

# THE WIRE

A JTF Journal

A photograph of two lacrosse players in action on a field at night. The player on the left is wearing a dark helmet and a grey t-shirt, while the player on the right is wearing a white helmet and a white t-shirt. Both are holding lacrosse sticks and appear to be competing for the ball. The background shows other players and the field's boundary lines.

**Got Maintenance? 525<sup>th</sup> in gear**  
**Turn up the volume with "Friends"**  
**Fleet and Family Supports Gitmo**  
**Cadets train for SUCCESS**

# Learn, Reflect, Focus

**Navy Master Chief  
Otis N. Carolina**

Command Master Chief  
Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion

Learn from every event, situation and challenge, reflect on every experience, focus to achieve goals and success.

I believe, and previously wrote, the decision for many of us to join the military in lieu of some other profession was not one we made without much thought and consideration. Those reasons were and are as varied as we are different.

As my tour with the Joint Task Force comes to an end, I would like to thank each and every one of you for the opportunity to have served with you as well as for each and every learning experience or situation we have encountered. You all have exhibited the true respect and professionalism we have grown to expect throughout our military careers.

It doesn't matter what your title, position or duties are or were within the organization, you must continue to believe in its importance and the difference it makes. Though you may not understand why and how every decision is made or every order that is given, you must remember and keep the faith. Your contributions are a part of a mission that promotes democracy, peace and is vital to the security and safety of the free world and most importantly our great nation.

I would be remiss if I did not implore you to take the opportunity to thank family and friends, who have also made sacrifices in supporting you in your commitments.

After 29 years of Naval service that includes nine ships of six different platforms and numerous sea service deployments, I can truly say that my experiences with the JTF have been one of, if not the most, intriguing and educational experiences.

As the JTF is comprised of a combination of active, guard and reserve forces as well as civilian personnel and government agencies, it is important to maintain communications and unit cohesiveness to sustain progress in the fight of the Global War on Terrorism.

I bid you farewell, Fair Winds and Following Seas. Continue to serve our great nation and protect our loved ones. Honor Bound to Defend Freedom. ★



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### COVER:

**A player from Average Joes (right) charges for the ball against an I Can't Think of a Name opponent during their winning game, 9-0, at Denich Gym's hockey rink June 18. The game was the final of a tournament that ran from June 16 to June 18. -JTF photo by Army Pfc. Eric Liesse**



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.

# Ready, Set... Eat!

■ Shorter walk for Camp Echo Troopers to get to chow coming in July



Kittery Café will combine a wide range of food and a short walk for Camp Echo Troopers. Menu options will range from the healthy and nutritious, (salad bar, above), to the tasty and delicious, (sandwich bar, below).



## Army Pfc. Eric Liesse

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

A new galley, Kittery Café, is scheduled to open the morning of Monday, July 7, near Camp Echo here.

As one of many new pre-engineered buildings set to open shortly across from the Camp 5 and Camp 6 complex, Kittery Café will be a new dining facility for all Joint Task Force Guantanamo personnel around Camp Echo.

Navy Capt. Greg Rismiller, Joint Task Force engineer, said the new facility will have the equipment currently used at Café Caribe, which will close as a result of the move. Kittery Café was built identically to Café Caribe to accommodate the transition.

Café Caribe is currently scheduled to serve its last meal during dinner Friday, July 4, allowing the equipment to make the move over the holiday weekend to Kittery Café.

Rismiller said with the opening of the new facility near the heart of Camp Echo, Joint Detention Group Troopers will save time and distance for their chow breaks.

"It will be easier for [the JDG Troopers]," Rismiller said of the new café. "They won't have to go to Camp Delta; there will be a central galley right [at Camp Echo]."

Most buildings, including the new galley, are a special type of structure called "pre-engineered buildings."

"You got a slab, then you have a steel structure, then you put the skin on," said Rismiller of the buildings. These help cut down construction time from more standard, more permanent buildings.

Some additions may still come to the new galley, such as construction for a scullery and the addition of a separate power generator, said Army Capt. Steve Holder, officer in charge of food service for J-4.

"Troopers will probably be eating off paper plates for a while. The key thing was to get this open as fast as possible to help the Troopers at Camp 5 and 6," said Holder.

The Ad Hoc, a take-only makeshift dining facility currently at Camp Echo, will help offset the closure of Café Caribe by possibly going to four meals per day and extending its current hours Holder said.

Kittery Café is just one of many new buildings set to house the JDG as it makes its transition over to near Camp Echo, Rismiller said. ☆

# A HEALTHY WAY TO KICK OFF THE SUMMER



**Army Specialist  
Megan Burnham**  
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

While it is hard to distinguish the different seasons in Guantanamo Bay, June 21 was in fact the start of the Summer Solstice (aka the first day of summer). To celebrate this day, Audrey Chapman, Morale, Wellness and Recreation Fitness coordinator, organized a 5K run/walk, which started at 7 a.m. at Denich Gym.

When asked why MWR chose to host a fun run as a summer kick-off event, Chapman replied, "We do runs every month and June doesn't have its own holiday." She went on to add, "It's just an excuse to get people out and active on a Saturday morning."

People participate in running events for many different and unique reasons. Some may use a fun run as a means to stay in shape or to train for a longer distance run in the near future. Whatever the reason, the main goal of any sporting event is for the participants to have a joyous experience while staying safe.

"I'm new to the island," said Navy Chief Petty Officer Paula Africa. "This is a way [for me] to find out places to run."

There were about 100 people participating in this event which offered the option to run, walk, or even bike the 3.1

mile course. The first half of the route was level, while the last portion was the infamous hike up the long incline of Bay Hill Rd. But once participants made it up that last hill, it was smooth sailing the rest of the way to the finish line.

"I liked it," said Navy Chief Dale McKean. "I knew I could make it through the whole thing but once I got to the hill, it was definitely a challenge."

Since this event was considered a fun run and not an actual race competition, there were no prizes given to the top-three male and female finishers. Instead everyone had an equal chance to win a door prize by writing their name on a slip of paper after signing in.

The award ceremony was held after everyone had crossed the finish line and had a chance to cool down. Chapman gathered everyone around the prize table and began to draw names at random from a plastic bin. Prizes that were awarded to the lucky participants included small prizes such as note pads, beach balls, beach bags and Frisbees. Larger prizes included volleyballs, beach chairs and boogie boards. The main award was a large blow-up kiddie swimming pool!

For those who missed out on this past run, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 4-miler is coming up within two weeks. Don't forget to sign up at Denich Gym. ★

# Maintenance shop plays key role in mission

**Army Sgt. Gretel Sharpee**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

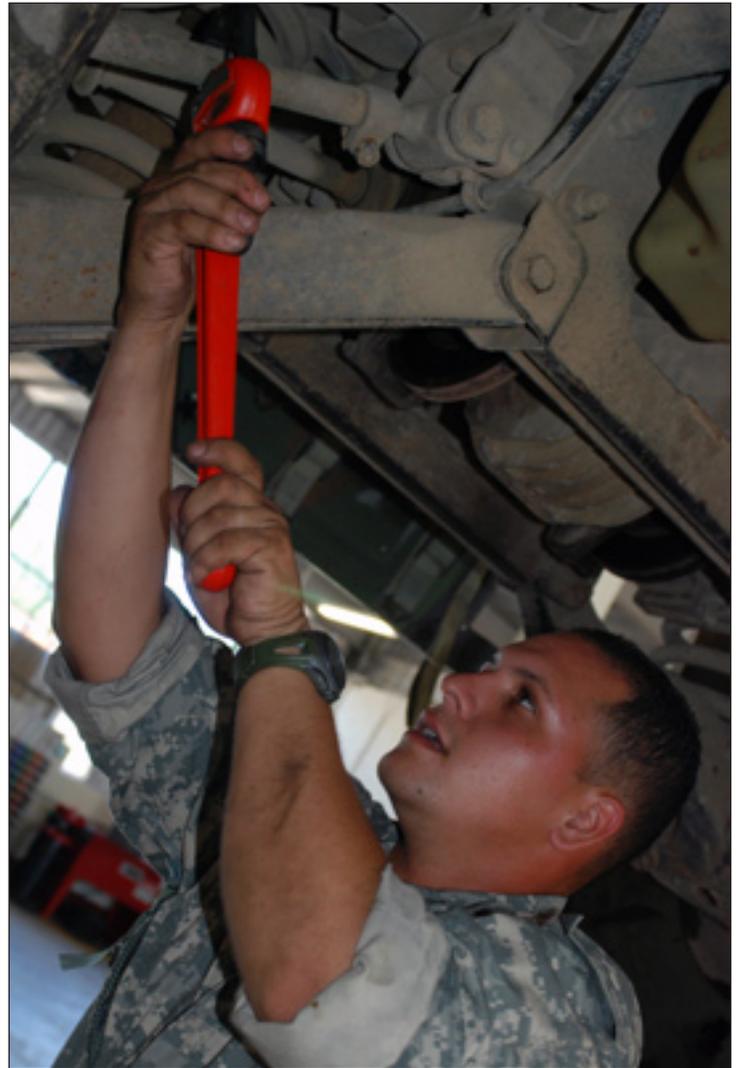
When walking into the 525<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion maintenance shop you might have to look under a vehicle to find someone to talk to, but what would you expect? For the 10 Soldiers who work there, being responsible for keeping the MP Soldiers in vehicles and not on their feet is a mission they take seriously.

“They really need these vehicles,” said Spc. Angel Torres, an all-wheel mechanic from the 162<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery Battalion, Puerto Rico National Guard. “If I don’t complete this vehicle they can’t complete their mission.”

The 525<sup>th</sup> MP Battalion is responsible for the force protection of the Joint Detention Group within the Joint Task Force. They provide security in and around the detainee camps through continuous operations.

“Our Soldiers switch out and work in shifts but one of our vehicles could be running 24 hours a day for up to a week,”

**Spc. Jose Passalacqua, an all-wheeled mechanic, with the 162<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery Battalion, does preventative checks and maintenance on a High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle.**



said Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Jorge Moreira, battalion motor sergeant for the 525<sup>th</sup>.

In order to ensure the vehicles are always ready and capable of running for such long periods of time, preventative maintenance checks are done on a regular basis.

“When a HUMVEE comes in, we start

with the regular maintenance and by doing that we can see if anything else is wrong,” said Spc. Jonathon Vasquez, all wheel mechanic with the 162<sup>nd</sup>. “Just the regular maintenance takes up to three days with two guys working on it, but if we run into something it could take longer.”

The shop is capable of three levels of maintenance on M-1025 High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle and Light Medium Tactical Vehicle, operator maintenance, organizational level maintenance and third-shop level maintenance.

Even though it may take three full days to complete the preventative maintenance on one HMMWV, the Soldiers in the maintenance shop are willing to do the job.

“This is what I do at home too,” said Vasquez. “I like being a mechanic and this job is important- important to do right too.” ☆

**Spc. Jonathan Vasquez, an all-wheel mechanic fastens the connections on an air hose during a preventative maintenance checks on a HMMWV.**



# Getting exposure to the real Army

**Army Specialist  
Megan Burnham**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

For a four-week summer training course, two cadets from the United States Military Academy (USMA) at West Point, N.Y., traveled down here to conduct hands-on training with the 189<sup>th</sup> and 193<sup>rd</sup> Military Police Companies to see how things work in the “real Army.”

“I wanted to be in an MP unit that was actually doing a real world mission,” said Senior Cadet Kate Bertanzetti. “I wanted to do something that was actually contributing to the war on terror.”

This type of required training is part of Cadet Troop Leader Training (CTLT) where cadets gain hands-on experience by selecting a post and branch, become attached to a certain unit and job shadow a sponsor to gain experience of being a platoon leader (PL) and all that the job entails.

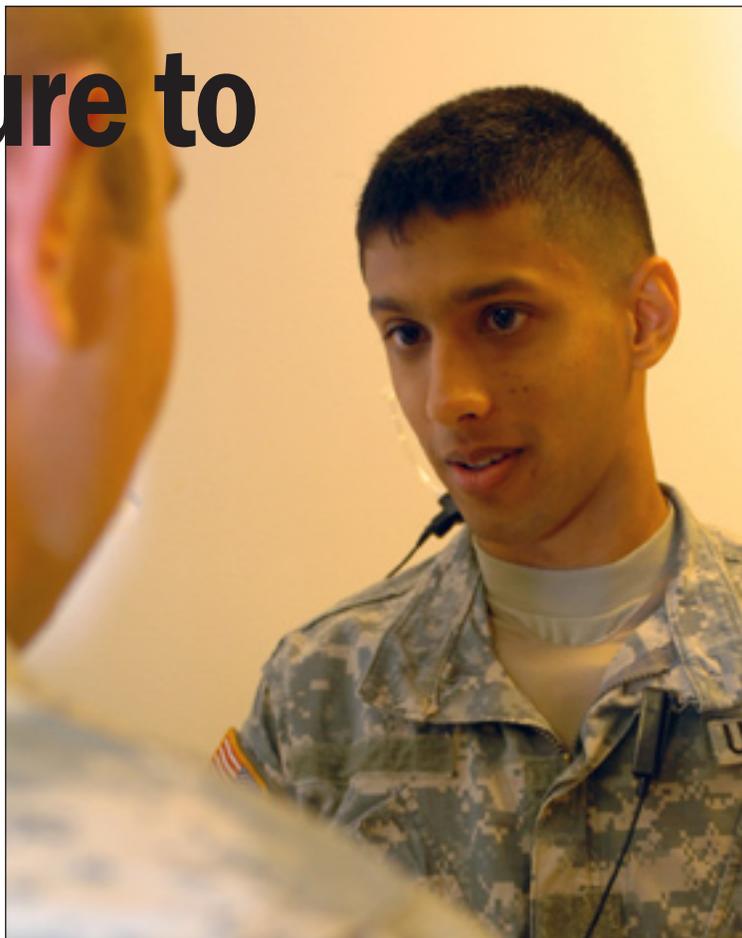
“This is my first exposure to the real Army,” said Junior Cadet Omar Shaikh. “You can’t really compare a school environment to the real Army.”

Shaikh and Bertanzetti were two cadets that were given the rare opportunity to conduct their on-the-job training here in Guantanamo Bay; this experience is only offered to four cadets a year.

“I am really glad I was able to come here,” commented Shaikh. “I’m really honored to be a part of this.”

Bertanzetti was attached to the 189<sup>th</sup> MP

**Cadet Omar Shaikh comes here for on-the-job training with the 193<sup>rd</sup> Military Police Company to gain experience and confidence in being a platoon leader as part of Cadet Troop Leader Training required by the United States Military Academy in West Point, N.Y.**



company and job shadowed Army 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Charles Richardson, 2<sup>nd</sup> PL, while Shaikh was with the 193<sup>rd</sup> MP company and followed Army 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Kyle Dufore, 1<sup>st</sup> PL. Bertanzetti has already chosen to branch MP once she is commissioned but Shaikh is still undecided between Engineering and MP.

Both cadets arrived on island May 31 and have spent their time either working in the camps, doing administration work, or leading and conducting training exercises: They are learning how to be a PL. Every cadet is given a

list of tasks they are supposed to accomplish before their CTLT training is complete.

“We’re supposed to do an officer evaluation report (OER) support form, a non-commissioned officer evaluation report (NCOER) on the platoon sergeant, lead unit physical training and platoon training,” said Shaikh. “The rest [of the tasks] are at the company commander’s discretion.”

Bertanzetti recently left the island, after completing all required tasks, to continue with her other summer training requirements. She’ll be going to Washington, D.C., to work with the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement as well as the National Security Division.

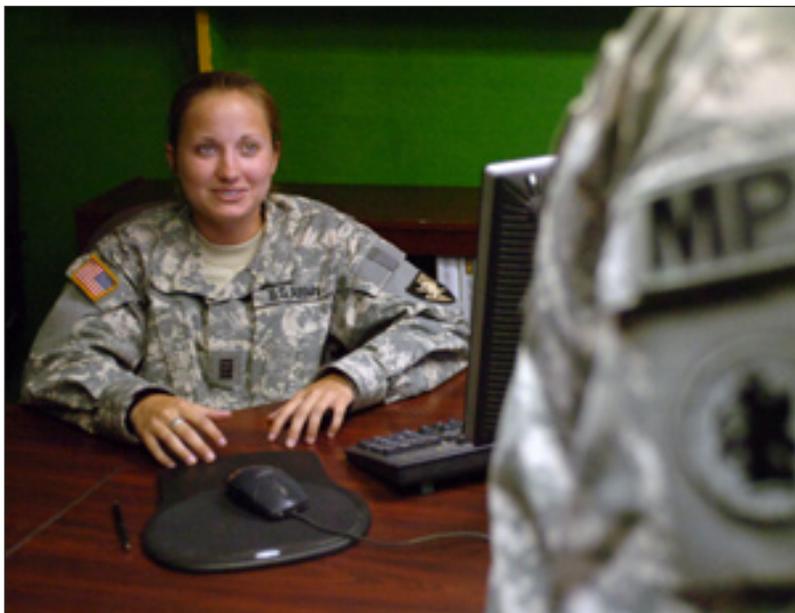
“I learned a lot while I was here,” said Bertanzetti. “Just watching the leaders in action has been good. I got to see what I like, what I don’t like and how I want to run, hopefully, my platoon when I graduate.”

Shaikh will also be leaving the base soon and traveling to Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., for a four-week internship in engineering. Next summer he is going to be training the younger cadets during their field training and possibly attending to airborne school.

Two other fortunate West Point cadets will be coming to U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay in the near future to conduct their CTLT training as well.

“This is a good experience for the young cadets,” said Dufore. “We’re giving them the tools to succeed but it depends on the cadet on what they do with it.” ☆

**Cadet Kate Bertanzetti spent her time here attached to the 189<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company learning the knowledge and responsibilities of a platoon leader as part of her Cadet Troop Leader Training.**



# Hockey tourney ends in big win

**Army Pfc.  
Eric Liesse**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Amidst a ballet of men crashing full-speed into each other and fierce checking, a little bit of floor hockey was played in Gitmo last week.

The Average Joes became floor hockey champions after a one-sided trouncing of I Can't Think of a Name, 9-0, at Denich Gym's hockey rink Wednesday, June 18.

The game was the final in a Morale, Welfare and Recreation, no-skates floor hockey double elimination tournament which started June 16 with three teams playing.

The first period of the game saw Average Joes taking in the majority of their goals, finishing the period with a 5-0 score.

I Can't Think of a Name's goalie had a few quick, close ball-stops, but Average Joes still managed another two goals, finishing with a score of 7-0.

The final period had Average Joes garnering two more scores, finishing out the game with the 9-0 score. I Can't Think of a Name had a few powerful shots to their opponent's goal, but Average Joes' goalie was quick to block with his glove.

Throughout the game, few penalties slowed the game. A few high-sticking calls, but few others.

Playing three, 12-minute periods with two-minute intermissions, the tournament saw third place finishers, Dynamite Donkeys, taking a 1-2 overall record.

Average Joes, led by team captain Nathan Collins, was formed mostly of Naval Station Security personnel and finished the tournament with a 3-0 record. I Can't Think of a Name, with team captain Walt Zapf, was all Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion Troops finished the tournament at 2-2. ☆



Players from the Average Joes tangle for the ball during their winning game, 9-0, at Denich Gym's hockey rink.



The Average Joes, champions of last week's no-skate floor hockey tournament, pose with their newly acquired trophies after obliterating I Can't Think of a Name, 9-0, at Denich Gym's hockey rink June 18.

# Beach Volleyball a sunny hit!

**Army Sgt.  
Gretel Sharpee**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs



The sun, the sand, the ocean in the distance and one hot sand volleyball court filled with competitors was what you would have found at Windmill beach last Saturday. Nine teams hit the court for the first beach volleyball tournament of the summer.

"This is a blast," said Jesus Uranga, a member of Erica's Birthday Team. "It's a great way to keep busy through the weekend and obviously it's Erica's birthday, so happy birthday, Erica!"

Each round consisted of three games. The first two games up to 21 points and the last game up to 15 points, but in all three the lead team needed to win by two points.

The competition ended with the Gitmo Latino's and No PAO making it to the final round early in the evening. But after a rough day of sand and sun, team No PAO won the tournament. ☆

**Teams No PAO and Erica's Birthday Team battle it out in one of the first match ups in this past weekends Beach Volleyball tournament. The tournament consisted of nine teams and was held at Windmill Beach June 21.**

# Baby-Mama Drama

**Army Pfc.  
Eric Liesse**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The subject of procreation has been fairly popular in films lately. With “Knocked Up” and “Juno” making uber-stars out of their leading actors, the topic seems like movie gold. These two movies also grabbed plenty of critical praise and even some Oscar buzz.

Now Tina Fey, one of the best Saturday Night Live cast members and writers in recent memory, has hopped on the pregnancy train as well with “Baby Mama.”

Written and directed by Michael McCullers, former SNL and “Austin Powers” writer, “Baby Mama” follows Fey as Kate Holbrook, a 37-year-old businesswoman whose biological clock is ticking loudly. However, with no husband, the ‘old fashioned way’ is out of the question.

When Fey tries both adoption and in-vitro fertilization, neither go through. Fey even gets told “I just don’t like your uterus,” by her doctor, played by John Hodgman in one of the movie’s many hilarious cameos.

As a last resort, Fey decides to employ a



surrogate from a company run by an oddly fertile Sigourney Weaver. Paired to birth for Fey is her SNL pal Amy Poehler as Angie Ostrowski, a dumber-than-average blond presented lightly as ‘white trash’ who is in the midst of fighting with her common-law husband Carl, played by Dax Shepard.

Once pregnant, Poehler and her husband separate, which forces Fey to allow her into her upscale condo. With such an odd-couple scenario and Fey’s incessant babying of Poehler as she’s with child, the film hits comic gold.

When Fey’s company opens up a new organic foods store in an established neighborhood, Greg Kinnear’s character tries not to feel the pinch at his juice café.

Kinnear’s character, Rob, starts to grow on Fey as the budding, sarcastic love interest.

The movie makes plenty of jokes and allusions to the typical ‘Fey starts to loosen her personality’ and ‘Poehler straightens out her life’, but they’re done well. Fey and Poehler play well off each other, allowing their different personalities to drive the movie. The way the pair interacts with other characters makes some of the best scenes; especially the birthing classes that Fey’s and Poehler’s characters attend together.

A hilarious highlight throughout the film is Fey’s boss and CEO, Barry, played by a pony-tailed, hippy-channeling, table-sitting Steve



Martin. With Fey playing the straight-laced businesswoman to Martin’s psychedelic businessman, Martin fills every scene he’s in with awkward hilarity.

The many bit parts are what really push the movie. Other SNL alums make appearances (a pattern here that no one should be surprised with) like Will Forte as Fey’s dorky last serious boyfriend and Fred Armisen as a nervous and neurotic stroller salesman.

Add Holland Taylor as Fey’s subtly belittling mother who thinks of her being single is an “alternative lifestyle,” and Maura Tierney as Fey’s motherly sister, the support for Fey and Poehler is superb.

Although essentially an odd-couple pairing with a modern-day twist, “Baby Mama” holds its own in the male-dominated comedy world the way only Tina Fey can. ☆

**PG-13**

**1 hour, 39 minutes**

**Rating: ★★★★★**



The FFSC satellite office, located at the Trooper One Stop, provides a convenient location for JTF Troopers. The office is staffed Monday through Friday from 0800 - 1600 hrs. Call 8127 or 4141 for more information.

# Providing Troopers peace of mind

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

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The Fleet and Family Support Center provides the military and civilian community with many services that support individuals in varying aspects of their life, both personally and professionally.

Whether you are seeking professional development as you embark on a new career as a civilian, or prepare to transition to a new duty station, or are just looking for someone to talk to during a tough time, the Center can guide you and give you the tools you need for success.

"Working with anger and stress management has had a significant impact on the individuals serving the Joint Task Force mission," said Ronnette Moore, a life skills educator, who also served 12 years in the Navy.

Life skills education encompasses areas such as anger and stress management, maintaining loving relationships, parenting, individual counseling and bereavement counseling. It also teaches individuals how to communicate more effectively, whether in a personal relationship or a professional capacity.

"We provide service members the tools they need to communicate [efficiently] so they can serve the mission more effectively," said Patricia Garro-Daily, a clinical counselor at the center. "We take the time to ensure that the service member has the opportunity to practice their newly acquired skills by role playing in particular situations that encourage the individual to try what they learned and give them the chance to get comfortable with it."

If an individual comes to the center with a family or relationship concern, they can initiate a counseling session with the couple just as though both are in the room by calling the spouse who is unable to be present, and conducting the session as though both are physically present.

This thinking outside-the-box approach is one of the many things that make the Center a real asset to Guantanamo.

"We best take care of service members by meeting them where they're at," said Patricia Williams, director of the Center. "We help them identify where they want to be and help them get there."

"Keeping their privacy is a priority. What is said here stays here. That's important, it gives them an outlet."

Sponsorship training is another program the Center supports. For Troopers coming to Guantanamo Bay, the sponsorship programs helps by assigning a sponsor who reaches out to them prior to their arrival and gives them an idea of what to expect. Upon arrival, the sponsor will meet the new Trooper at the ferry and begin the process of getting settled on the base. They are the incoming Trooper's initial lifeline to the island.

Troopers who are getting out of the military are encouraged to take transition assistance classes so they can be prepared for the next step in their life. For these individuals, employment classes can teach them the basics of effective resume writing, how to complete employment applications and how to negotiate salary. They also speak with a Veterans Administration representative

and learn what benefits they can utilize.

"A lot of people don't know how to effectively write a resume," said James Mandley, educator and sexual assault response coordinator with the Center. "We have a good showing for the resume writing workshop and for transition assistance management. All of the classes are successful."

The Center, with its central location near Bulkeley Hall opened up a satellite office to be closer to JTF Troopers.

"We opened the Fleet and Family Support Center location at the Joint Task Force One Stop approximately one year ago," said Williams. "It's difficult for service members to come to the main location when they have to ride a bus. We need to support the JTF mission, it's why we opened that location."

Troopers, whether active duty or reserve, are encouraged to access the services the Center has to offer.

"The staff here is committed," Williams said. "They are supportive and team oriented. We're currently operating with a 67 percent staff [level] and yet everyone goes the extra mile to complete all tasks successfully. We do whatever it takes to support service members and their families." ☆



**James Mandley addresses a classroom of Troopers at the Fleet and Family Support Center during a Sexual Assault Victim Intervention class that trains individuals how to be a Victim Advocate in the program. SAVI, is one of many programs offered at the Center.**



## On the air with “Friends of God”

New Mexico Army National Guard Chaplin, Capt. Scott Brill and Navy Lt. Cdmr. Joseph Cubba research music in the disc-jockey booth for their radio show. The Friends of God radio show is starting its third month on the air.

### Navy Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Cheryl Dilgard

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

It is 9:00 a.m. on a Sunday morning, your radio is on and the sounds of Third Day are coming through loud and clear, followed by Lifehouse and Creed. Scattered throughout the Christian contemporary music is some witty banter and a friendly message with a morality lesson. Subjects like chastity and sex, the golden rule and God’s unconditional love have all been topics of the week for the “Friends of God” radio show. These subjects are all topics that Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers can identify with on some level.

A few months ago Navy Lt. Cdmr. Joseph Cubba and New Mexico Army National Guard Chaplain, Capt. Scott Brill met in a spinning class. After a brief conversation the two put their creative minds together and with the blessing of the local radio station, the “Friends of God” radio show was born.

“We had each been thinking about a Christian radio show before we even met.

When we met and talked about it, it just clicked,” said Brill.

While providing guiding words is standard fare for a Chaplain, Cubba realized he wanted to do the show when he was extended five months.

“When I realized I wasn’t leaving until October, instead of May, I decided that I wanted to do something to help people,” said Cubba.

Each week the duo works on a message with a topic. Cubba writes the scripts for each show while Brill voices the show. The team researches the music to expand their playlist and find the music that best fits.

“We are limited to only playing music that is in the computer that the radio station has the rights to. There is a lot of music we can’t play. We can’t bring in our own CD’s and play music from them,” said Cubba.

The two men have a great time putting the show together and their excitement is evidenced by the enthusiasm going out over the airwaves every Sunday morning.

“The show is a blast to produce,” said Brill.

Along with having a positive message and music the show features times for

Naval Station and JTF chapel services, and news and events that may be important to a faith based audience.

So far, the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. The radio gurus are open to new ideas, new artists and new music to research. Recently the radio show has had chaplain’s assistant Army Sgt. Sean Reeves as a guest to the show. The pair are interested in having other guests on the show in upcoming weeks. Brill wants to make sure that the religious petty officers and chaplain’s aides that help out are acknowledged. Although they are behind the scenes they do a lot of the “grunt” work that make it possible for Brill and Cubba to do their radio show as well as their jobs.

The show comes as a breath of fresh air for Gitmo residents. It is the first Christian-themed radio show in recent memory, but the duo makes efforts to not be overbearing.

“It’s not preachy, and it’s not your mother’s music,” said Brill.

If you are interested in providing feedback or ideas regarding the show you can email Chaplain Brill at:

[scott.brill@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil](mailto:scott.brill@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil) ✪



## Northeast Gate

Members of the Joint Task Force Guantanamo's Staff Judge Advocate office encircle a historical maker of a cut water line during their tour of U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay's North East Gate here, June 20, 2008. The water line was ordered to be cut and a section removed Feb. 17, 1964, by Rear Adm. John Bulkeley, to disprove the accusation that the United States was stealing water from Cuba. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Pvt. Carlynn Knaak

# Seatbelts save lives

**Army Pfc.  
Eric Liesse**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

When entering a vehicle, whether getting behind the wheel or riding shotgun, few people consciously think about their actions needed to get on the road. Adjusting mirrors, properly positioning the seat, making sure the gas tank is full, all are needed but have become second nature for most. However, one action is required when riding around Guantanamo Bay and can help save your life: wearing your seat belt.

According to the Guantanamo Bay Motor Vehicle Code (NAVSTAGTMOINST 11200.1):

- The driver of a vehicle is responsible for each passenger complying with seat belt enforcement policies.
- Unless in a bus or tactical vehicle not equipped with safety belts, all occupants must wear a safety belt, with all available straps, as the safety belt is intended to be worn.
- If seat belts are available, all children 4 years of age and under and weighing 45 pounds or under must ride in a safety seat authorized by U.S. Department of Transportation as intended.
- No safety straps or belts may be tampered with in any way, and no vehicle that has been so modified may be operated.
- Failure to comply with these policies may be a two point license deduction here.

Here are some facts taken from the 2007 National Occupant Protection Use Survey, conducted annually by the

National Center for Statistics and Analysis of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration:

- Overall U.S. seat belt use was 82 percent for 2007, up slightly from 81 percent in 2006.
- Among 16 to 24-year-olds, 77 percent regularly wear seat belts, compared to 82 percent among 8 to 15-year-olds and 83 percent for 25 to 69-year-olds.
- More females regularly use seat belts, 86 percent, than males, 79 percent.

The 'Click It or Ticket' seat belt campaign National Statistics Fact Sheet states:

- Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for people age 15 to 34 in the United States, as of 2002.
- Of the 32,598 passenger vehicle occupants killed in crashes in 2002, 59 percent were not wearing a safety belt.
- An estimated 14,164 lives were saved by safety belts in 2002, and if all vehicle occupants over age 4 had been wearing safety belts, 7,153 more lives could have been saved.
- 73 percent of passenger vehicle occupants who were wearing restrained in a fatal crash in 2002 survived. Of those who were not restrained, 43 percent survived.
- In 2002, 5,625 16 to 20-year-old passenger vehicle occupants were killed and 476,000 were injured in traffic crashes.
- In 2002, 64 percent of 16 to 20-year-old passenger vehicle occupants killed in crashes were not wearing a seat belt. 16 percent of 16 to 20-year-old drivers and passengers injured in crashes were not restrained. ★



## Keep Marching!

Pfc. Ryan Sheets and Staff Sgt. Rodolfo Vargaz from 2<sup>nd</sup> Fleet Anti-terrorism Support Team, 4<sup>th</sup> platoon, patrol hike down Sherman avenue as part of a training exercise Tuesday, June 24. The Marines with their flack vests and patrol load, returned from Grenadillo range after a weapons training exercise at the range. The five mile patrol hike began at the range and ended at Marine Hill. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Emily J. Russell

## Boots on the Ground

by Navy Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Cheryl Dilgard

*What is your favorite wildlife in Gitmo?*

Marine Corps Cpl.  
Timothy Brake



"Bananna Rats, they are funny and funny looking"

Air Force SSgt.  
Jason Schoyer



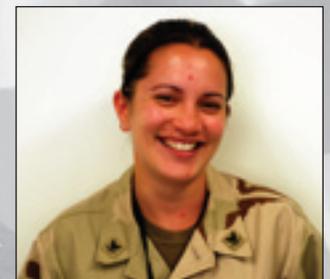
"Iguanas are cool. They are like the bulldogs of the reptiles. And their head nods are classic"

Navy Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class  
Griffin Chrastina



"The little frogs that are all over, especially when they are climbing the walls at Cuzco."

Navy Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Class  
Emily Valenzuela



"I like the sea turtles. I love swimming with them. It is a really cool experience."

# PRAYER



**Navy Lt. Cmdr. Daniel McKay**  
**JTF Chaplain**  
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Ten weeks of disputing the different plans for state representation created a spirit of contention and strife among the delegates at our nation's Constitutional Convention.

In fact, some delegates began voicing the opinion that the Convention should be dissolved. In the midst of this rancorous scene, on June 28, 1787, the elder statesman present, eighty-one year old Benjamin Franklin, brought renewed calm and focus by calling upon his fellow delegates to remember and return in prayer to the One who had given our nation its birth of freedom.

Addressing the President of the Assembly, and the delegates present, Franklin spoke these immortal words:

*In this situation of this Assembly, groping as it were in the dark to find political truth, and scarce able to distinguish it when presented to us, how has it happened, Sir,*

*that we have not hitherto once thought of humbly applying to the Father of lights to illumine our understandings? In the beginning of the Contest with Great Britain, when we were sensible of danger we had daily prayer in this room for the divine protection—our prayers, Sir, were heard and they were graciously answered. All of us who were engaged in the struggle must have observed frequent instances of a superintending Providence in our favor. To that kind Providence we owe this happy opportunity of consulting in peace on the means of establishing our future national felicity. And have we now forgotten that powerful Friend? Or do we now imagine that we no longer need His assistance? I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth—that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid? We have been assured, Sir, in the sacred writings, that “except the Lord*

*build the house they labor in vain that build it.” I firmly believe this, and I also believe that without His concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel: we shall be divided by our little partial local interests, our projects will be confounded, and we ourselves shall become a reproach and bye word down to future ages. And what is worse, mankind may hereafter, from this unfortunate instance, despair in establishing governments by human wisdom and leave it to chance, war, and conquest.*

*I beg leave to move—that henceforth prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven, and its blessings on our deliberations, be held in this Assembly every morning before we proceed to business . . . (Our Sacred Honor, pp. 384-85).*

Thus, from our founding as a nation to the present this truth remains: apart from God we experience confusion, division, and weakness; relying upon God we experience insight, unity and strength. ☆

## JTF CHAPEL SCHEDULED PROGRAMS

### Catholic Mass

**Sunday:** 7 a.m. Confession  
7:30 Mass

**Wednesday:** 11 a.m. Mass

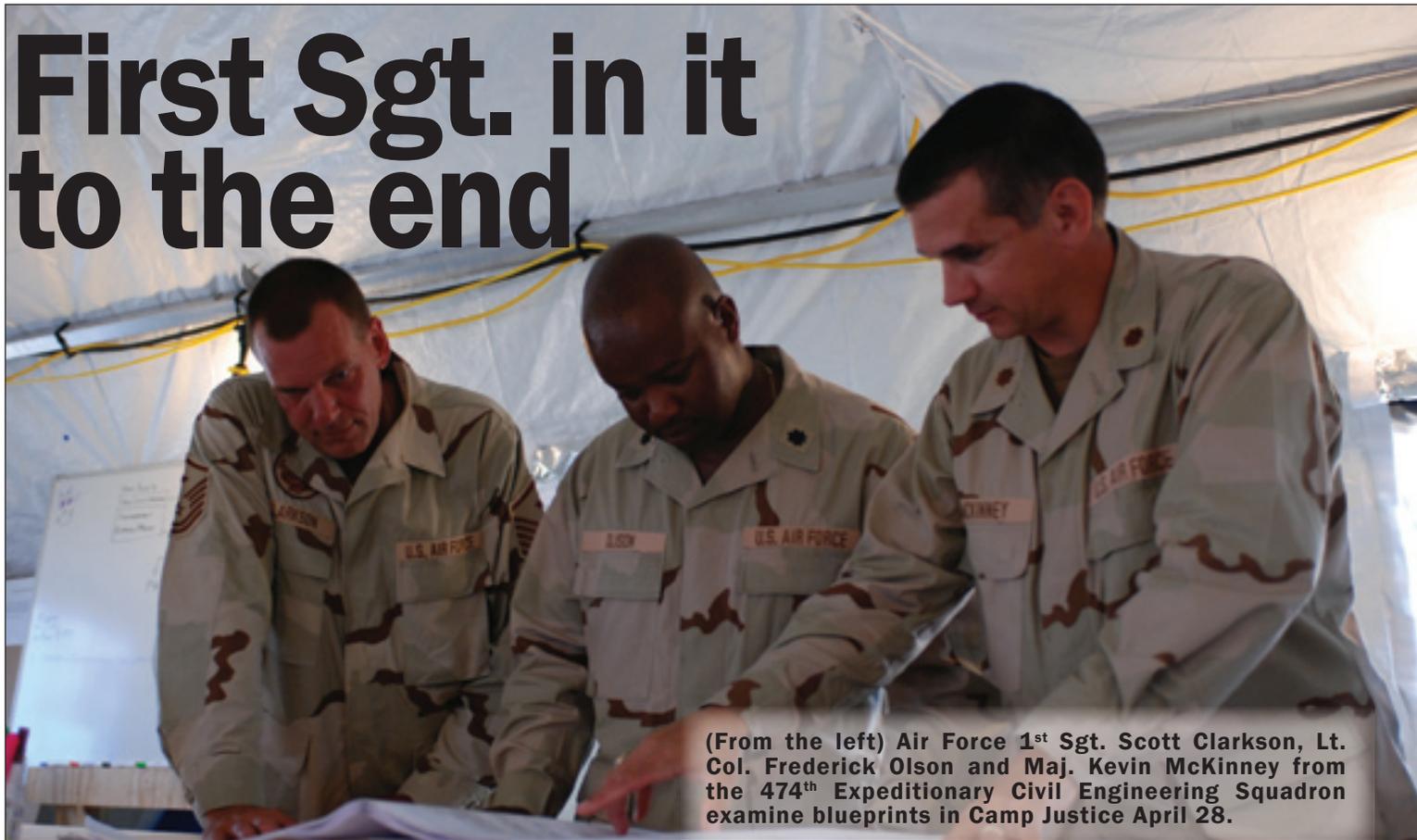
### Protestant Worship

**Sunday:** 9 a.m. and 7 p.m.

### Spanish Protestant Worship

**Sunday:** Noon

# First Sgt. in it to the end



(From the left) Air Force 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Scott Clarkson, Lt. Col. Frederick Olson and Maj. Kevin McKinney from the 474<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron examine blueprints in Camp Justice April 28.

## Navy Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Kleynia R. McKnight JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Air Force 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Scott Clarkson, from the 474<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, demonstrated his devotion to his Airmen by refusing to mobilize back home. While stationed on a six-month volunteer deployment at Joint Task Force Guantanamo, Clarkson underwent knee surgery in order to stay with his troops.

Clarkson was offered the chance to go back home and have a knee replacement procedure which would end the long lasting pain he faces daily. Instead, after a consultation with Navy Lt. Cmdr. Christopher Dewing, orthopedic surgeon and department head at U.S. Naval Hospital Guantanamo Bay, Clarkson decided to undergo a knee surgery here that would delay the need for a total knee replacement, but not replace it.

“As a United States service member I see the severe demand for personnel like Clarkson, who each day sacrifice their lives, sweat and tears to accomplish the mission,” said Dewing. “It is not only my honor, but it is a way to thank the men and women that I serve with.”

When Dewing first heard about Clarkson’s situation, he was starting the demobilization process back to the states. However, Dewing acknowledged the need and importance of this operation for Clarkson.

Soldiers are often recognized for their accomplishments through honors and

ceremonies, but rarely can they show recognition to each other through an action - but Dewing and Clarkson, they did just that.

“He is helping me stand by my beliefs and fellow Airmen, as the first to step on island with them, I want to be the last to step off of it,” expressed Clarkson the morning of his surgery. “Accomplishing what we came here for in the first place, turning over [the mission] with pride and gratitude and most important a mission completed.”

The successful operation was performed by Dewing, June 17 at the Naval Hospital here. The 474<sup>th</sup> ECES had a formation for Dr. Dewing, where they presented a hand-made shadow box containing a flag that was flown for 9 minutes and 11 seconds at the Camp Justice sign which leads to the entry of Tent City managed by Clarkson’s Troops.

“It is great to know that there are people like [Dewing] in the service that cares about everyone and puts their needs in front of their own,” said Clarkson. “That’s what we should all live by, and now thanks to him I am staying and I am supporting my troops.” ☆



Air Force 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Scott Clarkson and Navy Lt. Cmdr. Christopher Dewing embrace during a flag presentation in Camp Justice, June 20.

**Swing Away! Rafael Martinez concentrates while waiting for a pitch during Tuesday night's game at Zaiser field. Red Legs took on Diablos with a 12-3 win. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Emily J. Russell**



**Marine Capt. Wayne Geschwindt catches a jump while wakeboarding June 22 in the Guantanamo Bay area. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army 1st Lt. Sarah R. Cleveland**



**The Commissions Support Group hosted a barbeque at Cable Beach June 21. Troopers turned out for grilled steaks and a smorgasbord of food, as well as prizes and karaoke. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Emily J. Russell**

# AROUND THE JTF