

# THE WIRE

A JTF Journal



**USS Wasp docks at GTMO**  
JTF Troopers tour Navy ship

**Filtering out the forbidden**  
Making sense of WebSense



# Values: A code of honor

**Army Master Sgt.  
Juan Lopez**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

I believe it is a great idea to put the Army's core values on a plastic dog tag and require us to wear it around our necks. It's a great reminder to us of who and what we are, but more importantly it's a reminder to Soldiers of what to look for in their leaders.

Where do values come from? As a child, did my parents make a list of things to tell me how to conduct my life? How to treat others? How to treat myself? No, they didn't. Instead, they modeled for me how I should live as an adult. Notice, I said modeled for me how I SHOULD live, not would live.

That modeling by my parents and other influential adults provided me with my values. The same is true for all Troopers. They learn the values modeled by their leaders and, more specifically, their NCO leaders. Whether those values compliment their service's core values, or something else, does not matter. What matters is that the values modeled for Troopers are the values learned by Troopers. That's a sobering thought, and it should be.

To get at the crux of the issue, I only have to look to one value. That's the value of Honor. Honor as a value means that I live within a prescribed code. In my case, it means that Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity and Personal Courage are significantly more than a list of words.

Leaders who live within this code of Honor model those values. I model them uncompromisingly and insist that other Soldiers and leaders do the same. Values are the code of Honor we claim to live by. The challenge that lies ahead for all in the uniformed services is an unending commitment to do the right thing in every walk of life.

At times, the right path can prove to be elusive. There are various reasons for this; be it bureaucracy, politics or hypocritical leadership. One cannot allow other's misgivings to interfere with one's own actions. We must be forthright and relentless in the pursuit of truth. Leaders at all levels must demand of themselves, their peers, their leaders and subordinates, a standard of conduct beyond reproach. 🇺🇸



## JTF GUANTANAMO

### Commander:

Navy Rear Adm. Tom Copeman

### Command Master Chief:

Navy Master Chief Petty Officer  
Scott A. Fleming

### Office of Public Affairs

#### Director:

Navy Lt. Cmdr. Brook DeWalt: 9928

#### Deputy Director:

Army Maj. Diana Haynie: 9927

#### Supervisor:

Army 1st Sgt. Shellie Lewis: 3649

## The Wire

### Executive Editor:

Navy Lt. James Gonzales: 2171

### Command Information NCOIC:

Army Sgt. 1st Class Michael Gholston: 3651

### Editor:

Army Staff Sgt. Blair Heusdens: 3594

### Staff Writers:

Army 1st Lt. Cody Starken

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class

Shane Arrington

Army Spc. David McLean

Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class

Justin Smelley

Army Spc. Tiffany Addair

Army Pfc. Christopher Vann

## Contact us

**Editor's Desk:** 3594 or 2171

From the continental United States:

**Commercial:** 011-53-99-3594

**DSN:** 660-3594

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

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

### COVER:

**USS Wasp Sailors explain the ship's M2 .50 caliber machine guns to Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers during a tour, Oct. 29.** – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Cody Black

### BACK COVER:

**A fake tombstone sits outside the haunted house put on by the W.T. Sampson senior class, Oct. 30.** – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Tiffany Addair



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.



# Watching from the gallery

Visitors to Guantanamo's court

Fox News correspondent Catherine Herridge and BBC News correspondent Jonathan Beale broadcast live from Camp Justice during the military commissions hearings, July 19, 2009. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. David McLean

**Army Spc. David William McLean**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Military commissions hearings bring many different individuals to Guantanamo Bay. The court support teams, prosecution, defense and many other government officials make the long trip from Washington, D.C. to Cuba when court is in session. People also come here simply to watch the proceedings, and these individuals play an important role in the mission of transparency for Joint Task Force Guantanamo and Office of Military Commissions.

Three distinct groups of people travel here to observe the trials: media, Non-Governmental Organizations and victim family members. Their presence helps promote openness with the rest of the world outside of Guantanamo Bay.

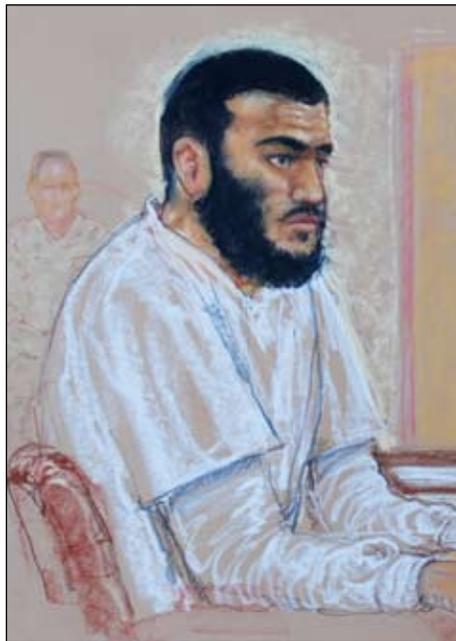
"They help to ensure our proceedings are transparent for all the multiple viewpoints on both sides of the debate," said Marine 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Nicholas Mann, assistant plans officer for JTF operations, an escort for NGOs during commissions. "It is not just one side, but both giving their opinions of what is happening here."

Regardless of the opinion they hold, these groups are commonly found around military and civilian courtrooms in the United States.

The NGOs are organizations like the American Civil Liberties Union, Human Rights First and Human Rights Watch. They attend the hearings, press conferences and other activities around court, but are

there simply to observe the process.

"Their role is to observe the trials to see if they are based on a legal standpoint," said Mann. "They want to know if we are conducting all of this in a legal fashion. They report back to their organizations to see if our trials are done fairly."



**Courtroom sketches, like this one of Omar Khadr, are the only authorized images allowed to be released from the courtroom during military commissions.** - Illustration courtesy of Janet Hamlin, Hamlin Illustration

Like the NGOs, the media also reports back to the rest of the world what is happening here during the commissions hearings. Video news outlets like Fox News, CNN, Associated Press, AFP, BBC and Al-Jazeera, as well as major print publications like the Washington Post, the Toronto Star and the Miami Herald come to observe firsthand and give an account of what transpires here.

Both the media and NGOs are invited by the Office of the Secretary of Defense to attend based on space available both on the flights and in housing on the island.

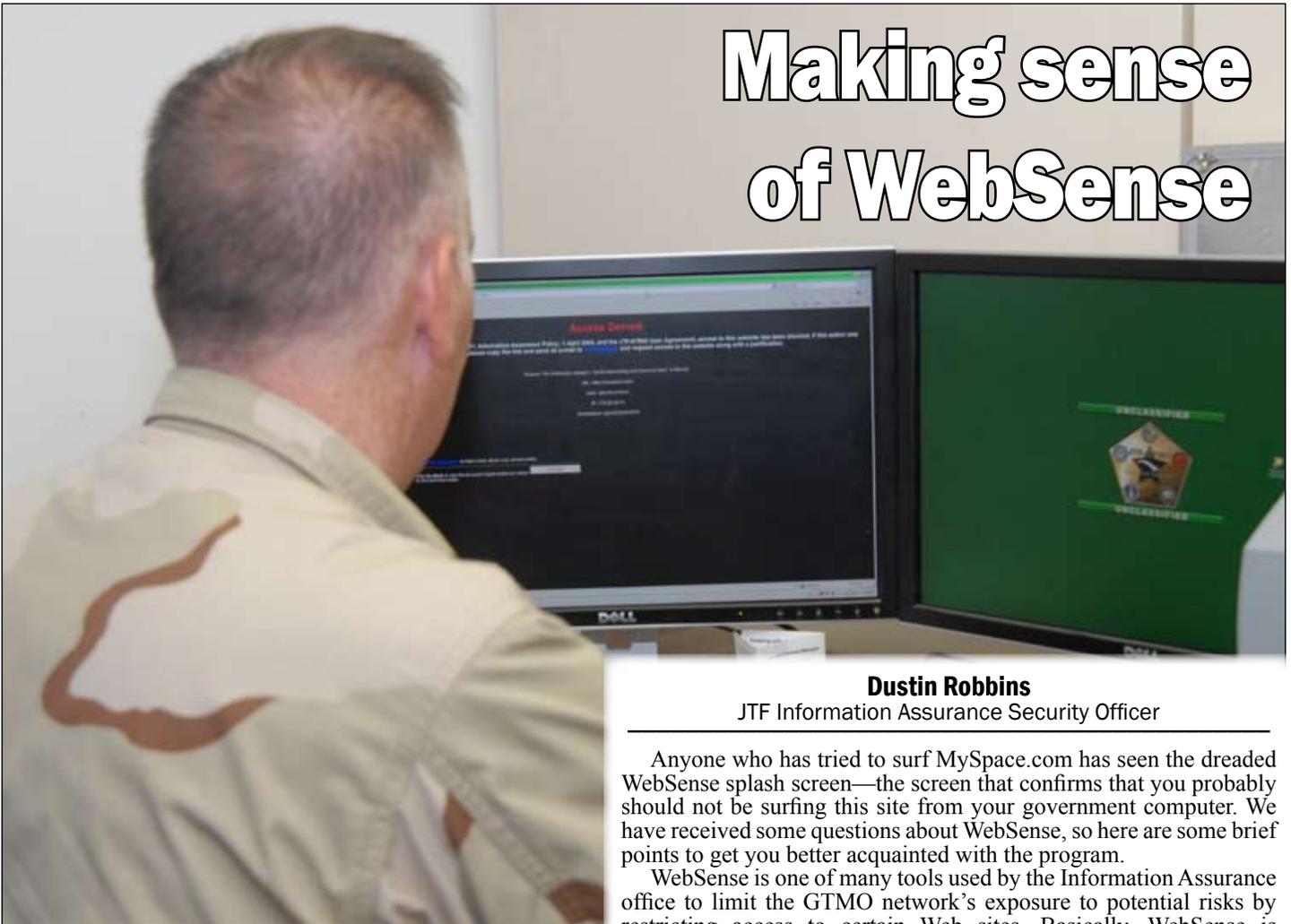
Family members of the victims of the Sept. 11 attacks, U.S. embassy attacks and USS Cole bombing are invited to attend the 911 co-conspirator hearings by lottery through the OMC. Family members have a chance to be one of five individuals selected for each session. They can bring a guest with them for support, and are invited to attend and speak at press conferences after the hearings.

"The main purpose of their visit is to see the hearings of the 911 group," said Army Lt. Col. Nelson Del Valle, the Commission Support Group Deputy Director.

Del Valle said that for those family members not selected in the lottery, they have an opportunity to view the hearings back in the United States. A live, closed-circuit television feed of court proceedings is broadcast back to the states.

Whether watching in the courtroom, or in the United States, the world is able to see what is happening here and how we carry out the mission. 🇺🇸

# Making sense of WebSense



**Dustin Robbins**

JTF Information Assurance Security Officer

## Information Assurance: what's it all about?

The goals of Information Assurance are to protect Department of Defense information and information systems. Information assurance is defined as, protection of information systems against unauthorized access to or modification of information, whether in storage, processing or transit and against the denial of service to authorized users, including those measures necessary to detect, document and counter such threats.

Threats are circumstances or events that can potentially harm an information system. Vulnerabilities are weaknesses in the system that could potentially be exploited. Information assurance works to prevent both of these. Because of the interconnected nature of our information systems, a risk to one is a risk to all.

DoD Information Assurance strives to maintain the principles of confidentiality, integrity, availability, authentication and non-repudiation.

As an authorized user, however, you are also responsible for contributing to the security of all Government-owned computer systems. Use common sense when surfing the web and accessing information on government networks. Report any suspected violations or problems immediately to the information assurance manager at ext. 3836. ★

Anyone who has tried to surf MySpace.com has seen the dreaded WebSense splash screen—the screen that confirms that you probably should not be surfing this site from your government computer. We have received some questions about WebSense, so here are some brief points to get you better acquainted with the program.

WebSense is one of many tools used by the Information Assurance office to limit the GTMO network's exposure to potential risks by restricting access to certain Web sites. Basically, WebSense is configured with a set of criteria (streaming video, chat, etc.) and it blocks any outbound traffic trying to reach sites meeting these criteria. Additional sites can be added on an individual basis as new risks are identified.

Does WebSense block all inappropriate Web sites? No, new sites pop up every day on the Internet and it is impossible to keep an up-to-date record of which sites are safe and which ones need to be blocked. It is up to individual users to use some common sense to determine if they are using their computers in a responsible manner.

Can Web sites be un-blocked? Yes. Occasionally, sites that are blocked by WebSense are required for official purposes. Under these circumstances, a request can be submitted to the Help Desk and the Information Assurance office will help you get what you need. If you are looking to download a specific file, often times it is easier for us to get the file ourselves and make it available locally instead of opening access to the Web site. Sites that are for personal use (as opposed to official use) will not be unblocked in most cases, so use your best judgment before submitting a request.

Can a user get around being filtered by WebSense? All GTMO Internet traffic is sent to the WebSense server before going out into the Internet. An enterprising person may be able to find ways around this, but it would definitely be against the user agreement that everyone signed when issued a network account. And know that WebSense sees these attempts on a regular basis and reports repeat offenders to their chain of command.

WebSense is in place first and foremost to protect the network. Just this past week, two users downloaded three viruses onto their computers by surfing sites that were not for official use. Fortunately no damage was done, but to prevent this from happening again, those sites will be added to the WebSense list. Remember that the network is one of the most important tools we have for getting the mission here done – please do your part to keep it safe! ★



**Navy Lt. Cmdr. Michael Van Poots, the Joint Task Force Guantanamo deputy Inspector General, speaks to incoming JTF Troopers at a newcomer's briefing, Nov. 6.** – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Blair Heusdens

# Got a problem? The IG can help

**Army Staff Sgt. Blair Heusdens**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Do you have a complaint that you feel can't be addressed by your chain of command?

There is a process for these complaints at Joint Task Force Guantanamo. The JTF Inspector General's office serves as the commander's eyes, ears, voice and conscious in matters that are important to Troopers. The Inspector General's main functions include inspections, investigations, assistance and teaching and training.

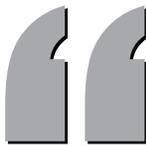
The IG recommends addressing problems or issues through the chain of command first. Those issues that cannot be addressed through the Trooper's chain of command, or are not sufficiently addressed through the chain of command, can then be taken to the IG office for further assistance. Although the IG is here to help Troopers, it is not a substitute for the chain of command.

"We're always going to ask if [the Trooper] has gone through the chain of command first," said Army Col. Doris Acevedo, the JTF command IG. "However, if going through the chain of command

hasn't worked, or the Trooper doesn't think the chain of command will help them, they can feel free to come to us."

Troopers are guaranteed confidentiality when they talk to the IG. However, some problems may require a Trooper to be identified to address the problem. In these cases, the IG will not proceed unless the Trooper gives permission for their identity to be disclosed.

Most cases that the JTF IG office, and IG offices worldwide, handle are assistance cases. Approximately 80 percent of IG cases are assistance cases where the IG assists by



**In my experience here, we've been able to help many [Troopers] solve many problems.**

– Army Col. Doris Acevedo

intervening in a situation, giving advice or pointing a Trooper in the right direction. Investigation cases are less frequent, but often more challenging, requiring time to research and acquire information.

"In everything we do, whether assisting or investigating, teach and training is always there," said Acevedo. "The goal is not to punish people, but to have people learn the right way to do things."

Not every complaint should go to the

IG's office, however. The IG bases findings on existing standards, regulations and policies. If a complaint violates a standard, regulation or policy, changes can be made, however, if a complaint doesn't violate a standard, the IG office is limited in what can be done.

"Our responses are not always what people want to hear," said Acevedo. "Depending on the issue, we may have to refer the Trooper back to the chain of command."

When used properly, the IG's office can be a useful tool for Troopers seeking assistance.

"In my experience here, we've been able to help many [Troopers] solve many problems," said Acevedo.

With an office at a location away from the JTF headquarters, Acevedo hopes that Troopers feel comfortable coming to her office without fear of reprisal. She encourages Troopers to seek the IG office out for assistance, even with just questions.

"If [a Trooper] has doubts about whether their problem is an IG case or not, they should feel free to come in and ask," said Acevedo. "We're here to serve."

For questions about the IG office or assistance, contact Acevedo or the JTF deputy IG, Navy Lt. Cmdr. Michael Van Poots, at ext. 8339 or ext. 8551. ☆



**Army Capt. Eric Bey, the 525<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion chaplain, congratulates Army Pvt. Douglas O'Reilly, with the 193<sup>rd</sup> Military Police Company, on a game well played. Bey became the champion of the Morale, Welfare and Recreation racquetball tournament with his victory over O'Reilly, Oct. 29. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Shane Arrington**

# Bey swings by O'Reilly 2-0

**Navy Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class  
Shane Arrington**  
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The championship game of Naval Station Guantanamo Bay's Morale, Welfare and Recreation racquetball tournament, Thursday, Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>, came down to two Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers who couldn't have been more different.

Army Capt. Eric Bey, the 525<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion chaplain, has been playing racquetball for more than 22 years. His opponent, Army Pvt. Douglas O'Reilly, member of the 193<sup>rd</sup> Military Police Company, at 20 years old, hasn't even been alive that long. Don't let his age fool you though, O'Reilly isn't a stranger to the world of competitive racquetball.

"I was 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation for my age group [16] when I was younger," said O'Reilly. "I was the Arizona state champ three years in a row."

It was this knowledge that worried Bey going into the championship game.

"I've played this game for a long time, but I've never done it on that kind of level," said Bey. "Knowing his past, and more especially, seeing him play, had me coming into this game thinking I might not come out on top."

But, when all was said and done, Bey did come out on top. Bey, who's been in Cuba for over a year, continues to be undefeated while on island.

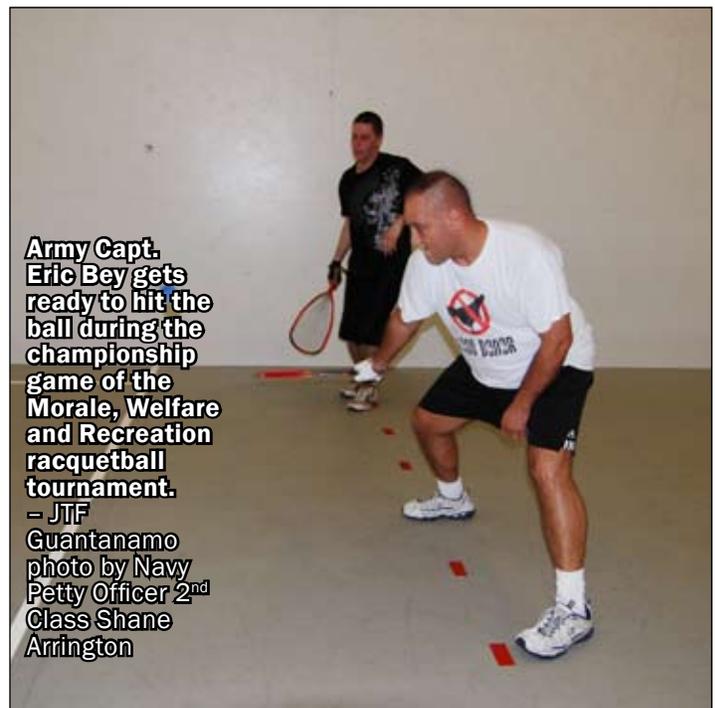
"It's not that I'm necessarily better than all my opponents," said Bey. "It's just that I've been playing this game for a long time and have a lot of court savvy."

O'Reilly tried using his youth to his advantage to tire out his older opponent. This strategy worked well, making each match close, the closest games he's played according to Bey, but in the end he admits it was his foe's experience that put him over the edge.

"He's an amazing player," O'Reilly simply stated.

When asked what keeps him picking up his racquet and going back to the court after 20 plus years, Bey didn't hesitate to answer.

"It's the strategy," he said. "A lot of people look through the window and only see the speed and violence, but it's so much more than that. They see two barbarians fighting it out, but it's really more like a dance." ☆



**Army Capt. Eric Bey gets ready to hit the ball during the championship game of the Morale, Welfare and Recreation racquetball tournament. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Shane Arrington**



# ‘Julie & Julia’ charm, inspire

**Army Sgt.  
Emily Greene**

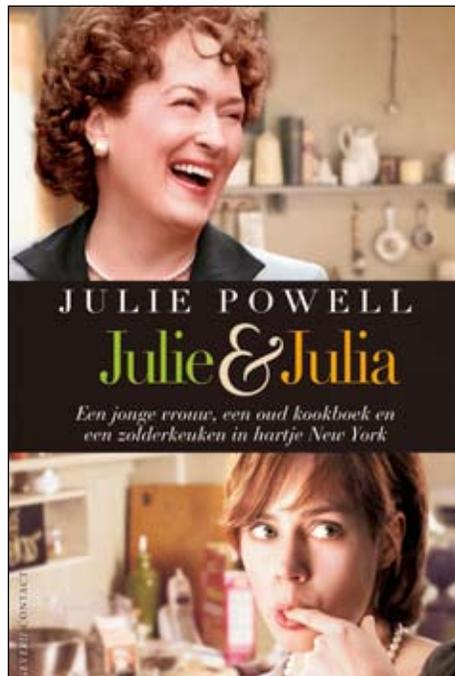
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

“Julie & Julia” is a movie whose kind we haven’t seen in theatres in a while. It’s a story about two women who stand alone, undefined by men. Their story unfolds before the audience with a surprising lack of the romantic drama that always seems to accompany “chick flicks.” Instead, the film portrays a different kind of love; the love between a woman and her passions.

In this case, Julie Powell (Amy Adams) and Julia Child (Meryl Streep) are passionate about cooking. Or, perhaps it is better to describe these women’s endeavors throughout the film as (appropriately) “the art of French cooking.” Both women strive to master that art, and both succeed in similar ways.

Both women take up cooking as a way to occupy themselves and to provide some meaning to their quiet lives and both pursue it with a powerful sense of ambition. While each woman encounters different roadblocks on their path to culinary perfection, their experience is eerily similar. Publishing success is the happy ending to both tales and each woman’s literary triumph is as unique as she.

Meryl Streep is impressive, as always, in her role as the famous Julia Child. Known for her outstanding performances in a wide variety of films, Streep has truly outdone herself here. Her performance as



**PG-13**

**123 minutes**

**Rating:** ★★★★★

Julia Child goes beyond physical imitation, though she has the rounded shoulders and the fluting voice down perfectly. Too often when gifted actors impersonate real people they replace the man with the legend, like when Jamie Foxx played Ray Charles. However, Streep’s incarnation of Julia Child has the opposite effect, making the real Julia more vivid than ever.

Unfortunately, Amy Adams did not fare as well. While her performance was lovely as the quiet young woman who never really thinks she can match up to the great Julia Child, the script and direction overshadowed her. While in the book the focus is Julie Powell and her self-realization, this film spent far too much time on Julia Child and postwar Paris, and not enough on the present day.

Nora Ephron’s direction, while mostly slanted towards the Julia Child storyline, is charming in its simplicity. Most of the scenes are understated and accurately evoke the major and minor triumphs of real life. From crying over failed gelatin to celebrating the perfect egg, the film makes even the most mundane moment ring true.

While not every dish turns out the way the recipe promises, even an imperfect meal can fill the belly and warm the soul. Though there are flaws, the pleasures offered by this movie should not be disdained. After all, Julia Child had no issues with serving a broken omelet with a spirited “Bon appétit!” ☆

# USS

# WASP

# VISITS GTMO

JTF Guantanamo photos by  
Army Spc. Cody Black



Troopers from Joint Task Force Guantanamo had the opportunity to tour the multipurpose amphibious assault ship USS Wasp (LHD 1), while it was docked at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Oct. 29.

USS Wasp is specifically designed to accommodate a Landing Craft, Air Cushion (LCAC) for fast troop movement over the beach and a Landing Craft Utility (LCU) for movement of cargo and equipment.

USS Wasp is currently deployed on Amphibious-Southern Partnership Station 2009 with Destroyer Squadron 40 (DESRON 40) Security Cooperation Marine Air Ground Task Force (SCMAGTF) embarked. USS Wasp and the Security Cooperation Marine Air Ground Task Force are working alongside Mayport-based Destroyer Squadron 40. During this deployment, they will build and instill cooperation between U.S. and partner nation naval forces through a variety of exercises as part of Amphibious-Southern Partnership Station.

# A time-honored tradition

■ USMC celebrates 234 years

**Army Pfc. Christopher Vann**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

With the 234<sup>th</sup> birthday of the United States Marine Corps (USMC) approaching, many Marines take this time to reflect on the accomplishments and traditions of the Marine Corps.

“We like to talk a lot about the heroes of the Corps – Gunnery Sgt. John Basilone, Sgt. Maj. Dan Daly and Cpl. David Dunham,” said Marine Corps Cpl. Julius Fairfax, Joint Task Force Guantanamo’s J-6 landline and BlackBerry manager.

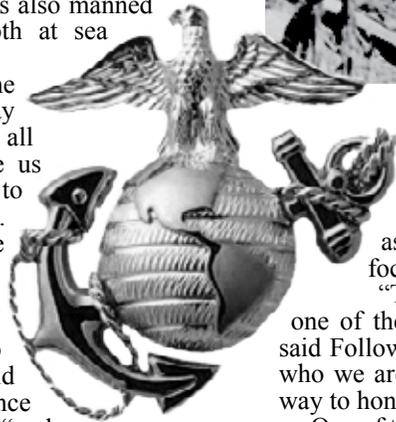
November 10 marks the date in 1775 when a committee of the Continental Congress approved a resolution forming the Continental Marines. Nov. 10 continues to be the date Marines celebrate the founding of the United States Marine Corps.

“We also talk a lot about the history of the Marine Corps,” said Fairfax, “It builds our esprit de corps, and brings up the morale for people.”

The United States Marine Corps is a branch of the U.S. military responsible for providing power projection from the sea, utilizing the mobility of the U.S. Navy to rapidly deliver combined-arms task forces to global crises. Operating under the United States Navy, the Marine Corps was founded to serve as an infantry unit aboard naval vessels and was responsible for the security of the ship and her crew by conducting offensive and defensive combat during boarding actions and defending the ship’s officers from mutiny; to the latter end, their quarters on ship were often strategically positioned between the officers’ quarters and the rest of the vessel. Continental Marines also manned raiding parties, both at sea and ashore.

“The Marine Corps birthday means a lot to me, all the Marines before us and the future ones to come,” said Fairfax.

“I see it as the way to honor and celebrate not just current Marines, but all of those who came before us,” said Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Jason Follow, “and to remember those who are deployed



around the world.”

The Marine Corps, which prides itself on traditions, uses the birthday of the Corps as a time of reflection and focus.

“Traditions and ceremonies are one of the prides and joys of Marines,” said Follow, “Traditions are what make us who we are, (Marines), and it’s one more way to honor those who came before us.”

One of the most time-honored traditions to celebrate the founding of the Corps is

the annual Marine Corps Ball. This year, the Naval Station Guantanamo Bay Marine Corps Ball will be held Nov. 14 at the Windjammer Ballroom.

“For me, this is my first actual Marine Corps Ball. I’m looking forward to the experience,” said Follow, “Not just the social interaction with the other Marines, but observing the traditions and ceremonies that come along with the birthday.”

For more information about the United States Marine Corps, visit [www.marines.mil](http://www.marines.mil). ♠



– JTF Guantanamo photo illustration by Navy Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Justin Smelley

# A day to honor all who've served

**Navy Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Class  
Justin Smelley**  
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Veterans Day is the day that we as Americans celebrate the brave military members who have fought for the rights we have and live by every day.

The celebration of Veterans Day started after World War I when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, at the Palace of Versailles in France, which officially ended the war. The fighting of the war actually ended seven months earlier with an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between Germany and the Allied Nations. The armistice started on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of November in 1918.

"To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory... because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations..." said President Woodrow Wilson, in November 1919, after commemorating November 11, 1919 as the first Armistice Day.

On May 13, 1938, an act was approved to make Armistice Day a legal holiday.

Then, in 1954 after World War II – which required the most United States troops to mobilize in the nation's history – and the Korean War, Veterans service organizations urged that the Act of 1938 be changed from Armistice to Veterans Day. On June 1, 1954, with the

approval of legislation (Public Law 380), November 11 became the day when all American veterans from any war were honored.

It has been more than 54 years since Veterans Day became a national holiday and it is still celebrated with the highest honor for the troops of America.

"It is important to me because it is a way to honor those who have made a sacrifice or have done something really important for our country. To remember is to honor them and for me, it's kind of

**“ ... looking across over the years  
and all of our country's conflicts  
it's important to honor those who  
fought and especially those who  
died.**

– Navy Lt. Lisa Stinson

personal because my father was in Korea, so for me that day is important," said Army Maj. Ruben Soto, the JTF Headquarters and Headquarters Company

operations officer-in-charge.

"I wasn't in a military family directly, but I did have indirect family who served, so on a more personnel note it gives me an opportunity to honor them, but looking across over the years and all of our country's conflicts, it's important to honor those who fought and especially those who died," said Navy Lt. Lisa Stinson, an officer with the JTF.

Veterans Day is one holiday that should not be overlooked, but celebrated to honor the great American heroes who fought for the love of their country and their willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good and those who continue to fight and make the ultimate sacrifice for their country. 🇺🇸

# Trooper goes deep to re-enlist at GTMO

**Army Sgt. Harry Schwarz, with the 189th Military Police Company, re-enlists underwater at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Oct. 30.** – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Michael Baltz

**Army 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Cody Starken**  
JTF Guantanamo  
Public Affairs

The opportunity for an Army Soldier to serve at Joint Task Force Guantanamo makes for a lasting memory. The chance to have a military underwater reenlistment ceremony during your deployment is a memory that will last forever.

Army Sgt. Harry Schwarz, a training non-commissioned officer with Joint Task Force Guantanamo's 189<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company, recently made the commitment to reenlist for another six years during an underwater ceremony at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay.

"I did the first one in front of the United States disciplinary barracks at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas," Schwarz said. "The second one was in the Buffalo Soldiers Monument. I was knee-deep in the fountain."

The reason why this reenlistment

separates itself from the others is the location, which was a dive site known as the "mic boat." The ability to choose your reenlistment ceremony location is a pleasant perk to many enlisted military members deciding to dedicate their time to the military. JTF Guantanamo offers many locations that service members can use for their reenlistment ceremony. This time it was a request of an aquatic environment for Sgt. Swartz.

"We go diving every weekend, so it is only fitting that he reenlist out here," said

Army Capt. Suzanne Redente, the 189<sup>th</sup> MP Company commander. "We are lucky to have him around."

After nine years of service, Schwarz, a Williamstown, N.J. native, who graduated from Williamstown High School, looks to retire from the military. He signed a six-year extension that granted him orders to Fort Bragg, N.C. This was the third time he has reenlisted.

"The next one will be bigger, and I plan on going out with a bang with my last reenlistment," Schwarz said. ★

## Holiday season mailing deadlines

### Mail from U.S. to GTMO:

Parcel Post - Nov. 13

First Class Letters and Cards - Dec. 11

Priority Mail - Dec. 11

### Mail from GTMO to U.S.:

Parcel Post - Nov. 13

First Class Letters and Cards - Dec. 4

Priority Mail - Dec. 4

These dates are the recommended deadlines to ensure delivery of mail by the holiday date.

# Do you have the flu?

If you are having flu-like symptoms, stay home. Call the Naval Station Guantanamo Bay hospital influenza hotline at ext. 72120.

If you are experiencing severe symptoms such as chest pain or pressure, rapid breathing or trouble breathing, bluish skin color, vomiting and unable to keep liquids down, a fever of 100.5 degrees or higher with a rash, convulsions or seizures, less responsive than normal, confusion, signs of dehydration, seek medical attention.

To prevent the spread of illness, wash your hands frequently with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, cough or sneeze into your sleeve and practice proper hygiene.

## Camp X-Ray Security

Camp X-Ray is still part of the JTF complex and is under federal protection. Please observe all posted signs and stay out of the area.



## Boots on the Ground

by Army Spc. Tiffany Addair

### What did you dress up as for Halloween?

Navy Chief Petty Officer  
Jillian P. Easley



"This year I dressed up as a fairy because they are magical."

Marine Corps Staff Sgt.  
Kenneth W. Waterman



"I dressed up as a French maid. I won the costume contest at the Tiki Bar."

Sgt. Air Force Tech. Sgt.  
Amy J. Greenan



"I was a peacock. I wanted to do something different than a normal costume."

Army Capt.  
Shane T. Lauritzen



"I went as a viking because I found a hat and an easy way to make a beard with coffee grounds."

# The peace of God

**Air Force Maj.  
Robert L. Sullivan**

JTF Deputy Command Chaplain

Inner peace is sought after around the world. There are many who do not have peace. They often wonder how to have tranquility of mind, or how to have peace within their own soul.

How much more is peace needed during times of conflict and economic upheaval? People are losing jobs daily; the housing market is worse than ever. The H1N1 virus is shaking up communities far and near. It seems as though the world is turned upside-down. Where can relief be found?

The Apostle Paul, writing to the church at Philippi, explained to the believers how to experience the peace of God. He wrote from a prison cell where he was bound and persecuted for his faith. Yet, he wrote about the peace of God. His outward circumstances did not dictate his inner peace, because his peace was in the Lord. Genuine peace comes from the Lord.

The Prince of Peace provides peace with God through faith. The Apostle Paul said in Romans 5:1, "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

The first step for inner peace is to be at peace with God. We are justified or declared righteous through faith. The moment you believe and receive the Lord Jesus Christ, you receive peace with God. But that is just the starting point for believers. In Philippians 4:7, Paul spoke of the peace of God. He said, "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." This peace is a supernatural quietness of soul with an amazing confidence in the sustaining grace of God. It will help you hold it together in the worst of problems or crisis. It's an assurance that, "If God be for us, who can be against us." It makes no difference what comes our way. It affirms Romans 8:28, "And we know that all things, work together for good, to them that love God, to them, who are the called according to his purpose." Not that everything that happens to us is good, but God will work it all out for our good. Since we know that God has perfect love for us and He is working everything for our good, we can relax, rest in His peace and truly experience the peace of God. I close with this poem:

## I Need Peace

By Robert Sullivan

If you are troubled and confused  
Feeling down with the blues

If you are worried and in despair  
Wondering where are those who care

If your mind seems scattered and in need or repair  
And resting aimlessly everywhere

If you are at the end of your rope  
Don't let go, there is always hope

Trust in Him who is the Prince of Peace  
In Him you will find comfort and true relief.

## JTF CHAPEL SCHEDULED PROGRAMS

**Catholic Mass**  
**Sunday - Friday:**  
6:30 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.

# 525<sup>th</sup> Trooper named U.S. Army South's top NCO

■ *Hard work and dedication lead to success at the board*

**Army Staff Sgt. Blair Heusdens**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

One year, a promotion and five Soldier boards have marked Army Staff Sgt. John Murphy's deployment to Joint Task Force Guantanamo. Recently, his hard work and knowledge paid off when Murphy competed for the U.S. Army South Non-Commissioned Officer of the Quarter at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, and won.

Murphy, a member of the 193<sup>rd</sup> Military Police Company of the 525<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion, works as an assistant watch commander at one of JTF Guantanamo's detention facilities. After winning the battalion's NCO of the Quarter competition previously, Murphy was eligible to advance to the U.S. Army South level.

The three-day competition, held Oct. 22-24, was a chance for representatives from the major commands of U.S. Army South to show their knowledge and skills. In addition to a formal Soldier board, the competition included portions involving physical fitness, weapons and Army warrior tasks.

"The competition was the most difficult I have seen and definitely a challenge for [all the competitors]," said Army Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Nicholas Rouse, who accompanied Murphy and Army Sgt. Loretta Dorsey to the competition.

In addition to his studying, Murphy had to recertify as a combat lifesaver and complete a level-one combatives course prior to the competition. Murphy was able to attend the one-week level-one combatives course at Fort Riley, Kan.

The first day of the competition, the Soldiers completed an Army Physical Fitness Test and day and night land navigation courses. On the second day, they completed qualification on an M-16 rifle range and were tested in random warrior tasks, focusing on first aid, nuclear, biological and chemical tasks and weapons knowledge. The third day was the formal board, which was conducted by senior NCOs.

A running tally of points was kept throughout the competition, with Murphy leading each event. Coming into the formal



**Army Staff Sgt. John Murphy is the winner of U.S. Army South's NCO of the Quarter.** – Courtesy photo provided by U.S. Army South

board, Murphy held a 100-point lead on his competitor.

Despite all his success, Murphy also ran into some trouble. While zeroing his M-16 at the rifle range, Murphy was attacked by red ants. While in the field, he had an allergic reaction and had to be given epinephrine twice before passing out. He was able to finish the range, however, and ended up with the best score.

Murphy says his own self-doubt was also a challenge for him. Standing in front of a board comprised of senior NCOs with combined experience of more than 140 years, was a daunting task.

"You always assume you're not prepared enough," said Murphy. "The board members can tell how much you've prepared in the first 60 seconds and will grill you based on that initial impression."

Murphy felt that the land navigation portion of the competition was his strongest event. He was the only competitor to find any of the points on the day or night course due to the thick underbrush on the course.

"I had to run to finish in time," said Murphy. "But that strong finish early on set me up for success."

With all his recent experience, Murphy has become the go-to guy in the battalion for other Soldiers and junior NCOs preparing for boards.

"SSG Murphy is the best staff sergeant I have ever had the pleasure to work with," said Rouse. "He is the one NCO every Trooper should want to be."

"Be confident. Sweat the small stuff and try to relax as much as possible the day of the competition," said Murphy. "Go in and do your best."

A trip to the mainland was a welcomed treat for Murphy, whose wife came to San Antonio for the last two days of the competition. The two were able to go out to dinner to celebrate after the competition.

"It was a nice little vacation," said Murphy. "It's a privilege to represent the battalion anywhere you go."

Murphy will represent U.S. Army South in the 2010 NCO of the Year competition. ★

Coast Guard Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Matthew Thorp, with the Maritime Safety and Security Team 91101, dressed as Mr. Bubble for Halloween, Oct. 31. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Emily Russell



Troopers, dressed as pirates, show off their costumes at the Tiki Bar, Oct. 31. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Pfc. Christopher Vann



Around the  the

JTF

A member of the band, Retread, performs at the Tiki Bar, Oct. 31. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Pfc. Christopher Vann



Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers pose in costume at the Tiki Bar, Oct. 31. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Pfc. Christopher Vann

