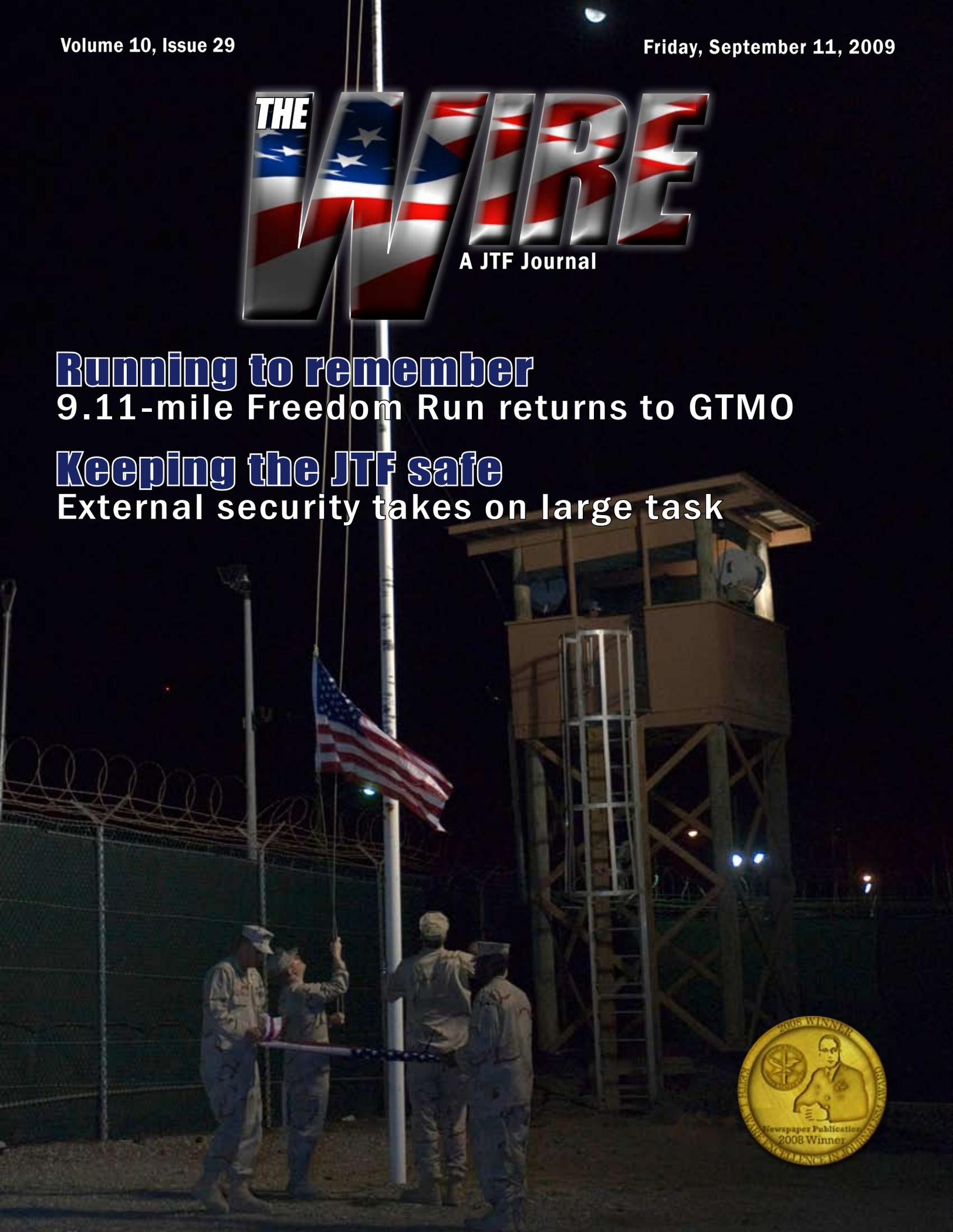


THE WIRE

A JTF Journal

Running to remember
9.11-mile Freedom Run returns to GTMO

Keeping the JTF safe
External security takes on large task



Leading by example

**Air Force Chief Master Sgt.
Gene Vaughn**
474th ECES Operations Chief

The greatest weapon in teaching may be your own on-the-job behavior. Your troops are always watching, listening and observing how you communicate, delegate and manage your time. Always set standards and objectives for yourself that you would want your personnel to adopt on and off duty.

We have a very high turnover ratio of young personnel and few opportunities to develop their careers within our military. The required scheduled meetings are periodic counseling and career development tools, but the casual unscheduled conversations may be the best opportunity to lead and mentor.

One common mistake a leader makes is dominating a conversation. Young troops need and must have an opportunity to communicate. Getting subordinates to communicate won't do much good if you take over the conversation and fail to listen. Learn to listen to the person's use of words, and emotions behind the speech. Listen to the actual question and let them finish their statements without being interrupted; remember that good solutions come from all ranks and everyone likes to contribute.

Personnel respond when you demonstrate genuine concern for their well-being and success. Let them see you go through and understand the same things they do and their respect will follow.

We as teachers need to prepare our Troopers for future positions and advancement. If we lead and mentor correctly, our subordinates will be performing at the next higher pay grade before being promoted.

We as supervisors must create the right climate when leading and mentoring. Be patient and allocate some time for them. If your time is too short, they will feel shortchanged; too long, and their interest will be lost and the session will lose direction. Never lose control of your emotions, take notes, show interest and schedule follow-ups. Feedback will establish mutual trust.

A mentor is a role model. Your subordinates learn as much, if not more, from observing you than from what you tell them. If you are a mentor, remember that your actions make greater impressions than what you say. Any inconsistencies between your actions and your advice will send mixed signals and create confusion and loss of respect.

Good leaders and mentors are constantly trying to improve their methods of teaching. By making improvements, your actions will speak louder than words. Set the example not only while on duty but off duty as well.

In the summer of 1971, I joined the Air Force for service of my country and to achieve and belong to something that I felt was important. I think this is still very true for most of the men and women in uniform today. There's something inside each of us that keeps us coming back and doing what we have to do. Almost immediately after the terror attacks on 9/11, we witnessed a universal American outpouring of pride and patriotism from everyone regardless of race, color, ethnic background or religion. That outpouring continues to manifest itself in our military service today. Being a strong mentor will give our protégé's a head start filling our shoes when we retire and are no longer in the military. ☆



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COVER:

Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers raise a U.S. flag over Camp Delta, Sept. 11 in honor of the victims of Flight 93. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Andrew Hillegass

BACK COVER:

Sushi prepared by chef David Bearl during a cooking demonstration at the Gold Hill Galley, Sept. 4. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Andrew Hillegass



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.

Detainee mail provides detainees with incoming mail, along with the opportunity to send mail. The bulk of detainee mail comes from the detainees' families. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Michael Baltz



Detainee mail: humane care

**Amy Sgt.
Michael Baltz**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Detainee mail has a significant role with ensuring the Joint Task Force Guantanamo mission of safe, humane, legal and transparent care and custody of detainees.

“It is very important, because this is [one of the few ways detainees] can communicate with their family,” said Army Staff Sgt. Luis Ortiz-Medina, the detainee mail non-commissioned officer-in-charge. “It also gives them something to look forward to.”

The mail service receives mail, processes it and delivers it to the detainee.

“They are happy when they see us. When they get mail, people can tell that they are happy,” Ortiz-Medina said.

There are mail clerks that go into the camps and deliver the mail to the detainees once a week. Detainees also have a weekly opportunity to send mail out.

“We provide them mail services Monday through Thursday,” Ortiz-Medina said. “Along with delivering mail to them, the clerks also pick up any mail the detainee wishes to send out.”

The majority of the mail that goes into and out of the camps is from and to family members.

“The detainees like getting mail from their family,” said Navy Petty

Officer 3rd Class Jared Borg, a mail clerk. “It takes their mind off of things like harassing guards, because when they are writing a letter, for 30 or 40 minutes, their mind is elsewhere.”

The detainee mail section also provides the detainees with paper and envelopes. They also give the detainee Ramadan cards to send home.

Although allowing detainees to communicate with their families is important, the continued safety of all JTF personnel and the detainees must always be considered. For this reason, all mail is checked for contraband.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) travels to the JTF every three months, and this is when a bulk of the mail that detainees receive arrives.

“The family member of the detainee gives their letter to their ICRC who then brings it here,” Borg explained. “We get it, process it and return it to the ICRC representative. The ICRC representative then meets with detainees to ensure that they are well, and that is when the detainee receives the letter.

“They usually include photos of family members,” Borg added.

Detainee mail tracks each piece of mail from sender to destination.

“The biggest challenge with our job is maintaining operational security,” Borg concluded. ☆



Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Jared Borg searches for a piece of detainee mail in his mail bag, Sept 9. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Michael Baltz

GTMO's first line of defense

**Army Staff Sgt.
Blair Heusdens**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Joint Task Force Guantanamo's first line of defense for external security are the Troopers of the 480th Military Police Company from the Puerto Rico Army National Guard. The Troopers are responsible for the external security of the entire task force.

The 480th provides guards to control access points on the roads leading into Camp America, overwatch security of the camps and the surrounding areas of Naval Station Guantanamo Bay – to include land, water and sea, perimeter security of the camps from security towers located around detainee facilities, and entry and exit control for camp access points.

The Troopers work day and night shifts to make sure security is tight at all times and at all places. Every guard is trained and authorized to use appropriate force to maintain security in accordance with strict rules of engagement and standard operating procedures.

The vehicle control points into Camp America provide an initial layer of security for the JTF. Vehicles are checked for proper identification and are visually searched for any items that may cause a danger to the personnel at the JTF.

"We are looking for the safety and security of everyone at the JTF – the civilians, Troopers and detainees – security is our primary concern," said Sgt. Ada Vasquez with the 480th.

At the camp entrances, the Troopers conduct checks for any kind of items unauthorized in the camps. They also control vehicle and personnel access into the camps, checking to make sure every person who enters the facilities is authorized to do so and has an updated security badge. They may also have to call for an escort for any persons who need to enter the camps but require an escort.

"What we do is very important," said Spc. Mayra Perez, who works at the access point to one of the camps. "We are the ones who decide who comes in and who doesn't."

From the vantage point of the camps' observation towers, the 480th MPs maintain a 360-degree watch. From an elevated position, the Troopers have a clear view over the camps and the surrounding areas.

"We see things other people may not see," said Spc. Evelyn Rivera, who provides watch in one of the camp towers. "If an



Army Sgt. Juan Gonzalez with the 480th Military Police Company, checks a bus as it drives through a vehicle check point outside Camp America, Sept. 9. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Blair Heusdens

incident includes more than one element or more than one area, it is easy for us to see and communicate or call for help."

Quick reaction forces and roving patrols provide additional layers of security for the task force. Teams remain ready at all times to respond to incidents inside and outside the camps at a moment's notice. When not responding, the teams conduct daily training on the standard operating procedures of each potential situation they may face.

Roving patrols provide support to all

of the camps and external security sites. They are available to check out unusual or suspicious activity spotted at any area around Camp America and can respond quickly to requests from all security positions.

The 480th's mission comprises just a piece of the security measures in place at Joint Task Force Guantanamo to keep the Troopers and detainees here safe. Working

Making it happen behind the scenes

**Army Sgt.
Andrew Hillegass**
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Making sure that the logistical needs of Joint Task Force Guantanamo are taken care of can be a large order to fill. Helping fulfill those needs falls squarely on the shoulders of the Puerto Rico Army National Guard's 191st Regional Support Group.

The unit has been in command of the Joint Task Force Guantanamo Headquarters and Headquarters Company since its arrival in December 2008. Their mission while deployed is expansive, ranging from Trooper safety to housing issues. In addition to its far-reaching responsibilities, the group has also had to learn to work with and rely on one another, since the unit was put together shortly before deploying.

"It was challenging. I didn't get to know everyone until we got here," said HHC commander Army Capt. Manuel Rodriguez.

To add to the stress of working with a new set of personnel while deployed, some have had to adjust to working in a joint atmosphere.

"I've never been in a joint atmosphere before," said Rodriguez. "It's one of the better experiences of my career."

Once the unit members arrived and were settled into their new roles at the JTF, they began to undertake the daily challenges that confronted them.

One of the bigger tasks the group handles is housing arrangements for JTF personnel. Army Master Sgt. Michael Alicea is the facilities manager at the HHC and is in charge of assigning personnel as they arrive at the joint task force.

"I assign housing to JTF personnel as they are scheduled to arrive at Guantanamo. I am also involved when we have units depart the island," said Alicea.

Of course, the HHC provides more than just a place for you to lay your head. They also are tasked with another important function here at the JTF.

"The safe ride program offers a ride home to Troopers who are without transportation on weekend evenings. This program is managed by the HHC first sergeant," Army Sgt. 1st Class Guillermo Santiago, Camp America commandant, explained.

For the members of the 191st RSG, their deployment also meant they would be working in an environment completely foreign to most of them. They have had to endure a crash course into the world of joint operations, forcing the Troopers to develop a quick understanding of the other branches of the military and how those personnel conduct business.

"There have been a few lessons we have learned since arriving. Some are related to being on an active duty status for the first time, along with



the way we conduct business in a joint environment," said Santiago.

However, Santiago is also quick to compliment his Troopers and how they have dealt with these circumstances.

"The commitment and performance of all the Troopers assigned to the 191st RSG while deployed has placed this unit in a historical place in the proud and rich heritage of the Puerto Rico National Guard," said Santiago.

So the next time you call for a courtesy ride home or get new a refrigerator in your room, remember there are numerous personnel behind the scenes making things happen, one Trooper at a time. ★



(Above) Troopers from the 191st Regional Support Group of the Puerto Rico Army National Guard unveil their sign at Camp America, Aug. 20. (Left) Troopers from the Puerto Rico Army National Guard are deployed to Naval Station Guantanamo Bay in support of Joint Task Force Guantanamo's mission to provide safe, humane, legal and transparent care and custody of detainees. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Andrew Hillegass



Air Force Master Sgt. Frank Valls de Los Reyes knocks one out of the park during one of the games at the softball tournament, Sept. 4. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. April D. de Armas

Softball tournament provides night of fun

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

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Holidays are always a time for people to celebrate and have fun. For Troopers and residents stationed at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, the celebration of the Labor Day holiday began with an all-night

softball tournament at the Cooper Sports Complex.

On Friday, Sept. 4, seven teams went head-to-head during the all-night event, playing several games starting at 7 p.m. and lasting throughout the night.

Navy Chief Petty Officer Andre Delarosa with the commissions support group joined his team, the Cougar Snacks,

for their first time playing as a team.

“This was our first time to play together as a team,” Delarosa said. “I have been here for just a few months and was excited to get back on the field.”

For some of the players, it was the first time they played for a team or in a tournament.

Air Force Master Sgt. Gregory Gordon with the 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron and his team, the GTMO Hawgs, were also taking the field in the tournament.

“This is the first time I have ever played in a league,” Gordon said. “It was actually cool and the atmosphere was good among the teams.”

There was a lot of enthusiasm among the players of every team as they shouted encouragements during each game they played.

Army Staff Sgt. Stephen Dix with the 193rd Military Police Company plays for the GTMO Crush.

“It was very exciting to get back on the field,” Dix said. “We work hard during our practices and I feel we have gotten stronger.”

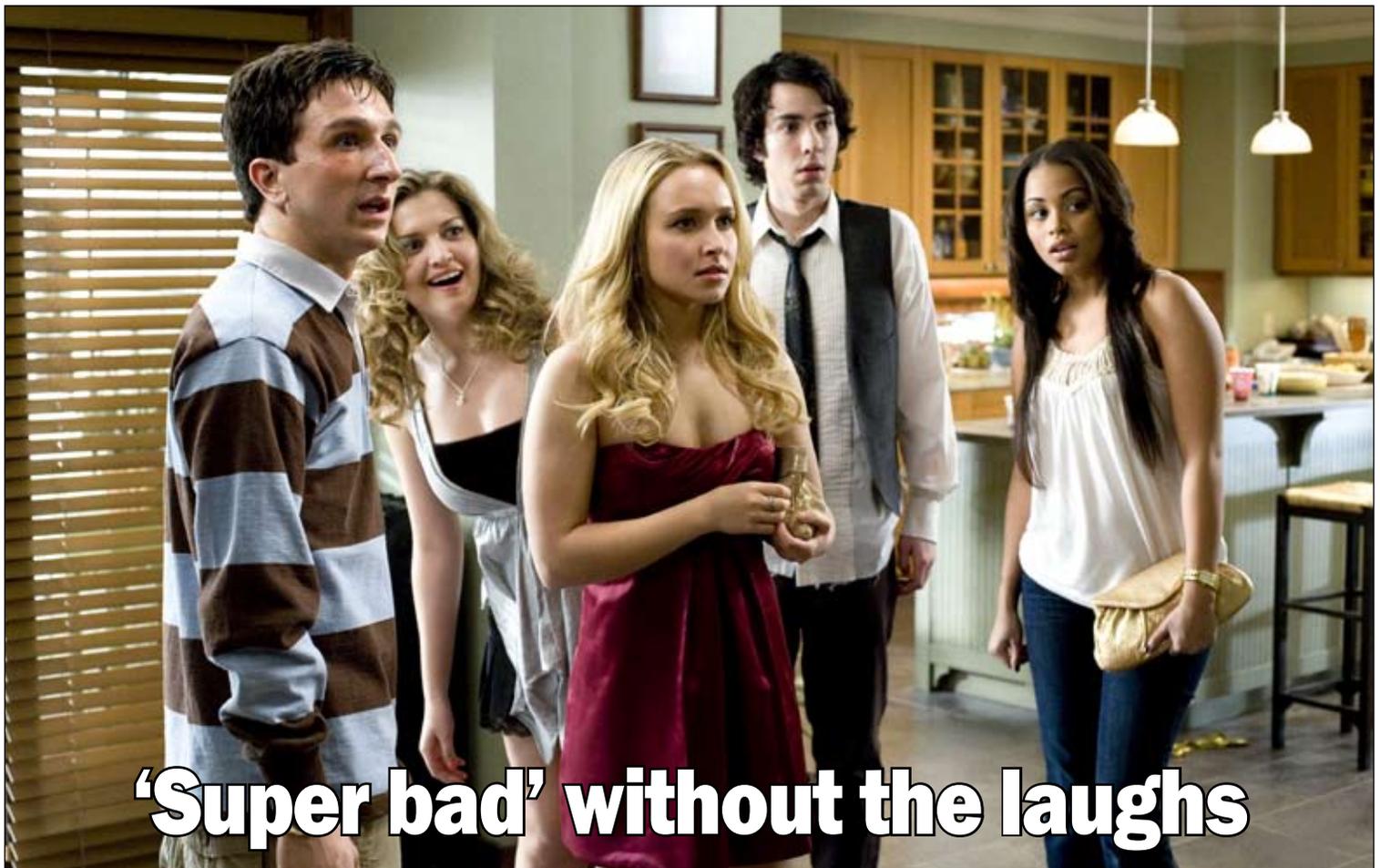
As each game was played, teams were eliminated until the top two teams were left to face off for the win.

Finally, at 4:30 a.m., the GTMO Crush took the win against the GTMO Latinos, with a final score of 16 to 7.

“We were all tired after being out there all night,” Dix said. “But I felt really good about the win and I know our whole team was excited.” ★



Navy Chief Petty Officer Andre Delarosa pitches for his team in the Labor Day all-night softball tournament at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Sept. 4. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. April D. de Armas



‘Super bad’ without the laughs

**Army Sgt.
Carmen Gibson**

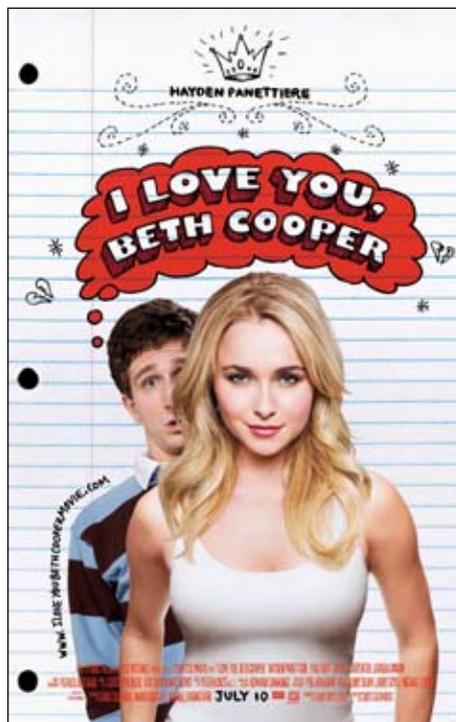
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The parade of failed attempts at high school humor that exits yearly – and often prematurely – from production studios adds yet another menial, carbon copy to their ever-expanding scrap heap with “I Love You Beth Cooper.”

Following its equally perverted, yet dull, predecessors, this latest absurdity of the pre-pubescent, dork vs. jock, first time intimate experience genre, was crafted to extract one fundamental reaction from its audience. That reaction is the cringe. It’s an impulse; a knee-jerk reaction that when presented with an extremely awkward or painfully humiliating moment, triggers the brain cells to twinge the cheek muscles, clench the teeth and contract the shoulder muscles into a question mark that clearly demands, “Oh my gosh, did that just happen?”

Unfortunately, the cringe factor is the only redeeming quality that “I Love You Beth Cooper” has to offer. It is directed by Chris Columbus, whose prior failed attempt at an adolescent action-comedy was the 1987 disaster, “Adventures in Babysitting.” In his most recent disaster, he merely updates the wardrobes, decreases the plausibility, and increases the amount of sexual content.

While the majority of the film seems to drag on and on, the ultimate awkward



PG-13

102 minutes

Rating: ★★☆☆☆

moment arises even before the open credits subside, as valedictorian and socially inept dweeb Denis Cooverman (Paul Rust), voices his long-silenced love and affection for the tri-fecta: gorgeous, popular, head-cheerleader Beth Cooper (“Heroes” Hayden Panettiere) at their high school graduation. A string of word vomit subsequently follows as Denis transforms his declaration of love into a sarcasm-soaked rant against other high school archetypes, as well as a particularly painful declaration of his movie-quoting best friend’s not-so-secret yet unspoken homosexuality.

Following the ceremony, he suffers mercilessly at the hands of Beth’s boyfriend, a school faculty member, and his peers, but in the face of all the disparaging humiliation, finishes off his ballsy high by inviting Beth and her debutant friends to a party. To the protagonist’s and the audience’s surprise, she shows up, strips off all of his preconceived notions of the perfect woman and replaces it with a fiery, booze-soaked, man-eater with a dirty mouth and a passion for breaking the law.

With the little lady at his side, Denis enjoys the night of his life, enduring a wet towel sword fight, several hit and runs, and an assortment of awkward and sexually explicit moments. Still, the scenes drag slowly on, peppered with uneven flash backs and underdeveloped characters. In the end, this familiar film appears more as a lackluster “Superbad” minus the hilarity. ❖

HOT DOG!



JTF Guantanamo Bay photos by
Army Staff Sgt. Blair Heusdens
Army Spc. David McLean



Troopers from Joint Task Force Guantanamo participated in a hot dog eating contest at Ferry Landing, Sept. 7.

After a preliminary contest at the Navy Exchange, Aug. 31, Army Staff Sgt. Jim Wagner, Navy Chief Petty Officer Virginia Fike and Army Sgt. Michael Baltz advanced to the final competition.

The GTMO finalists were paired with professionals from the International Federation of Competitive Eaters for the final competition. "Crazy Legs" Conti, Pete "Pretty Boy" Daveokos and Tim "Eater X" Janus came to Naval Station Guantanamo Bay for the competition.

In the end, the team of Tim "Eater X" Janus and Army Staff Sgt. Jim Wagner was victorious, wolfing down 37 hot dogs between the two in the 10-minute allotment.

Remembering Sept. 11: Freedom Run returns to GTMO

■ 9.11-mile run to be held Sept. 13 in remembrance of Sept. 11 victims



**Navy Petty Officer 1st Class
Katherine Hofman**
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay will show support and remembrance of the Sept. 11 tragedy by hosting the second annual Freedom Run in partnership with the Chicago-based non-profit organization We Do Care.

“This run is unique because it reminds the Troopers at GTMO why their mission here is so critical,” said Maj. Diana Haynie, the deputy director of public affairs for the JTF.

Troopers will gather at Windmill Beach Sunday, Sept. 13, to participate in the 9.11-mile Freedom Run sponsored by the JTF Guantanamo public affairs team; Morale, Welfare and Recreation; and We Do Care.

The Guantanamo Freedom Run is modeled after the Freedom Run

founded by Dirk Beveridge, president and founder of the We Do Care organization, whose mission is to provide the public opportunities to support and thank active-duty military personnel, veterans and their families.

Beveridge visited Guantanamo Bay in April 2008 for the 75th Joint Civilian Orientation Conference (JCOC). While here, Beveridge approached then JTF Deputy Commander Army Brig. Gen. Gregory Zanetti, to consider hosting the run.

In the 2008 Freedom Run at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, 200 participants ran simultaneously with runners in Barrington, Ill. This year, Guantanamo



Participants cool down and take a bite to eat after participating in the inaugural 9.11-mile Freedom Run, Sept. 5, 2008. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Pfc. Eric Liesse

and Barrington runners will welcome two additional participation sites, Eskan Village, Saudi Arabia, and Forward Operating Base Altimur, Afghanistan.

“The significance of having the two additional sites is to raise awareness and support in as many places as possible,” said Haynie.

The run begins just before sunrise, starting and ending at Windmill Beach. The first 250 participants to cross the finish line will be presented with a Freedom Run challenge coin.

The event will wrap up with a beach party at Windmill Beach, hosted by the JTF public affairs office.

“I encourage everyone to come and

support the 9.11 run,” said Haynie. “Not only does participating motivate other runners and volunteers, it also shows gratitude for every service member supporting our freedoms.”

The We Do Care organization is a non-profit, non-political, grassroots organization founded by Barrington, Ill., area residents committed to finding appropriate ways of showing appreciation and support to those who serve. For more information, visit the Web site, www.we-do-care.org.

All Troopers and Naval Station Guantanamo Bay residents are encouraged to line Kittery Beach Road, beginning at 6:45 a.m., to show their support and motivate all participants. ★

Members of “Puerto Rican Fever,” a steel drum band put together by Soldiers from the Puerto Rico Army National Guard, perform at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, July 25. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Orlando Quintero



GTMO celebrates Hispanic culture

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Orlando Quintero
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Hispanic Heritage was first officially recognized in the United States in 1968, when President Lyndon B. Johnson declared a week in mid-September as National Hispanic Heritage Week. It wasn't until 1988 that President Ronald Reagan extended National Hispanic Heritage week to a month-long observance.

The term Hispanic or Latino as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, refers to Spanish-speaking people in the U.S. of Spanish Hispanic Latino origin. According to the Bureau, more than 36 million people in the U.S. identify themselves as Hispanic or Latino.

The Hispanic population at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay continues to grow each day. “Currently there are [more than 400] Hispanics serving on active duty [at Joint Task Force Guantanamo],” said Army Master Sgt. Michael Alicea, with JTF housing. There are many other Hispanics stationed at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay with the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. Others still, work as civilian contractors in various capacities at the naval station.

“It’s nice to know that [there are many Hispanics] on this island however, being Hispanic and in the military is no different for me than it is for anyone else,” said Army Spc. Damaris Quintana, a human resource specialist attached to Headquarters and Headquarters Company with the Puerto Rico National Guard. “When I put on my uniform, I report into work and conduct

business just like everyone else.”

Tastes of Hispanic culture can be found all around Guantanamo, from the salsa, meringue and bachada dancing to the frequent concerts by GTMO’s own “Puerto Rican Fever,” a steel drum band formed by members of the Puerto Rico National Guard.

This year, the naval station’s Hispanic American Heritage Association is celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month by hosting a dinner dance Saturday, Sept. 19, starting at 6:00 p.m. The association has operated at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay for several years and is committed to providing a sense of Hispanic culture to the Guantanamo community.

“We wanted to hold the event so that the GTMO Community can come out and celebrate our Hispanic Heritage,” said Doraima Alvarez, an independent contractor who works on base.

A lot of work went into selecting a speaker, choosing the right decorations and securing performers for the event. The menu for the dinner will consist of authentic Hispanic appetizers such as beef pastelitos, spiced potato cakes, and fresh corn fritters. The main course will include roast pork, arroz con gandules (rice w/pigeon peas), and cassava (yucca). The dessert will be tres leches (custard). The roast pork and rice are all prepared with a Latin flare.

“We want to invite everyone to join us for some pure excitement and new cultural elements,” said Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Jeffrey Ronchaquira with naval station port services. The HAHA is always open to everyone in the Guantanamo community. ☆



Troopers dance salsa at a JTF picnic, Aug. 15. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Andrew Hillegass



480th MPs have ‘eyes on’ external security

“We have a lot of [Troopers] here and we have to watch each other’s backs.”

– Army Pfc. Luis Rodriguez

480MP from 4

together with various other services and elements, the Troopers feel their work is an important part of the JTF mission.

“We have a lot of [Troopers] here and we have to watch each other’s backs,” said Army Pfc. Luis Rodriguez. “You never know what could happen if we weren’t paying attention.” 🇺🇸

Army Spc. Richard Vega, with the 480th Military Police Company, checks an identification badge at a vehicle checkpoint. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Blair Heusdens

Holy mackerel, sushi!



Chef David Bearl visited Naval Station Guantanamo Bay for a local fish and sushi demonstration at Gold Hill Galley, Sept. 4. Bearl is the director of First Coast Technical College’s School of Culinary Arts in Jacksonville, Fla. In addition to visiting the naval station, Bearl has also been to the White House to cook for President Barack Obama. – JTF Guantanamo photos by Army Sgt. Andrew Hillegass



Guantanamo Bay gets a taste of jazz

Bobby Park's band members jam out during the Labor Day celebration at Ferry Landing, Sept. 7. Park's band was part of the seventh annual Jazz Festival at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay. The jazz festival coincided with a car show, craft fair and hot dog eating contest, all sponsored by Morale, Welfare and Recreation. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Michael Baltz

Boots on the Ground

by Army Pfc. Christopher Vann

Where were you on Sept. 11, 2001?

**Navy Petty Officer 1st Class
Lanita Johnson**



"I was stationed at Naval Medical Center, Portsmouth, Va."

**Marine Corps Cpl.
Julius Fairfax**



"I was a senior in high school."

**Army Pvt.
Peter Sutton**



"I was in school in West Palm Beach, Fla."

**Air Force Airman 1st Class
Aaron Green**



"I was in my 7th grade English class."



The race

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

JTF Guantanamo command chaplain

The 9.11 run this Sunday has certainly generated a lot of interest and I have been intrigued conversing with those who intend to enter the race. Each one I have listened to expressed a keen desire to know the exact route. That way they can run the trail on their own to get a feel for the track and prepare psychologically to endure the challenge.

Needless to say, every runner will have a strategy; some have talked about hydration, while others have mentioned loading up on carbohydrates. I am willing to go on the record to say none of the tactics will involve carrying extra weight or gear. Some will carry water bottles and others will wear hydration systems, yet I do not

expect to see anyone wearing anything but the essentials.

This reminds me of our spiritual race and the sage advice we find in Hebrews 12:1-16. This inspired document discusses the race the believer has entered and, in it, the author says “let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith.” This coaching is essential for us to heed if we want to complete the race in the allotted time.

The first advice is to lay aside every encumbrance. Makes sense, doesn't it? Like our 9.11 runners; who would add nonessential items to their race gear? The inference regarding encumbrances is probably referring to the cares of the world,

which implies a trust in one's own wisdom, rather than the wisdom of God.

The second bit of advice is to lay aside the sin which so easily entangles, which from the context implies a lack of faith in God's capabilities to assist us when and where needed.

Third, we are told to run with endurance – which means to not give up – even if we have to walk or crawl across the finish line.

Finally, we are told to fix our eyes on the One who will complete our faith. Focusing on the One who completes our faith will keep us determined when the run gets tough; especially since the One we watch has already run the race with success.

I close with these words from 2 Thessalonians 3:16, “May the Lord of peace Himself continually grant you peace in every circumstance.” ☆

JTF CHAPEL SCHEDULED PROGRAMS

Protestant Worship
Sunday: 9 a.m.

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

Catholic Mass
Sunday - Friday:
6:30 a.m. Mass

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

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

A JTF Trooper's special calling

**Army Sgt.
Michael Baltz**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

We all have our tasks as a service member. Most Troopers have additional duties. For some it is being the physical fitness coordinator and for others it is carrying the company guidon.

Just as people are called for additional military duties, sometimes, they feel a calling elsewhere. Army Sgt. Ruben Subia feels a spiritual calling.

Subia, who recently departed Naval Station Guantanamo Bay after a year-long deployment with the 525th Military Police Battalion felt his own calling to provide spiritual support to his fellow Troopers.

"I am just a vessel for His voice," Subia said.

Subia hosted a Bible study for the past several months, which inspired many Troopers. On Aug. 27, Subia and four others were baptized at one of the naval station's beaches.

He gives all of the credit for creating a Bible based spiritual program to his own belief and faith in his "heavenly Father."

Subia has been baptized before, but one of his fellow Troopers, who was inspired by the study program, wanted to get baptized with others of the same faith and spiritual calling.

"Getting baptized is a very important step, because in scripture, it is one of the sacraments that Jesus says to continue even after he was gone," said Army Capt. Eric Bey, the 525th MP Battalion chaplain.

Subia is delighted with where his religious calling had led him.

"When I got [to Guantanamo Bay], I was a little bitter about being here a second time, but I have met a lot of really good brothers," Subia said. "It is like the Lord brought all of us together, so we started the

Soldiers' bible study. A fellowship is extremely important, because you can only do so much by yourself."

Subia's dedication to his spirituality, the Bible and selfless service has not gone unnoticed.

"I am just one chaplain for [more than 400 Troopers], so it is awesome that they had a bible study," Bey said. "[Subia] called people together who are like-minded and touched quite a few people. It is an important part in ministry for people to fellowship and to study the Lord's word together."

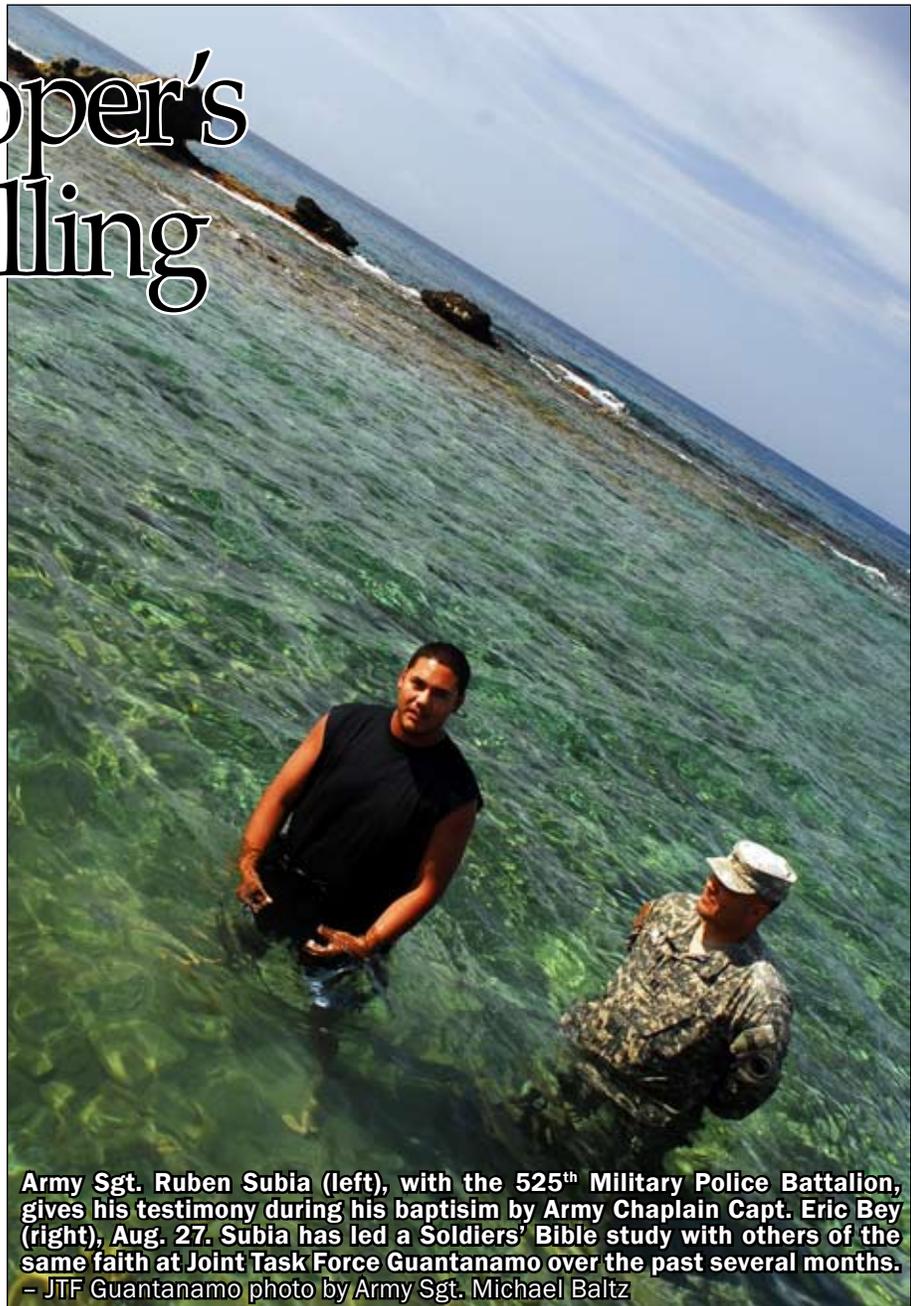
Subia understands why his bible study was a success.

"People do not like talking to people that don't understand them, especially when talking about the Lord," Subia explained. "So you start talking to them, building a relationship with them, and help them get to the root of their problems. And you just say, 'Hey, if you want to come and talk, we have this Soldiers bible study, so if you are interested, you can come'. It is at your own leisure – there is no time frame or hours to log."

Several Troopers did show up, Subia says that roughly 15 people showed up every week.

"We had food and everything and invited all of our brothers and sisters. We did our best to keep it going," he said.

Subia has learned some important things that have helped him cope with the stress of deployment, and life in general, that he



Army Sgt. Ruben Subia (left), with the 525th Military Police Battalion, gives his testimony during his baptism by Army Chaplain Capt. Eric Bey (right), Aug. 27. Subia has led a Soldiers' Bible study with others of the same faith at Joint Task Force Guantanamo over the past several months.
- JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Michael Baltz

shares with fellow Troopers who seek his guidance.

"Jesus didn't come to save the righteous; he came to save the sinners," Subia explained. "The sinners are the ones who need to be saved. I hear people saying 'I would really like to go to church, but I am cheating on my spouse,' or 'I am too drunk to go.' Satan likes to back you up into a corner and make you think you are unworthy of God's love."

Subia understands about being backed into a corner, because he has gone through some hard times as well.

"Sometimes I catch myself leaning on my own understanding and not His. Then God sends someone to bring me back to His word."

"There are two commandments the Lord wants us to follow," Subia clarified. "If you fulfill these two commandments, you will obey every law. One is to love your God with all your heart and soul. The other is to love your neighbor as you love yourself. Because in the end, if you love your neighbor and God you won't commit adultery, murder, hate or anything like that. All you have to do is these two things and the world would be a better place."

After he departs the Army, Subia plans on going to seminary school to earn a masters in theology.

"I know the Lord is leading me down the right path," Subia faithfully voiced.

Subia hopes that he can pass the torch and people can continue to fellowship at GTMO after he departs. ★

Around the



JTF



Chef David Bearl prepares sushi as part of a local fish and sushi demonstration Sept. 4, at Gold Hill Galley. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Andrew Hillegass



A local vendor discusses a photographic product with interested customers during the craft fair held at Ferry Landing, Sept. 7. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. April de Armas



Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Miguel Arellano, an assistant watchman with the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion, performs crunches on the abdominal machine at Guantanamo Bay's G.J. Denich gym, Sept. 8. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Carmen Gibson