

THE WIRE

A JTF Journal



Navy frocking
Sailors advance to petty officer

Torch run
Keeping the flame burning



Perspectives on leadership

**Army Sgt. 1st Class
Michael David Gholston**
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Leadership is a word, but more than that, it is something that binds teams together to achieve results. Leadership is not exclusive to those placed in a leadership position. For teams to truly excel leadership must be developed at all levels in any given team. There are technical experts, and there are leaders. If you combine these two a winning combination is achieved – a technically proficient leader who has the wisdom to make sound decisions to achieve team objectives.

As we all know there are good, bad, indifferent, complacent and even narcissistic leaders.

Good leaders will always put their team and mission first. They will embody the Army's Warrior Ethos each and every day. The good leaders will not be intrinsically driven for personal gain or recognition. Their reward comes when their team excels. They are known for fully sharing the consequences if missions are missed or not completed.

Bad leaders will not always take care of their Troopers first. They may often lose sight of what priorities are important and not be engaged with their teams. The arc of distortion in communication will likely prevail in a bad leader's work environment. Not being concerned with his or her Troopers needs; a bad leader will not think that it is important to share knowledge with his peers and subordinates.

Complacency can normally be observed when a leader thinks that he knows it all. This is a very dangerous team environment because there will be no contingencies in place for new or unusual missions. Complacency is also contagious if leaders are perceived in this manner. The end result maybe a total team meltdown when given new challenges to overcome.

Being a good leader is not good enough. A good leader must be able to step away from the day-to-day production requirements and establish a vision for his team. This is contagious because teams who are in a vision led environment will most likely be inspired to have this vision ingrained as part of the fabric of their overall purpose and ultimate uniqueness to the team.

Good leaders have the ability to see and develop the good leaders in their team. Good leaders will constantly look for ways to develop the overall team's leadership potential.

In this environment everyone is vital to the overall success of the team. When a good team is successful, it is because everyone in the team has played a critical role in making that happen.

Concurrently, when a good team fails, everyone fails. In this environment failing is only an opportunity to learn and grow together. Failure is never an option, but it inevitably will occur with every team.

When I was a manufacturing supervisor in a thermal reactor plant my company required me to take a course in Failure Modes Effects Analysis – used extensively by National Aeronautics and Space Administration – in order that I could have the mindset to overcome and learn from team failures.

Strong leadership will develop and nurture leadership, which will result in a team that is ready, willing and able to excel in each and every mission objective. ★



JTF GUANTANAMO

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Navy Rear Adm. Tom Copeman

Command Master Chief:

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Office of Public Affairs

Director:

Navy Cmdr. Brook DeWalt: 9928

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The Wire

Executive Editor:

Army 1st Lt. Christopher Cudney

Command Information NCOIC:

Army Sgt. 1st Class Michael Gholston: 3651

Editor:

Army Sgt. Michael Baltz: 3589

Staff Writers:

Army Staff Sgt. Jim Wagner

Army Sgt. Derrol Fulghum

Army Spc. David McLean

Army Spc. Tiffany Addair

Army Spc. Christopher Vann

Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class

Joshua Nistas

Contact us

Editor's Desk: 3589 or 2171

From the continental United States:

Commercial: 011-53-99-3594

DSN: 660-3594

E-mail: thewire@jftgmo.southcom.mil

Online: www.jftgmo.southcom.mil

COVER:

Members of the Guantanamo Bay Yacht Club race to the finish line at the Holiday Boat Regatta at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Dec. 13. Five two-man crews participated in two races and the winners awarded a trophy. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Emily Greene

BACK COVER:

Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Robert Ketchum, a member of Maritime Safety and Security Team 91103, awaits instruction from range safety officials during M-16 weapons qualification, Dec. 14. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Emily 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.

Navy promotes junior Troopers



Army Brig. Gen. Timothy Lake, Joint Task Force Guantanamo deputy commander, congratulates newly-promoted members of the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion at a frocking ceremony, Dec. 10. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Jim Wagner

Army Staff Sgt. Jim Wagner

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Joint Task Force Guantanamo welcomed more than 30 newly-promoted Navy petty officers – first, second and third class – during frocking ceremonies held last week.

The promotion ceremonies were held following results of the Navy's fall advancement test results, which service-wide saw a drop in E-4 and E-5 promotions and a slight gain in the E-6 paygrade. Overall, approximately 18,000 service members were promoted to E-4 through E-6 this cycle.

Sailor advancement at the junior ranks has slowed considerably the past couple years as Navy officials deal with record highs in recruiting and record lows in attrition rates, according to Navy officials.

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Noel Galarza, a postal clerk deployed in support of JTF Guantanamo, advanced after taking his test for the third time. Despite the frustration of missing a promotion last cycle by only one point, he cites award points and a lot of studying as the key to making rank.

He also had one other piece of encouragement.

"I've been in six years and at eight years is my high year of tenure for E-4s," he said with a slight laugh. "It was make or break this time around."

According to officials, the advancement percentage this cycle for E-4 and E-5



Soldiers congratulate Sailors after the frocking ceremony – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Gary Cooper

was 19.86 compared to 24.53 percent the past four exam cycles. The promotion percentage for E-6, on the other hand, increased 1.5 percent this exam cycle.

The numbers are no surprise to JTF Guantanamo Troopers like Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Janelle Pooler of the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion, who advanced to E-4 after taking the test three previous times with no success.

She said her rate, aerographer's mate, is overmanned, making promotion difficult as airmen throughout the Navy vie for limited billets. However, now that she's got her "crows," the common name for the eagle appearing on the rank insignia, Pooler intends to live up to being a non-commissioned officer.

"You're getting up there now [in rank]," she said. "You now have more responsibilities and have men you're responsible for."

That sentiment was echoed by Navy Rear Adm. Tom Copeman, JTF Guantanamo commander, who spoke to the newly-frocked Sailors during ceremonies, held last week. He congratulated the Sailors,

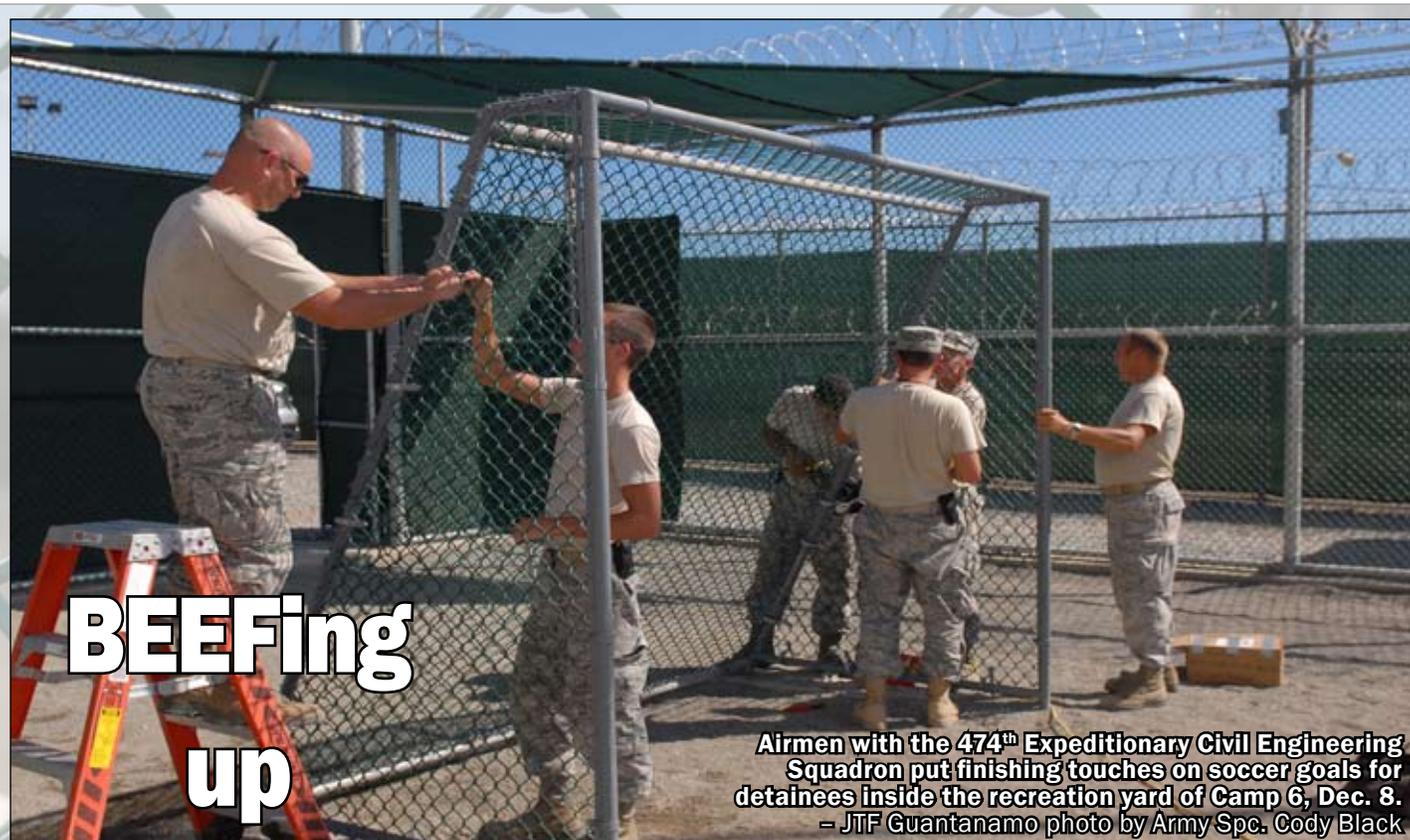
saying promotion in the Navy these days is especially tough and their advancement is quite an achievement and a testament to their sustained performance in their duties.

He had a special message for the incoming E-4s.

"When you go back to your home station, people are going to be looking at you differently," Copeman said. "You won't see it so much here, where people have been working with you every day, but at your home station they are going to see the crows and expect different things from you."

The Navy promotes junior enlisted twice a year, with promotions awarded to Sailors based on performance evaluation reports and rate examinations of their technical knowledge. Depending on the number of eligible Sailors and billets, a baseline score is determined to see who does or doesn't advance – if they score higher than the baseline they are promoted.

Frocked Sailors go through a six-month probation period before they are paid at their new rank. ♡



BEEFing up

Airmen with the 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron put finishing touches on soccer goals for detainees inside the recreation yard of Camp 6, Dec. 8.
 – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Cody Black

detention facilities

**Army Spc.
Tiffany Addair**
 JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Airmen with the Base Emergency Engineer Force assigned to the 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron finished installing new soccer goals inside the recreation yard of Camp 6, Dec. 8. The 474th ECES supports Joint Task Force Guantanamo by maintaining the Expeditionary Legal Complex and Camp Justice facilities and infrastructure. They also support JTF engineers, helping to enhance detention facilities.

In an effort to make continual improvements to detention facilities until the last detainee leaves GTMO, a two-week construction project began with the assembling of two soccer goals at Camp Justice, which were transported to Camp 6's recreation yard; where finishing touches were made.

According to Navy Lt. Todd N. Taylor, Camp 6 officer-in-charge, improvements to the detention facilities are made continuously.

"While detainees are in our custody, we strive to enhance facilities in accordance with the safe, humane, legal and transparent

care and custody of detainees," Taylor said. Detainees receive recreation daily. During recreation they are offered a number of sports and games to play, but they occupy most of the time playing soccer.

"Every time they go to recreation they play soccer," Taylor said. "Each block gets several hours of recreation, in the large recreation yards, and the majority of the time they spend playing soccer and utilizing the new goals," said Taylor.

The construction of the goals provides detainees with a more competitive game of soccer than just kicking the ball around.

"The soccer goals are built to regulation," said Air Force Tech. Sgt. Bailey M. Coleman, a heavy equipment engineer with the 474th ECES. "The goals are sturdy and permanent now. It makes for a more realistic game for the detainees."

As part of the care and custody of detainees, there are programs available for detainees that provide intellectual stimulation and social recreation. The social program includes communal living, recreation and sports, communal meals and prayers, family phone calls and mail. Sports opportunities include soccer, volleyball, basketball, table-tennis, board games,

foosball tables and aerobic exercise machines.

Until the last detainee leaves, GTMO will continue to operate as usual – detention facilities in order to improve the quality of life for detainees. ★

Air Force Airman 1st Class Aaron Green, front, and Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Roy Wann, deployed to JTF Guantanamo's 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron, complete finishing touches on soccer goals for detainees inside the recreation yard of Camp 6, Dec. 8. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Cody Black





Supporting the Special Olympics

Army Lt. Col. Alexander Conyers, 525th Military Police Battalion commander, and Special Olympian Robert Fredericks, light the Special Olympics Flame of Hope torch, at the Northeast Gate, Dec. 12. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Christopher Vann

Army Spc. Christopher Vann

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Something burns deep inside of us all; a fire that once ignited cannot be extinguished. It is the Flame of Hope. The feeling of love, compassion, hope and remembrance that we feel is expressed in different forms.

The New Jersey fundraising team for the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics came to participate in the torch run at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Dec. 12. Residents and military personnel were able to sign up for the event as individual runners or for the team relay.

Nine teams participated in the run: the 525th Military Police Battalion, Joint Task Force Guantanamo Headquarters Command Element, the Office for the Administrative Review of the Detention of Enemy Combatants, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, JTF Public Affairs Office, Marine Corps Security Force Company, Commission Support Group, the 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron and the Criminal Investigation Task Force teams.

The 10-mile run started at the Northeast Gate and ended at Phillips Dive Park, with each team running approximately 1.1 miles.

"I am a proud supporter of the Special Olympics," said Navy Chief Petty Officer Jillian Easley, a member of the Commission Support Group. "I was active

with the Special Olympics for three years straight, when I was stationed in Hawaii."

Marine Corps Lt. Col. Sylvia Antonino, JTF J-6 director, ran the entire 10 miles. An active supporter of the Special Olympics, she continues to help in any way she can, whether at home or abroad.

"The Special Olympics has always been a favorite of mine; this is a great opportunity for me to show my support," said Antonino.

Some people ran to give support, while others ran for reasons more personal, like Army Lt. Col. Mary Anna Foxx, staff joint secretary for JTF Guantanamo, the mother of a special needs child.

Foxx, having been exposed to radiation early in her career before giving birth to her daughter, uses this as a way to give back and give hope to others.



Navy Rear Adm. Thomas Copeman, JTF Commander, and Special Olympian Robert Fredericks converse during their segment of the Special Olympics Torch Run. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Christopher Vann

"I did this to be an inspiration to troops who are going through issues in their lives," Foxx said.

A New Jersey native, Special Olympian Robert Fredericks and two New Jersey

See **TORCH/12**



The Army women offensive line gets set to defend their quarterback during the first quarter of the Army vs. Navy flag football championship, Dec. 11. The Army women were able to beat the Navy women by a score of 4-0.— JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. David McLean

Army, Navy split in local game



Navy running back Joseph Santiago stretches across the goal line as Army defenders pull the flag a little too late. Navy downed Army 45-6 during the men's championship flag football game, Dec. 11.— JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. David McLean

**Army Spc.
David McLean**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The night before the military academies clashed in Philadelphia, Troopers from Joint Task Force Guantanamo and Naval Station Guantanamo Bay played in a Morale, Welfare and Recreation flag football game as the Army women beat the Navy women 4-0 and the Navy men beat the Army men 45-6 at Cooper Field, Dec. 11.

Both games featured officers and enlisted Troopers playing with their respective military services for pride, competition and bragging rights in this joint environment.

The women's game showcased tough defensive efforts from both teams as neither offensive unit was able to put points on the board. The Army team, which included three Air Force Airmen, was able to pin Navy behind their goal line twice to account for the scoring. Army Staff Sgt. Laquan Daniel, the Army men's and women's coach, said defense was the key to the game.

"It was all defense that kept us in the game," Daniel said. "The whole game went great, and these girls fought all the way. It was 48 minutes of nothing but fight."

The fight was still present for Daniel in the men's game, but the Army men's team was not able to carry the momentum into their game. The Navy men's team moved

up and down the field at will, scoring seven touchdowns to Army's one.

"We tried to execute our offense, and we did very well," said Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer Danny Shelton, the Navy men's coach. "Our defensive plan was to shut down the run and the pass, and we were successful."

Regardless of the scores for both games, all participants were successful as the spirit of competition was the highlight of the contests. JTF Guantanamo Deputy Commander Army Brig. Gen. Timothy Lake watched the competitions and said he enjoyed the camaraderie of the players and fans from all the services.

"I think it is important because this is a joint organization," Lake said. "Army and Navy are going to go at it hot and heavy, and it's all going to be for the betterment of football, but at the end, we become brothers-at-arms, and we're going to live, fight and work together."

As players congratulated each other as they walked off the field, everyone held their head high and recounted plays with their counterparts from the other teams.

"It is fun to have some competition between the services," Shelton said. "It's about enjoying yourself and representing your branch."

For more information about MWR sports events, call ext. 2113. ★

ASTRO BOY



**Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class
Joshua Nistas**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

For more than half a century he's been waiting for his chance on the big screen, stuck to being on the pages of manga – a Japanese comic book – and on the television screens in Japanese animation. Finally, Astro Boy has made it in his first full-length film.

Starting out on the pages of manga in 1952, Astro Boy first hit television in 1963 becoming the first known “anime.”

This latest version of the classic shows the creation of the mechanical boy. It starts off with Toby Tenma sneaking into his father, Dr. Tenma's, lab to see a new and ground-breaking experiment, the Peace Keeper project. One thing follows another, something goes horribly wrong, and there is a huge robot blowing things up. The robot is finally shut off, but not before Toby is blown to smithereens.

Dr. Tenma is grieving for the loss of his son. He does the only thing he knows how to do – build a robot. Taking the DNA of his son, he implants the memories of his late son into a robot that looks like an exact duplicate. Toby thinks he is a real boy and goes about as normal a life as one can, when the original copy is killed.

Comedy ensues, action happens, one thing leads to another, and our robotic hero lands on Earth away from the floating metropolis of Metro City. Earth has become

the dumpyard of the city, covered in towering piles of discarded robots and other miscellaneous items.

Meeting a gang of misfit kids, Toby decides to call himself Astro and continues on with a journey that shows that even with a body made up of metal, a butt from a machine gun and feet that have rocket boosters, he still can have the heart of a hero with the innocence of a child.

I thought the movie was great, especially for the younger crowd that might be interested in seeing this, because Astro Boy has been alive and kicking since the early '50's, there's fans of all ages who've been looking forward to this release.

It is packed full of big names, and there is no way you can mistake the voice of Nicholas Cage when listening to Dr. Tenma.

There is action, comedy, and heartfelt emotions to capture almost anyone who has an hour and a half to kill on a Saturday night. ☆

PG

94 minutes

Rating: ★★☆☆☆



Navy men's running back Joseph Santiago blows past Army defenders to score one of several touchdowns on the evening.



Brig. Gen. Timothy Lake discusses the sides of the coin with the Navy men's captain before the coin toss.



Army women score a safety by pinning Navy behind their goal line.

**Army Men 6
Navy Men 45**



Army men's quarterback Gregory Riley avoids two defenders before throwing the ball downfield.



JTF Guantanamo photos by
Army Spc. David McLean



Navy women's quarterback Shanna Todd outpaces defenders to the first down marker as Navy attempted to even the score.

**Army Women 4
Navy Women 0**



Linemen from both teams square off as adjustments are called out on the line just before the ball is snapped.



Army Staff Sgt. Tasha Cooper slows her run after her flags are pulled during a rushing play.



Army Sgt. Shannon Brabson tucks the ball and runs for yards late in the women's contest.

Hanukkah in GTMO

**Army Sgt.
Derrol Fulghum**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Joint Task Force Guantanamo strives to accommodate Troopers of all backgrounds and faiths. For the holidays, this means helping service members, Department of Defense civilians and their families celebrate according to their specific religion.

For those following Judaism, this means celebrating Hanukkah. Commonly known as the Festival of Lights, the history of these holy days is anything but tranquil.

In 161 B.C., Greeks enforcing their polytheistic view began moving into Israel. As Antiochus IV, leader of the Greeks, pushed deeper into the Holy Land, the Jews knew that the desecration of their holy temple was imminent. The high priests ordered all of the relics and holy artifacts removed from the temple, and left one lamp with enough oil to burn for one day.

The Jews didn't give up their homeland willingly. A group of resistance fighters known as the Maccabees vowed to retake their land. Their leader, Mattathias, managed to lead his men to retake the temple and ousted the Greek idols. Mattathias died in the process, but his son, Judah, took command of the forces and continued to lead them to victory.

Antiochus, understanding the cultural significance of the temple, was determined to have it back. In one final, desperate push he sent in an elephant cavalry. Rather than be intimidated, the Maccabees fought and sent the Greek forces reeling the Jewish city. This was on the 25th of Kislev, which is the twelfth month of the Hebrew calendar.

As Judah re-entered the temple, he relit the menorah, the one lamp with enough oil for one day. Amazingly, while the holy relics were being enshrined in the temple again, the oil in the lamp lasted an entire eight days. The next year, those eight days were instituted as holy days. Thus Hanukkah was born.

Landon Rosenthal, a Reform Jew who works at radio GTMO, celebrated the first day of Hanukkah at sundown on the 11th of December this year. "It's a time for dedication," he said, "of remembering what it was like to have to fight for your beliefs. It's a time to praise God for keeping His word.

The Shamash, Landon explains, is the candle used to light all the other candles of the menorah. These candles are considered sacred, and are not to be used for anything other than observance. Hanukkah can be celebrated anywhere, he said. Traditionally, gifts are given to children, and blessings said each morning, and after each meal.

Landon is in a small community on GTMO, but he has found fellow Jews with whom he can share in fellowship. For Landon, this is what Hanukkah is all about. "You've got to look past all of the persecution from the Egyptians, the Cossacks, the Nazis. It's more than that," Landon explained, resting his hand on the family Bible. "It's a testament to our loyalty to God. Our faith is the one thing that binds us together." ☆

Finding space to fly



**Army Spc.
David McLean**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers who plan their trips carefully and maintain flexibility can see the world by using space available travel on Air Mobility Command and other Department of Defense aircraft. Learning the ins-and-outs of the program can make travelling much less expensive and take Troopers to destinations both inside and outside the United States.

Army Sgt. Manuel Rios, a Joint Personnel Office (JPO) administrative non-commissioned officer with JTF Headquarters and Headquarters Company, tracks and files leave, pass and temporary duty requests for Troopers here at GTMO. He is one of the first stops for JTF Troopers who wish to take leave off the island and can help with getting the right paperwork approved and with making flight decisions.

"If you are taking your own leave, which is not in conjunction with Rest and Recuperation leave, you can book a seat on the rotator flight," Rios said. "You will pay the full price for the rotator, or fly Space A for only about \$20. You cannot fly Space A and have a reservation at the same time. You have to do one or the other."

While there is no guarantee of a seat for those willing to fly Space A, Mark Veditz, the naval station air operations manager, says there is usually room on a flight.

"Even if the AMC flight is showing every seat is full, still come to the air terminal," Veditz said. "If you need to get out of here, we average 15 to 20 percent no-shows. So that is almost 20 seats in the aircraft. We send a full plane out only a couple of times a year. Even if it is fully booked, rarely does everybody show up."

The roller has the seat availability posted, and if there is already a reservation, it can be cancelled if done in enough time.

"You must cancel your reservations 48 hours prior to the flight," Veditz said. "Make sure you call ext. 3011 to cancel your reserved flight in advance of trying to fly Space A. If you have a reservation and there are plenty of open seats, you still cannot fly at the Space A rate."

Dependants coming to visit the island can also take advantage of the Space A rates after entry clearance paperwork is completed.

"If there is a dependant, I will make the non-command sponsored letter, so it can be approved and they can fly to the island on Space A," Rios said.

Dependants have a larger window of time to make the Space A list.

"Dependants may sign up for Space A up to 60 days in advance, but they are in a lower category," Veditz said. "So if dependants are travelling without the active-duty sponsor, they can sign up two months earlier. They need to have the sponsorship letter, a passport and their military identification card. If they do not have

- JTF Guantanamo Illustration by Army Spc. David McLean
the letter, they can be charged a rate that is almost double the DoD rate."

Despite dependants having 60 days to sign-up for the cheaper seats, Troopers cannot get onto the list until they are officially on leave.

"You cannot sign up for Space A until you are in a leave status," Veditz said. "So when you fax your leave papers over, it does you no good when you haven't been checked out on leave. You must be on leave status to get on the Space A list for active duty and DoD civilians."

Once on leave, there may be more flights other than the AMC rotator to get back to the U.S.

"There are C-12's that fly in and out of here," Veditz said. "The thing is they don't always go where you want them to go. It might be Ft. Lauderdale or San Diego, but there are more flights to get off island than just the AMC rotator flights. If you have to get off the island to get back to the states, call the air terminal to see what is available."

Being flexible and informed could help save Troopers money when flying and get them to their leave destination with a little more in their pocket.

For more information about leave and travel, contact the JPO at ext. 8098 or call the Air Terminal at ext. 6204 or ext. 6408. ✪

Space A Tips

- *Be sure to check out and be in a leave status before trying to sign up for Space A.*
- *Bring a sufficient amount of cash, as the terminal does not take credit cards.*
- *As soon as you reach your destination, place your name on the Space A list at that terminal.*

10-mile run: for support

TORCH from 5

Port Authority police officers came to Guantanamo Bay to help participate and deliver a message about the Special Olympics.

"The Special Olympics is a year-round sports training." "It is for people with intellectual disabilities, not mental retardation. We don't use the 'R' word, we're trying to steer people away from saying that," said Fredericks.

Fredericks, who is autistic, competes in four events: volleyball, floor hockey, basketball and track, with the latter being his strongest event. Since 1986, Fredericks has been involved with sports, and now runs in the 100 meters, 200 and the 4x100 relay races.

"I was honored to be part of such a momentous occasion while serving here in Guantanamo. I am glad that the Special Olympics torch is reaching international



Special Olympian Robert Fredericks, leads the 525th Military Police Battalion formation during the final segment of the Special Olympics torch run. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Christopher Vann

sites," said Easley.

All proceeds from this event will go to support the Special Olympics

Team U.S.A. For more information on the Special Olympics, visit www.specialolympics.org. ★

NEVER LET YOUR BUDDY FIGHT ALONE



■ For more information visit,
<http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/>

Ask your buddy

- Have the courage to ask the question, but stay calm
- Ask the question directly, e.g., Are you thinking of killing yourself?

Care for your buddy

- Remove any means that could be used for self-injury
- Calmly control the situation; do not use force
- Actively listen to produce relief

Escort your buddy

- Never leave your buddy alone
- Escort to the chain of command, a chaplain, a behavioral health professional or a primary care provider



Brush Clearing!

The 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron displays teamwork in an anti-terrorism force protection project by removing trees, brush and debris to create a clearance in Camp Justice, Dec. 10- JTF Guantanamo photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Amy Greenan

Boots on the Ground

by Army Spc. Christopher Vann

What is your favorite winter activity?

**Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class
Kentoya Mitchell**



"Shopping for Christmas trees, so I can decorate them."

Army Spc. Elcina Bryan



"Since I live in the Virgin Islands, I celebrate at carnivals."

Navy Lt. Mary Decker

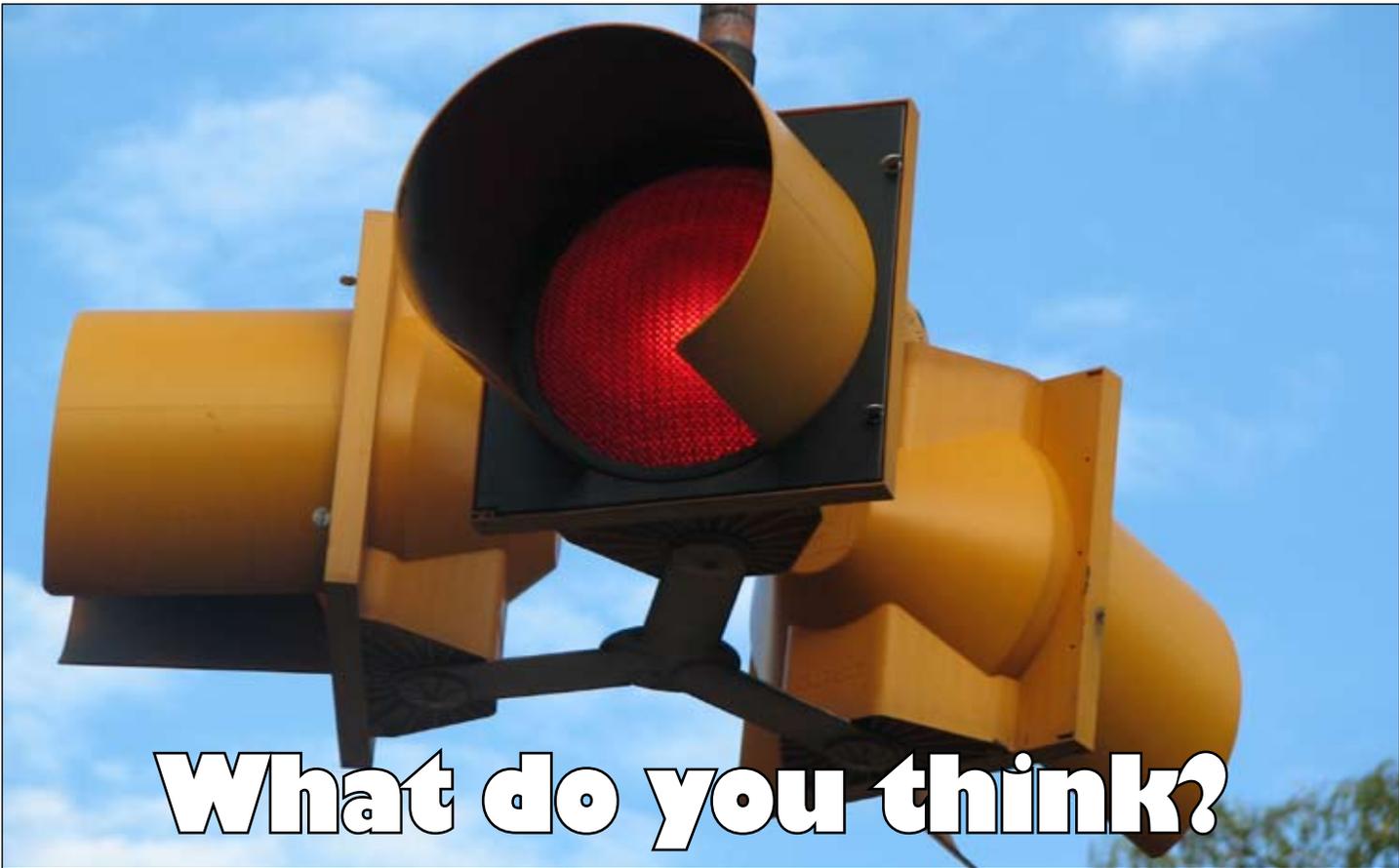


"Diving, because I live in Guantanamo."

**Air Force Staff Sgt.
Rahsha Stowers**



"I vacation somewhere warm, because I hate the cold."



What do you think?

**Air Force Lt. Col.
William Ferrell**

JTF Command Chaplain

Proverbs 23:7 says, “For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.”

What did he mean by this? Did the writer mean we are what we think, in the same way we are what we eat? There are obviously some things we can’t change just by thinking differently. I can’t change my height, race, gender, where I was born, who my parents are or numerous other characteristics about myself just by how I think, but how I think can have a huge impact on how I handle the circumstances of my life that are beyond my control, and how I feel about my situation. The real key is realizing that I can control how I choose to think about any particular situation or circumstance.

I once heard a story about a husband and wife who had totally different

ways of thinking about a very common circumstance that we all have to deal with; getting stopped at a red light. The husband thought red lights were the devil’s way of keeping him from getting where he wanted to go, so when he got caught by a red light he would become very frustrated and irritable; fuming over “never” being able to make it through a light. His wife, on the other hand, thought of red lights as God’s way of keeping order in a chaotic world, so when she stopped, instead of being upset like her husband, she felt calm, safe and protected. She patiently waited while the other drivers took their turn and then went on her way when the light turned green. Both were in the exact same circumstance. The difference in their mood and how they felt was in how they each chose to think about their situation.

Maintaining a positive attitude and managing our thoughts won’t make all our problems and struggles go away. It will help

us face our problems and struggles with less frustration, more peace and possibly even more joy. If you really think about it, frustration is almost always a result of unrealistic expectations; wanting something beyond our control to be different than what it really is. It can be very liberating to realize you get to choose your attitude and how you feel by choosing how you think.

Almost all of us are facing the prospect of spending a Christmas and holiday season away from our homes and families. Some may think that automatically means it will be a sad, depressing season. It will be different, but it doesn’t have to be sad. It really depends on how you choose to think about it. If you just focus on what you are missing, it will be very depressing. If you can keep your focus on the meaning of the season and the blessings you have in your life, it can truly be a joyous and memorable time.

What do you think? ☆

JTF CHAPEL SCHEDULED PROGRAMS

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

Catholic Christmas
service: 6:30 a.m.

Protestant Worship
Sunday: 9 a.m.

Protestant Communion
service on Christmas
Eve: 9 p.m.

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



Stepping up for the Lord

Jenny Michael was able to step up and fill a void by requesting and gaining the right to conduct liturgical services, which support Joint Task Force Guantanamo and Naval Station Guantanamo Bay personnel. She gives her weekly sermon Sunday's at 10 a.m. in Sanctuary B. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Michael Baltz

Army Sgt. Michael Baltz

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

In order to support the religious needs of Joint Task Force Guantanamo and Naval Station Guantanamo Bay Troopers and personnel, Jenny Michael stepped up and sent a request to her bishop to assume the duties of the liturgical chaplain at GTMO.

"I don't believe in letting a ministry fail," said Michael, who has now become the liturgical protestant service minister. "When Chaplain [Clint] Pickett left in July, [the GTMO community] didn't have a liturgical minister. And with our faith tradition, it is important for us to receive the body of Christ and fellowship, so there was a big hole in our lives."

Although she is not ordained, she has many of the same responsibilities as many chaplains have.

In a letter to the Federal Chaplaincy Ministries, Bishop Edward R. Benoway, the bishop for Florida-Bahamas Synod, said, "In light of the fact that there is not a Lutheran chaplain presently available to provide the word and sacrament ministry to the people at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, I am hereby authorizing Jenny Michael to provide for and lead a liturgical Protestant

worship service in this area."

She was also granted the permission to provide the consecration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion based on "her commitment to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and its mission throughout the world," stated Benoway.

It took a few months to complete the paperwork in order to continue the liturgical services, but since then she has made an impact.

"I really like Jenny. She really has the heart of Christ. Being around her makes me feel at home," said Air Force Master Sgt. Phylis Washington with Joint Task Force Guantanamo's Joint Medical Group. "A lot of times we are called by the Lord. God called her to do something, and she stepped up, and her being so obedient is really amazing."

"She keeps me grounded, rooted and accountable with the Lord," continued Washington, who works in mental health. "I think about all the people I have seen in my mental health clinic and see all of these people searching and searching, so having the Lord in my life keeps me anchored. It is sad to see people come on [temporary duty] and think, 'what ever happens at TDY stays at TDY.' So with challenges Troopers face, it is important to take God every where you

go, including TDY."

Michael has been accustomed to stepping up and taking charge because she is married to retired Army Sgt. 1st Class Kelly Michael, who now works as the special security officer for JTF Guantanamo.

"I am so proud of her," her husband said. "With all the deployments I have been through, my wife has always supported me. No matter where I went or what I did, she knew I was doing it for my country. I couldn't have done what I done without her."

She is a lay leader and is also the leader of GTMO Protestant Women of the Church.

"We meet every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at Fellowship Hall. All women are welcome," she said.

The next book study begins Jan. 7, 2010. It will be on, "Living Life as a Beautiful Offering," by Angela Thomas.

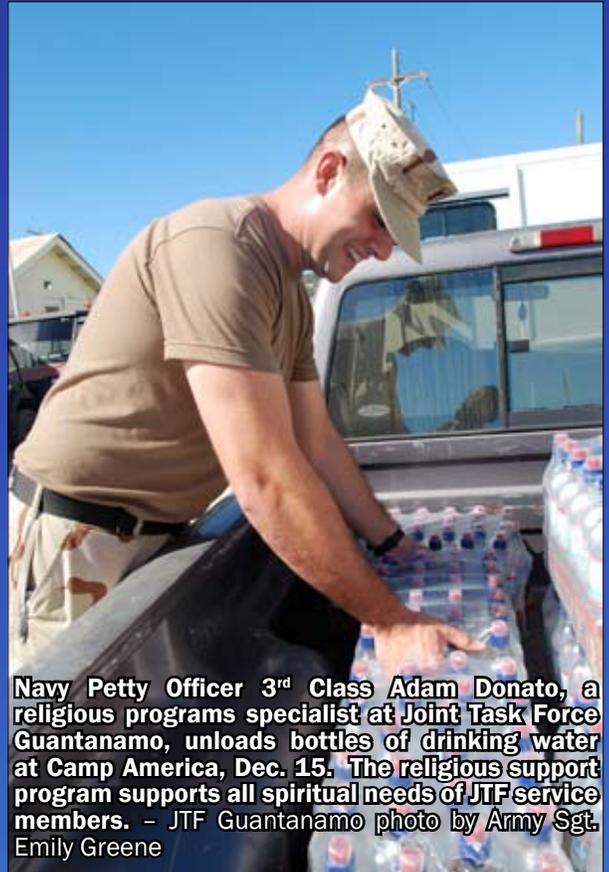
She was sure to note that, "having God in one's life is hard to explain. It is like describing how salt tastes to somebody. It spices everything up in your life for the better."

Her service is at the NAVSTA Chapel in Sanctuary B at 10 a.m. every Sunday. If you have any questions about the study or Jenny's service, call. 77298 or e-mail Jennifer.s.michael@gmail.com



Around the

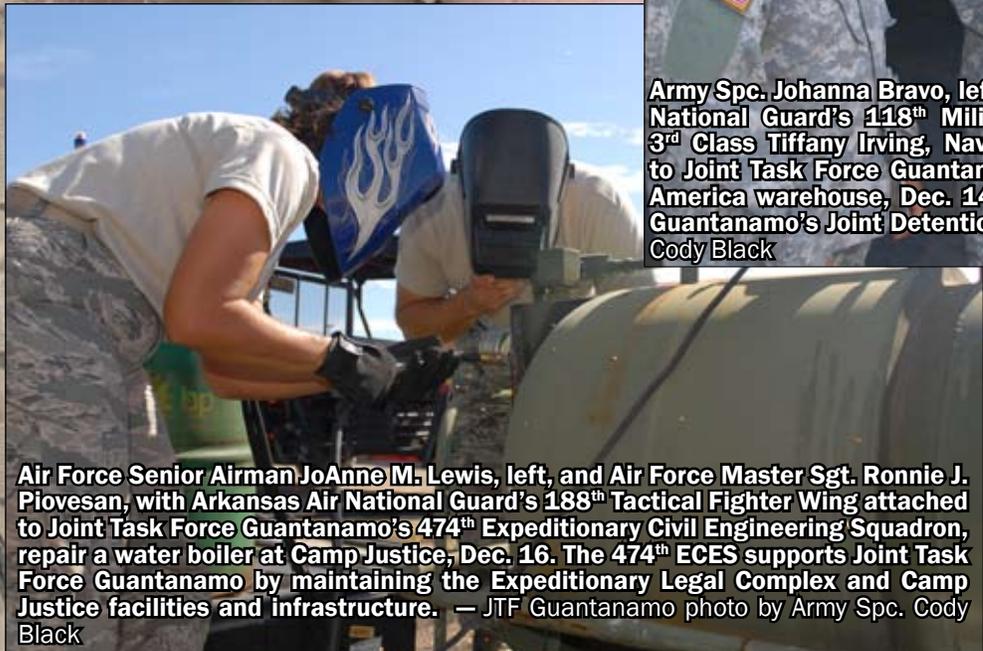
JTF



Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Adam Donato, a religious programs specialist at Joint Task Force Guantanamo, unloads bottles of drinking water at Camp America, Dec. 15. The religious support program supports all spiritual needs of JTF service members. — JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Emily Greene



Army Spc. Johanna Bravo, left, and Army Sgt. Kevin Foley, with Rhode Island National Guard's 118th Military Police Battalion, and Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Tiffany Irving, Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion, all deployed to Joint Task Force Guantanamo, go over supply information at the Camp America warehouse, Dec. 14. The service members support supply for JTF Guantanamo's Joint Detention Group. — JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Cody Black



Air Force Senior Airman JoAnne M. Lewis, left, and Air Force Master Sgt. Ronnie J. Piovesan, with Arkansas Air National Guard's 188th Tactical Fighter Wing attached to Joint Task Force Guantanamo's 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron, repair a water boiler at Camp Justice, Dec. 16. The 474th ECES supports Joint Task Force Guantanamo by maintaining the Expeditionary Legal Complex and Camp Justice facilities and infrastructure. — JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Cody Black

