

# THE WIRE

A JTF Journal



## **Bridging the gap**

Base-wide effort to span the GTMO River

## **The high cost of power**

Energy conservation and you



# Pursuit of higher education

**Air Force Senior Master Sgt.  
Steven Foster**

474<sup>th</sup> ECES Operations NCO

What is an education worth to you? On average, someone with a college degree will earn almost one million dollars more over the course of a lifetime than someone with a high school diploma. In the military, as is the case in the civilian world, an education is becoming even more critical for advancement. Whether it is sitting in front of a promotion board or looking for that new career path, education beyond high school is becoming the standard instead of an advantage.

The question is not whether it is worth it, but can you afford not to do it. I talk to Airmen all the time, young and old alike, who are interested in furthering their education but are not sure where or how to start or even if it's worth the effort. Many times they feel that because they are getting older, the payoff is not worth the effort. With the average lifespan bordering on 75-plus years, the four-to-five years to complete a college degree is a drop in the bucket. In the grand scheme of life it only requires a small effort for a lifetime of gains; you just have to be willing to remain focused on the prize. Five years down the road when that job you've always wanted becomes available, you can either have your degree and move on to new opportunities or you can be looking back wishing you would have buckled down.

Most military members already have a head start toward their degrees from Professional Military Education courses and technical training. Even though some degree programs will only credit a small number of these hours toward a college degree, there are other options. Many colleges accept what is called a Regents degree, which is a bachelor of arts degree, that will often count your PME and technical training hours. In some cases it is possible to use a Regents degree as a stepping stone to a specific master's degree.

Being deployed is the best time to start the process. Remote locations limit distractions from family and friends and allow you to focus on class work. In addition, most universities offer on-line classes that can be taken anywhere. With tuition assistance, the Montgomery GI Bill, and free CLEP or DANTES tests, obtaining a degree is even more attainable.

The best part about today's military is that opportunities and assistance exist for whichever road you decide to take. Not only is an education an accomplishment that will pay monetary dividends down the road, it is something that is yours and cannot be taken away. The Department of Defense pays people to fish, workout and draw ... you're only limited by your drive and imagination. ★



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### COVER:

**An Airman with the 118<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineering Squadron welds chain link fencing to an exterior structure at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, June 18.** – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Cody Black



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.



**U.S. Southern Command Deputy Commander, Air Force Lt. Gen. Glenn F. Spears, Navy Rear Adm. Dave Thomas Jr., and Navy Rear Adm. Thomas “Tom” H. Copeman III, salute during the national anthem at a Joint Task Force Guantanamo change of command ceremony, June 19.** – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class Richard Wolff

**Army Staff Sgt.  
Blair Heusdens**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Joint Task Force Guantanamo welcomed new commander, Navy Rear Adm. Thomas “Tom” Copeman III, and said goodbye to Rear Adm. Dave Thomas during a change of command ceremony, June 19, at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay.

Air Force Lt. Gen. Glenn F. Spears, deputy combatant commander for U.S. Southern Command, spoke during the ceremony.

Thomas took command of the JTF in May 2008 and, through his leadership, helped to further the JTF mission of safe, humane, legal and transparent care and custody of detainees.

During his tenure, Thomas helped to develop and implement security for military commissions, ensured the safe conduct of multiple detainee movement operations, enhanced overall detention operations, as well as support the Office of Military Commissions and improve the international image of the detention facilities. He also designed an effective strategic communications plan, personally engaging audiences, influencing opinions and dispelling myths.

Rear Adm. Thomas possesses many personal and professional strengths and qualities, gained throughout his career, which show in his quality and style of leadership.

Thomas has a family tradition of naval service. He, his father and three brothers all graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in

Annapolis, Md. In 1999, as commander of USS Ross, Thomas participated in the first combat mission in NATO history, conducting Tomahawk missile strikes in support of Operation ALLIED FORCE in Kosovo.

Thomas was working in the Pentagon on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, when American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the west side of the building.

When describing Thomas’ trademark humility, Spears said, “Without thought for his personal well-being, he ran to the sound of the fury, he ran to the sound of his shipmates, he ran to do all he possibly could to pull survivors from the scene.”

These are some of the defining events in Thomas’ life which have made him the leader he is today.

“Your unwavering standards, ethical fortitude, your guts, your integrity have served you well and served all those under you well,” Spears said.

Standards and values such as these and many others have been important to sustaining the professional image of the JTF. Thomas held Troopers and himself to the highest standards of excellence and professionalism in accomplishing the JTF mission.

“In the Navy, we define core values as courage, honor and commitment,” Thomas said. “In my long career, I’ve seen people perform courageously, I’ve seen people serve with honor and I’ve seen people demonstrate commitment. But never, ever, have I seen such performance to the extent and degree that I’ve seen here in the last 13

months.”

It is in keeping with these high standards that Thomas thanked the Troopers of the JTF during his speech.

“I’d like to thank the extraordinary men and women of Joint Task Force Guantanamo for providing the safe, humane, care and custody that I’m so proud to show the world,” Thomas said.

Spears reiterated that appreciation for the professional mission the Troopers of the JTF perform each and every day.

“Let me assure you that our nation knows of your great efforts and appreciates your many sacrifices,” Spears said.

Rear Adm. Copeman takes command of the JTF as it prepares to support additional military commissions and legal processes for the detainees, the continued release and repatriation of detainees who have been cleared for release and the ordered closing of the detention facility at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay.

Copeman left one island for another in coming to Cuba from his previous assignment in Hawaii as deputy chief of staff for operations and training for the U.S. Pacific Fleet. Copeman has 27 years of service in the Navy and deployed to the Persian Gulf in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom as the commander of Destroyer Squadron 28 in the George Washington Carrier Strike Group.

“Today, I relinquish command to Rear Adm. Tom Copeman, a professional and personal friend of long standing,” said Thomas. “He’s a tremendous leader and you will be extraordinarily well-served.” ★

# Blood, sweat and grit; no tears here

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

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

“Keep pushing! Keep pushing! Just get it done!” yelled Army Staff Sgt. Tammy Tillman as she coached her Soldiers during an extended physical fitness test which marked the beginning of try-outs for the Army Warfighter Competition.

The Warfighter Competition, held by the Military Police Regiment at Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo., is a regiment-wide competition which pits the best-of-the-best military police teams against one another in a grueling competition of strength, endurance, and mental acuity.

The 525<sup>th</sup> MP Bn. will be sending a team to the competition. Seven members from the 193<sup>rd</sup> MP Co. rose to the challenge to try out for the competition, June 18-19, completing an extended physical fitness test, obstacle course, 10-mile road march, written exam, M-16 rifle qualification and 9 mm “stress fire,” in an attempt to make the team.

Army Sgt. Steven Jones participated in the Warrior Police Challenge two years ago, but last year was unable to because of school obligations.

“It’s the highest level of competition among the MPs; it’s an honor to be on the team,” Jones said. “I’ve been training since I came down here.”

The extended physical fitness test pushes Soldiers to do as many push-ups as they can in two minutes, roll over immediately, and do as many sit-ups as they can in another two minutes. As soon as they completed the sit-ups the Soldiers were on their feet and approaching the starting line for a three-mile run.

“These [Soldiers] just got here – hard charging,” said Army Staff Sgt. Jolene Anderson, platoon sergeant, first platoon, with the 193<sup>rd</sup> MP Co. “To see them come out here and perform this extended [physical fitness] test is awesome.”

Once each Soldier cleared the finish line, the team was off to Marine Hill, to take on the obstacle course. Despite fatigue, the Soldiers attacked the obstacle course with determination and grit.



**Army Pvt. Levi Arrowood completed as many sit-ups as he could during the extended physical fitness test which was part of the team qualification for the Warfighter Competition. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Emily J. Russell**

“The obstacle course was the hardest part this morning,” Jones said. “Though push ups, sit-ups – non-stop – and then jumping into a three-mile run, then into the van to go to the obstacle course, was all-around tough.”

After completing the obstacle course, the Soldiers went back to the classroom where they took an exam, testing their knowledge of the Army and the military police corps.

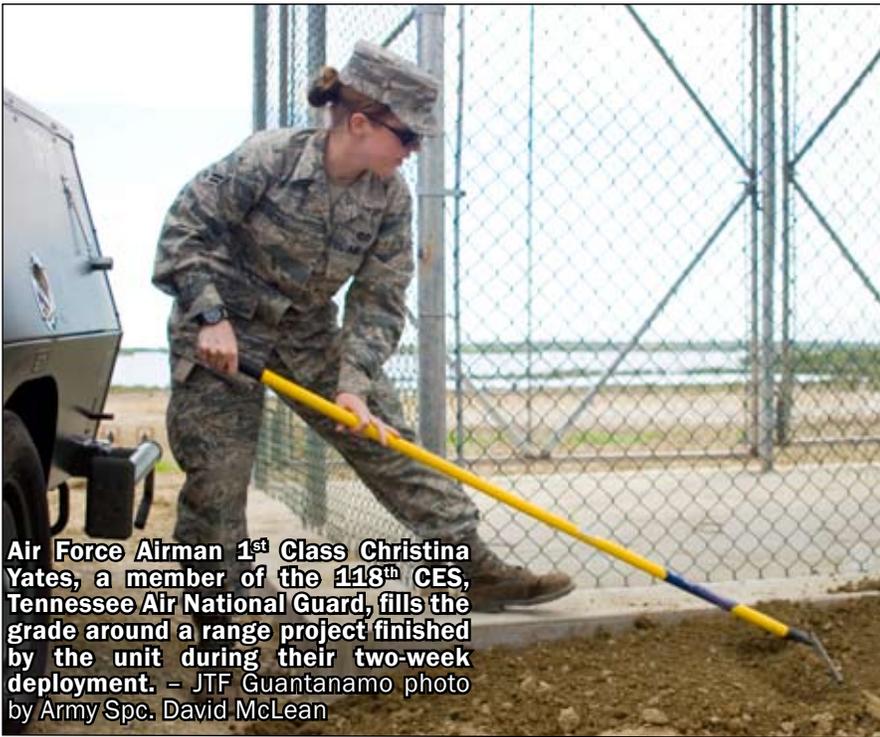
“It takes mental and physical toughness,” said 525<sup>th</sup> Military Police Bn. Command Sgt. Major Steven Raines to the Soldiers after the written exam. “Everybody is a winner already just by taking the initiative to try out for the team to represent the 525<sup>th</sup> MP Bn. at the competition. Hard times don’t last; hard, disciplined Soldiers do.”

With a brief break to eat, shower and rest, the Soldiers reconvened to draw weapons and attended an M-16 rifle qualification, competing again for the best score of targets hit.

The following day, the team was up early for a 10-mile road march, followed by a “stress fire” with a 9 mm pistol. Upon completing the road march, the Soldiers completed 20 push-ups and then fired 40 rounds in one minute.

“These [competitions] allow our Soldiers to continue to be involved with [events] across the MP Corps, and the Army,” said 525<sup>th</sup> MP Bn. Commander Army Lt. Col. Alexander Conyers. “Although

See **COMPETITION/12**



**Air Force Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Christina Yates, a member of the 118<sup>th</sup> CES, Tennessee Air National Guard, fills the grade around a range project finished by the unit during their two-week deployment.** – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. David McLean



**Air Force Master Sgt. Randy Sylak solders fittings on a pipe for a shower during a bathroom refurbishment in Camp America.** – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. David McLean

# Digging in with JTF

■ 118<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineering Squadron lend skills and expertise while gaining experience

**Army Spc.  
David McLean**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The fruits of the 36 members from the 118<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineering Squadron's labor are evident all around Guantanamo Bay. Take a look at the new playground equipment at Cooper Field, the refurbished bathrooms in Camp America, or the other places where these Tennessee Air National Guard members were working these past two weeks. They did their work in the name of annual training and helped improve the quality of life for the Guantanamo Bay community as they polished their skills in preparation for future deployments.

The 118<sup>th</sup> CES is out of Nashville, Tenn., and they have finished their yearly "Deployment For Training" requirement. This training takes them away from their home area and places them in situations that closely resemble deployment environments and missions. Their mission here was to complete tasks around the naval station while training junior members in a hands-on training environment.

Air Force Lt. Col. Craig Bradford, squadron commander, 118<sup>th</sup> CES, said the mission was successful because of the information shared between his experienced Airmen and his younger members.

"This has been an extraordinary training opportunity for our younger Airmen," Bradford said. "There is only so much you can do in the classroom and on computer

simulations. Now it is time to train the younger members of the unit so no information is lost over the next few years."

This training included work on plumbing and electrical systems, basic carpentry and masonry and being resourceful in getting help from other groups to complete work.

"We're a construction outfit so we've had to use the services of the engineers," said Air Force 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. David Freeland, 118<sup>th</sup> CES. "They have gone out and sighted in some projects for the Joint Task Force folks for upcoming teams that will be coming out here. We've done a huge amount of utility work in plumbing and electrical, but all the skills of our Airmen have been tested. All the trades within the Air Force construction outfit have benefited greatly, not only from getting work done, but being able to use the DFT concept to train our younger people to come in and get their hands dirty."

The younger Airmen in the squadron had a lot to learn in a short amount of time.

"I've learned how to install water lines, toilets, sinks and urinals, and learned a few other things like how to put up tile," said Airmen 1<sup>st</sup> Class Christina Yates, a utilities Airman, 118<sup>th</sup> CES. "We've learned a lot of good stuff that will be useful back in the civilian world as well. I think we've done a good job of accomplishing our tasks that we were assigned, and we picked up a couple of other ones and completed them the best we can."

The 118<sup>th</sup> CES had to complete the assigned tasks of renovating a bathroom

facility at Camp America, to site and construct a Morale, Welfare and Recreation playground complex, build an interior wall at a naval station facility and construct a target storage structure at a firing range. In addition to these tasks, they were able to complete a concrete supply ramp for a naval station dining facility, provide power production personnel support for generator maintenance for 474<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron, repair a wall at the Radio GTMO office, begin plans for an observation deck at Leeward for MIGOPS, and provide Engineering personnel support for survey work at Leeward for 474 ECES.

The much-needed improvements to existing facilities used by Troopers here were appreciated, said Army Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Guillermo Santiago, Camp America commandant, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 525<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion.

"I am pleased about the way they conducted business," Santiago said. "They have demonstrated a high degree of professionalism. The way they came in here and constructed and renovated the latrines; they did it in a record time of two weeks. You have to [remember] that we don't have a Home Depot here on the island, and they did an outstanding job."

The 118<sup>th</sup> CES has left their mark on the Guantanamo Bay community and helped to improve the quality of life while taking away the skills required to complete their mission anywhere in the world. ♠

A player from "Legends" shoots a free throw on opening day of the 2009 Summer Basketball League. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Michael Baltz



# Nothing but net

**Army Sgt.  
Michael Baltz**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The 2009 Summer Basketball League is finally here and Joint Task Force Guantanamo and Naval Station Guantanamo Bay Troopers lace-up their sneakers for another exciting season hosted by Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

"I am excited," said Navy Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Class John Parker, with the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion. "I have been playing basketball since I was 10 years old. I love the competition."

The league is comprised of nine teams, which are mostly grouped together with Troopers who work with one another. This isn't always the case however, as Navy Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Demarious Franklin is teamed up with the Doc's.

"The Doc's are mostly corpsmen who work at the hospital," explained Franklin, who works at the Camp America post office. "I think it is unique because it gives me the chance to meet people through sports."

Franklin not only plays on a basketball team, he also plays on a softball team.

"Basketball is one of the main seasons everyone looks forward to," Franklin said. "It keeps me in shape. There are also a lot of athletic people at GTMO, which makes for a challenging and fun season."

Franklin critiqued his team and feels like the season will be a promising one.

"We are fortunate to have a big man and a good pair of guards that can shoot the ball," Franklin said. "In our first game we started off slow, but as the game progressed we really started to work together."

Franklin did not make a projection of how well his team will do; but Parker, a guard with Illimatic, has high expectations of his team.

"We all play together as one," Parker said. "We know each other, and we are going to take it all this year."

Parker said he models his playing style after Jason Terry, a professional basketball player with the Dallas Mavericks.

"Terry is a good all-around player," Parker said. "He has some really good skills, and my strong points are similar to his."

The basketball league may have similarities to the National Basketball Association, but it has a different mission.

"The objective of having a summer basketball league is to promote a high level of physical fitness, enrich social competence and transform spectators into active participants," said Robert Neuman, MWR sports director. "It is about having fun."



Troopers from Joint Task Force Guantanamo and Naval Station Guantanamo Bay participate in the 2009 Summer Basketball League. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Michael Baltz

Basketball games will be played at G.J. Denich Gym on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 6 - 9 p.m. until August 14.

If you have any questions about the summer basketball league, call the sports office at extension 2113. ☆



# 'Haunting' not so daunting

**Army Sgt. First Class  
VeShannah J. Lovelace**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

"The Haunting in Connecticut" is a thriller based on the true story of a family who moves into a house supposedly possessed by supernatural forces in Southington, Conn. The year, 1987, sets the backdrop for this tale starring Virginia Madsen as a mother who moves her family into a classic Victorian in upstate Connecticut. The move was hasty and made in desperation to be closer to the hospital where her eldest son, Matt, is receiving experimental cancer treatments. Almost immediately upon moving in, Matt – played by Kyle Gallner – discovers that his new bedroom was once the site of funerary preparation and cremations. Upon further investigation, they realize the once-owner of the mortuary, in which they now reside, was an ambitious mortician who exploited his prepubescent son's abilities to consult the dead.

While there is nothing overtly exciting about this movie, there is nothing acutely awful about it either. The "thriller connoisseur" will watch the action and listen to the music, then steel themselves for the inevitable surprise attack. However, there are still a good number of scenes that will catch you off guard and cause you to slap your neighbor as you try to keep from

jumping out of your seat.

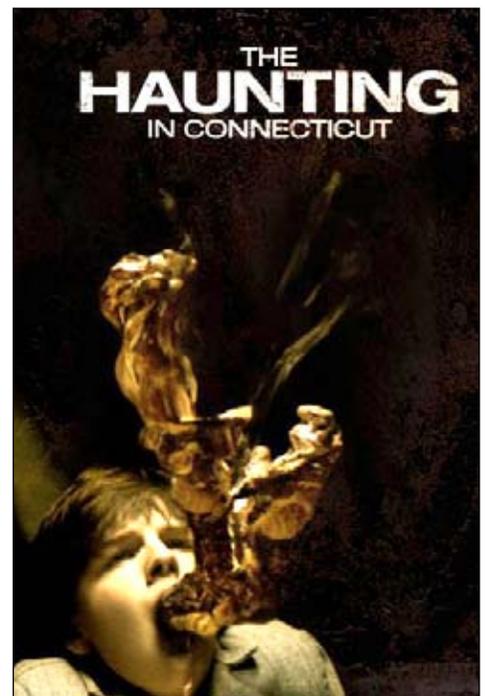
This film was mundanely reminiscent of "The Amityville Horror" and "Poltergeist." Likewise, there are several traces of "The Sixth Sense," "Stir of Echoes" and "The Others" throughout this movie. However, it does hold an original twist in that you had to be dying in order to actually see the dead people.

"The Haunting" has all the elements of a typical horror film – a family rents a house that was too good to be true; characters investigate strange noises or sights any sane person would choose to ignore; there's a priest who thinks he knows how to exorcise the demons; and no one is smart enough to get out of the house once they are fully aware things are awry.

Despite the fact that this movie is not wildly exhilarating, the acting was quite impressive. Kyle Gallner gave a phenomenal performance. He was extremely believable as a cancer-ridden, demon-possessed teenager. His eyes really drew you into the scene and left you feeling anxious. There were times when you thought the demonic spirits had taken control and were pleasantly surprised to see him fight through and persevere.

Virginia Madsen was a bit monotone during the opening scenes but still managed to make you feel sorry for this mother who was so desperately trying to save her son and keep her family together.

This movie may not make the list of top 10 greatest thrillers but it still makes for a pretty good first-date flick. ☆



**PG-13**

**92 minutes**

**Rating:** ★★★★★

# NO GUTS, NO GLORY



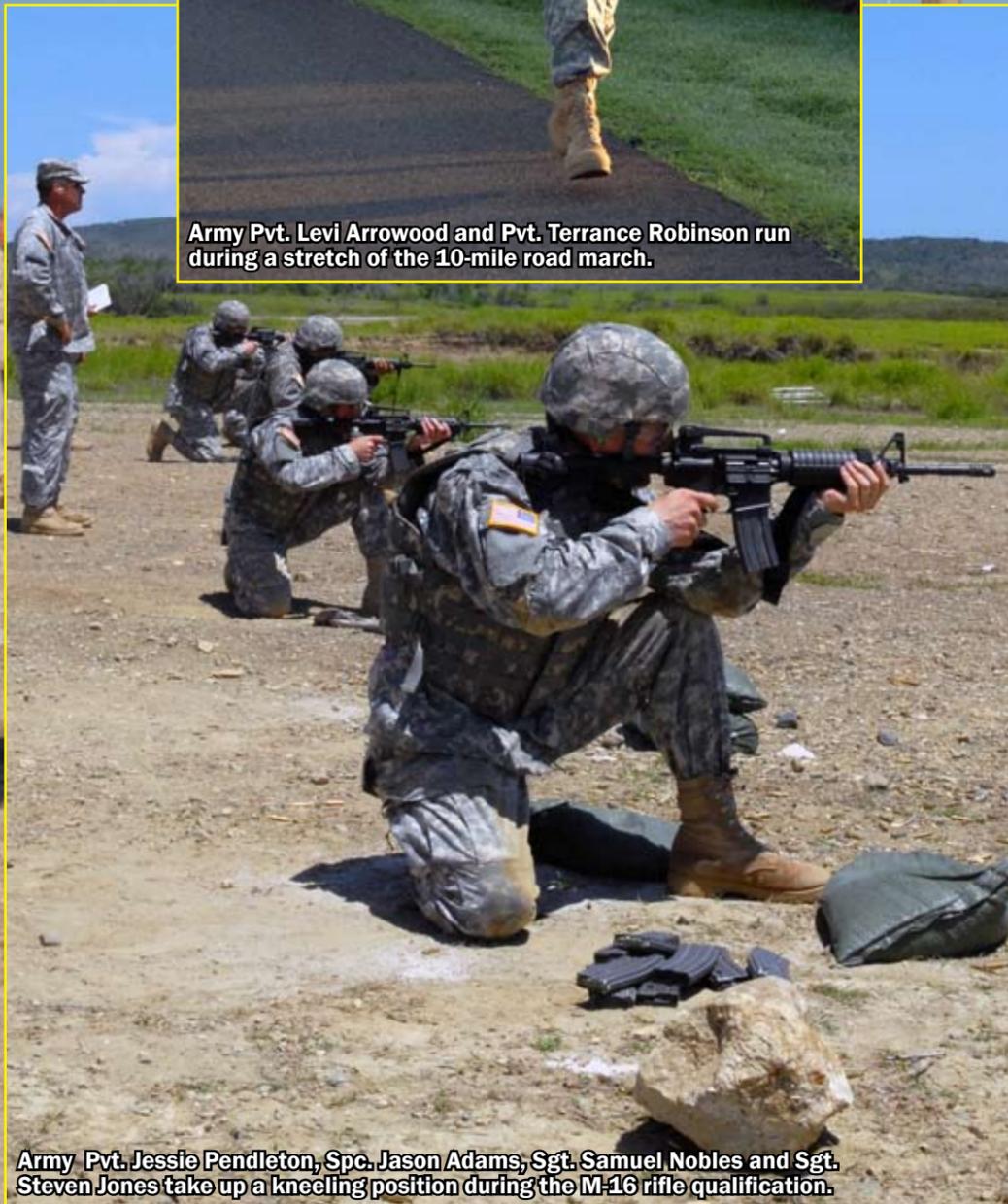
Army Pvt. Levi Arrowood and Pvt. Terrance Robinson run during a stretch of the 10-mile road march.



Army Pfc. Chad Hostetler maintains his focus while performing as many push-ups as he can in two minutes.



Army Sgt. Samuel Nobles catapults his legs over a series of log obstacles.

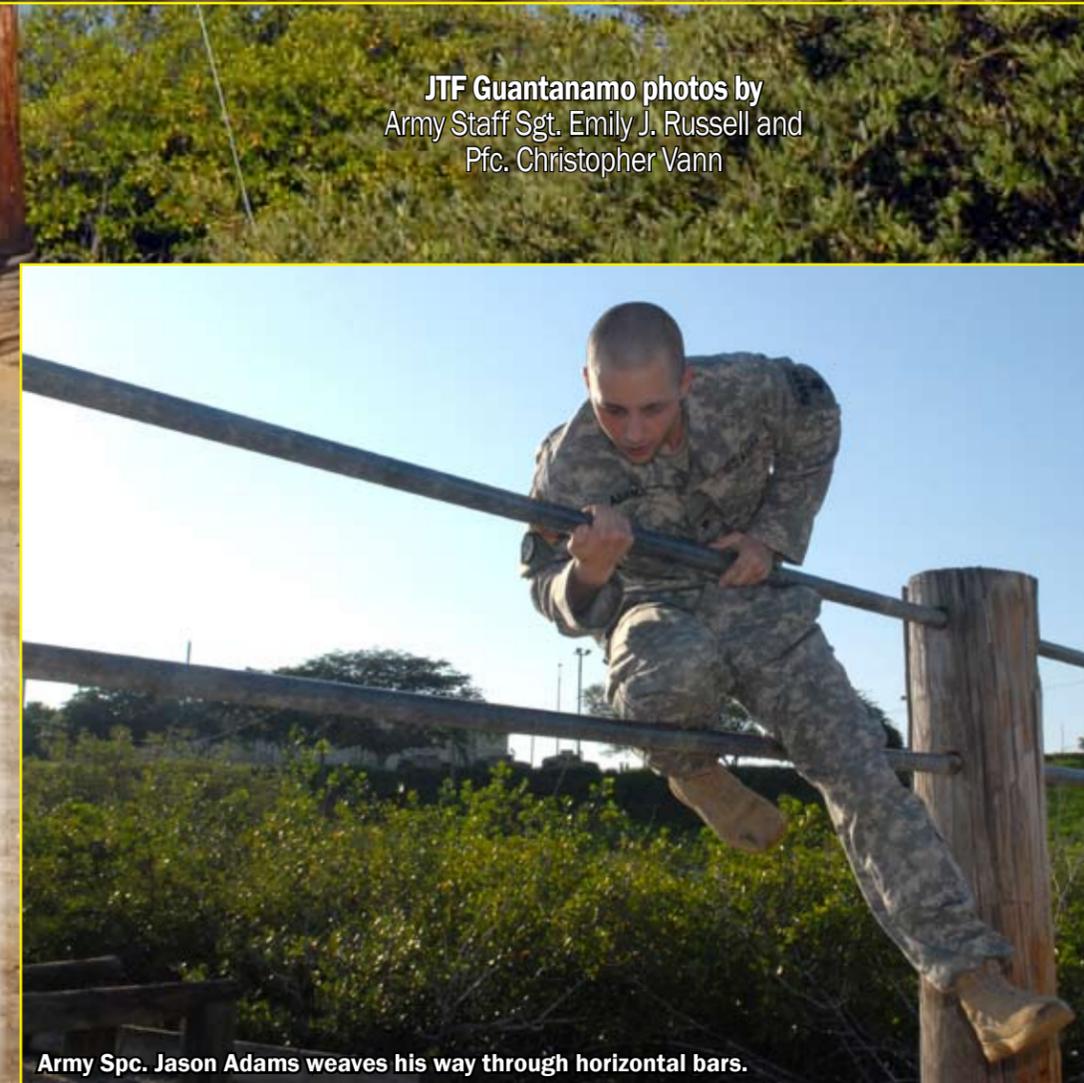


Army Pvt. Jessie Pendleton, Spc. Jason Adams, Sgt. Samuel Nobles and Sgt. Steven Jones take up a kneeling position during the M-16 rifle qualification.



Push-ups, sit-ups, three-mile run - *Too easy.*  
 Marine Corps obstacle course - *Piece of cake.*  
 Written exam - *Aced it.*  
 M-16 rifle qualification - *Could have done it blind-folded.*  
 10-mile road march - *Is that all you've got?*  
 "Stress fire" 9 mm pistol qualification - *No sweat.*

For a group of seven Soldiers from the 193<sup>rd</sup> Military Police Company, this two-day event was just a taste of what's to come for the lucky few who will be selected to represent the 525<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion at the MP Regiment's Warfighter Competition. The event, which will take place at Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo., Sept. 15-19, tests the intestinal fortitude, determination and knowledge of MPs from across the regiment.



Army Spc. Jason Adams weaves his way through horizontal bars.

JTF Guantanamo photos by  
 Army Staff Sgt. Emily J. Russell and  
 Pfc. Christopher Vann



**Navy Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Forrest Jones, Camp Six administrative specialist, prepares to drive a Geo Gem. The Gem is a battery powered vehicle which uses a small amount of electricity to recharge its batteries. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. April D. de Armas**

# Energy conservation: use vs. waste

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

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Energy conservation is an important topic that has been buzzing among law-makers and individuals for some time. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay is no exception to the commotion being made about conserving energy.

In early 2005, Naval Station Guantanamo Bay installed four wind turbines and some new generators to improve energy efficiency and in hope of lowering energy costs.

Navy Cmdr. Jeffrey Johnston, public works officer, Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, said although the measures taken to lessen the cost of energy for the base have been successful, there is still a long way to go.

“We have made some changes, but there is a limit to what we are able to do,” said Johnston. “We can replace light fixtures and water fixtures with more energy efficient fixtures and limit watering lawns, however, all the residents of the base have to do their part to make a bigger difference.”

The average cost to produce power and water for Naval Station Guantanamo Bay for one year is around \$30 million. It cost an average of \$26,000 per month to just to power (excluding water) all of Naval Station Guantanamo Bay around-the-clock.

“The biggest cost we have with the consumption of power is the creation of water for our residents,” said Johnston. “It takes about 5 to 8 percent of the power produced to have safe, consumable water.”

In the 1970’s, Congress began mandating reductions in energy consumed by federal

agencies, primarily by improving the efficiency of buildings and facilities, and by reducing fossil fuel use. More recently, two other bills were passed that would call for a 30 percent reduction in energy use by all federal agencies to include all military branches.

“There are two ways to save power; one is in little ways like people turning off lights not being used, turning the water off while brushing their teeth, and not letting the shower run before you get in,” said Johnston. “The other way would be to spend lots of money and have things like wind turbines

**“Our office contributes by making sure all our lights, computers, printers and monitors are turned off before we leave for the day.”**

– Army Maj. Reuben Soto

and new diesel generators installed to improve efficiency however, saving pennies here and there is more productive and less costly in the long run.”

Army Master Sgt. Eustaquio Antonetti, J-4 transportation and maintenance non-commissioned officer-in-charge, Joint Task Force, said his office does their part to conserve energy.

“We make sure all of our computers, monitors and air-conditioners are turned off every day before we leave the office.”

Antonetti’s office is in charge of issuing vehicles to JTF Troopers and civilian support personnel.

“We also advise people who come into our shop for a vehicle to keep their tanks no less than half full; the vehicle will use less fuel which saves money and resources,” said Antonetti.

In fiscal year 2007, Department of Defense spending on energy to operate its facilities reached almost \$3.5 billion. Therefore, Congress continues to look at furthering energy efficiency improvements in aging Defense facilities and buildings as a means to rein in energy consumption.

Army Maj. Reuben Soto, Joint Detention Group S-3 plans and training officer-in-charge, Joint Task Force, said he feels conserving energy is the responsibility of all and believes if everyone looks for ways to save and conserve, future generations will have a healthier environment to live in.

“Energy sources are so scarce, therefore we need to take care of them and use them wisely,” said Soto. “Our office contributes by making sure all our lights, computers, printers and monitors are turned off before we leave for the day.”

Troopers should realize that if more money is spent on energy consumption, less money is available for other things they might want, commented Johnston.

“Troopers don’t realize it directly affects the ability to provide other things they might want such as travel, training and Moral, Welfare and Recreation projects,” said Johnston. “The more money we have to spend on energy the less we have for other things our Troopers really would like to have.”

Raising awareness is an ongoing process that affects everyone from the lowest level to the highest level possible.

Johnston said to be prepared for a “long, hot summer” of energy discussions.

“Be on the lookout for mandated conservation rules that will change the way energy is used coming from Washington, D.C.,” said Johnston. “Do the right thing and remember that our resources are not a bottomless pit; once it is gone then it is just gone.” ☆



Crews from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 11, Amphibious Battalion 2 and Bremcor, a civilian contractor, work together as they transfer the first beam onto the barge. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Steven Rougeau

# Guantanamo River Bridge

**Army Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class  
Steven Rougeau**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

A bridge project, planned for the past 10 years is finally making headway to completion.

On the Leeward side of Naval Station Guantanamo Bay is a fence that separates Cuba and the naval station. Along this fence is a road patrolled by the Marine Corps Security Force Company that leads to a bridge that stretches across the Guantanamo River, allowing the Marines access to the island across the river where they continue their daily patrol for the security of the naval station. The fenceline separates two countries with drastically different political views on democracy and communism. The security of this border is an integral part of the Marine Corps' mission to ensure the safety of Guantanamo Bay.

"Once completed, the bridge will cut out needless driving that presently takes the security force away from the fenceline," said Naval Station Public Works Officer Jeffrey Johnston. The bridge will be built right along the fenceline, right up to the river, keeping the Marines on a direct route in their patrol.

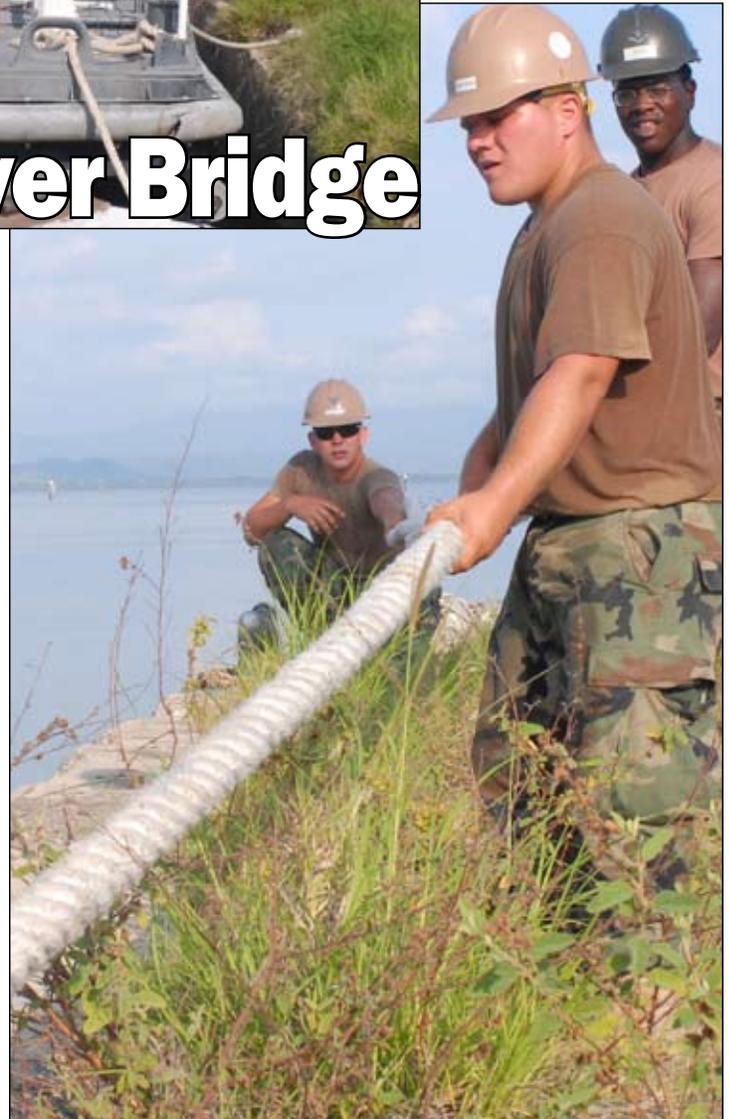
"In 1999, the planning phase started. By October 2000 the first materials arrived on the island and by December 2001, a Sea Bee battalion started working on the project," Johnston continued. "By December 2001, construction halted because the Sea Bees were needed elsewhere. Then in 2005 the Sea Bees were back and construction resumed."

Presently, Navy Mobile Construction Battalion 11, from Gulfport, Miss., has inherited this project as part of their deployment to Guantanamo Bay.

"The beams that will span the Guantanamo River had to be welded together first. It took seven sections to make one 179 foot beam. Two beams had to be fabricated," said Navy Chief Petty Officer Carl Peltier, assistant officer in charge for NMCB-11.

One of the first challenges they encountered was getting certified welders that met the stringent qualification needed to weld such a massive structure together, and planning and coordinating all the equipment needed to move these beams to the Leeward side.

Two cranes had to be used to load these beams onto the barge. One was supplied by the Amphibious Construction Battalion 2 and the other one by Bremcor. "On June 24 the barge traveled across the bay and up the Guantanamo River where the beams were off-



Troopers from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 11 pull on a rope to secure a barge in place prior to loading two beams for the new bridge on the Leeward side. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Steven Rougeau

loaded and set into place said job supervisor Navy Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class John Carroll.

The bridge project will remain on track for completion within the coming months. ★

Army Pvt. Terrance Robinson, determined to reach the top, prepares to climb the rope obstacle, June 18. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Emily J. Russell

# Soldiers compete for team event

## COMPETITION from 4

we're performing a tough mission here, I think it's important that we allow them the opportunity to compete in events like the Bataan [Memorial] Death March, the Army 10-Miler as well as the Military Police Corps Warfighter Competition. These things prepare our Soldiers to go above and beyond what is expected or what they think they can do."

With the 193<sup>rd</sup> MP Co. representing the entire battalion, the leaders and fellow Soldiers have a reason to be proud.

"I'm very proud, these guys are doing a great job," said Tillman, the platoon sergeant for second platoon. "They have a lot of heart. Two are already participating in the Army 10-Miler, they're definitely 'Hooah.'"

As the team prepares for the competition, it's important to remember the other Soldiers who support them at the camps and in their daily jobs.

"They gotta pull the weight, but they don't mind," Tillman said. "We take care of each other."

The joint effort of Soldiers across the battalion, and support from the Marine Corps Security Force Company – which played an integral role – helped the day's events come together for a successful team try-out.

"I think it's great that all of you took the opportunity to accept this challenge," Raines said to the Soldiers. "I know each of you want to be on the team."

Who made the team? Army Sgt. Steven Jones, Spc. Jason Adams and Pvt. Levi Arrowood.

"Arrowood works hard, I always see him out running," Anderson said. "He and Pvt. Robinson are always pushing each other."

"I'm not the best, but I'll do my best to represent the 193<sup>rd</sup> MP company and the MP regiment," Arrowood said. "The friendly competition with my peers is good for morale. We train together; we compete against each other, and [now] against other MP's." ☆



## Command Policy No. 39

### Policy on the Use of Indecent and Offensive Language

- **Public use of indecent and offensive language by service members and civilians at JTF-GTMO is not only in bad taste, but is disrespectful to all members of the community and its visitors.**
- **While private conversations remain the personal business of those involved, conduct in public places (i.e. sporting events) has a direct impact on the quality of life, good order and discipline and the community.**
- **These standards apply to all service members and civilians in JTF-GTMO. Everyone should assist in policing the use of indecent language on the base.**
- **Service members and civilians at JTF-GTMO shall report instances of the use of harassing language through their chain of command. Commanders or supervisors will address the use of appropriate language as a part of their unit training.**

Please refer to Command Policy No. 39 – Policy on the Use of Indecent and Offensive Language – for more information.

<https://intranet/resources/pubs.html>

# Fraser assumes SOUTHCOM command

**U.S. Southern Command**  
Public Affairs Press Release

U.S. Air Force Gen. Douglas Fraser assumed duties as commander, U.S. Southern Command from Navy Adm. James Stavridis during a formal change-of-command ceremony at the command's headquarters June 25.

Stavridis, who began his tenure as commander of SOUTHCOM on Oct. 19, 2006, was confirmed June 10 by the U.S. Senate to serve as commander, U.S. European Command in Stuttgart, Germany, and supreme allied commander of Europe for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, headquartered near Mons, Belgium.

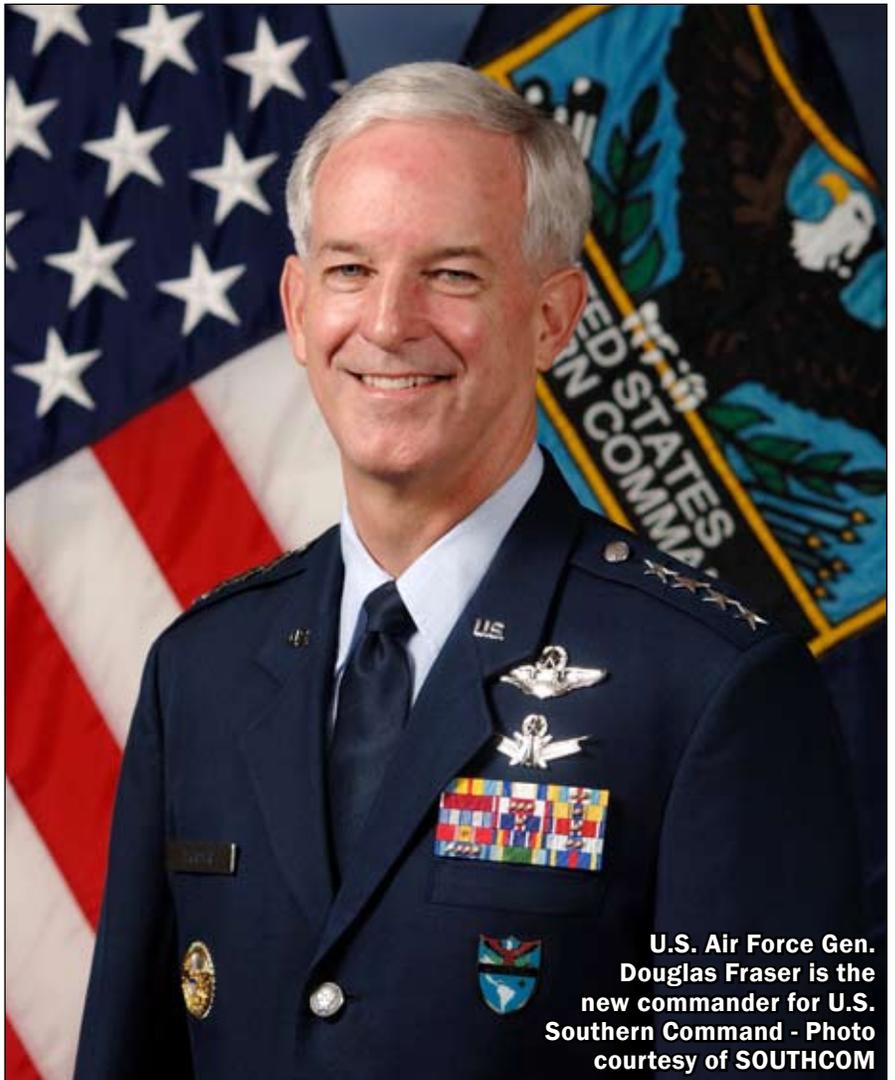
Fraser's presidential nomination for appointment to the grade of general and assignment as SOUTHCOM commander was also approved by the U.S. Senate June 10. The general received his fourth star prior to the June 25 change-of-command ceremony.

Fraser comes to SOUTHCOM from U.S. Pacific Command, headquartered in Camp H.M. Smith, Hawaii, where he served as the geographic unified command's deputy commander.

Fraser has also served as commander of Alaskan Command, a component command of U.S. Pacific Command; 11<sup>th</sup> Air Force, Pacific Air Forces; and Alaskan North American Defense Region, headquartered at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska.

His awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, and Meritorious Service Medal.

U.S. Southern Command is one of the nation's six geographically-focused unified commands with responsibility for U.S. military operations in the Caribbean, Central and South America. 🇺🇸



**U.S. Air Force Gen. Douglas Fraser is the new commander for U.S. Southern Command - Photo courtesy of SOUTHCOM**

## Boots on the Ground

by Army 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Cody Starken

*What is your favorite day in the galley?*

**Navy Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Joseph Megeay**



**"Tuesdays, because of the cheesy bread."**

**Navy Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Trenton Belin**



**"I like Sunday because they are less crowded."**

**Army Spc. Ortiz Noel**



**"Sunday, because they serve steak during breakfast."**

**Army Capt. Angel Rosado**



**"I enjoy Wednesday for their Mexican food."**



**Air Force Lt. Col.  
Dwayne Peoples**

JTF Guantanamo Command Chaplain

Have you ever asked yourself, “What does a chaplain do?” It is a fair question, but before I answer your question, let me ask it this way, “Other than worship services and counseling, what does the chaplain bring to the fight? How does the chaplain enhance military operations?”

In 1995, I was deployed as part of Joint Task Force Sea Signal to Naval Station Guantanamo Bay. Part of my duties included spiritual support of a Marine battalion. My second day on the island included a meeting with the battalion commander. In this meeting the commander recited his expectations of me in support of his mission.

After he wrapped up his diatribe, I asked him if he minded me telling him how I could make his devil dogs better Marines. I wish you could have seen his face. Naturally, I had his undivided attention. Since he was greatly curious how this Air Force chaplain (read weenie), was going to make these Marines, whose mission is to engage

the enemy and utterly destroy them, more efficient, he gave me permission to share my three “Ms,” which are: mediation, moderation and motivation.

I am absolutely convinced the chapel team brings three performance factors to the battle few realize, but all appreciate.

The first factor we bring is God’s presence; this is mediation. It is a fair assumption that because the chaplain is present, God is too.

Mediation reminds me of the time I was flying on a mission with the Airborne Control Command and Communications element during a North Atlantic Treaty Organization operation when we were warned to exit the air space due to potential hostile action against our aircraft. After breaking orbit we got the all-safe call. I still remember all of us exhaling in relief with the pilot looking over his shoulder and saying, “chaplain we are sure glad you were with us!” My presence made the air crew feel as if they had God’s divine protection; in turn it gave them greater focus on the mission performance.

The second dynamic chaplains affect is moderating of behavior. So many times

I have heard a Sailor, Soldier, Marine or Airman use profane language, and then their situational awareness kicks in and they invariably say, “oh, forgive my French, chaplain.” What they are really expressing is that my presence makes them have second thoughts about behaviors that could be detrimental to their team members, their family and ultimately their mission.

I cannot tell you how many times I have assisted military members as they struggled with habits that were interfering with their ability to carry out the job successfully. With my assistance, they were able to conquer the issue and focus on the job.

The third “M” is for motivation. It is my experience that my presence motivates our military personnel. Perhaps it was a dear John/Jane letter from home. Maybe it is confidence that whatever they tell me stays with me, or it could simply be that if the chaplain can do it, then they can too.

These three “Ms” lead to mission focus and mission success. Whether it is peace-keeping, the Iraq or Afghan battle space or GTMO; other than worship services and counseling, this is what the chaplain brings to the mission. ☆

## 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.



**Army Capt. Scott Brill, a chaplain with the Joint Detention Group, pre-records "Sunday Sounds," June 20. "Sunday Sounds," a radio show that airs every Sunday from 1 – 3 p.m., supports Joint Task Force Troopers by shedding light on Troopers' personal and spiritual lives.**  
 - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Michael Baltz

# 'Sunday Sounds'

**Army Sgt. Michael Baltz**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

People naturally incorporate their surroundings into their way of life. When a Trooper is deployed, he might struggle in maintaining a positive outlook, so when Troopers are deployed to Joint Task Force Guantanamo, "Sunday Sounds" interjects optimistic words of support into their listeners.

"We do the show every week," explained Joint Detention Group Chaplain, Army Capt. Scott Brill. "We are not trying to convert anyone, or belittle any other religions. We are here to put out a positive and encouraging message."

The show airs on 103.1 the Blitz every Sunday from 1 – 3 p.m.

"The show has two missions," Brill said. "One is to strengthen the faith of the believers, and the other [supports] the JTF mission, which is to show light to the Troopers' personal and spiritual lives in hope they will take it with them behind the wire as they continue to conduct safe, humane care of [the] detainees."

The show has been airing for 15 months and has three hosts.

"I heard that [Chaplain] Brill needed someone to work on the computers," said Navy Lt. j.g. Chris Ely, a Public Works project manager. "I am glad I am able to

help out.

"I realize we have a captive audience, and I hope something we say or one of the songs speaks to a [Trooper] and helps them with their troubles," Ely added.

and Ely referred to themselves as the Jonas brothers before Salazar joined the group. They continue to do so and often refer to Salazar as the third Jonas brother. He has been assisting with the show for five weeks.

"I do this to give back," Salazar said. "As a Christian, it isn't just a radio show, it is us doing our part. We are supposed to walk, talk and preach the Word. It is part of ministry."

The "Sunday Sounds" crew feels that their experiences in life will be able to help their listeners because they are able to provide testimonies of the Lord's work.

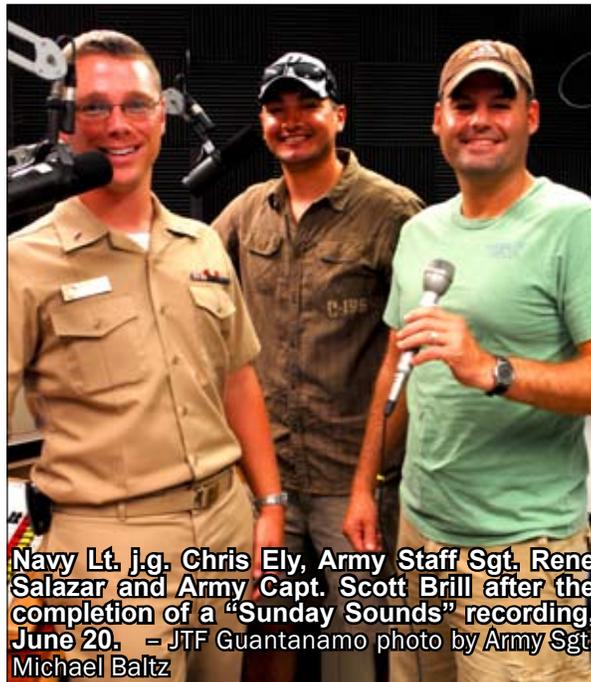
"We are open to suggestions," Ely stated. "If there is a song someone wants to hear, just let us know."

Armed Forces Radio and Television Services may not be able to provide all the songs that are requested, but they are able to make-do with the selections provided.

"What people are unaware of is that we cannot put in our iPods," Brill explained. "If it isn't in the system we can not play it, even though we know of hundreds of songs."

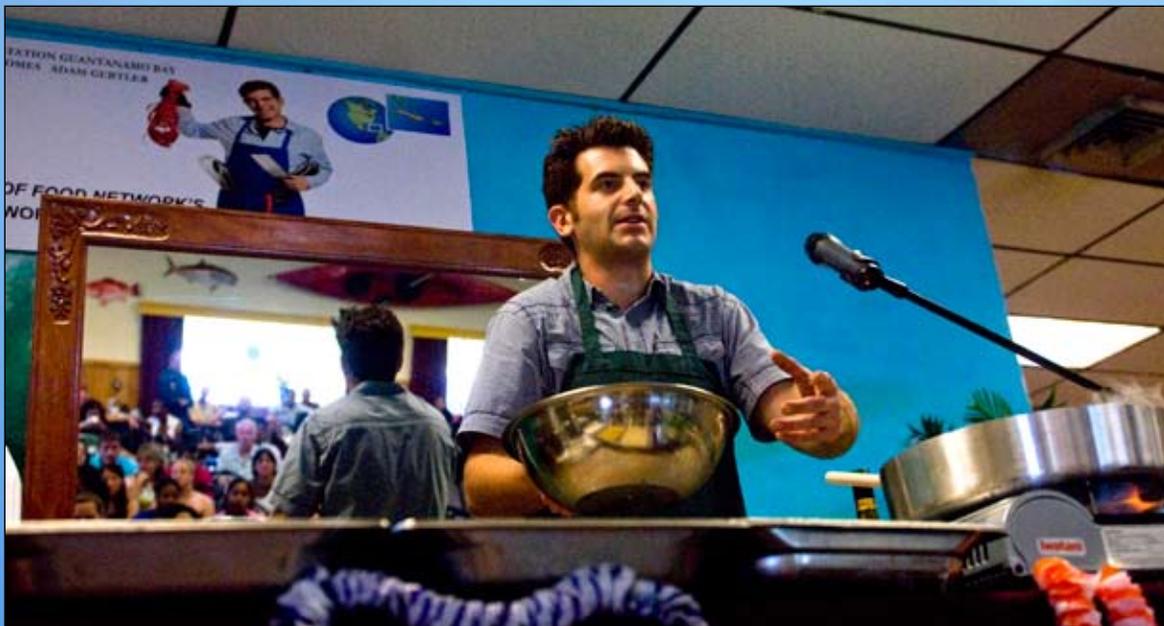
Brill and his crew are willing to advertise any religious programs at GTMO, and they welcome anyone who would like to be a guest speaker.

"If anyone has a story to tell or some encouraging words that can help people, we would love to hear it," Brill said. ☆



**Navy Lt. j.g. Chris Ely, Army Staff Sgt. Rene Salazar and Army Capt. Scott Brill after the completion of a "Sunday Sounds" recording, June 20. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Michael Baltz**

Army Staff Sgt. Rene Salazar, a member of the 193<sup>rd</sup> Military Police Company, had no experience with broadcast prior to participating in "Sunday Sounds." Brill



Adam Gertler, host of Food Network's "Will Work for Food," explains his bread-making process during a cooking demonstration at the Gold Hill Galley, June 19. Gertler's visit to Naval Station Guantanamo Bay allowed him to showcase ideas for quality food on limited budgets and equipment for Troopers. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Andrew Hillegass



Army Master Sgt. Timothy L. Parrish was laterally promoted as the 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 525<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion, during a ceremony held at Joint Task Force Guantanamo's Trooper's Chapel, June 23. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Richard Wolff



Air Force Lt. Col. Craig Bradford and Air Force Capt. Juan Marulanda, 118<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineering Squadron of the Tennessee Air National Guard, shovel the last remaining piles of dirt away from a range project conducted by the unit, June 19. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. David McLean

Around the



JTF