

# THE WIRE

A JTF Journal

**The Army goes rolling along**  
Terrain proves tough for LMTV training

**Well connected**  
J-6 maintains network integrity



# Life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness

**Air Force Senior Master Sgt.  
Bernadette Hamilton**

JTF Guantanamo Law Office Superintendent

Each Fourth of July, we celebrate the birth of America, our Independence Day. Friends and family members come together to take part in the festivities of the day and observe the magnificent fireworks that light up the night. American flags are flown proudly and military members from all eras march in patriotic parades to commemorate the day.

I was once asked what the Fourth of July meant to me. As a child, it was that one time of the year when I could play with sparklers and, per my mother's rule, everyone in the family had to wear red, white and blue. Now, since joining the military, the Fourth of July means much more. It's now a time to reflect upon our Nation's past, present and future.

On July 4, 1776, 13 colonies united in severing their ties to Great Britain by signing the Declaration of Independence, establishing a government that is self-governed. This was the beginning of our Nation. The Declaration states all men are created equal and we all have certain rights to include the right to Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

Now 233 years later and after many lives have been lost and tears shed, those same principles guide our people and our government. As members of the United States military, we defend those rights. Every time we put on our uniform, we are protecting the very principles with which our Nation was born.

As members of the Joint Task Force, we are reminded every day of the people who wish to harm our country and our people. We are reminded that the United States will continue to protect our rights and those who try to undermine our rights will have to bear the consequences. Of course, we are also reminded that as citizens of our great country, we are humane, decent people who will also protect those who are in our custody, regardless of the reason behind their detention. That is who we are.

In our future, I'm sure we will continue to face challenges and we will do so by staying true to our principles. Like you and I, men and women who want to make a difference and who are willing to serve our country, will step forward and follow in our footsteps and defend our right to freedom.

Our history is embedded in every American. It has influenced our present and will shape our future. As members of the United States military, it is our duty to study our past so we can make intelligent decisions for our future.

This Fourth of July, as you celebrate, remember the true reason behind the celebration. The birth of our Nation, a Nation dedicated to the principles of Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. Remember there are those who have never experienced freedom and be thankful for the rights our country has given you and be proud of who you are, a member of the United States military. God Bless America! ★



## JTF GUANTANAMO

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#### Director:

Navy Lt. Cmdr. Brook DeWalt: 9928

#### Deputy Director:

Army Maj. Diana Haynie: 9927

#### Supervisor:

Army 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Shellie Lewis: 3649

## The Wire

### Executive Editor:

Army 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Chris Cudney: 2171

### Command Information NCOIC:

Army Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Michael Gholston: 3651

### Editor:

Army Staff Sgt. Emily J. Russell: 3592

### Staff Writers:

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

Army Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class VeShannah Lovelace

Navy Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class Jerome Mapp

Army Staff Sgt. J

Army Sgt. Michael Baltz

Army Spc. April de Armas

Army Spc. David McLean

## Contact us

Editor's Desk: 3651 or 2171

From the continental United States:

Commercial: 011-53-99-3592

DSN: 660-3592

Email: [thewire@jftgmo.southcom.mil](mailto:thewire@jftgmo.southcom.mil)

Online: [www.jftgmo.southcom.mil](http://www.jftgmo.southcom.mil)

### COVER:

**Fireworks exploded over U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay during the Independence Day celebration that took place July 5, 2008. This year, the festivities will take place on July 4 at 9 p.m.**

– 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.



# Soldiers challenge GTMO terrain during LMTV training

**A Student driver demonstrates proper parking techniques using a ground guide after completing road course training by the 525<sup>th</sup> MP Maintenance Section.** – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Steven Rougeau

**Navy Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class  
Jerome W. Mapp**  
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

When it comes to moving Troopers and supplies across Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, the U.S. Army looks to the Light Medium Tactical Vehicle as the transport of choice. For 10 Soldiers assigned to Joint Task Force Guantanamo, the opportunity to drive the vehicle began with a recent three-day course that took them through some challenging terrain on the Cuban landscape.

The 40-hour LMTV course, which took place June 23 through June 26, was a combination of classroom instruction, open-road and off-road driving. The students spent the first day learning the intricacies of the vehicle. The second day was spent completing closed-site training at McCalla Hangar runway. The final tests consisted of both a nighttime and a daytime drive around Naval Station Guantanamo Bay and through treacherous and rugged hills that dot the landscape here.

“At the beginning of the class, we have each student introduce themselves to the rest of the class so that they become familiar with the person who may be their co-driver during the road test,” said Army Sgt. Jonathan Vasquez, a lightwheeled vehicle mechanic with the 525<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion’s motor pool and one of the course instructors. “From there, we teach the students vehicle safety and the basic mechanics of the vehicle before we put them behind the wheel.”

Vasquez, who has been assigned to JTF Guantanamo for roughly 15 months, and his team of instructors have led 10 such classes with a varying number of students. The most recent class

consisted of 10 students – the largest class to date – who were assigned two-to-a-vehicle in the five LMTVs the battalion employs for the road tests. A course instructor sat in the middle jump seat to evaluate their progress.

Prior to mounting their vehicles, the students received a briefing from Vasquez and Army Staff Sgt. Johanna DeJesus, the senior instructor and a member of the Puerto Rico National Guard’s 480<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion, on basic road safety and potential hazards that could challenge the drivers during the open-road test. Vasquez took the lead ahead of the convoy, driving the only Family of Medium Tactical Vehicle in the battalion’s vehicle inventory on the island.

“Since we have two students per truck for this class, we road test each one for a half-hour. So the final road tests are roughly an hour long,” Vasquez said. “Once we reach our designated stop [along Sherman Avenue], the second driver takes the wheel so that we can evaluate them during the return trip to the motor pool.”

Vasquez said that while the closed-site training may seem simple enough, traversing the hills around Guantanamo Bay can test the students’ nerves, especially at night. During the most recent class, a vehicle attempting to cross a hill during a nighttime test nearly ran into a ditch. The rear wheels became airborne when the weight of the vehicle caused it to pitch forward.

While the rate of course failure is low, Vasquez said that he has had students fail to safely navigate the steep hills and were forced to leave without earning their driving certificate and license that is required to operate the vehicles on the island.

# Redente takes charge of 189<sup>th</sup>

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

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The change of command ceremony is a time-honored event that preserves the rich heritage of military tradition. It is a formal custom that is designed to strengthen respect of authority, which is vital to any military organization.

Recently, Army Capt. Suzanne Redente assumed command of the 189<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company from Army Capt. Christopher M. Hodl in a change of command ceremony at Joint Task Force Guantanamo June 24. After passing the unit colors to the new commander, Hodl – the outgoing commander – addressed the crowd. He reflected on his command and thanked Army Col. Bruce Vargo, commander of the Joint Detention Group, and Army Lt. Col. Alexander Conyers, commander of the 525<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion, for their guidance, support; and the opportunity to serve with the finest, hardest-working and most professional group of Soldiers ever, keeping the operational tempo going and never failing the mission. Hodl continued, attributing his success to the officers and non-commissioned officers under his command.

“Hodl cared about his Troops and worked long hours in both the camp and the unit,” said Army Staff Sgt. Maryellen Rovillos, a 189<sup>th</sup> MP Trooper. “He ensured that they were properly trained to standards and focused on the physical fitness program. I wish him good luck and thank him for his professionalism.”

In his remarks, Conyers praised Hodl for his many accomplishments.

“His selection for the Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award is a testament of how well he performed his duties,” Conyers said. “[He] skillfully balanced physical fitness, warrior tasks, administration operations and running Camp 5 with Soldiers from both the 189<sup>th</sup> and 193<sup>rd</sup> MP companies. His credentials are measured by the way he took care of his Soldiers.”

The incoming commander, Capt. Redente, addressed the crowd and thanked everyone for taking time out of their evening to be there.

“It is with the utmost honor and pride that I stand before you as the commander of the 189<sup>th</sup> MP Company Thank you



**Army Capt. Suzanne Redente accepts the 189<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company guidon from the 525<sup>th</sup> MP Battalion Commander, Army Lt. Col. Alexander Conyers, during a change of command ceremony June 24. Redente assumed duties as commander of the 189<sup>th</sup> MP Company from outgoing Army Capt. Christopher M. Hodl. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class Richard M. Wolff**

for such a great opportunity,” Redente said. “Capt. Hodl, thank you for being the dedicated leader you were, and molding such a fine group of Soldiers. I wish you and your family the best for luck with your next assignment.

“To the Soldiers, you are the 189<sup>th</sup> MP Company and will always be my number one priority,” Redente continued. “All policies and procedures will remain in effect until otherwise notified.”

Redente concluded with her call sign saying, “Present for duty.”

Prior to the ceremony in a separate presentation, Hodl was honored and awarded with the Meritorious Service Medal for his 16-month tenure as the commander of the 189<sup>th</sup> MP Company and the officer in charge of Camp 5.

Following the ceremony, Troopers lined up to congratulate both the incoming and outgoing commanders and wish them good luck in their new assignments. ★

**Army Capt. Christopher M. Hodl addresses Soldiers from the 189<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company after a change of command ceremony at Joint Task Force Guantanamo Trooper’s Chapel, June 24. Hodl was relieved by Army Capt. Suzanne Redente as commander of the 189<sup>th</sup> MP Company. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class Richard M. Wolff**





**Dustin Robbins, senior information assurance officer, resets the memory card on a motherboard, June 30.** – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Jim Wagner

**Army Staff Sgt.  
Jim Wagner**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

While you may not realize it, every time you pick up the phone, hit send in Outlook or use a Motorola radio, you are falling under the purview of one of the most mission-critical sections at Joint Task Force Guantanamo.

The J-6 communications branch is responsible for all communication used by Troopers, charged with providing “secure, integrated, reliable and responsive communications and information

systems.”

That’s no easy task when you consider the various agencies that send communications ranging from daily, non-classified information to the highest security levels; information that could be used to give an enemy insight into operations conducted at the JTF.

The J-6 section is the shepherd to all that information, ensuring operations security is maintained across the various computer networks and over the airwaves.

“From an OPSEC standpoint, it is extremely difficult to strike the balance between keeping an open line of

communication and ensuring that our data and information remain secure,” said Tony Bustillos, J-6 operations manager.

Bustillos, a contractor with General Dynamics who has been assigned to the JTF for more than six years, said maintaining that balance involves incorporating a blend of hardware and software measures as well as relying on all Troopers to use the network – be it computer, radio, landline phones or cell phones – in a responsible manner.

The J-6 section is comprised of dozens of military and civilian members. Their responsibilities range from computer help desk support to asset management. The equipment and resources under their care are what you’d expect to find at any installation around the world; how J-6 manages their operations at Guantanamo Bay is anything but normal.

On the computer front, J-6 manages three separate networks: the Non-Secure Internet Protocol Router for unclassified information; Secure Internet Protocol Router for secret-rated information; and Joint Warfare Intelligence Communications System for top secret-level information.

Managing the NIPR, SIPR and JWICS networks is nothing out of the ordinary in a joint environment. Where the challenge lies here is managing the phones, cell phones and radios used throughout the JTF.

The infrastructure the JTF uses for over-the-air transmissions is actually owned by U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo. The J-6 works with their naval station counterparts at the base communications office to ensure uninterrupted service. So while the JTF owns the radios in use around the detention facilities, the naval station provides the radio maintenance and keeps the radio towers operating.

Outgoing J-6 Director Capt. Steven Broussard said that while it can be a challenge, the two communications’ agencies enjoy a solid relationship.

“They do a really good job; we throw a lot of last-minute requests their way but they always come through,” Broussard said. “We wouldn’t be able to work without them.”

In order to effectively manage these disparate networks, the J-6 is broken down into three areas: current ops, which administers the computer networks, configures the workstations and provides computer help desk support; future ops for asset management and new projects; and information assurance, the protectors of the network who prevent intrusion from both outside and inside the JTF.

Broussard said one of the biggest challenges in this environment is getting resources to GTMO in a timely manner, where freight options are limited. The reward, on the other hand, is meeting the communications needs of their customers – the JTF Troopers.

“They’re the reason why we’re here,” he said. “They’re where the rubber meets the road.” ♡



## Brees, Edwards, Miller show Troopers support

**Navy Chief Petty Officer Quincy L. Jackson, with Joint Task Force Guantanamo, watches Billy Miller, a New Orleans Saints tight-end, sign his football. Donnie Edwards, of the Kansas City Chiefs and Drew Brees, of the New Orleans Saints also participated in the USO tour of NFL players at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, June 27. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Michael Baltz**

### **Army Sgt. Michael Baltz**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Professional football players stay busy with traveling during the season, attending training camps away from home in the off-season and constantly maintaining a good physique so when they have free time, they typically spend it with family and friends.

However, some players believe there are other obligations and go beyond the spectrum of their professional career, taking their glory of being a successful athlete around the world to support Troopers who defend their freedom and right to play the game that so many people love.

National Football League players Drew Brees, starting quarterback for the New Orleans Saints; linebacker Donnie Edwards, of the Kansas City Chiefs and tight end Billy Miller, of the New Orleans Saints, demonstrated their support for the military by participating in a United Service Organization tour at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, June 27-28.

“We are here to show support to our Troops,” said Brees, a three-time pro-bowl selection (2004, 2006 and 2008). “We want to let the troops know how much we appreciate them and what they do.”

This is Brees’ fourth USO tour. He has been to Kuwait, Japan, Iraq, Afghanistan and now Cuba.

“I have had a lot of family in the military. My two grandfathers served in World War II,” Brees explained. “I grew up listening to their stories, so I know what sacrifices they made.”

Brees has always helped out the communities in which he has lived. In 2003 Brees established the Brees Dream Foundation, which has raised \$4.5 million to support numerous causes.

“As an NFL player, I have the opportunity to show the [Troopers] that I appreciate them,” Brees said. “Everyone loves the NFL, and I know the troops enjoy meeting us.”

Some Troopers were more excited than others, especially those who glue their eyes to a television set to cheer for Brees every Sunday during the fall.

“Meeting Drew Brees is the highlight of my GTMO experience,” said Navy Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Emily Magnoon, a New Orleans native with Joint Task Force Guantanamo. “This is better than fishing.”

The three players were able to see many Troopers and explore most of Guantanamo by having eight different meet-and-greet sessions. Brees also met several Marines

when he joined them for a four-mile run the day of his departure.

“We like Guantanamo a lot,” Brees said. “We have had a chance to shake hands with a lot of Troops.”

“I always tell my teammates what a rewarding experience it is to go on a USO tour,” Brees continued. “I think it is important that football players come down to support the true heroes.”

Miller feels strongly as well.

“I think until a professional athlete comes down here to Guantanamo to see the hard work it takes to defend our freedom, some people will take it for granted,” Miller explained. “This is my second time on the USO tour. I think to come down here and to be able to see everything is fantastic.”

Miller feels that his time spent at GTMO isn’t time lost from his family; he views it as time gained with Troopers.

Brees and Miller expect to do well this season by claiming to have a team with a lot of experience. Neither was able to make a prediction of how successful the Saints will be, but Miller is able to tell people how to have a successful fantasy football season.

“As long as you have No. 9 [Brees] on your team, you will have a good fantasy football season,” Miller stated enthusiastically. ☆



# Praise for 'The Proposal'

**Army Sgt. 1st Class  
VeShannah J. Lovelace**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Allow me to set the scene for you. You're on a crowded Manhattan street when your boss, whom you absolutely loathe and have often visualized being hit by a car, gets down on one knee and proposes. She suggests you either marry her so she can gain her citizenship and keep her job, or watch the career you worked so hard for be dismantled by an incompetent and inferior coworker. What would you say?

"The Proposal" is a witty romantic comedy starring Sandra Bullock as Margaret Tate, a frigid, cut throat, no-nonsense and emotionless editor for a high-profile New York publishing company. Margaret finds herself in a bit of a pickle when her bosses discover a trip she made out of the country – against their advice – put her on the radar of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Placing work above all else, Margaret failed to fill out the necessary paperwork to extend her work visa and as a result is immediately being deported back to Canada. In a desperate attempt to save her job, she informs her bosses that she is engaged to marry her assistant, Andrew Paxton, played by Ryan Reynolds of "Van Wilder" fame. Andrew, who is frightened of the consequences involved with defrauding the government, agrees to a quickie wedding provided she promotes him to editor and publishes his manuscript which she has thus far refused to read. Not really having a choice, she

agrees and Andrew hastily whisks her off to Sitka, Alaska, to meet his family.

Immediately upon landing in Alaska, Margaret realizes Andrew's family is wealthy and are some sort of "Alaskan Kennedy's." While in Alaska, Margaret



– whose parents died when she was 16 – finds herself in the middle of an ongoing father-son feud, a mother who desperately wants her son back in their life, a picture perfect ex-girlfriend and a 90-year-old grandmother (Betty White) who consults the spirits and wants grandchildren before she dies. The family's overwhelming and unconditional acceptance breaks through the ironclad barrier Margaret uses to protect

herself and Andrew gets the opportunity to see a side of Margaret he never knew existed.

Bullock knocks it out of the park with this performance. If you liked her before, you'll love her after watching this movie. She is outrageously funny and obviously comfortable in the obscurely comedic roles. Her character exhibits a shocking familiarization with Hip-Hop artists Rob Base and Ying Yang Twins tunes that leaves the audience falling out of their seats with laughter.

Reynolds creates a role in this movie that is in sharp contrast to the underachiever role his fans fell in love with in the "Van Wilder" series. He finds it hard to stand up to Margaret, until he gets the upper hand, but you can't help admire the way he defiantly confronts his father (Craig T. Nelson) head-on when he places his own agenda ahead of what truly makes Andrew happy. And Betty White is even more "Golden" as the spitfire grandmother who dances with strippers, chants and dances to honor the spirit Ra and fakes heart attacks to bend her family members to her every whim.

I propose that "The Proposal" is definitely a movie to rush out and purchase on Blu-ray Disc or DVD on release day to add to the collection. It is definitely one you will watch over and over again. ☆

**PG-13**

**107 minutes**

**Rating:** ★★★★★☆

# MISSION COMPLETE



Crewmembers on board U.S. Army Vessel Aldie (LCU 2004) maneuver a cargo container into place.



Army Staff Sgt. Brian Gunia directs the driver of an RT 240 Kalmar container handler on the cargo deck.

Joint Logistics Over-the-Shore wraps up their mission as they prepare to redeploy. The JLOTS exercise was designed to demonstrate the Navy, Army and Marine Corps' ability to discharge, receive, and deploy cargo and equipment while offshore. While the exercise concluded June 22, the JLOTS team continues to assist with projects such as the construction currently being conducted on the Guantanamo River bridge.



Crewmembers on board USAV Aldie wait while cargo containers are lowered to the deck of their vessel for transport.

JTF Guantanamo photos by  
Navy Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class Brian A. Goyak

**Contractor Owen Miller sorts and separates aluminum cans, glass and plastic bottles at the base recycling center. The center receives an average of six tons of recyclable material every month.** – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Christopher W. Cudney

# Recycling: the truth about your trash

**Army 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Christopher W. Cudney**  
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Trash. It is something that we all amass over time. Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers may wonder where all that garbage goes and what you should do with the trash you have now. The answer for much of it: recycle.

According to Refuse Department Supervisor Leon McPherson, approximately 40 to 50 percent of the trash and recyclables produced here come from the JTF.

“Daily, we receive about 17 tons of household waste,” McPherson said. This waste goes directly to the base incinerators and anything that does not burn goes into the base landfill.

The recycling center also receives approximately six tons of recyclable material every month. According to Transportation and Refuse Manager Mike Martinez, that number varies depending on the units deployed here.

“Some commands are bigger on recycling than others,” Martinez said. “That affects the amount of recyclables we get here.”

The recycling program relies on Troopers voluntarily sorting their refuse and placing it in the blue recycling bins provided by the recycling center. Household trash is sorted by the facility as well, but according to Martinez, presorting is a much more effective way of ensuring recyclables make it to the proper location.

## GTMO Recycling Tips:

- **Pick up a blue recycle bin from the base recycling center**
- **Sort recyclable material from household trash**
- **Rinse heavily soiled recyclables**
- **Place all recyclables in proper recycling receptacles; i.e. blue recycle bins, garbage cans labeled recycle in public locations**
- **At Cuzco Barracks, place recyclables in the six white containers located at the east trash collection point**
- **Reuse items as often as possible**

“We just don’t have the capability to sort through all the trash we get,” Martinez said. “We don’t have the equipment.”

McPherson and Martinez insist that many items commonly thrown away can be recycled.

“Plastic bottles that have a [recycling logo] with a 1, 2 or 3 can be recycled,” said Martinez. Other recyclable materials include aluminum and tin cans, copper wire and plastic drums. Glass bottles may also be placed in the recycle bins. The glass is not recycled but the bottles are crushed to help conserve space in the landfill.

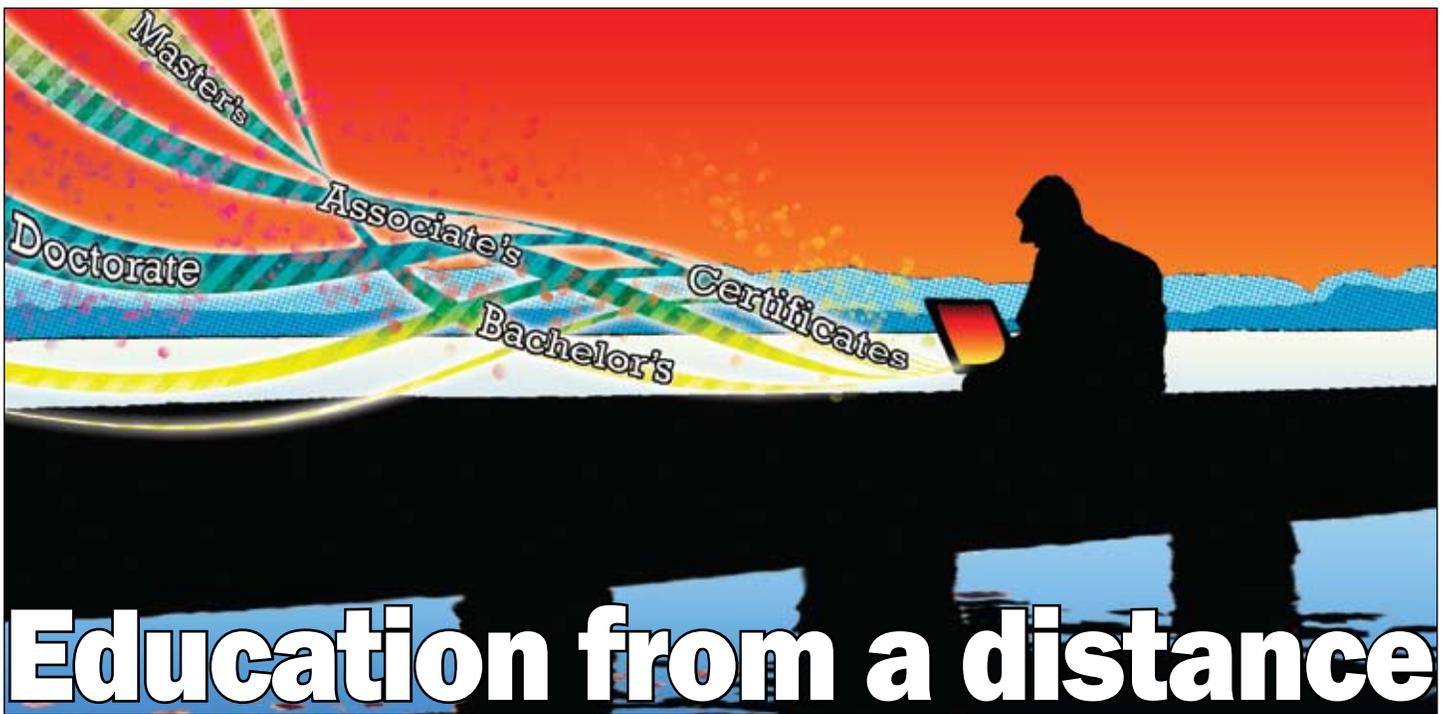
The center does not require recyclable materials to be cleaned thoroughly. Rinsing soiled cans and bottles with water is sufficient preparation to go to the recycling center.

Martinez also suggested that Troopers

reuse items to help reduce the amount of waste produced. Troopers may visit the recycling center and obtain items for reuse, such as large storage barrels.

“Some people take the barrels and cut them in half and use them for totes for carrying around their dive gear,” Martinez said. But the bins should not be used for anything other than recycling, according to Martinez.

Troopers who wish to recycle their household waste should visit the recycling center – located on Rogers Road near the military fuel point – and pick up a blue recycling bin. Troopers who are not using their recycling bins should return them to the recycling center. For more information on the recycling program contact the recycling center at ext. 74376. 🌱



# Education from a distance

**Army Spc.  
David McLean**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

With many schools now offering online courses and distance education, there are ways to take advantage of the Department of Defense's Tuition Assistance program here in Guantanamo Bay. There is information and help for Troopers who might just be thinking about school, or are actively engaging in educational pursuits.

Through the TA program, all Troopers can receive \$4,500 a year toward educational coursework, except the Navy, which has a cap at 16 semester hours. The program covers classes at \$250 per semester hour, which can account for four to six classes a year. This is not part of the Montgomery G.I. Bill, but part of the entitled benefits given to active duty members; and these benefits can only be used if Troopers take advantage of them.

Candice Rice, director of the Navy College Office at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, is available to all Troopers to help reach their educational goals while they are stationed here. Her job is to help process tuition assistance for Sailors and Marines, and to provide information and advice for any Troopers who stop by the office.

Rice's advice for those who are still in the planning stages for higher education: start by looking at a school's accreditation.

"If you are going to take any courses online, make sure you know if your school is an accredited body," Rice said.

According to Rice, there are three types of accreditation for different schools; regional, national and professional. The type of accreditation will affect transfer of credits if there are changes down the road.

"The best accreditation would be regional accreditation and the other would be national," Rice said. "The key between regional and national accreditation is that as long as it is regionally accredited, you can go from one school to the next and the courses will transfer with no problem. If you attend a nationally accredited school and then you decide to go to a regionally accredited school, the regionally accredited school does not have to take any of your credits. So therefore, you are starting from scratch."

The last type of accreditation is professional accreditation, which is primarily for certificate programs.

"The professional accreditation is if you are going toward a certificate in something like accounting, law or anything like that," Rice said. "Basically, if you attend a professionally accredited school, you are going for a specific reason to get a certificate or take a national test."

Besides accreditation, talking to education experts can take the guesswork out early and make the educational journey smoother. Going to the education center and talking to someone firsthand can answer many of the questions that Troopers have.

"Get a good feel about the tuition assistance policy and regulations of your branch, because if you do not know anything about your policy, you are going to end up needing assistance down the road," Rice said. "And unfortunately, if you mess up with your tuition assistance policy, it is coming out of your paycheck no matter what branch you are in. So the goal is to do it right the first time."

Army Sgt. Aaron San Luis, 525<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion, S-6 non-commissioned officer-in-charge, said he struggled when he first arrived here.

"I started my tuition assistance while I was back at the rear in Fort Lewis, Washington," San Luis said. "So I had to make Defense Switched Network phone calls to and from [the base] because I didn't have my counselors here who were getting me set up and enrolled into courses."

After becoming familiar with a school and its tuition policies, Rice recommends completing an online application. Once an application is submitted, many schools assign an advisor, who is the best contact for the school. Rice also says most schools require

**The key here is to always move forward. – Ms. Candice Rice**

a placement exam, which is an English or math test, but as for the SAT and the ACT, they are generally not required with the military.

After the applications and tests, enrollment into classes can begin. Each branch has specifics on enrollment and registration, but there is advice from students who have taken classes here.

"Do not take more than one class," says Navy Chief Karey L. Tucker, Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion N-7 training department, who has completed three courses while deployed here. "I had to work late hours at night and then come home having to complete a course. When I got off from work, I was still working. There were a lot of long hours. There was too much reading and too much research for two classes."

Taking advantage of the DOD Tuition Assistance program can help with military promotions and civilian jobs without using funds from the Montgomery G.I. Bill. Classes can be taken at a pace that fits a Trooper's schedule.

"They key here is to always move forward," said Rice.

For more information, contact the Fleet and Family Support Center Education Office at ext. 4141 or Navy College at ext. 2227. ☆



**Pfc. Gregory Riley performs pre-operational preventive maintenance, checks and services on a Light Medium Tactical Vehicle prior to the required road course test as part of driver training.** – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Steven Rougeau

# Behind the wheel

LMTV from 3

“When [Soldiers] initially arrive for the training, many are already experienced drivers at their [respective] commands,” he said. “But if they do not have a certificate, they are required to complete the course and we issue them a certificate once they successfully complete the training.”

Vasquez said that, while the course is primarily conducted for the benefit of Soldiers, personnel from sister services are allowed to test as long as there is available space in the class.

“If their command has a need to enroll a Trooper [from another service branch] in the course, we will accommodate that request as long as we have an available slot.” 🇺🇸

- ! Don't wait to feel thirsty - your body may need water before you feel thirsty.
- ! Drink enough water to replace your sweat loss.
- ! Remind your buddy to drink water. Refill your canteens or Camelbacks at every opportunity.
- ! Look at your urine. If it is dark in color or if you have not urinated, you need to drink

# HYDRATE!

**Prevention Works!**

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## A sweet deal for JTF Troopers!

Flight crew workers at the Leeward air terminal work diligently to unload the shipment of Girl Scout cookies that arrived June 30. The Girl Scouts of Gulfcoast, Fla., generously donated more than 8,000 pounds of their famous cookies for the Troopers at the naval station and Joint Task Force Guantanamo. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Orlando Quintero

## Boots on the Ground

by Army Maj. Diana Haynie

*What does Independence Day mean to you?*

Navy Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Class  
Danielle Thomas



“It’s the day my country became free, and it is close to my heart because I was born on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.”

Army Maj. Leevain Williams



“A day of reflection to have immense gratitude for the sacrifices our forefathers made for us.”

Air Force Staff Sgt.  
Julie Bunker



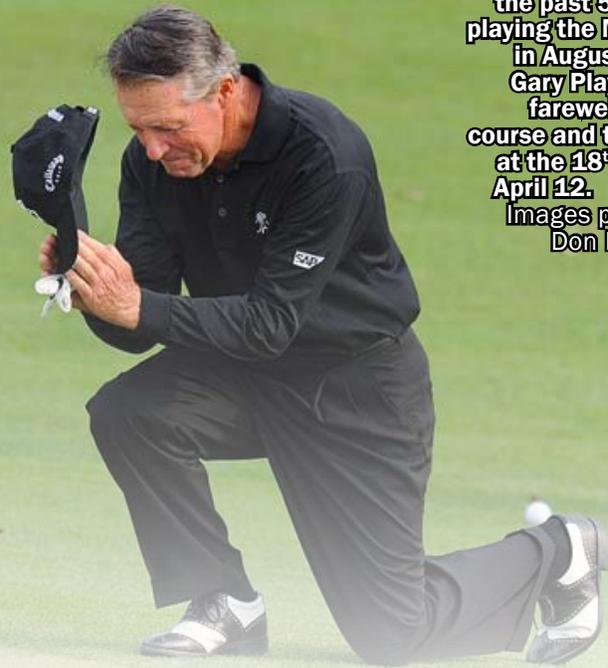
“I am proud to be an American in the military and able to fight for my country.”

Air Force Maj. Cory Brown



“The day we decided we wanted to be our own Nation.”

After spending the past 52 years playing the Masters in Augusta, Ga., Gary Player bids farewell to the course and the fans at the 18<sup>th</sup> green, April 12. - Getty Images photo by Don Emmert



# Good bye, thank you, God bless!

**Navy Lt. Cmdr.  
Clint Pickett**  
NEGB Command Chaplain

I brought my golf clubs along with me when I came to GTMO, with the hope I would be able to get out on our fabled golf course fairly regularly. I did get out a few times, though not as often as I had wanted. I also brought a book along by former golf great Gary Player, titled "Golf Begins at 50." That is definitely good news to a golfer-wannabe like me!

While I was here at GTMO, I would occasionally read the book at breakfast. Toward the end of the book, Gary Player describes how he won the 1961 Masters. He credited the insight that Billy Graham, of all people, gave him regarding God's scheme for us. Without this insight, he said he never would have won the Masters that year.

Gary Player told Billy Graham that his success so far in life was due to three of his basic beliefs: Faith in God, faith in value of education, and faith in physical fitness. Billy Graham thought for a while, and then

told him, "I know how badly you want to win the Masters. Now, when you're playing in the tournament, I want you to thank God for all the bad shots and all the difficulties you encounter. Any man can thank God for the good things that happen to him, but very few people say 'thank you' for the lousy things."

Gary Player thought that sounded very strange at first, but it came to a crucial point in the tournament against Arnold Palmer when he thought he had blown his lead. So Gary said to God, "Well, I'm grateful because now You've really given me a test. There are three holes to go; We will see if I'm up to your challenge." For Gary, God expects us to try to meet the challenge with courage, and do the best we can.

Part of the appeal of golf, I think, is the parallel golf very often has to life. In our daily lives, for example, we have our good shots, and our not so good shots. What is important is that we get out there and play and do the best we can, even in places like GTMO.

As I look back on my time here, I have

to say that I have nothing but respect for men and women who get out there and "play," doing the incredibly challenging job of providing safe, humane, legal and transparent care of detainees each and every day. I have been humbled by the difficulties they have faced, both here and at home, and I am proud of the terrific job they continue to do, definitely doing the best they can.

When I first got to GTMO a year ago, I was struck by how friendly and open the people here in the JTF are. As the year loomed before me, it was the people I encountered each day who lifted my spirits. It was those little things, a smile at the sally port, a wave while out doing physical fitness or a greeting at the Navy Exchange. When I wanted to feel sorry for myself, those little things helped turn my attitude around.

As I go to my next duty station, I would like to thank each of you who I have encountered here for making this a very rewarding tour. I have indeed been blessed - may God continue to bless you in all you do! ☆

## 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.



**MWR staff provide and maintain numerous events, programs and facilities that support Troopers stationed here. Front row - left to right: Scott Ross, Jodie Williams, Lisa Dula, Maggie Luttrell, Stephanie Nicholson, Rachel Simpson, Todd Jordon, Andre Gordon, Robert Neuman. Back row - left to right: Craig Basel, Patty Garro, Jeffrey Shaw, Karissa Sandstrom, Mac McKenzie, Mike Hall, Glenford Smith. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Michael Baltz**

# MWR: working hard

**Army Sgt.  
Michael Baltz**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Morale, Welfare and Recreation services, at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, continue to define success through teamwork and rigorous work ethics to meet the needs of naval station and Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers.

Sixty-hour work weeks, prior experience in specific fields and immeasurable dedication to the mission are all critical reasons why MWR has managed to provide for the Troopers.

“The mission of MWR is to provide services that support quality of life to entitled personnel,” stated MWR Director Craig Basel. “MWR provides recreation areas like parks, motion pictures, aquatic training facilities, gyms, quality child care and child development programs.

“We do a lot,” Basel continued. “We have community support centers, ceramics and intermediate sports. We also have food service facilities.”

GTMO is unique when it comes to MWR because of its isolation. As a result, Troopers rely on MWR a lot.

“Being stationed here is hard for people,” said Lisa Dula, MWR’s marketing director. “We try to keep people busy to make it easier.”

MWR also tries to think outside of the box by hosting events like “Amazing Race.”

“We do what we can to try to find different events and activities to keep the

morale up,” Dula explained.

Dula is on her third tour at GTMO and has spent a total of six years here supporting Troopers. Aside from her personal relations and advertising role, Dula is one of the many examples of sustaining multiple roles by overseeing the ceramics shop, the movie theaters, the wood shop and teaching customer service to all other MWR employees. Her children also make her do her MWR job at home.

“One day when my daughter came home from school, she was upset with me because I didn’t tell her “UP” was playing that weekend,” Dula explained with a smile. “I now know to keep her better informed.”

Dula enjoys GTMO and is working on changes to continue to enhance Troopers’ lives here.

“We are planning on moving the ceramic shop across from the [Caribbean Coffee and Cream],” Dula said. “This will make it more accessible to everyone.”

The MWR mission is large and complex with 179 full-time employees and approximately 300 part-time employees.

Basel, a retired Marine, is able to use his prior service experience to create the good quality of life for Troopers.

“There are some things I would like to have seen when I was on active duty,” Basel said. “Now, I am able incorporate that into my decisions.”

It takes Basel and his team about six months to coordinate big events like Memorial Day and Independence Day.

“A lot of work goes into these events.

Planning for the [Independence Day celebration] started in November,” Basel said. “That is when we started lining up entertainment and looking for bids for a fireworks display. When we get down to the event, the staff puts in hundreds of hours to prepare for it.

“It takes two days just to set up the stage, speakers and lights for the performers,” Basel added.

In order for large events to take place, it is extremely vital to work together as a team.

“We very rarely get time off when big events are taking place,” said Karissa Sandstrom, MWR fitness director. “When we have a big event you will see every manager working. Even if it is just selling water.”

The MWR staff clearly tries their best to be successful.

“I love my staff, and the way they handle things,” Sandstrom said proudly. “I think this is one of the few places where MWR works together. When someone needs to step up to the plate, whether it is to hand out water bottles for a run or assisting with a tournament, we are ready to support each other.”

“My team is friendly, professional and are always trying to meet the needs of the Troopers,” Basel said. “We are still working on becoming a better organization, because there is always room for improvement.”

MWR encourages everyone to get involved in MWR events and welcomes comments or suggestions by e-mailing [MWR@usnbgtno.navy.mil](mailto:MWR@usnbgtno.navy.mil). ★



Army Sgt. Cerron Hutchins, a supply sergeant deployed with the 525<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion, offloads crates of boots sent to the Joint Task Force Guantanamo Camp America post office, June 30. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Pfc. Christopher Vann



Air Force Maj. Robert A. Hubbs with Joint Task Force Guantanamo, has two footballs signed by professional quarterback Drew Brees, of the New Orleans Saints. The meet and greet was one of many during the United Service Organization tour at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, June 27. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Michael Baltz



Coast Guard Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Jessica Martin, Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Matt Thorp and Chief Petty Officer Brad Rogers prepare to launch a water balloon 'grenade' during some after-work shenanigans, June 29. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Emily Russell

Around the

JTF