

Volume 9, Issue 12

Friday, May 16, 2008

THE WIREF

A JTF Journal



Memorial Day preview
Destructive weather plans
TK housing update
Top honors for local Marine

Your priority mission is the one you have now

**Army Sgt. Major
Matt Aragon**
JTF HHC Commandant

JTF Guantanamo Troopers, I've been on the island now for more than 101 days – but who's counting? I want to start by saying, if the rest of my deployment is like these first three months, it's going to be a great and memorable year. Although I miss my wife and son immensely and the conveniences of being home I am making the best of what is handed to me.

I started my military career 25 years ago when I enlisted into the Marine Corps. I stayed in the Corps for 12 years. I thought the Marine Corps was the only way of life, but you just never know what happens on a day-to-day basis – I got off active duty and joined the New Mexico Army National Guard. At first it was a hard transition, but eventually I got the hang of it and now I wouldn't change a single day in my military career. What I have learned in both the Marine Corps and the Army National Guard is priceless and will last a lifetime.

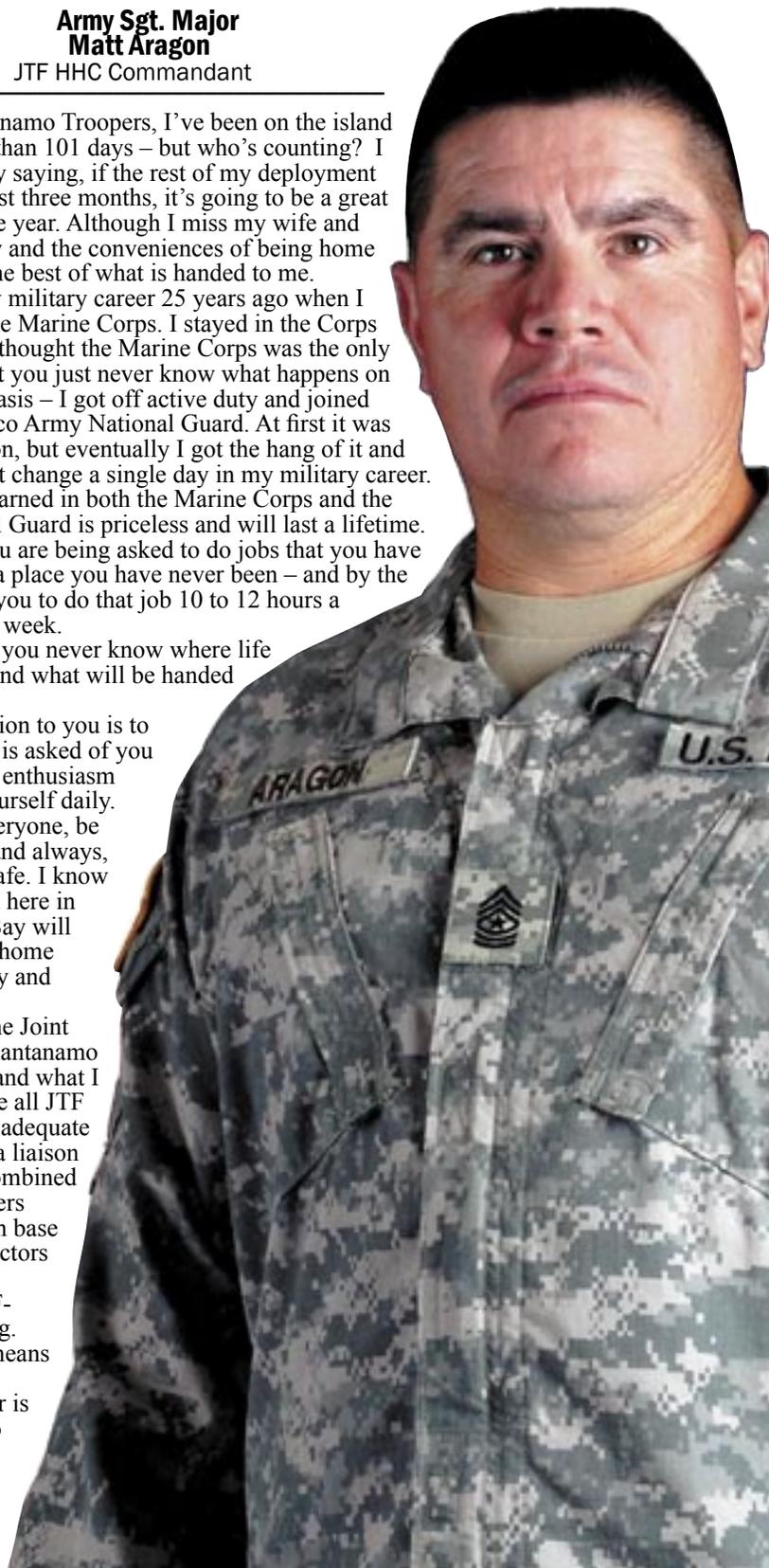
Many of you are being asked to do jobs that you have never done in a place you have never been – and by the way, we want you to do that job 10 to 12 hours a day, six days a week.

Like I said, you never know where life will take you and what will be handed to you.

My suggestion to you is to do the job that is asked of you with pride and enthusiasm – challenge yourself daily. Learn from everyone, be open-minded and always, above all, be safe. I know what you learn here in Guantanamo Bay will help you back home in your military and civilian lives.

I am now the Joint Task Force-Guantanamo commandant, and what I do is make sure all JTF Troopers have adequate housing. I am a liaison between the combined bachelor quarters (CBQ), civilian base housing contractors and personnel residing in JTF-GTMO housing. What all this means is, I do what a Sergeant Major is supposed to do – take care of troops.

See
ARAGON/12



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COVER:

Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Karl Gould, from Port Security Unit 313, pilots a Viper patrol boat in Guantanamo Bay in the pre-dawn hours of May 14.

– JTF Guantanamo photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Nat Moger



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 1000.

Destructive weather: *Planning is everything*

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

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

With hurricane season approaching, it is important to be prepared by knowing the standard operating procedures for severe weather at Guantanamo Bay.

“Historically, Guantanamo doesn’t get hit directly by major storms because of the geography of this area,” said Marine Capt. Wayne Geschwindt, destructive weather plans officer with the J3. “Most likely a series of storms come close, so we experience heavy rains and wash outs [but] Jamaica and Haiti take [the brunt of] it.”

Conditions of Readiness are five levels of preparedness. They are issued when the arrival of high winds, greater than 50 knots, or approximately 59 mph, are expected within a certain time period. Knowing the conditions of readiness, and the corresponding actions to take during that period of time, can help alleviate confusion and stress that can occur during severe weather.

COR 5 is issued 96 hours – four days – prior to the forecasted arrival of severe weather. During this time, everyone is required to reduce the amount of materials stored outdoors which could become dangerous in high winds. Actions are taken to ensure supplies are available for Joint Task Force-Guantanamo should the weather continue to escalate.

COR 4 is issued within 72 hours. Individuals are required to pack a personal bag complete with essential items to last five days. This includes any medications needed if ordered to go to a shelter. JTF personnel rosters are updated and verified to ensure accuracy.

Two days out, COR 3 is issued. Vehicles must be fueled to capacity and maintained at no less than half full. Emergency stores and utilities are checked.

COR 2 is issued within 24 hours of the severe weather event. Non-essential personnel are restricted to their quarters. Schools close and children are bussed to their homes.

COR 1 is in effect from 12 hours out until the event’s expected arrival. At this point all routine activities and non-essential utilities will cease. Classified materials are secured, and all individuals must report to their respective hurricane shelter.

“Depending on where you live, you will receive different instruction on what to do,” Geschwindt said. “It is essential that individuals report and remain at their assigned shelter.”

Safety and accountability are everything when faced with potentially serious weather conditions. The J3 staff specifically creates a destructive weather plan in order to



Pallets of Meals Ready to Eat are staged, ready for distribution in the event of destructive weather. Water and MREs are distributed to each storm shelter to accommodate individuals displaced from their living quarters.

maintain accountability, command and control.

“The danger of doing your own thing is that J1, who maintains accountability reports from all sections, will have an issue where their numbers won’t match up,” said Geschwindt. “Going to a different shelter than the one you are designated will put a strain on the quality of life for the residents of that particular shelter, as well as put a strain on the number of MREs and water available to each person who reports.”

According to JTF accountability procedures, each housing area has wardens and mayors assigned to assist the J1 with accountability. A warden physically counts each individual from their unit who occupy a particular housing area or shelter. The warden then reports their tallies to their chain of command and informs the mayor they have completed their duties.

Housing mayors report to the J3 that all the wardens in their housing area have reported personnel numbers to individual units. Each subordinate unit accounts for any personnel on duty, then add the personnel who are not on

duty and verify the individuals who are on leave or temporary duty. If this is done properly, the accountability report should be accurate. Each element reports accountability by-number to the J1 in the Joint Operation Center.

“If you are in a leadership position, you need to know exactly where your people are,” Geschwindt emphasized. “The chain of command needs to know where people are so they don’t send out a rescue mission for someone who’s not here. There comes a point in the storm when no one is out looking for anyone. It’s just too dangerous.”

“If someone is missing, do not go looking for them,” he continued. “Report it through the mayors and wardens or your chain of command. JTF will run a command and control operation by radio communication and will be in contact with emergency services who know how to conduct search and rescue operations.”

Planning, preparation and following procedures is everyone’s responsibility, Geschwindt stressed, regardless of rank or position.

TK moves closer to OK

**Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class
Cheryl Dilgard**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Tierra Kay housing is getting a face lift. The housing area that was once considered condemned has been revamped to make it suitable for living. Now TK is getting an additional gracing to improve the quality of life for the Troopers attached to Joint Task Force-Guantanamo.

Thanks to funds made available through the Global War on Terrorism fund, the Combined Bachelor Quarters – the office that manages all of the bachelor quarters for both JTF and Naval Station Guantanamo Bay – have been given \$3.1 million dollars to spend on updates and furniture for naval station and JTF quarters.

“They went all out,” said Edward Karabinus, the CBQ manager. “The Navy went with a whole room concept. They didn’t look at price as much as quality. They purchased really nice name brand stuff, mostly Thomasville furniture.”

Karabinus works closely with the JTF HHC commandant, Army Sgt. Maj. Matt Aragon. Although the CBQ has the ultimate authority, Aragon acts a liaison between military personnel and the CBQ to ensure work is done, conduct inspections and assist Troopers with housing issues.

“As the JTF commandant I monitor the TK housing as well as Cuzco,” Aragon said. “When the contractors finish up the construction and renovations I do the inspections to make sure that the Troopers quarters are fixed properly.”

Of the 150 houses located in the TK area, 94 have been updated to date, with the rest soon to follow.

“It takes about two weeks to do all the renovations needed to a house,” Aragon noted. “It is a little inconvenient – we move the Troopers to Camp America for the two weeks of renovations, but when they get back into their houses, they get new clean updated housing. We are currently working on four homes at a time so renovations are going quickly.”

The renovations include wood laminate flooring, new carpet, new bathrooms and new furniture. After the current renovations are completed, the CBQ has plans to install new, more energy efficient air conditioning units.

The plans to improve the TK housing area are not just limited to physical appearance. There are plans to have an onsite resident manager available to assist Troopers. The JTF Commandant will also be moving and having an office in the TK housing area.

With all of the updates, the CBQ management urges Troopers to take care of their housing.

“It is disappointing when we spend so



Bremcor workers fix up Tierra Kay housing. The 150-unit housing development is getting a face lift, four houses at a time – new flooring, bathrooms, and other renovations – to improve the quality of life for Joint Task Force Troopers in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

much time and effort fixing up the quarters for Troopers, then they punch holes in the walls or just don’t take care of where they live,” Karabinus said. Troopers can be held financially responsible for damage to

housing.

“All occupants of multi-resident housing units are personally responsible for the

See **HOUSING/12**



U.S. Rep. Ander Crenshaw (R-Fla.), left, and U.S. Rep. Cliff Stearns (R-Fla.) speak with Air Force Lt. Col. Frederick Olson, commander of the 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron, during a tour of Camp Justice last Friday. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Joshua Treadwell

Lawmakers gauge progress at Gitmo

**Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class
Nat Moger**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Members of Congress visited Joint Task Force Guantanamo to tour facilities and meet Troopers May 9. Rep. Ander Crenshaw (R-Fla.), from Florida's 4th district, and Rep. Cliff Stearns (R-Fla.), from Florida's 6th district, made the trip to see how American tax money is being spent and connect with deployed constituents.

Seeing JTF operations up close and personal was a priority for both congressmen, who left with distinct ideas of the work being done and the Troopers performing the mission.

"Well, I think that there are two things that really stand out: the morale of the Troops and their dedication to the job as well as the humane care they're providing for detainees," said Stearns. "Anyone who thinks there are abuses should come down here and see as we've seen it."

The tour included stops in Camp Delta, an overview of medical facilities as well as construction projects on both the Windward and Leeward sides of the Naval

Station. The trip was especially important for Crenshaw due to his position on the House Appropriations Committee and the Military Construction Subcommittee. Seeing the tangible results of the military budget is paramount to Crenshaw.

"I do a lot of work with the military. My position on the [Military Construction] committee lets me travel to military installations around the world," said Crenshaw. "I wanted to come down and see first hand what needs you might have down here."

Crenshaw's district includes Jacksonville Naval Air Station and Naval Station Mayport, which was recently named as the headquarters for the U.S. 4th Fleet. With such a Navy-heavy constituency, Crenshaw views quality-of-life on Naval Stations as a priority.

"We recently spent \$60 million here and a lot of that's going to be for housing," said Crenshaw. "You can read about it, you can hear people talk about it, but until you come and look and you see and you touch and you smell you really don't understand what the needs are. I've come and I've seen and I'm pleased that we will spend some

money to modernize these facilities for our young men and women."

Besides fulfilling his role as committee member, Crenshaw also enjoyed meeting with members of the Joint Medical Group, composed largely of personnel from the Jacksonville area.

"All in all, this has been a great trip," said Crenshaw. "Particularly in the JTF, I met a lot of people who work at the Naval Hospital on NAS Jax. It seems like whether it was lunch or breakfast or just walking around I met people from back home, so it's great knowing where people are coming from."

JTF Troopers also appreciated the opportunity to talk about domestic issues.

"I enjoyed meeting Rep. Crenshaw," said Navy Lt. Diego Esguerra, from the JMG. "We talked about [the Jacksonville area] and the move of the 4th Fleet and the economic impact on the community."

Stearns, a former Air Force Capt. during the Vietnam War, took special note of the work being done by the 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron from the Texas Air National Guard.

See **VISIT/12**

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What better way to spend a Saturday morning...



Marine Capt. Jason Snyder, a half marathon participant runs past a water station at Phillip's Park loop in Guantanamo Bay on May 10 and takes advantage of the offered water.

Army Spc. Megan Burnham
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

There aren't many flat surfaces at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, but many runners who had partaken in the half marathon May 10 probably wish there were.

"This was a challenging course, more so than other races I've done," said Kirstin Wier. "I'm not used to running [a course] with so many hills."

The race started around 6 a.m. at Denich Gym, long before the sun was even considering to rise. This enabled the 75 participants to get a good start on the 13.1 mile run before it got too hot and humid. As with previous half marathons, runners could sign up in teams. For this race, Audrey Chapman, the Morale, Wellness and Recreation Fitness coordinator, decided that teams of two would best suit this race.

"This way we get more participation and involvement," she explained. "Not everyone wants to run 13.1 miles!"

The route consisted of trekking up and down the seemingly endless hills on Sherman Avenue leading to Cable Beach and back, then continuing all the way to the Navy Hospital on Caravella Point Road. A couple detours were added to spice things



For the female participants, Kirstin Wier (right) placed first in the half marathon on May 10 in Guantanamo Bay and Kimberly Higdon finished third. Not in photo: Melissa Belleman who placed second.

up, including running the loop around Phillip's Dive Park, around the back of the Navy Exchange and McDonald's, and the circle around the hospital.

Even though this route might seem as one for only a professional marathon runner could complete, there were participants of all ages with wide degrees of running experience.

"It was a great race, perfect for beginners and intermediates," said Paul Cartin. "I hope they have more – it will definitely keep me training."

The first place male finisher, Chris Datejaratsri, ran the route in 1:32.12, with

Joe Glueckert finishing close behind with 1:32.52. Mario Perez placed third with a just-as-fast time of 1:34.12. For the females, Wier finished first with a time of 1:39.15, followed by Melissa Belleman finishing in 1:43.26 and Kimberly Higdon with 1:55.38. The team results are as follows: 1st place, 1:33.32, Beatriz Solorio and Lah Ntumsi; 2nd place, 1:50.22, Roxanne Gutierrez and Gricelda Cuevas; and 3rd place, 1:57.06, Alfred Perez and Oscar Fraire.

The award ceremony immediately followed the race, and NEX certificates were given to the top three finishers in each category: \$100 to the first-place winners, \$75 to second place and \$50 to third place. All other participants received MWR T-shirts, water bottles and bleacher seats.

"This was a very good turnout," Chapman said.

Troopers and civilians who missed out on this race have another chance to participate in a half marathon this fall. For additional practice, there is a 5K coming up in June, and a 4th of July 4-mile run.

Glueckert offered advice for anyone who wants to start training for a running event of any caliber.

"You just have to keep increasing your running distance," he said. "You get out as much as you put in."

The end is near

(but not nearly
near enough)

**Army Pfc.
Eric Liesse**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

So what do you get when you take “Mad Max” without the gas shortage, “Lord of the Rings” without the magic or good acting, “28 Days Later” without a reason to care about the survivors, and the Charlize Theron version of “Aeon Flux?”

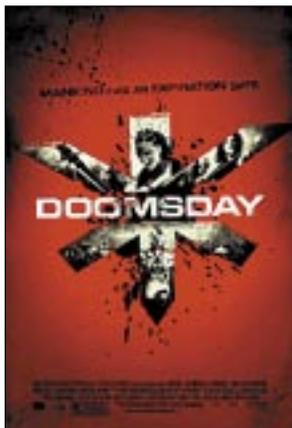
You get “Doomsday”—a schizophrenic, improbable, confusing, grind house-wannabe of a movie.

Written and directed by Neil Marshall — who also did the spelunking horror movie, “The Descent” — “Doomsday” follows Eden (Rhona Mitra) into a futuristic and quarantined Scotland to retrieve a cure for a reemerging plague about to run amok all over London.

Set in 2035, Scotland has been segregated from the rest of the world by a huge wall due to a plague that hit about 30 years prior. Since then, England monitored the desolate land for life, finding survivors behind the wall after about 25 years. Because of this find, the London government decides the survivors must have a cure behind the wall.

Now the plague has returned to London and the higher-ups are getting desperate. To save their own hides and look like saviors, the prime minister and his cronies decide to send a team behind the monolithic wall to retrieve the cure they assume the survivors have.

In comes Eden to lead up the extraction team. In an interview, Marshall described Eden as soldier psychologically numbed by her military experience, with the extraction mission as some form of personal redemption. The only way he could have made her more generic is to have given her amnesia.



Rated R
1 hour 49 minutes

With a small team and 48 hours, Eden leads two tank-like vehicles into Scotland to find a doctor that the prime minister assumes developed the cure. With the entire plot played out in the first 20 minutes, the movie can finally start sucking.

Until this point, the movie is actually pretty decent. It moves extremely fast, but it's all one train of thought and any odd details that could distract the audience are brushed over, knowing the movie is going for that grind-house, neo-punk feel. So far, so good.

In pops the first group of survivors, with weapons and outfits like Scottish, cannibalistic, Brit-punk Native Americans. I know that sounds incongruous, but in that respect it matches the rest of the movie quite nicely.

Once they start drinking soda, using gigawatts of electricity, and burning gasoline like it's going out of style — after about 30 years of quarantine, mind you — you'll really start to question how this movie got the green light.

With Eden's team getting assaulted, you get the first glimpse of the incredibly confusing fight scene editing. One swing of a club could take six consecutive camera shots. It's like Japanese anime without the interesting colors.

These savages take Eden prisoner and gruesomely sacrifice one of her soldiers. Rather easily, she escapes with another



“Doomsday” uses punk fashion, mayhem and muscle cars to dress up reheated movie leftovers in the guise of an original story. It fails on a post-apocalyptic scale.

teammate and another prisoner.

This disheveled group runs to the stronghold — i.e. medieval castle — of the other settlement of survivors. Led by the scientist Eden's team was tasked to find, these survivors act like Spanish Inquisitioners, torturing the outsiders for coming inside the wall in the first place.

From here, the flick just quit trying. There are some plot twists and turns, but nothing is remotely surprising. Some character development would have been nice.

Right about here is where I lost all faith in this movie. This setting, with the outlandishness of it all and the pulp-comic-like feel, could have worked. However, the movie comes across as all action with no character or storytelling going on. To continue with the flick's motive, avoid it like the plague.

Rating: ★★★★★

HITTING THE HIGH NOTES

Photos by Army Sgt. Gretel Sharpee

Opening for the popular Puerto Rican singer Melina León, the Air Force Reserve Band played a variety of music, from country hits to pop songs, to prime the audience. The band features current members of the Georgia Air Force Reserve.



HITTING THE HIGH NOTES

Photos by Army Sgt. Gretel Sharpee

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RESERVE



CE RESERVE

Putting the Cuba in Scuba



Hatem Abdine enters the water during a boat dive off the coast of U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, May 11, 2008. Guantanamo Bay has an extensive dive program, offering certifications ranging from open water diver to master diver. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army 1st Lt. Sarah Cleveland

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Nat Moger

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The hurricane season comes and goes. Joint Task Force personnel swap out with their replacements.

Carbs are in. The temperature starts getting into the mid-90s everyday. A Taco Bell opens. It drops back down to the mid-80s everyday. A Christmas is celebrated in a Hawaiian shirt. Another season of "American Idol" goes by. Certain members of "the Rolling Stones" are still inexplicably alive.

Carbs are out.

If life teaches nothing else, it's that some things change and some things stay the same.

Being stationed on U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay means facing challenges that change week by week.

On the other hand, the water's kinda nice.

"At any given time of the year the water temperature's between 80 and 84 degrees Fahrenheit," said Dana Swope, Professional Association of Diving Instructors certified master scuba diver trainer. "It's always a good time to go diving."

Gitmo's Morale, Welfare and Recreation office offers a wide range of scuba opportunities for residents, from beginners all the way to those looking to get their master diver qualification. It all starts at the Ocean Enterprises dive shop.

"This is the hub," said Bill Keenan, PADI instructor. "You can get everything you need here, from equipment to instructors."

Experienced residents advise that prospective scuba divers begin by exploring the snorkel sites around Gitmo. Jesse Keenan, dive shop manager, suggests coming in and talking to the staff before making any purchases or decisions.

"There are tons of options," said Keenan. "Before you start scuba diving you need to get your boots, fins, mask and

■ *Morale Welfare and Recreation programs here on Guantanamo take full advantage of the surrounding ocean*

snorkel. You don't have to get the best-of-the-best. It can run from 150 dollars to 300 dollars, so we can work with you to figure out what's good for you."

Upgrading from snorkeling to scuba is a simple process. MWR offers the PADI open water certification course for \$240. OWC is the basic qualification and allows divers to descend to 60 ft.

"Open water is the basis for safe diving," said Mr. Keenan. "After that you can move right onto the advanced or adventure class."

The advanced open water diver class, also known as the adventure diver class, is available for \$153. Consisting of five specialty dives, advanced open water will allow divers to descend to 100 ft., navigate and perform night dives. It is also an excellent first step to adding specialties to dive resumes, such as digital underwater photography, equipment specialist and dive propulsion vehicle operator, among others.

Advanced divers can continue to become rescue divers and master divers. However, the fundamental reason Gitmo residents are learning to dive is the same reason the instructors teach: diving's fun.

"Even though I do make some money from teaching, it's very little compared to how much time I put in," said Swope. "I love to share and it thrills me to see the faces of my students when they come out of the water after seeing their first manta ray, touching a sea turtle or seeing a moray eel. I cannot count how many people who, after their first dive, say 'Why did I wait so long to do this?'"

To purchase equipment, start a dive program, find a list of instructors or to learn more, contact the dive shop at 75336.

Memorial Day with food, Everclear, Army Pfc. Eric Liesse, crafts

**Army Pfc.
Eric Liesse**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Memorial Day will be celebrated this year with a beach-side festival including live music and food at Ferry Landing Beach Monday, May 26.

The Memorial Day Sun, Sand and Sounds Festival, Guantanamo's own Memorial Day celebration, begins at 3 p.m. at Ferry Landing Beach and will run well into the night. The festivities, coordinated by Morale, Welfare and Recreation, will have plenty of cookout-style food as well live music with headliners Everclear, a craft fair and beach toys for free use.

To reserve a table for the craft fair, contact the base Ceramic Shop. The fee is \$10 for a table.



The live music starts at 4 p.m. and will include an eclectic variety of acts.

The first act on stage will be Memphis Gold with blues and rock diva Jennifer Langer. Gold, playing plenty of old-school rhythm and blues tunes, has previously performed for the base in 2003.

John William and his band will take the stage at 5:15 p.m. to play his southern rock and bluesy country.



(from top) Memphis Gold, Michael Paige, Jennifer Langer and John William will preform at this year's Memorial Day celebration.

Following William will be Michael Paige at 6:30 p.m. A Las Vegas native, Paige performs ballads and dance tunes with a Latin twist, and sings in six different languages.

Everclear, the alt-rock superstars originating from Portland, Ore., will be closing the show at 8 p.m. Art Alexakis and the gang will close the day with their own brand of alternative rock and plenty of hits. Everclear released a new album of cover songs in April. Some tracks are newly recorded, some are past live recordings, and some are remixes of formerly recorded covers.

Everclear, a rock band formed in Portland, Ore. in 1992, will entertain troopers here during Memorial Day weekend celebrations.



TK renovation efforts proceed

HOUSING from 4

furniture in common areas and the common areas of the house,” states the Bachelor Housing Standard Operating Procedures, “regardless of whether they signed a receipt for the property. In the event that common area furniture or common areas themselves get damaged, all residents are held financially responsible. If you do not report a resident in your home that has damaged property, then you will be held responsible for it as well.”

Another concern for CBQ management is Troopers moving from house to house without permission. The proper procedure is to go through your chain of command, which will include getting permission from the JTF commandant, and then getting approval from the CBQ office.

“We have to know where people are living,” Karabinus said. “In case of a hurricane or other emergency situation, we need to be able to tell the commands where everyone is located. If people are moving around and not telling us, we can’t do our jobs.”

The TK housing project is projected to be completed in the near future, although a definite completion date has not been set.

“With Sgt. Maj. Aragon in charge, this has been getting under control,” Karabinus said. “He is doing a great job and we work well together. He does a good job of taking care of the Troopers.”



U.S. Rep. Ander Crenshaw (R-Fla.), left, and U.S. Rep. Cliff Stearns (R-Fla.) meet with Joint Detention Group personnel during a tour of Camp Delta last Friday. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Joshua Treadwell.

Congressmen visit Guantanamo

VISIT from 5

“The Air Force has been involved strategically with the infrastructure around the ELC [Expeditionary Legal Complex] and the habeas meeting areas and the press areas,” said Stearns.

Stearns is the co-chairman and co-founder of the Air Force Caucus and paid close attention to the work being done in support of the military commissions process.

“The Air Force is doing a yeoman’s

service here, helping to provide efficient operation of the due process of law here,” said Stearns.

The trip reaffirmed both’s belief that Gitmo is an integral part of SOUTHCOM’s strategy.

“We’re both from Florida and being down here really underscores how important this base is to our national security,” said Crenshaw. “I liked seeing firsthand what’s the contribution here and what’s at the forefront of our southernmost command.”

Your priority mission is the one you have right now

ARAGON from 2

Two of my challenges, as some of you already know, are maintaining the quiet hours (2200-0600) and keeping our housing areas clean. We all work different hours, some more than others; some on

days and some of us work nights. It’s important to respect each other – treat your fellow Trooper the way you want to be treated. Clean up after yourselves and please remember the quiet hours. All of you deserve a safe, quiet and clean place

to live in while here in Guantanamo.

In closing, I would like to say again: please be safe in everything you do, and thank you for all you do. It’s so far been a pleasure to serve alongside each and every one of you. *Honor bound!*

JTF SAFETY BRIEF

BEAT THE HEAT

● **Hydration:** Fluid replenishment before, during and after exercise is essential to avoid progressive dehydration. Always consume more fluids than you think you need before and after exercise, and strive to drink 6-8 ounces of fluid every 15-20 minutes during exercise.

● **Temperature:** Use the heat index table to determine the risk of exercising at various combinations of temperature and humidity. While a 90 degree Fahrenheit outdoor temperature is relatively safe at 10 percent humidity, the heat stress of 90 degrees at 50 percent humidity is equal to 96 degrees. When the heat stress index rises above 90 degrees Fahrenheit, you may want to consider postponing your exercise session until later in the day – or plan ahead and work out in the early morning.

● **Clothing:** Wear minimal clothing to provide greater skin surface area for heat dissipation. Your clothing should be lightweight, loose fitting, light colored to reflect the sun’s rays, and of a material that absorbs water, such as cotton.

● **Rest:** Know when to say “no” to exercise. Using common sense is your best bet for preventing heat stress.

HEAT SENSATION RISK OF HEAT INJURY

90-105 degrees: Possibility of heat cramps

105-130 degrees: Heat cramps of heat exhaustion likely. Heat stroke possible.

130+ degrees: Heat stroke a definite risk

Information from the American Council on Exercise.



'Faith got me through'

**Army Sgt. 1st Class
Vaughn R. Larson**
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

It's been said that faith can move mountains, but it can hold you fast during tumultuous times as well.

That was part of the message Rear Adm. Mark H. Buzby shared during the quarterly Prayer Breakfast Monday morning at the Seaside Galley.

The outgoing Joint Task Force-Guantanamo commander spoke about legacies in military service, as well as in faith. He recalled the Marines who charged hills in thick woolen uniforms during the Battle of Cuzco Wells, and said Troopers today are made of the same fiber as those Marines.

"If you are a believer, your religious legacy is more vital than your service legacy," Buzby said. "I ask you to renew that – make it part of your everyday life."

The admiral said he prays several times a day, and draws strength from that. He credited prayer with helping him during his recent illness – a ruptured blood vessel in his abdomen that sent him to surgery two months ago.

"Faith got me through it," he said. "Knowing I was in God's hands – knowing where my windward anchor was embedded."

Navy Lt. Cmdr. Daniel McKay, JTF Command Chaplain, presented Buzby with an engraved acrylic flame – a gift from the JTF chapel staff.

"You've let your light shine while you've been here," McKay said.

This was the final prayer breakfast for Buzby as JTF Commander.

Navy Rear Adm. Mark H. Buzby delivers a message on legacy and heritage, comparing and contrasting military and spiritual legacies, during the quarterly Commander's Prayer Breakfast Monday, May 12 at the Seaside Galley.

Boots on the Ground

by Army Sgt. Gretel Sharpee

What has been the worst song you've heard on the Gitmo radio-thon, and what would you like to hear?

**Army Sgt.
Neil Esparza**



"I heard a Britney Spears song somewhere in there. I'd like to hear 'Big Love' by Lindsey Buckingham"

**Army Sgt.
Sara Roeske**



"It's not so much the songs, it's the repetitive nature of all the songs. I'd like to hear 'Bleeding Love' by Leona Lewis."

**Navy Petty Officer 2nd
Class Mark Allen**



"A Metallica song that was on the half-hour repeater – It was so long! Plus Too 'Legit to Quit.' I'd like to hear BBD's 'Poison.'"

**Army Sgt.
Stephanie Eldridge**



"The 'Barbie Girl' song, – anything but that."

Armed Forces Day

Why We Serve

**Navy Lt. Cmdr.
Daniel McKay**

JTF Command Chaplain/NEGB Chaplain

This Saturday, May 17, 2008, is "Armed Forces Day." The third Saturday in May was established as "Armed Forces Day" by President Harry Truman, its initial theme being "Teamed for Defense." Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson announced the unification of the separate celebrations for each branch into a single-day observance on Aug. 31, 1949 – his action stemming from the creation of the Department of Defense.

This special day was created for three distinct purposes: First, it is a time to pay tribute to our nation's veterans, past and present. It is a day to remember and honor their service to God and country. Second, it is an opportunity to remind all Americans of the valuable service rendered daily on their behalf by uniformed men and women stationed at home and around the globe. Third, and above all, it is a yearly reminder that "Freedom is not free."

We each, no doubt, have our own way of observing this time each year. For me, I am steadily becoming more reflective with the passing of time and more deeply grateful to those who bore so much for our nation's and the world's sake in previous years. As a result, I usually find

myself pondering this question on Armed Forces Day: Why do I keep serving? Though the answers may seem old-fashioned and out of step to many in our nation and world today, they remain the same. I love God. I love my family. I love my country.

It's as Elmer Davis, accomplished news journalist, author and veteran, well states: "This nation will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave." A poem written by Joan Costner in 2002 for Armed Forces Day drives this truth home all the more.

Tribute To Armed Forces Day

Here's to the men of the red, white and blue;
Whose patriot's hearts burned high ...
To the women who served us on land and on sea,
Some even in the sky.

I'd like to say, "Thank you, that we'll never know
The outcome if you had not gone,"
And to tell you, "I'll never forget your deed,
As long as my life lingers on."

For, I was a child, when the great war came,
And you just a dozen years more.
Some of you fought on a distant beach.
Some died on a foreign shore.
I'd hate to forget those heroes of old,

From the 'War to end all wars',
Korea, Vietnam, and
Desert Storm

Proved that men fight evermore.

God, help us all when brave men say,
"Not today. Let's just wait and see."
For, tyrants come in so many ways
And I've heard of complacency.

When integrity falls in the dust by the way,
When conviction fails to command,
When there's no one to bugle or carry the flag,
What will become of our land?

So, here's to the heroes and heroines true!
Here's to the brave and the free!
With my hand on my chest as the flag passes by,
I remember what you did for me!!!

So, on this Armed Forces Day, let's again pause to meditate upon and express our gratitude for those who have served and are serving still to protect and preserve our freedom. Moreover, and more importantly, let's also use this opportunity, whether in uniform or not, to recommit ourselves anew to the present call to further the cause of freedom and peace in our troubled world.



Top honors for local Marine

**Army Sgt. 1st Class
Vaughn R. Larson**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Focusing on safety in the military environment has many obvious benefits, such as reducing lost man-hours and bringing Troopers back home safe.

An all-expense-paid trip to an awards ceremony in Washington, D.C.?

That's a benefit only a few in the military enjoy – one per branch of service per year, actually. Marine Gunnery Sgt. Camilla Lawson – currently the non-commissioned officer in charge for the Office of Administrative Review for Detention of Enemy Combatants, or OARDEC – just returned from an April 28 visit to Washington, D.C., where she received a GEICO Military Service Award.

The award recognizes achievements and contributions made by non-commissioned officers in promoting fire safety and prevention, drug and alcohol abuse prevention, traffic safety and accident prevention. Nominations are screened by each service branch, and finalists forwarded to GEICO, which through its philanthropic foundation has sponsored the award for 20 years.

Lawson, a 15-year veteran of the Marine Corps, won for her work in traffic safety while serving as the curriculum administrator for Alpha Company, Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, 29 Palms, Calif.

"I don't think I did anything more than we're supposed to do," she said.

A traffic safety program at the school had lapsed while the school sought to fill a full-time safety position, Lawson explained. The issue was close to her heart, she said, because the Marine Corps leads the services in traffic fatalities.

"It's a tragedy any time we lose a Marine," she said. "But there's a difference between a battle casualty and a traffic fatality that could have been prevented."

Lawson acknowledged that safety training is not always popular, in part because it is additional training that takes away from down time. But keeping the training interesting and putting safety in the proper light is essential.

The program she revived called for six hours of required training per year, safety "stand-downs" before weekends and holidays, instruction on ATV safety, drinking and driving, seat belts and flash floods. The program also required vehicle safety inspections prior to long trips, permanent change of station moves and temporary duty assignments. In the past year the program has been in effect, no traffic deaths were reported.

In addition to the awards ceremony, Lawson and the other recipients toured the nation's capitol as well as the Pentagon. She was coined by Sgt. Maj. of the Marine Corps Carlton Kent during a luncheon – the second such coin in her career. She also received a \$2,500 cash award and a plaque.

"We were treated like distinguished visitors," she said. "It was a little surreal."

Lawson said the award was not about recognizing a great individual, but all the people who were positively impacted by that individual.

"It's just a matter of looking at what you can do," she explained. "Safety and mission need to go hand in hand. If you train young Marines at the get-go, it can only help. Thirty seconds of prevention can save a lot of lives."

Marine Gunnery Sgt. Camilla Lawson recently received the GEICO Military Service Award for her work in traffic safety. She is seen at left with Sgt. Maj. of the Marine Corps Carlton Kent at the awards ceremony in Washington, D.C.



▲ Contract workers cut piping for plumbing work at the Cuzco 3 barracks Saturday, May 10. Work on the additional housing units for Joint Task Force-Guantanamo Troopers are expected to wrap up in the next few weeks. In addition to plumbing, work proceeds on electrical wiring and decking between units. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. 1st Class Vaughn R. Larson



AROUND THE JTF

◀ Marine Staff Sgt. Joe Crider brings his “A” game to the table as he follows through on a shot at the Liberty Center Saturday, May 10. Crider, the J4 Embark Chief, will bid farewell to Gitmo this Saturday as his tour comes to an end. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Emily J. Russell



▲ Stephen Bohen, a Prime Projects contractor, aims for the “pin” on the eighth link Sunday, May 11 during a round at the new Disc Golf course at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. 1st Class Vaughn R. Larson

Accuracy

The Wire strives for accuracy. When we fail, we accept responsibility for our errors and correct them. If you see an error in The Wire, please e-mail us at TheWire@jftgmo.southcom.mil.

GTMO Open Golf Tournament

May 24 & 25, 8 a.m.

Entry fee: \$30 for first day,
\$40 for both days
Includes cart, t-shirt & BBQ

For more information call 74123

Volleyball Officials Needed

PAID POSITION!!

Experience wanted but not
required

FMI call Karissa @ 77262 or
email
sandstromka@usnbgtnavy.mil

Baseball Officials Needed

PAID POSITION!!

Experience wanted but not
required

FMI call 77262 or
sandstromka@usnbgtnavy.mil

MWR Swimming Lessons Upcoming Class Dates:

May 19 - 29

Class price is \$30 per adult
or child

Classes are Monday thru
Thursday

Sign up at Denich Gym

Racquetball Tournament Singles & Doubles

May 23 and 24 @ Denich Gym

Singles: May 23 - 6 p.m.

Doubles: May 24 - 6 p.m.

Sign up @ Denich Gym by May 22

FMI call 75576 or email chapmanaj@usnbgtnavy.mil



Armed Forces Day Softball Tournament



May 17 & 18

Roster due by COB May 15 @ Base Gym

Coaches Meeting May 16 @ 6:30 p.m.

FMI call Karissa @77262 or
sandstromka@usnbgtnavy.mil

Memorial Day Fishing Tournament

May 23 - 26

\$10 Registration Fee

Starts 5 p.m., Friday May 23

Sign up NLT May 16

Register at the Marina

FMI call Jaron at 2345 or 90117

Sunday Morning Catholic Mass

Troopers Chapel @ 7:30 a.m.

"Come join us after breakfast...
all are welcome to attend!"

"With These Hands Massage Therapy"

Now taking new clients!!

FMI on prices and types of
massages offered email at
Withthesehands.massagetherapy@gmail.com

To make an appointment:
call Nicole at 90496

Gift certificates available!!

Summer Co-ed Volleyball 2008

Starts June 2

Teams of 4 males & 2 females

Non-command
Rosters due May 27
Coaches Meeting May 28

FMI call 77262 or
sandstromka@usnbgtnavy.mil

Movies and Weekly Events

MOVIES
OTHER EVENTS

Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Downtown <i>Speed Racer</i> (PG) 8 p.m. <i>Iron Man</i> (PG-13) 10 p.m.	Downtown <i>Tyler Perry's: Meet the Browns</i> (PG-13) 8 p.m. <i>Drillbit Taylor</i> (PG-13) 10 p.m.	Downtown <i>Never Back Down</i> (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Downtown <i>Iron Man</i> (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Downtown <i>Speed Racer</i> (PG) 8 p.m.	Downtown <i>Tyler Perry's: Meet the Browns</i> (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Downtown <i>Drillbit Taylor</i> (PG-13) 8 p.m.
Camp Bulkeley <i>10,000 B.C.</i> (PG-13) 8 p.m. <i>Never Back Down</i> (PG-13) 10 p.m.	Camp Bulkeley <i>Doomsday</i> (R) 8 p.m. <i>The Bank Job</i> (R) 10 p.m.	Camp Bulkeley <i>Speed Racer</i> (PG) 8 p.m.	Camp Bulkeley <i>Tyler Perry's: The Bank Job</i> (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Camp Bulkeley <i>Drillbit Taylor</i> (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Camp Bulkeley <i>Iron Man</i> (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Camp Bulkeley <i>Never Back Down</i> (PG-13) 8 p.m.
	Day Fishing 8 a.m. @ Marina Ping Pong Tournament 2 p.m. @ Camp America Midnight Movie <i>Iron Man</i> @ Bulkeley Lyceum	Dinner & A Movie 7:30 @ Tiki Bar			Liberty at the Lanes Xtreme 6 p.m. @ Bowling Center	
<i>Call MWR at ext. 2010 for more information.</i>				<i>All events are subject to change.</i>		

ATTN: JTF

There will be FREE shuttles and care rides available Monday, May 19 to and from Cuzco. Please drink responsibly

Ferry Schedule

Monday - Friday		Saturday	
Windward	Leeward	Windward	Leeward
6:30 a.m.	7:00 a.m.	6:30 a.m.	7:00 a.m.
7:30 a.m.	8:00 a.m.	7:30 a.m.	8:00 a.m.
9:30 a.m.	10:00 a.m.	9:30 a.m.	10:00 a.m.
10:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
11:30 a.m.	noon	11:30 a.m.	noon
12:30 p.m.	1:00 p.m.	12:30 p.m.	1:00 p.m.
1:30 p.m.	2:00 p.m.	2:30 p.m.	3:00 p.m.
3:30 p.m.	4:00 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	4:00 p.m.
4:30 p.m.	5:00 p.m.		

U-Boats		U-Boats	
Windward	Leeward	Windward	Leeward
5:30 p.m.	6:00 p.m.	4:30 p.m.	5:00 p.m.
6:30 p.m.	7:00 p.m.	6:30 p.m.	7:00 p.m.
8:00 p.m.	8:30 p.m.	8:00 p.m.	8:30 p.m.
10:30 p.m.	11:00 p.m.	9:30 p.m.	10:00 p.m.
1:30 a.m. <i>Friday Only</i>	1:45 a.m.	10:30 p.m.	11:00 p.m.
		12:30 a.m.	1:45 a.m.

Ferry		Sunday	
Windward	Leeward	Windward	Leeward
7:30 a.m.	8:00 a.m.	3:30 p.m.	4:00 p.m.
9:30 a.m.	10:00 a.m.	5:30 p.m.	6:00 p.m.
11:30 a.m.	noon	6:30 p.m.	7:00 p.m.
1:30 p.m.	2:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.	8:30 p.m.
		10:30 p.m.	11:00 p.m.

Bus Schedule

All buses run on the hour, 7 days/week 5 a.m. to 1 a.m.

Camp America	:00	:20	:40
Gazebo	:02	:22	:42
NEX Trailer	:03	:23	:43
Camp Delta 2	:06	:26	:46
KB 373	:10	:30	:50
TK 4	:12	:32	:52
JAS	:13	:33	:53
TK 3	:14	:34	:54
TK 2	:15	:35	:55
TK 1	:16	:36	:56
West Iguana	:18	:38	:58
Windjammer / Gym	:21	:41	:01
Gold Hill Galley	:24	:44	:04
NEX	:26	:46	:16
96 Man Camp	:31	:51	:11
NEX	:33	:53	:13
Gold Hill Galley	:37	:57	:17
Windjammer / Gym	:36	:56	:16
West Iguana	:39	:59	:19
TK 1	:40	:00	:20
TK 2	:43	:03	:23
TK 3	:45	:05	:25
TK 4	:47	:07	:27
KB 373	:50	:10	:30
Camp Delta 1	:54	:14	:32
IOF	:54	:14	:34
NEX Trailer	:57	:17	:37
Gazebo	:58	:18	:38
Camp America	:00	:20	:40



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