keep them "in the game" and stay focused and professional.

"Resist external perceptions, don't get caught up in the end-state," Fleming said. "Look at the person on your left and right and figure out how to get through that day in a professional manner." ☆



Future leaders show promise

West Point Cadets Michael Niemiec, John Oswald, William Yankauskas, Carson Williams and Chad Plenge spent two weeks job-shadowing platoon leaders with the 193rd Military Police Company at JTF Guantanamo. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Emily J. Russell

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

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

For five West Point Cadets, a trip to Joint Task Force Guantanamo has been an educational and eye-opening experience as they jump into the role of platoon leader, working with the Troopers who serve at the most talked-about detention center in the world.

“The cadets are assigned to individual lieutenants and get to [job]-shadow them during their time here,” said Army 2nd Lt. Stephanie Wormwood, Camp 5 assistant officer-in-charge. “They get to see the Army in action and they [experience] the cohesion that comes with being on a real-world mission.”

The program is intended to expose cadets to the job of platoon leader, and show them what the position is like in an active duty unit.

“It’s a great program,” said Army Capt. Pedro Vazquez, company commander of the 193rd Military Police Company. “[The Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Alexander Conyers, and I] give the cadets an officer evaluation report when they leave here. Basically, it’s an assessment of their leadership potential. The evaluation helps them with their [duty] assignment because it can help them get the branch they desire.”

While the cadets are here, they are considered to be in platoon leader positions,

dealing with all facets of leadership like Soldier counseling, evaluation writing, mentoring junior Soldiers, performing inventories as well as other key tasks performed by a platoon leader.

“The cadets work the entire shift with the platoon leader,” Vazquez said. “It’s good for the cadet, and for the platoon leader because it shows them how far they’ve come from when they were cadets.”

Cadet Chad Plenge, the cadet-in-charge, began planning and coordinating the visit for the team long before their arrival. He worked with West Point leadership and 193rd MP Co. leadership to plan the tour, addressing transportation, lodging, meals and many other details that are important to a seamless mission.

“They really tried to show us the bigger picture down here,” said Cadet Michael Niemiec. “They’ve taken us to the different camps to show us how each service contributes. I’ve never seen so many military branches and civilian agencies working together on a project before so it’s been really interesting.”

The cadets have been busy since they first arrived.

“At West Point, we learn that the main point for an officer is leading Soldiers and providing everything they need,” said Cadet John Oswald. “Down here, with such close interaction between the officers and the [enlisted] Soldiers, it’s a really neat experience to see day-to-day [operations]

in the camps. You’re working shoulder-to-shoulder with other Soldiers and really get a feel for what they need on a daily basis.”

“I had the opportunity at the beginning of this training to help prepare the meals for some of the detainees,” said Cadet William Yankauskas. “Initially coming here, I didn’t know what to expect. Guantanamo Bay is portrayed in a really shady manner by the [civilian] media but I discovered that the guards go to great lengths to serve the detainees. I want to become an [Military Policeman] more than before. I believe that you don’t ever want to become what you fight. You have to lead by example. It’s important to treat people in a humane way as the guards at Guantanamo Bay have done.”

In an effort to give the cadets a well-rounded experience, the 193rd has arranged for additional tours that educate them about the other branches of service and how all the branches of service come together at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay.

“We’ve toured Coast Guard [vessels], visited the Northeast gate and learned how the Marines [patrol] the perimeter,” said Niemiec. “[We also see] how the Navy, Army and [Air Force] all contribute within the camps.”

The opportunity to spend time within the detention facilities, observing and following the example of the Troopers

See **CADETS/12**

Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class Josh Pryor performs maintenance on a Defender Class Charlie vessel, June 10. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Michael Baltz



MSST: supports the JTF

**Army Sgt.
Michael Baltz**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Maritime Safety and Security Team Seattle 91101 arrived at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay to replace Port Security Unit 305. Although the team has changed, the mission for Joint Task Force Guantanamo stays constant.

“The primary mission of MSST is to provide anti-terrorism force protection within the naval defensive sea area at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay,” said Coast Guard Lt. j.g. Jason Berger, the external security officer in-charge for commissions. “Additional duties include landside security for the expeditionary legal complex during commissions.”

The MSST is new to the Coast Guard, and was created under the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002. The creation of the unit was in response to the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, which is where the unit gets its name from (91101). The unit was modeled after Port Security Units and Law Enforcement Detachments.

“MSST provides waterborne [security] and a modest level of shore-side anti-terrorism force protection for strategic shipping, high interest vessels and critical infrastructure,” Berger said. “We are a quick response force capable of rapid, nationwide deployment in response to changing threat conditions involving maritime homeland security mission requirements.”

The MSST will work hand-in-hand with all other services to support the JTF mission.

“This is the first time I have worked with other services,” Berger said. “There is a language barrier, [but] I am anxious to learn about the other military cultures.”

This mission is something new for a MSST.

“This is more of a PSU mission,” said Chief Warrant Officer Jon Nolan. “We are qualified for this mission, but the transition has been a challenge.”

Traditionally, MSSTs are focused on federal law enforcement, boating enforcement laws and treaty enforcement.

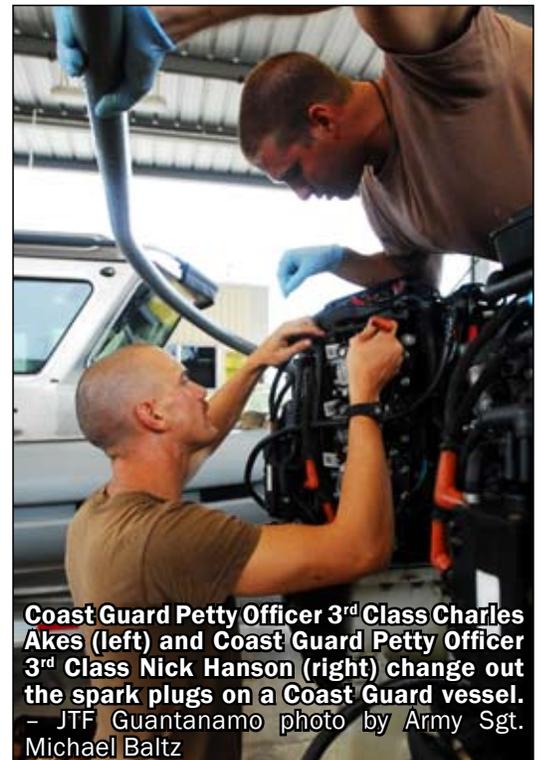
“Our coxswains are trained to [perform] high risk maneuvers to support Navy vessels,” Nolan explained. “That is included in our daily missions.”

Not only are the unit members switching missions, some of them are switching from reserves to active duty.

“I spent my first 10 years on active duty [with the] Coast Guard and the last 10 as a reservist,” said Chief Petty Officer Brad Rogers, a safety chief. “Coming from my civilian job to being part of this process has been quite a change. This environment is much more professional.”

Even though Rogers misses coaching his son’s baseball team, he is proud to be part of this mission.

“I am honored that I was selected for this mission,” Rogers stated. “I really love supporting this mission and working with this group of professional individuals.”



Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Charles Akes (left) and Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Nick Hanson (right) change out the spark plugs on a Coast Guard vessel. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Michael Baltz

Court savvy

■ *Army Chaplain Capt. Eric Bey remains undefeated in racquetball tournaments at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay.*

**Army Sgt.
Michael Baltz**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Stereotypes are found in all aspects of society, especially when it comes to chaplains. They are expected to be mild-mannered and laid back people. Nobody expects them to be competitive.

Army Chaplain Capt. Eric Bey defeated his on-island rival in a Morale, Welfare and Recreation racquetball tournament, June 5, as he continues to dominate the racquetball courts at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay.

“You don’t know how sweet that is,” said Bey, the 525th Military Police Battalion chaplain.

In the field of seven competitors, Bey came from the losers’ bracket to claim another racquetball trophy.

“In this tournament, I tried to reschedule a match with [my opponent], but he wouldn’t do it,” Bey explained. “As a result of forfeiting, I went to the losers’ bracket and ultimately came back and beat him twice in a row.”

The tournament was a double elimination tournament. In order to win a match, a player had to beat his opponent in a best of three series to give a loss. Since Bey lost a match to forfeit, he had to win two matches in the championship in order earn the first place trophy. He went on to win four straight games in the championship giving his nemesis two losses and no hope. The matches were highly intense and called for a referee. It was the only match in the tournament that had a referee.

The tournament was a mirror image from a previous tournament where Bey had to come up from the losers’ bracket to defeat his “arch-rival.”

Bey has never lost a tournament here.

“I played some good players,” Bey confessed. “There are some good guys who can improve on their game.”

In 1989 Bey found his love of racquetball and has continued playing and learning the game ever since. He has ‘court savvy’ that gives him the advantage over his opponents.

“There are a lot of guys [who] can hit the ball well, some as good as I can,” Bey said. “Court savvy gives me the advantage.”

According to Bey, court savvy consists of court position, opponent position, racquet preparation, stroke mechanics, shot selection and speed.

The tournament is one of the many ways MWR sports boost morale. If you have any questions regarding future racquetball tournaments or MWR sports, call the sports office at ext. 2113. 🐾



Army Chaplain Capt. Eric Bey poses for a photo after winning MWR’s racquetball tournament, June 5. He has never lost a racquetball tournament at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Michael Baltz



**Army Sgt.
Michael Baltz**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Most carnivals have one of those rides that spin, twist and turn you, and at the same time as snot and drool leave your body you are left with excitement and pleasure. That is the same feeling Tony Gilroy creates in “Duplicity.”

Julia Roberts stars as Claire Stenwick, a corporate spy for a pharmaceutical company, along with Clive Owen as Ray Koval, a corporate spy for a rival pharmaceutical company. The two pair up and become a spy team, as well as the definition of sexual tension. The duo construct a plan to become rich through corporate espionage.

The movie’s tag line is: Outwit. Outspy. Outsmart. Outplay. Then get out.

Although the movie doesn’t have the most original plot to hit the big screen, Gilroy, who also directed the movie “Michael Clayton,” uses flashbacks and mind games that force the characters to think outside the box to keep it interesting.

Claire and Ray constantly play games with one another, testing each other’s loyalty to their mission and their faithfulness to each other. They are constantly being challenged and are

often paranoid, which goes with being a spy. Since both of the main characters have trust issues, the romantic aspects, added with mission complications, allow Gilroy to fool the audience with multiple unpredictable events.

The movie manages to keep the viewer intrigued with constant questions, but unfortunately there are several cases where the movie can be confusing with an excessive amount of flashbacks.

The flashbacks are beneficial by creating a unique atmosphere, but they are also a drawback. There are several incidents where you are left clueless to what day it is or the order of events.

Regardless of a few minor faults, “Duplicity” is an enjoyable romantic spy flick and should be seen by all fellow spies abroad. The movie will provide guidance of what to do, but more importantly, what not to do. ★

PG-13
125 minutes

Rating: ★★☆☆☆





Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Alycia Plant passes a line to Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Benjamin Callison while preparing a five-wide pontoon section to be lifted from the deck of the SS Cornhusker State. The Cornhusker State delivered equipment and supplies for JLOTS, to U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay.



Sailors and Soldiers work together to prepare a five-wide pontoon section to be lifted from the deck of the SS Cornhusker State, one of Military Sealift Command's crane ships.

JOINT LOGISTICS OVER-THE-SHORE

Joint Logistics Over-the-Shore keeps Troopers busy with day and night operations as the exercise gets under way. The exercise will demonstrate Navy, Army and Marine Corps abilities to deploy, discharge and conduct reception and staging of equipment in a scenario that requires ships to offload cargo and supplies while still offshore.

JTF Guantanamo Bay photos by
Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Brian Goyak



An RT 240 Kalmar container handler off-loads supplies from a floating causeway during the JLOTS exercise, June 9.



The Panama table is one of the displays people saw at the HAHA festival June 6. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. April D. de Armas

about Hispanic heritage and help promote a better understanding of the Latin community, said Doraina.

They also want to raise funds for a larger party, scheduled to take place in September, she said.

“Although we usually only have one party a year, we decided to host this festival so we can raise money for our main event in September,” said Doraina. “We would like to bring in a band for our big celebration and we thought this festival would be a great way to get things started.”

The purpose of Hispanic American Heritage month is to recognize the contributions Hispanic Americans have made to the United States and to celebrate Hispanic history and culture.

The event showcased many historical and current items people might find when visiting Hispanic countries such as: Ecuador, Dominican Republic, Panama, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Cuba and Spain. Included amongst the different items were fancy dresses, books, drums and dominos.

Lydia Alvarez, Navy Exchange employee and vice president of the Naval Station’s HAHA chapter helped plan the event.

Lydia said, when people visit the different tables they can see some of the items on display and learn more about them as they talk to the representatives of each country.

“People love to learn the Latino history and experience the culture,” said Lydia. “We feel it is important to bring a little of home to the people of our community since we are all so far away from home at the moment.”

Lt. Col. Doris Acevedo, Joint Task Force Inspector General was one who attended the festival and said she was very happy to be a part of something this unique.

“This is the first festival I have attended and I am really enjoying myself,” said Acevedo. “I think it is important to have the opportunity to experience different cultures since we have such a diverse community here in Guantanamo Bay.”

The different food options were a large part of the festival’s offerings with black beans and rice from the Cuban table to flan at the Puerto Rican table and various meat and soup choices.

“The food is great and I love being able to taste the different flavors from each of the countries represented,” said Acevedo. “You can tell everyone involved has a lot of pride when it comes to their heritage.”

The HAHA chapter members said they were excited to see such a large turn out and expect to meet their fundraising goals in order to make the September celebration even better.

“It’s a lot of fun in spite of the work and I look forward to seeing everyone in September,” said Doraina. ☆



Lydia Alvarez, vice president, Naval Station HAHA chapter, prepares her plate of food after working with other members of her organization to prepare for the festival. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. April D. de Armas

HAHA food festival a success

**Army Spc.
April D. de Armas**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Officially, Hispanic American Heritage month does not begin until Sept. 15, however, this year the Hispanic American Heritage Association at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay kicked off its heritage celebration early with a festival held at the Naval Station’s community center June 6.

Doraina Alvarez, Naval Station’s HAHA chapter secretary and Tolteste Construction employee said the event was one of two to be held at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay this year.

HAHA’s goal is to bring more awareness to the community

US Troops wade from a landing craft toward Omaha Beach, under fire of German artillery during Normandy invasion on D-Day, WWII. - U.S. Coast Guard Collection

Remembering D-Day

■ After 65 years, U.S. and Allied forces are still remembered for their bravery

**Army Spc.
Tiffany Addair**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

“You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you. In company with our brave Allies and brothers-in-arms on other Fronts, you will bring about the destruction of the German war machine, the elimination of Nazi tyranny over the oppressed peoples of Europe, and security for ourselves in a free world.” – Dwight D. Eisenhower

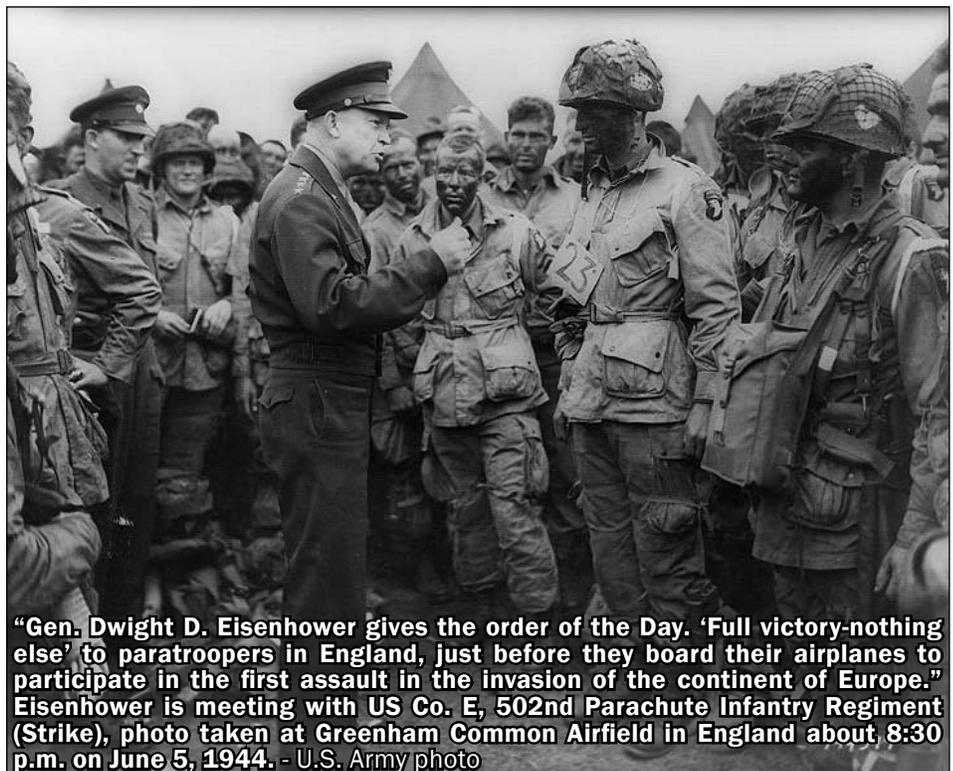
As the 65th anniversary of the watershed event D-Day passes, we honor veterans and keep alive the principles and lessons learned from World War II.

On June 6, 1944 the United States and Allies joined forces to end the German occupation of France. With the territory more favorable to the defenders than to the invaders, the U.S. would have to contend with several obstacles in order to be victorious. Along with territorial advantage, the Germans also had over seven divisions of troops ready to defend. Samuel Eliot Morison, an American naval historian, stated, “the Germans had provided the best imitation of hell for an invading force that American troops had encountered anywhere.”

The amount of time, effort and training necessary to prepare for an invasion of this magnitude is almost unimaginable. Training exercises began as early as September of 1943. They trained in areas such as deception, refueling at sea, medical readiness for inevitable casualties, aerial bombings of the railroads and bridges in northern France and logistics. Though the training was thorough, new personnel and equipment made the preparations more complex.

After careful groundwork and planning, the eve was upon the U.S. troops and Allied forces. Not wasting any time the day before the invasion, a few minutes after midnight on June 5th British and Canadian minesweepers went to work. During the early hours of the Omaha Beach invasion disaster was around every corner. Out of eight companies, only two landed at their designated beaches. Around mid-afternoon troops began to make progress. Late on the night of June 7th the “higher ups” from the German forces began to take the invasion seriously, but it was too late. On May 8, 1945 the Germans finally surrendered.

The D-day landings had various meanings for different people and different countries. For the Americans the D-Day landings were an opportunity to demonstrate that their forces could be highly effective in providing the majority of the strength needed to carry out a massive invasion. D-Day was significant to the Americans as it also demonstrated the strength and success of their alliance with Britain. For the Americans the D-Day landings were considered to be instrumental in the defeat of Nazi Germany and hopefully the return of liberal democracy throughout Western Europe. ★



“Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower gives the order of the Day. ‘Full victory-nothing else’ to paratroopers in England, just before they board their airplanes to participate in the first assault in the invasion of the continent of Europe.” Eisenhower is meeting with US Co. E, 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment (Strike), photo taken at Greenham Common Airfield in England about 8:30 p.m. on June 5, 1944. - U.S. Army photo

Cadets learn the ropes at GTMO

who work here, has left an impression on each of the cadets.

“I was unbelievably impressed at how patient the Soldiers are,” said Cadet Carson Williams. “They get jerked around by detainees who play mind games with them over and over, day after day. These Soldiers work [long shifts], are expected to remain in peak physical condition and still perform their jobs consistently and professionally. That takes a very strong person to do that.”

The job-shadowing program isn’t just beneficial for the cadet, but for the military members they work with as well. As they come to the end of their mission, the feedback about their performance has been positive.

“We understand that [being here may be] an inconvenience,” Williams said. “There’s times when we’re more in the way than we are helping. But, it has been an awesome experience.”

“The Soldiers here see the cadets coming out of West Point are high-caliber Soldiers,” Wormwood said. “They’re going to be good leaders. These Cadets are personable and have really impressed the Soldiers.”



Members of the 193rd Military Police Company and four West Point cadets toured the Northeast Gate, June 5. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Emily J. Russell

Sun Protection

Being outside on a warm, sunny day is one of life’s greatest pleasures, but getting too much sun can be dangerous.

- Wear sunglasses that block 99 to 100 percent of UV radiation
- Wear a hat. A hat with a wide brim offers good sun protection to your eyes, ears, face, and the back of the neck - areas particularly prone to overexposure.
- Protect other areas with clothing during prolonged periods in the sun.
- Always use sunscreen when outside on a sunny day.
- Avoid the midday sun as much as possible. The sun’s UV rays are the strongest between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- Avoid sunlamps and tanning parlors. Tanning beds damage the skin and unprotected eyes and are best avoided entirely.

Prevention works!

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



In full swing

Participants of the golf tournament held May 30-31 pose with Greens Keeper Leader, Thompson Best (center). Best, under the guidance of Outdoor Manager Glenford Simmons, coordinated the event, set up the tournament course, registered players and assisted in tracking scores throughout the weekend. The tournament culminated with Navy Master Chief Petty Officer Ed Moreno taking first place in the men's competition with a score of 67.2, and Lydia Alvarez, the only female participant, taking first place in the ladies competition with a score of 112.8. Second place went to Terry Snee scoring 69.6 and third to Jamal Youkhanna scoring 72. – Photo submitted by Lydia Alvarez

Boots on the Ground

Photos by Army 1st Lt. Christopher Cudney

What souvenir will you take home to commemorate your time at GTMO?

Navy Petty Officer 3rd
Class Rachel First



"My mom wants me to bring home conch shells."

Army Spc. Henry
Holcombe



"If I could, I would like to take home an iguana."

Army Sgt. Maj. Rafael
Villamil

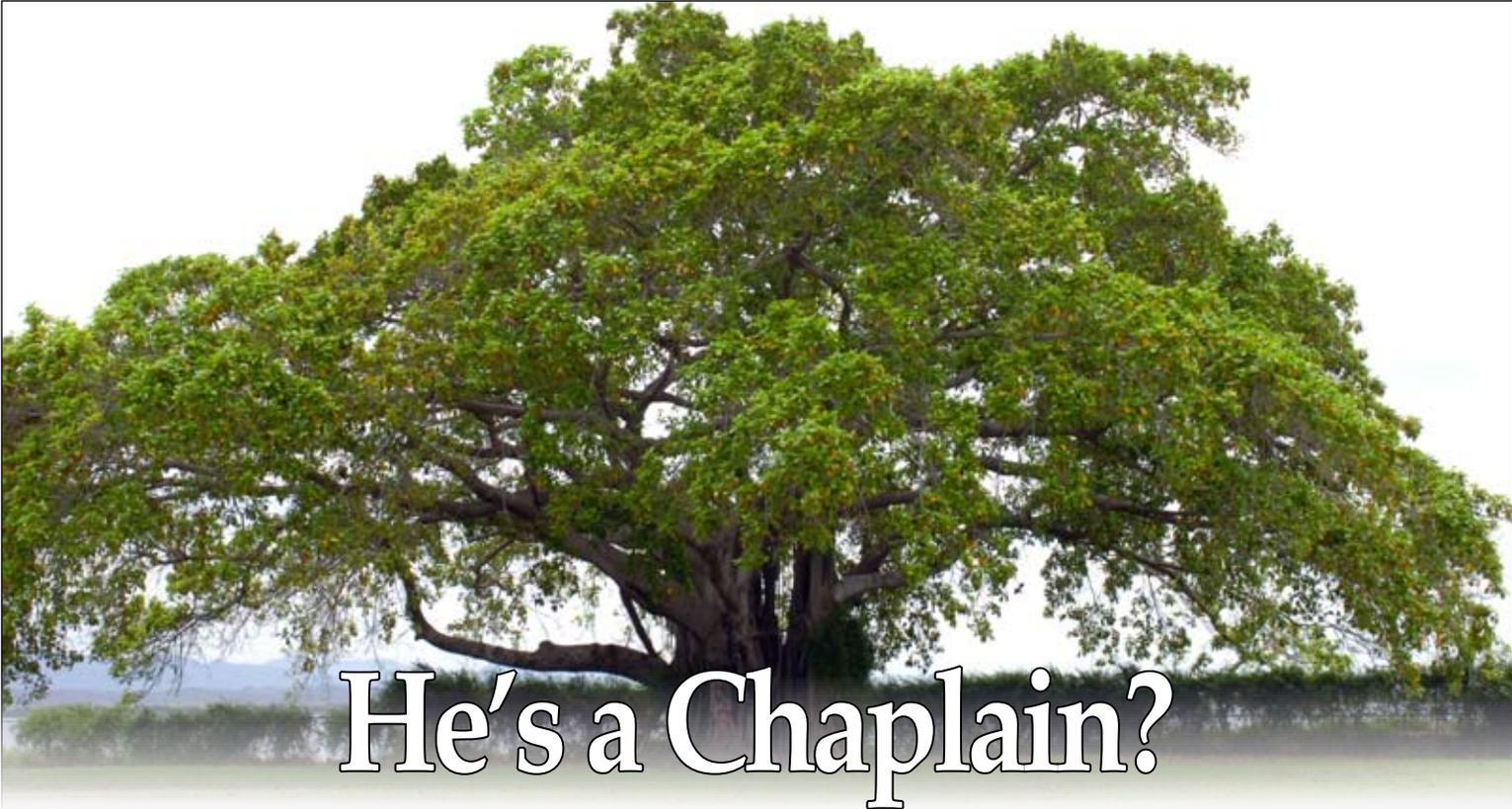


"Being a diver, I will take home conch shells."

Air Force Staff Sgt.
Anthony Villafranca



"I collect shot glasses from every country and state I visit."



He's a Chaplain?

**Army Capt.
Eric Bey**

525th MP Battalion Chaplain

I can't tell you how often, in the short time that I have been a Chaplain, I have heard the words, "He's a Chaplain?" Most people don't know that I have been in the Army nearly 24 years now and that I was enlisted for 16 years.

A man smarter than I might take those words as an insult, but I have come to like hearing them. I am not on some kind of crusade to debunk the stereotype of Chaplains or of Clergy in general. In the words of the prophet Popeye, "I am what I am, and that's all that I am." And truthfully I think that that is the exact point I would like to make.

I am a man like any other. I have the same struggles, weaknesses, and problems. Just because I have chosen to humble myself before my God doesn't mean that he changed me outright into the image of Jesus. That is more of a process than an event. Still, I recognize that I represent God everywhere I go. It kind of bothers

me when people change their behavior or speech when I come around them but at least I understand it. To them, I represent God.

So the problem I see is that many people put others on a pedestal and think more highly of them than they ought. As a result, one is held to a higher standard than others.

When people say incredulously, "He's a Chaplain," what they are really saying is that somehow I have failed their expectations they hold for a Chaplain. It is true that Scripture says that teachers and preachers will be judged by a higher standard but it does not give anyone else the right to. In a way, I think it is dangerous for the ones who judge.

If you start holding others to a higher standard than you do yourself, you're setting yourself up for disappointment – or worse. When you exalt the man of God rather than God in the man you run the risk of getting a David Koresh and the Branch Davidians or Jim Jones and the People's Temple kind of behavior. God is the only one who is perfect.

The Apostle Paul wrote, "Follow me, as

I follow Christ." Even he would tell you, as I do now, follow me until you see that I am no longer following Christ then break path and follow him. I am nothing; I can do nothing of myself. The Bible reveals that every man is like a branch. No branch can produce fruit by itself. It needs the vine or trunk and roots. So if I am deceived and start my own religion where people follow and worship me, I will be the most pitiful of men and a short time will reveal that I am a branch cut off from the tree. I will wither and die.

Fear God and obey His commands. Be courageous and of good cheer, love and serve all, but worship One. When Reverend Jimmy Swaggart preached on a particular Sunday there were 1,500 people in the pews intently listening to the Word of God. During the week he was caught in grievous sin and the next Sunday only 500 showed up. I tell you the truth; a thousand people had their eyes on the wrong thing! Don't make that same mistake. Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling and keep your eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith! ☆

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.



TunAmerica; a passion for music

The Puerto Rican-based band, TunAmerica, recently visited Japan during a concert tour where they played for audiences in Fujisawa, Mishima, Atami, Hiroshima, and Tokyo. – Photo courtesy of Army Sgt. 1st Class Francisco Chiroque

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

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Traveling home during block leave is fairly standard for most deployed service members. However, traveling to Japan to play guitar during an international concert tour, is something out of the ordinary.

Puerto Rico Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Francisco Chiroque, non-commissioned officer-in-charge of the legal assistance office for Joint Task Force Guantanamo, and founding member of the Puerto Rican-based band TunAmerica surprised his fellow band members, appearing when they least expected to see him.

“I took leave and traveled to Japan,” Chiroque explained. “I arrived at the same time the group was beginning the second song. They saw me and were [surprised]. I joined in with the music and when the song ended everyone put their instruments down and gave me a hug on stage. It was a special moment.”

Chiroque, who is originally from Peru, began playing guitar when he was 12 years old. After attending university in Puerto Rico to earn his law degree and master’s degree in law administration, he found his life taking him in another direction.

“When I finished my master’s degree, I was supposed to go back to Peru,” Chiroque said. “But I discovered music so I stayed.”

During his time at the University of Puerto Rico, Chiroque made friends with another musician and together they founded the musical group TunAmerica.

“We founded this group in 1993, and now we have 15 [musicians],” Chiroque said. “We play salsa, meringue, balata, Spanish rock – all kinds of Latin music. When we founded this group, we had members from three different [countries]:

Peru, Puerto Rico and Spain. We [named] the band TunAmerica, ‘Tuna’ for the ‘tradition’ and ‘America’ for the people.”

TunAmerica is not a commercial group, according to Chiroque.

“Playing music is our hobby,” he said. “Everyone in the group is a professional and has another job.”

Despite their non-commercial approach to music, TunAmerica’s presence is worldwide.

“In countries like Spain, Portugal, France and Mexico, people know us,” Chiroque said. “We’ve traveled all over the world, have been to Europe 22 times and have traveled to Peru, Chile, Argentina and Venezuela. Our largest audience was approximately 12,000 members.”

When Chiroque isn’t busy with work, he may be found practicing his guitar in his room, or writing music for an upcoming album, which the band hopes to release within the next year.

“Since I’ve been here I’ve written about 30 songs,” he said. “I send the music and lyrics to a friend of mine and he works with the [musical] arrangement.”

TunAmerica has previously released two other albums, “Corazon Vagabundo,” and “Toda-Via.” Both albums feature a variety of Latin beats with influences from Latin and Spanish American music. On the second album, TunAmerica began featuring their own music.

“I wrote two songs for this last [album],” Chiroque said. “When you write something, you might think it’s no good

so you don’t want anyone to read it. But when somebody hears my song and tells me it’s good, I feel very proud. Starting this year, I’m going to write more songs for [my audience].”

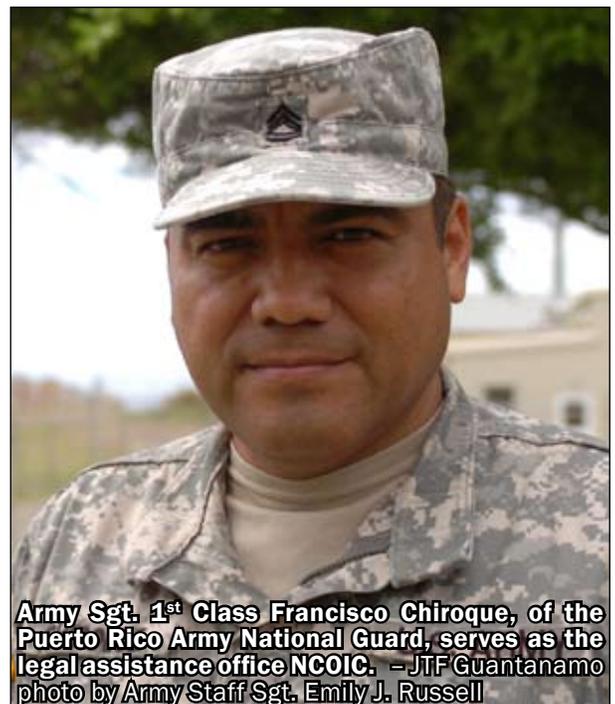
TunAmerica plans to release their third album with all original tunes.

Chiroque’s music has been influenced by The Beatles and Juan Luis Guerra, a popular Latin musician.

“Their music has inspired me to write [lyrics],” he said.

Chiroque sums up his belief in the importance of music with a quote from author Pat Conroy, “Without music, life is a journey through a desert.”

For more information about TunAmerica, visit the Web site: www.tunamerica.org. ☆



Army Sgt. 1st Class Francisco Chiroque, of the Puerto Rico Army National Guard, serves as the legal assistance office NCOIC. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Emily J. Russell

Around the

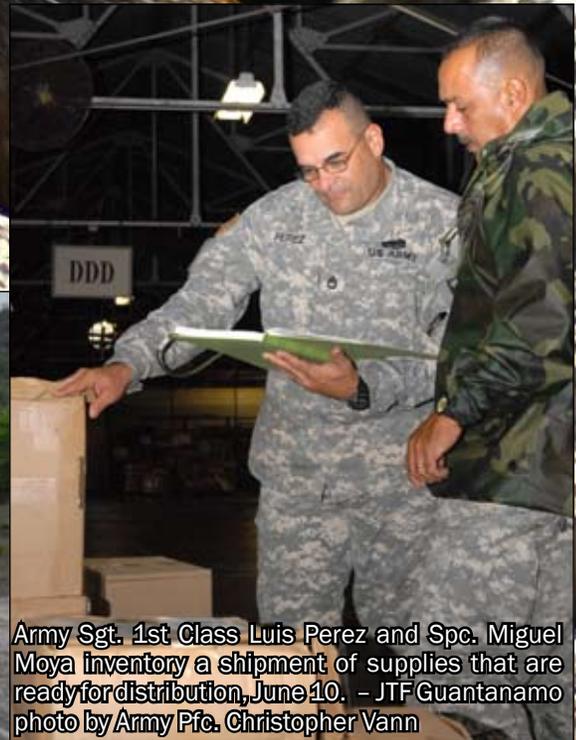
JTF



Tash and Guy Conley, members of the 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron, stride into the finish line during the Air Force-hosted BEEF 5K, held June 6 at Phillips Dive Park. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Emily J. Russell



Air Force Master Sgt. Ray Linares and Staff Sgt. Jim Fields, engineering assistants with the California Air National Guard, conduct a site survey on a section of Kittery Beach Rd., June 9. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Pfc. Christopher Vann



Army Sgt. 1st Class Luis Perez and Spc. Miguel Moya inventory a shipment of supplies that are ready for distribution, June 10. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Pfc. Christopher Vann