



WIRE

A JTF Journal

**Trooper of the Quarter
Beach PT raises the bar for 525th
Congressional Delegate praises JTF
Volunteers lend a hand, and shovel**

Today's Troopers measure up

**Army Command Sgt. Maj.
Gary Fowler**

525th Military Police Battalion CSM

I enlisted into the Army Nov. 28, 1984. I guess that makes me an "old timer" or a dinosaur, whatever the current term is for those of us with more than 20 years of service.

I often hear from my peers and fellow senior non-commissioned officers about "today's Soldiers." Some of the comments heard most often are "Today's Soldiers don't measure up," or "Today's Soldiers are not as tough as we were back in the day," or "Soldiers today lack discipline." One of my favorites is "Today's Soldiers are just different somehow."

To that I say, "They certainly are different."

The entire Army is different.

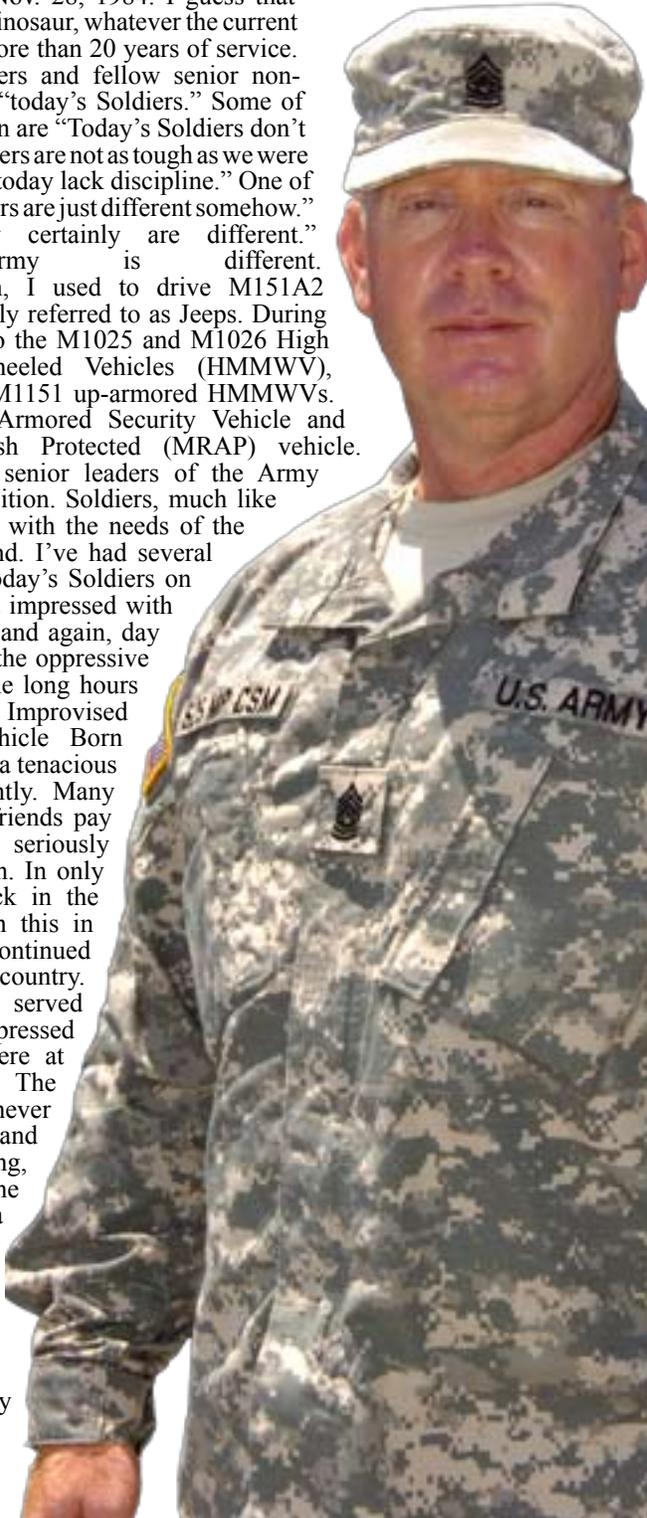
As a Military Policeman, I used to drive M151A2 quarter-ton vehicles, commonly referred to as Jeeps. During the late 1980s we switched to the M1025 and M1026 High Mobility Multi-purpose Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWV), and later to the M1114 and M1151 up-armored HMMWVs. Now we have the M1117 Armored Security Vehicle and the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle.

We often hear from the senior leaders of the Army about being an Army in transition. Soldiers, much like our equipment, have evolved with the needs of the Army and the mission at hand. I've had several opportunities to serve with today's Soldiers on the battlefield, and I am most impressed with what I have witnessed. Time and again, day after day, our Soldiers brave the oppressive heat, the heavy equipment, the long hours and the constant threat of Improvised Explosive Devices and Vehicle Borne Explosive Devices. They face a tenacious enemy and they fight gallantly. Many see their leaders, peers and friends pay the ultimate sacrifice or get seriously injured, and yet they drive on. In only a couple days, they are back in the saddle and on mission. With this in mind, our Soldiers have continued to reenlist and support their country.

Much like the Soldiers I served with on deployment, I am impressed by the quality of Soldier here at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The mission is complex and it never stops. The weather is hot and humid, days and nights are long, equipment is heavy and the Soldiers and Sailors operate in a near zero defect environment, and they do it well.

Today's Soldiers are different – they are smarter and learn faster. They are resilient and adapt well to any mission. In their own way, they are just as tough as my peers and I once were.

Today's Soldiers definitely measure up. ★



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COVER:

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class James Richardson, a participant in the Gitmo Ironman Competition, trudges up the first hill of Ridgeline Trail during the 5-mile mountain bike portion of the race, July 26. – JTF Guantanamo 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.

Physically trained makes mission ready



**Army Sgt.
Gretel Sharpee**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The sun isn't up, the street lights are the only things shining in the sky and yet Soldiers all over the world are crawling out of bed and into their black shorts and grey shirts both with the reflective Army emblem. By squads, platoons or companies, Soldiers are meeting before the sun comes up to do one thing- physical training.

Here in Guantanamo Bay, Soldiers from the 525th Military Police Battalion join their battle buddies around the world in doing early morning PT not only because it is required, but also because it makes them ready for their mission.

"Physical training is important to our Soldiers because they can be spending

their entire 18-hour day on their feet and good physical conditioning helps with the hours, the stress and helps them look like a professional military police unit," said Command Sgt. Maj. Gary Fowler, command sergeant major, 525th MP Battalion.

Five days a week, except for when mission-related training interrupts, 525th Soldiers are meeting for PT. Some in the morning, others in the evening for those who work the night shift.

Not all of the Soldiers just go out and meet for PT though. For some, each PT session is an opportunity to excel, an opportunity to improve their physical fitness in order to achieve a perfect score on the Army's physical fitness test. The test is comprised of three events: the push-up, the sit-up and the two-mile run. To "max-out" the PT test, Soldiers have to score 100%

in each event, a quantity or time, based on their age and gender.

Soldiers are also enticed to score at least 90% in each event to earn the Army Physical Fitness Badge, an actual badge Soldiers can wear on their PT uniforms to display their accomplishment.

With 15 Soldiers meeting or exceeding the maximum 300 score and about 44 Soldiers eligible to wear the Army Physical Fitness Badge, the PT regime the 525th is using might be working.

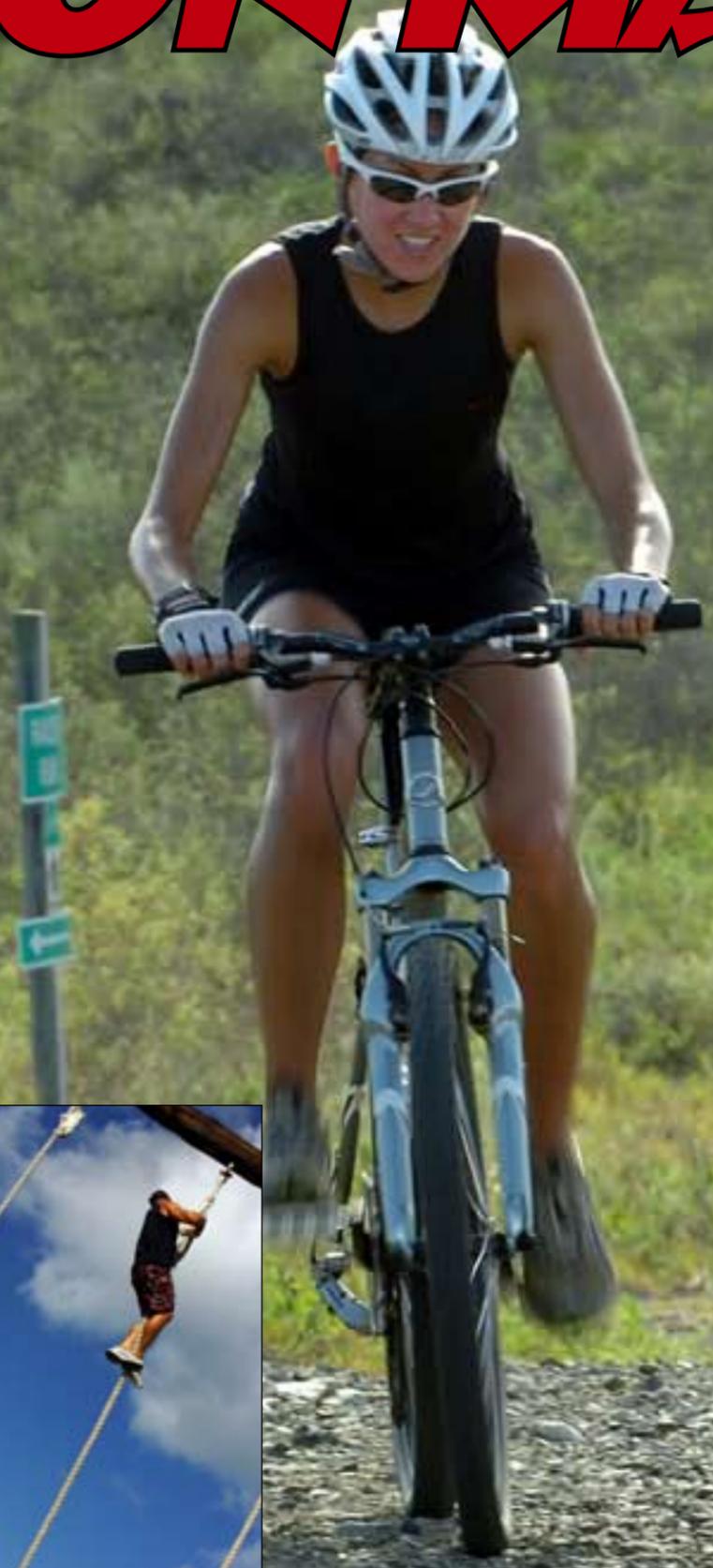
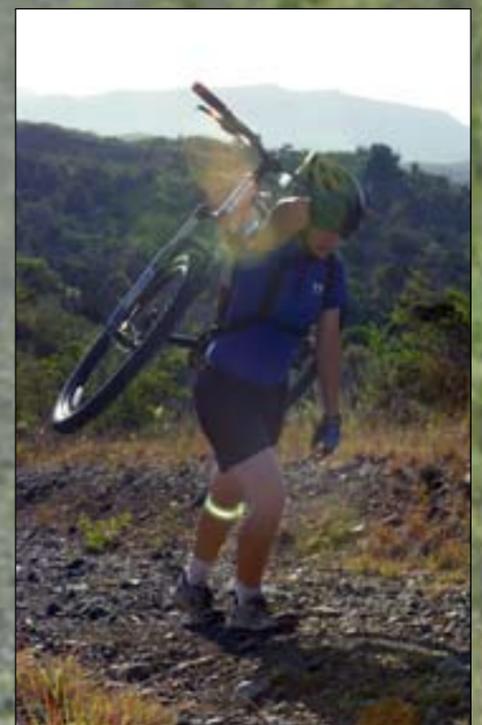
For one Soldier in the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 525th MP Battalion, working to achieve a 300 on her PT test applies to her oath as a non-commissioned officer. "It makes me feel good to be able to set an example for others," said Army Sgt. Jocelyn Thomas, chaplain's assistant. "Also, for my job, I

See PT/12

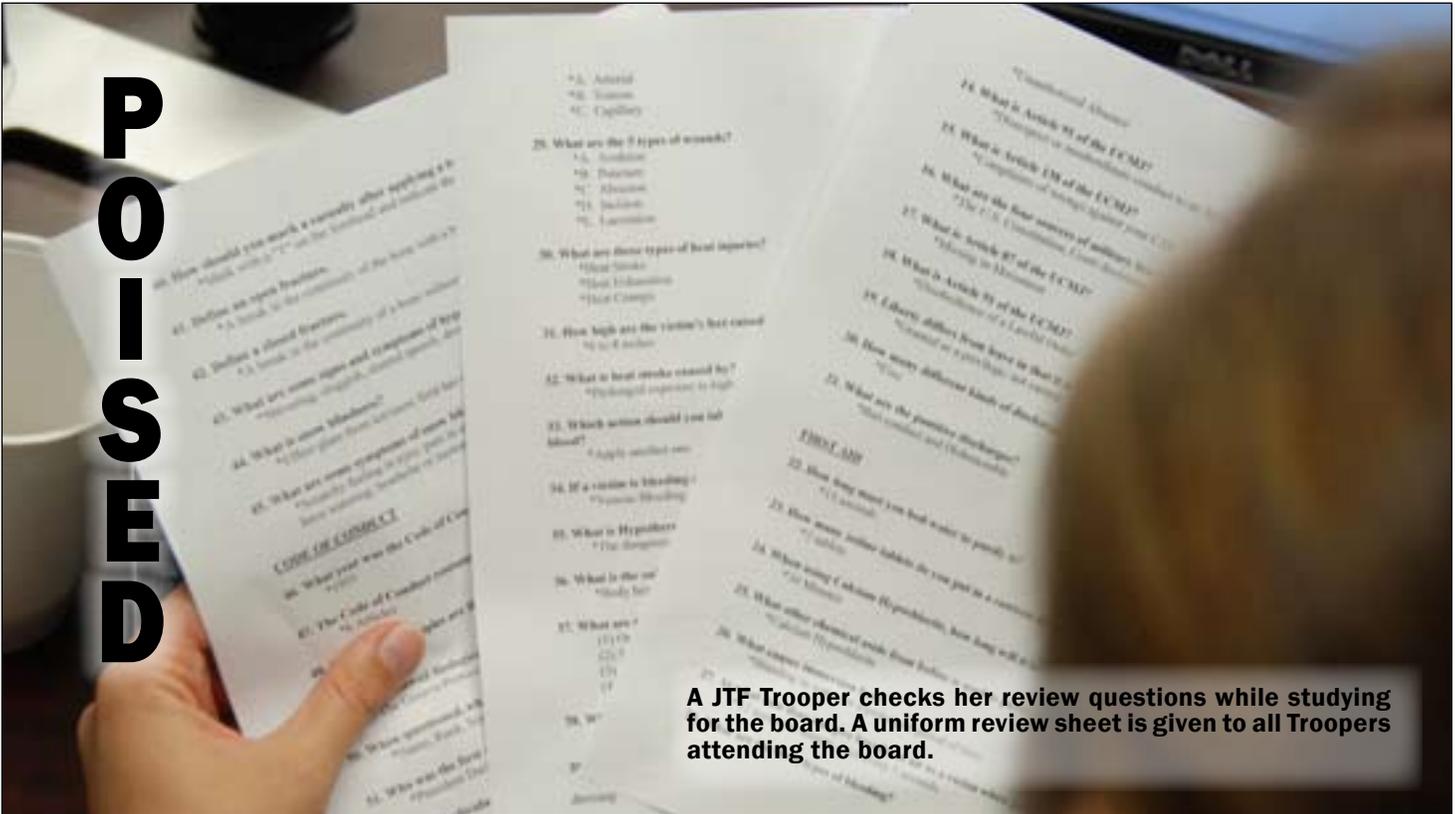
IRON MAN

Photos by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Joshua Treadwell, Army Spc. Meghan Burnham and Army Pfc. Eric Liesse

Guantanamo Bay was a brutal racing ground Saturday, July 26, when 12 co-ed teams of three braved the morning heat and their own twiddling endurance for the Gitmo Ironman Competition. Starting at 6 a.m. at the Marina, the participants shoved off for a 3-mile canoe race which also had them diving for flags at bouys along the route. After returning to shore, the teams trekked a 5-mile mountain bike course along Ridgeline Trail, then returned to the Marina for a 5-mile "obstacle run." The run trapezed through the Marine Hill obstacle course, then the Marine Hill pool, then back over Ridgeline Trail, and lastly into a colorful barrage through the paintball range, to finally finish at the Marina.



POISED



A JTF Trooper checks her review questions while studying for the board. A uniform review sheet is given to all Troopers attending the board.

**Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class
Nat Moger**
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

- Commitment.
- Selfless service.
- Excellence.
- Respect.

These are all values shared across all five branches of military service. These values guide and shape the daily lives of all Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers. They inform the actions of the proud men and women who participate in the safe and humane, legal and transparent detention of enemy combatants.

However, some Troopers feel the need, nay, calling to go above and beyond personifying these values and strive to become the JTF Senior and Junior Troopers of the Quarter.

For those who have gone through their company, battalion and unit Trooper boards, JTF Command Master Chief Brad LeVault, chairman of the Trooper of the Quarter board, has one more value to keep in mind: poise.

“You have to show poise if you’re going to step in front of this board,” said LeVault. “If nothing else, showing poise displays confidence, maturity and at the very least, the propensity to be a leader, if not a natural ability to lead.”

“Often times it’s not whether or not you can answer a question correctly,” continued LeVault. “It’s *how* you answer the question.”

The board consists of six E-9s, usually from across all branches of service, although the Marines are not currently represented. Eight Troopers, nominated from within their units, compete for both the Junior and



You have to show poise if you’re going to step in front of this board.

– Command Master Chief
Brad LeVault

Senior positions. Troopers prepare a resume and then are asked questions by the board.

“It’s a very simple format,” said LeVault. “Troopers prepare a bullet form resume.”

A Trooper with a weaker resume than others rarely surpasses his peers due to performance at the board alone.

“People have a strong record for a reason – they want to succeed,” said LeVault. “Everyone standing out there comes in here prepared and poised because they want to stand out.”

This means answering questions from a uniform study guide on a number of topics, ranging from land navigation to military customs and courtesies, the Geneva Convention to current events.

“We truly live and work in a global environment,” said 525th Military Police Battalion Command Sgt. Maj. Gary Fowler, board member. “Here in Guantanamo, outside influences affect how our Soldiers and Sailors go about their duties everyday. Being aware of what is happening in the world will help our Troopers understand their mission better.”

While the topics tend to be broad,

senior leaders still feel that understanding large concepts can help put a Trooper’s contributions in context.

“Why is it important to know about the Constitution and civics?” asked Navy Master Chief Petty Officer Craig McVeay. “Each of us has sworn to defend the Constitution. Doesn’t it make sense to know what we’ve sworn to defend? Learning and knowing the basics of our government and history is critical for those who are citizens of our nation.”

The same set of questions is posed to each Junior Trooper candidate and a different set for each Senior Trooper. They all come from a standardized study guide.

“Troopers selected to compete for the honor of being chosen as Trooper of the Quarter are given a study guide to help them prepare,” said Coast Guard Master Chief Petty Officer Scott Huff, from Port Security Unit 307. “The board members are directed to restrict their questions to only material covered in the guide, thereby ensuring fairness for all candidates.”

With a level playing field, common sense would dictate that each branch of service would bring home their fair share of winners, however, in LeVault’s two years as JTF CMC, he has witnessed an interesting phenomenon.

“I don’t know what it is,” said LeVault. “The Coast Guard has simply dominated during my time down here. I can only think of three times the Coast Guard hasn’t taken Senior Trooper and they usually take the Junior Trooper about half of the time. Maybe it’s because they’re a reserve unit and they can draw from their civilian experience. Truthfully, I don’t know.”

So, to all the other branches of service, the gauntlet has been thrown... 🍀



Army Col. Bruce Vargo, above left, leads U.S. Rep. Mike Turner (R-Ohio) during a tour of Camp Delta last Friday. At left, Vargo shows detainee living quarters to congressional staff during the same tour. - JTF Guantanamo photos by Petty Officer 1st Class Josh Treadwell



Lawmakers visit JTF

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

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

A member of the House Armed Services Committee received a first-hand look at the Joint Task Force last week.

U.S. Rep. Mike Turner (R-Ohio), who also serves on the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, was briefed with other congressional officials Friday, July 25 by key JTF officers. Turner also toured Camp Delta and the Expeditionary Legal Complex.

Joint Detention Group commander Army Col. Bruce Vargo, who hails from Turner's congressional district, discussed the detainee operations here, as well as tactics employed by detainees to create disruptions. Vargo said many of these tactics are similar to those practiced by the Irish Republican Army.

Vargo, responding to a question from a congressional staffer, emphasized that detainee segregation should not be confused with isolation.

"In the U.S. [correctional system] you have segregation where you see absolutely nobody," the JDG commander said. "We don't have that here."

Thomas agreed, noting that interrogation and isolation are the two largest misconceptions regarding the Joint Task Force.

"Prisoners in the U.S. aren't treated as well as detainees here," Thomas said.

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In it to win it

Out at third base!
Francis Olmeda makes the catch to tag out Richard Ortiz as he dives toward the base in an attempt to stay in the game.



**Staff Sgt.
Emily J. Russell**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Last Friday's baseball game between the Dukes and the Red Legs may be the most exciting game so far for the Morale, Welfare and Recreation baseball league this season.

The competition was fierce as the two top-ranked teams battled it out to secure the number one spot.

"Before the game, players from other teams in the league would approach me wanting to know who [I thought] would



Sean Reeves winds up to deliver a pitch against the Red Legs.

win so they would know who to beat in the finals," said Jorge Vega, captain of the Red Legs. "It put a lot of pressure on the players because we wanted to be in the first place standings."

"There was tension between the players because we thought the Dukes were undefeated," added Wilfredo Rodriguez, a right fielder for the Red Legs.

The Dukes scored first with a run in the first inning.

"For us, we knew we had to hit to win, so we made a lineup with the strongest hitters throughout," said Brandin Schumann, coach for the Dukes. "We placed players in positions where they have shown strength in previous games. We had some fielding errors [though], and that changed the pace of the game."

At the bottom of the third inning, Rafael Martinez, first baseman for the Red Legs, brought the heat.

"In sports you always need someone to step up for the team," said Vega. The momentum picked up when Martinez tied the game with a line drive to right field.

Both teams played strong defense with their fielding but the real contest was between the pitchers.

"[Chris] Ellis held the Dukes for five innings, only allowing one run in the first inning," said Vega. "He pitched a good game."

"Sean Reeves, [pitcher for the Dukes], threw a spectacular game. He throws hard and has a good mix of off-speed pitches [which] kept our players on their toes," said Ellis.

"I struggled with where I placed my pitch most of the game. My defense saved me several times, and when I needed it, I got the big strikeout that kept us in the game," he said.



Fernando Ortega keeps a steady eye on the mound as he grips the bat in anticipation of the pitch.

The Red Legs scored three runs in the bottom of the fifth as the Dukes committed three errors, missing two ground balls and one fly.

"Going into the sixth inning, knowing our score was 4-1, I was able to relax because we were only three outs away from winning the game," said Ellis.

Ellis walked the first two batters in the sixth inning as part of the team's strategy to maintain their stronghold. With bases loaded, and no outs, the Dukes saw potential to make a quick comeback with the right swing. Unfortunately for them, the Red Legs changed out their pitcher for a fresh arm, and the final batter never got the chance to bring the Dukes to victory. The final score was 4-2.

"If you have good fans to help motivation, it gives the team energy," said Rodriguez.

"The main thing is having fun and giving Soldiers a way to release their stress," added Vega. ♠



**Army Pfc.
Eric Liesse**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Even with trusted assurances on “The Dark Knight,” I had a sinking fear something about the movie would kill it for me – call it ‘Indiana Jones Syndrome.’

Frankly, I was wrong.

The sequel to 2005’s “Batman Begins,” “Dark Knight” continues the story in high gear. Once again helmed by director/producer/writer Christopher Nolan, the film opens with a bank robbery by thieves in clown masks. The Joker makes his first appearance as the ringleader who dupes his henchmen into literally shooting each other in the back.

Batman (Christian Bale) is the costumed, crime-fighting alter-ego of billionaire playboy Bruce Wayne. After a less-than-perfect night, Wayne decides he needs some new crime-fighting tools. With his

new suit’s amazing power of a movable neck, Bale shows Batman’s subtle and silent brooding and superior fighting skills.

Gotham City seems to have gained increasingly powerful and prevalent criminals since our last visit. The city’s answer is a “white knight” of a district attorney: Harvey Dent. The smooth-talking and determined Dent (Aaron Eckhart) is the second-most important character, who delves deep into the theme of personal ethics.

Police Lt. James Gordon (Gary Oldman) displays the characters’ understated heroic core. In both the comics and the film, Gordon, Dent and Batman form a tense but needed alliance to fight back against Gotham’s baddies.

Joker’s appearance in Gotham seems random and impulsive, just like the character. Joker’s presence drives Batman, Gordon and Dent into a wild chase about town, making attempt after attempt to stop him. Even when the team gets the crazed clown in custody, his reign of chaos is not over.

Overall, the story came across as a bit convoluted, with many subtle twists. Most viewers may find the plot more detail-oriented than they hoped. Also, some will feel the 2 hours-30 minutes running time, as many scenes are very dialogue driven.

Masterfully played by the late Heath Ledger, the Joker is the epitome of crazy – “a psychopathic, mass murdering, schizophrenic clown with zero empathy,” as Ledger described him in an interview. It may be a Batman film, but Ledger’s Joker steals every scene he’s in.

It is evident Nolan knew his actors well and was able to pull perfectly fitting performances from them – especially



Ledger. I haven’t seen such an effective villain since the likes of “Taxi Driver” or “A Clockwork Orange.” From his first real introduction you know Ledger is not messing around. His posture, his speech rhythm, his voice inflection, his eyes – all his actions are deliberate. Also, they didn’t waste it all on lame one-liners. Joker’s dialogue is so effective, the writers deserve a medal.

Thankfully, Tom Cruise went crazy and wouldn’t let Katie Holmes do this movie. The far more talented Maggie Gyllenhaal is in her place as Rachel Dawes, assistant D.A., who has started dating Dent – to Wayne’s surprise. Michael Caine returns as Wayne’s father-figure/butler, Alfred Pennyworth, while Morgan Freeman is back as Wayne Enterprises’ CEO and Wayne’s personal arms dealer. Both characters have razor wits and are Wayne’s moral compasses.

It’s important to note the tone of “Dark Knight” is much darker and more adult than “Batman Begins” – the Joker character and the tense ending are especially “adult.”

There are many aspects to love about “The Dark Knight.” Lots of Oscar buzz has surrounded the picture and especially for Ledger’s Joker. The best part about the movie: it’s not just a ‘great comic-book movie’ anymore. It’s a purely great movie. ☆

Rated PG-13
2 hour, 30 minutes

Rating: ★★★★★



Room to bring music to troops ears

**Army Pfc.
Eric Liesse**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Set atop Marine Hill, a small music hall with electric guitars, keyboards and Latin percussion instruments will soon open for public use.

"It's basically a rehearsal room for anyone that wants to use it," said Craig Basel, Morale, Welfare and Recreation installation program manager.

"It should be done within the next couple weeks," he added.

Open to active-duty Military service members and Department of Defense civilians, the room will have "a limited number" of instruments and amplifiers available, Basel said.

"For a number of years, we've had requests for people to have a place to go play instruments, practice with their band, or whatever," Basel explained. "So when we took over the Marine Hill Liberty Center, we found a space in there that we could use as a band room."

Basel stressed that he believes the new room will greatly benefit the Troopers who take up the offered instruments.

"I think it gives them another outlet, another place they can relax and hang out," Basel said. "[They can] go jam with their buddies and play some music or learn how to play guitar. It just gives another outlet to unwind and decompress."

The new room is set to have three electric guitars, two electric bass guitars, as well as an adequate amount of amplifiers for patrons.

The room will also include a full electric drum set and a vocal system. The room is set to have recording equipment available, but not on permanent basis.

"We went out and purchased everything for this room with liberty dollars," Basel stressed. "That way we could make sure it's available for the Troops first. We've got some really nice gear, too."

The electric guitars are Gibson faded special electric guitars, while the electric basses are Ibanez five-string bass guitars.

"We've got lots of equipment they can use or just go up and have a little jam session," said Basel. "There will be enough in there for somebody to walk in there, plug in and play."

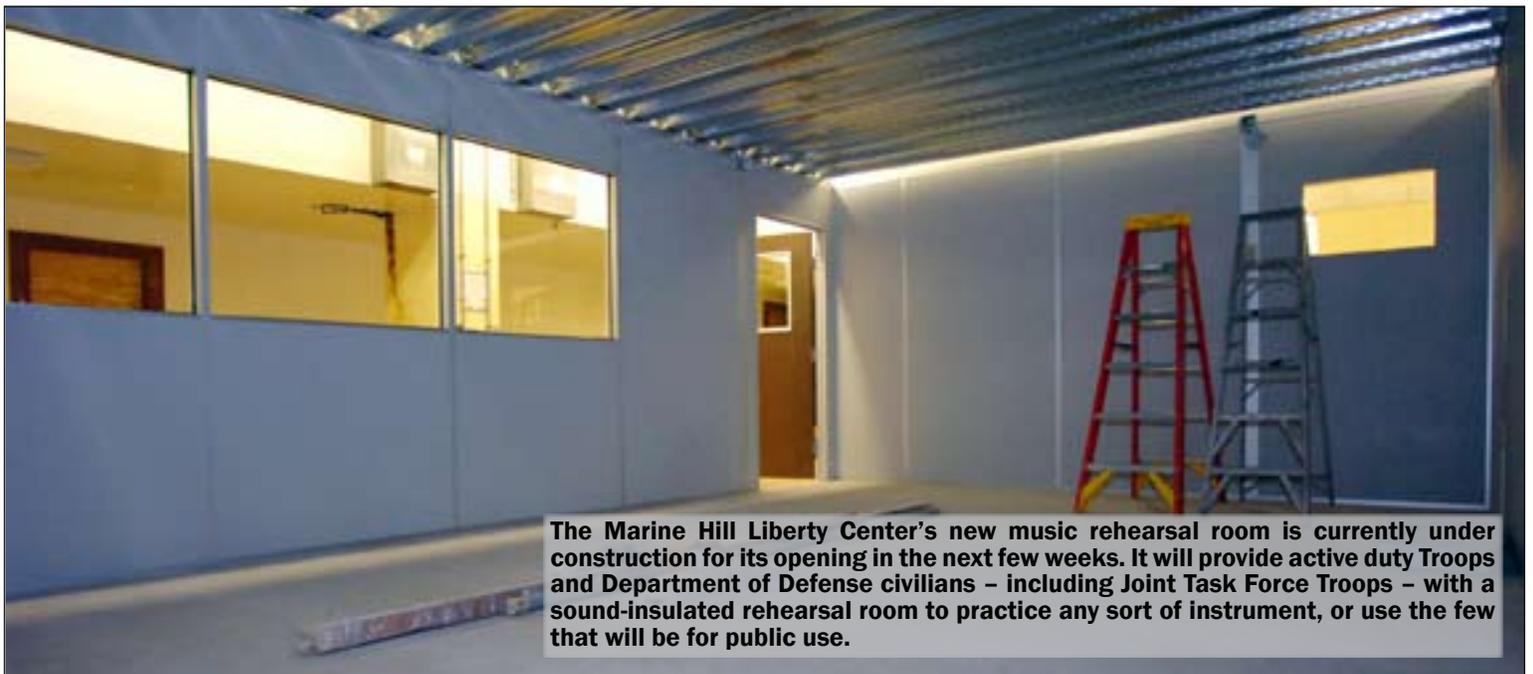
Built inside the old Marine Hill galley,



the new Marine Hill Liberty Center music room will be a 420-square-foot, pre-engineered building. The room will also be double-insulated, cutting noise pollution.

"It's well insulated so that the guys sitting outside it on the computers or

See **MUSIC/13**



The Marine Hill Liberty Center's new music rehearsal room is currently under construction for its opening in the next few weeks. It will provide active duty Troops and Department of Defense civilians – including Joint Task Force Troops – with a sound-insulated rehearsal room to practice any sort of instrument, or use the few that will be for public use.

They do it...

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class William Hunt and Navy Airman Curry Simpson dig and pry large rocks out of the ground as they prepare the soil for a community garden. Both sailors volunteer their time around Guantanamo Bay helping the children at the Child Development Center.



...for the kids

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Jayme Pastoric

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

What would it take to get Troopers out of their air-conditioned bat caves? Leave the comfort of their special blend “Kona” coffee and their precious meeting reminders and forwarded chain emails? Would it take money? How about doing it for some kids who aren’t yours? It takes a lot of heart to volunteer your off time to help a community in need.

Navy Petty Officer William Hunt and Navy Airman Curry Simpson have that heart and showed it as they volunteer their time to help the children at the Child Development Center. Hunt and Simpson spent an afternoon helping Child and Youth Programs Administrator Ms. Nancy Brown create a learning garden for the Guantanamo Bay children.

“I volunteered to help because it is something good everyone should do,” said Hunt. “I like doing manual labor, I like being outside, getting a good workout.”

“Just seeing the kids having a good time, enjoying the plants and learning is good enough for me,” said Simpson. “It’s a win-win situation to all of us.”

Hunt and Simpson spent the afternoon clearing rocks and overturning soil as they began the process of cultivating the Gitmo

soil for the CDC’s learning garden.

Armed with pick-axes and shovels, the sweat soaked volunteers started shaping the soil, moving softball size rocks from the earth and replacing them with the seeds of inspiration.

The garden will be an interactive place for the children to learn basic math, science and literacy. Ms. Brown says the science is watching the plants grow, the math is the act of counting how many plants and how much the garden will yield, and then the children will describe their experiences at the garden. Once finished the children will harvest the garden for their parents.

“We need volunteers because we don’t have the resources or personnel to pull from to complete projects,” said Brown. “If we didn’t have [volunteers] we couldn’t accomplish the things we needed to get done.”

Brown says there are a lot of other benefits to volunteering, such as interacting with members of the community and volunteering is great for a career too.

Volunteering can help with promotion points or earn Troopers awards such as the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, given to service members that consistently volunteer over time.

“These guys will walk away with pride,” said Brown, “and the personal satisfaction that they helped. ☆



Navy Airman Curry Simpson clears out debris from the dirt and prepares the soil for a community garden.



Soldier fitness a priority

Army Cpl. Steven Jones is tested in the push-up event of the Army Physical fitness test, July 29. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Gretel



Soldiers in HHD, 525th MP Battalion do abdominal work during a morning PT session July 29. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Gretel Sharpee

Fitness from 3

have to be able to provide security for another Soldier; a Chaplain, and that is important to me.”

Doing PT five days a week, every week could get mundane to even the most enthusiastic Soldier, so for that reason Sgt. 1st Class Jorge Moreira, platoon sergeant, HHD 525th MP Battalion, allows the Soldiers to pick the exercises they are going to go each day.

“We give guidance for what kind of PT we are doing that day [cardiovascular or muscle failure] but they choose what they want to do to work in those areas,” said Moreira.

Soldiers in the 525th MP Battalion hold many different positions with the Joint Task Force. The majority of the Soldiers work as guards in the detainee camps but there are also Soldiers working in the many

support services for the battalion.

“The only time we are together is when we are training or doing PT,” said 1st Sgt. Rodney Sanchez, HHD 525th Battalion. “And doing things as a company does improve morale so we will keep it that way.”

Soldiers also find time within their demanding work schedule to make it to the gym on their own time to make sure they are mission ready.

“I like to go to the Denich Gym because they have a bag for boxing,” said Spc. Michael Hempfield, supply specialist, 193rd Company, 525th MP Battalion. “I took third place in the 2008 All Army Boxing Competition before coming here, so I’d like to keep that up. Plus, being fit means I can do what ever these guys ask of me with my supply job. Long hours or whatever, it is good to know you’re ready.” ☆

10 “Taking Care of Yourself” Pointers

Here are a few recommendations from the Joint Troop Clinic on overall personal well being while stationed at Guantanamo Bay.

1. Always stretch before any physical activity and wear proper equipment for recreational sports
2. Remember to use the R.I.C.E. (Rest, Ice, Compression, Elevation) method to treat any extremity that’s injured.
3. Wear protective sunscreen and eye protection when outdoors.
4. Keep your skin clean and dry, and use anti-bacterial ointments on open wounds.
5. Increase your fluid levels when working or outdoors. On average, you should be drinking 4-6 liters of water per day when in hot weather and even more water during physical activity.
6. Eat three meals a day, balancing your diet with all food groups. Your body can lose electrolytes and salt through sweating and exercise. WATER ALONE IS NOT ENOUGH!
7. All medication and all dietary/health supplements dehydrate the body. You should be drinking 1.5 times your average water intake upon use.
8. Though you’ve been told a thousand times, you should always maintain good personal hygiene. Your daily routine should include washing your hands frequently, showering, and using the proper care products on your hands, feet, mouth, and underarms.
9. Although we are on a tropical island, wearing proper foot protection year-round is vital. Wear shoes/boots when walking over roads and uneven terrain as well as whenever you walk long distances.
10. When lifting, uses the proper mechanics and workout with a buddy. Many injuries occur when improper methods are applied to heavy lifting.

Congressmen tour JTF

VISIT from 5

“In the U.S. [correctional system] you have segregation where you see absolutely nobody,” the JDG commander said. “We don’t have that here.”

Navy Rear Adm. David Thomas, Jr., the Joint Task Force Commander, agreed, noting that interrogation and isolation are the two largest misconceptions regarding the Joint Task Force.

“Prisoners in the U.S. aren’t treated as well as detainees here,” Thomas said.

Turner praised the efforts of the Joint Task Force.

“You guys have an incredibly difficult job,” the lawmaker said. “These issues go right to the heart of how America is perceived, and right to the heart of what 9-11 was about.” ☆

Some information for this report was provided by the Dayton



The Marine Hill Liberty Center’s new music rehearsal room is currently under construction, and is expected to open in the next few weeks. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Pfc. Eric Liesse

Music room strikes chord

MUSIC from 10

on the Internet back home won’t be distracted,” said Basel.

The music room’s hours are expected to mirror the liberty center, which currently are 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

“We’ll have to get it open, see how it works, and see how much patronage we get before actually setting hard-and-fast rules,” Basel explained. “The liberty center is pretty much an open-door policy right now and Jeffery [Shaw, who will oversee the room upon its completion] runs a lot of programs up there, so we’ll just have to see how [the music room] mixes with that. We’ll look at it for a couple weeks and then adjust accordingly.”

Although construction only recently began on the new room, MWR had intentions to build it for some time.

“We’ve had the building for a while, it’s just finding time to get it constructed,” Basel elaborated. “We’ve had so many other projects that were stacked in front of this one. Once we finished the golf course and the new Tiki Bar, we adjusted our priorities for this project, because we were getting a lot calls for it.” ☆



Boots on the Ground

by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Nat Moger

Who would you rather fight: Hulk Hogan, “Macho Man” Randy Savage, or a bear?

**Coast Guard Cmdr.
Bob Grassino**



“Hulk Hogan, since he’s an old man like me.”

**Army 1st Lt.
Shane Lauritzen**



“Randy Savage. It would be cool to say you beat up on the Macho Man, but if he comes down here looking to fight, I’m gonna blame you.”

**Navy Hospitalman
Audrey Mattei**



“Probably Macho Man, because he’s skinnier than the Hulk and a bear’s way too big.”

**Coast Guard Petty
Officer 3rd Class Mike
McLaughlin**



“Hulk Hogan, so I can be in charge of the Hulka-maniacs.”



For the news junkies

**Navy Lt. Cmdr.
Clint Pickett**

JTF Command Chaplain

Are you a news junkie? Do you have a compulsion to check out the newest, late-breaking news? I have to admit that I tend to take a glance at some of the various news sites on the Internet a couple of times a day. But I am not a junkie, though, just aware of current events!

Bad news is a good thing in the news business, because bad news gets people's attention. The article used the war in Iraq as an example. For the longest time, whenever a Soldier was killed or wounded, we heard about it.

Any death we suffer over there is tragic, but what isn't reported with bold headlines is anything that happened to go right on any particular day. We don't often find news stories about power being restored, or hospitals being repaired, or businesses being rebuilt, or teachers being hired.

A hundred good things might occur,

touching thousands of lives, and we seldom hear about them. And what happens to last week's headline? Who remembers, or who can follow up? Focusing exclusively on the stream of individual daily events can cause us to lose sight of the big picture. The author of the article suggested forgetting about daily news altogether, and getting our information from periodicals or books. Sources such as these give us a bigger perspective of what is going on in our world, and where we might be headed.

Perspective can be very helpful in our personal lives. How often do we focus on a single event that might happen in our day, usually a negative event? Maybe it could be a hurtful remark by a significant other or a friend. We can let that single "headline event" overshadow all the little good things that might have happened on that same day. The sun setting in splendor over the bay, a phone call from a good friend you haven't heard from in a while, a word of praise and thanks from our boss.

Instead of getting lost in the "headlines" of each day, we can look at the big picture of what is going on in our lives. Looking back over the past few months or years can help us get a better picture of where our lives are going. I know that I can see how God is working in my life if I take a bigger perspective, instead of getting lost in the flow of individual days.

If we are working toward a goal, taking the longer view can help as well. We can see overall progress and not be discouraged over the occasional set back on any particular day.

One of my favorite Bible verses is from Jeremiah, "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." (NRSV Jer. 29:11) God always sees the big picture. Living in faith and trust in his guidance, God will set us free from the occasional daily setback, to give us a future with hope, indeed! ✨

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

Versatility: a skill to have in the military

**Army Spc.
Megan Burnham**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

What are the differences between working as a dining facilities manager and a platoon sergeant of a military police unit? There aren't as many as one might think. For Army Sgt. 1st Class Don Chandler, transferring from a dining facilities manager at the U.S. Disciplinary Barracks, Fort Leavenworth, Kan., to a platoon sergeant with the 525th Military Police Battalion was an assignment that he was prepared and qualified for.

"This is a unique situation," said Chandler. "A platoon sergeant is not military occupation specialty (MOS) specific. It's about leading, training and mentoring Soldiers."

Chandler was originally deployed here to fill a food service slot with the modification table organization and equipment unit. However, food services are contracted out. It was at this point that directorate of operations non-commissioned officer-in-charge Army 1st Sgt. Mark Provost, a co-worker at Fort Leavenworth, decided that

**Army Sgt. 1st
Class Don
Chandler,
platoon
sergeant with
the 525th
Military Police
Battalion
reviews a non-
commissioned
officer
evaluation
report of a
Soldier who will
be transferring
to a new duty
station.**



he could better utilize Chandler as a platoon sergeant with the 525th MP Battalion.

"I was impressed by his professionalism and work ethic," said Provost. "I knew he could easily take on the role of a platoon sergeant."

Provost continued, "I wanted him here [with the 525th]. He made a good addition to the company."

According to Chandler, this change

From a DFAC manager to a platoon sergeant was not as drastic of an adjustment as some might think. A platoon sergeant's main requirement is to have the leadership skills and the ability to effectively lead and train Soldiers.

"My role as platoon sergeant is to mentor junior non-commissioned officers on how to take care of their Soldiers and accomplish the mission," said Chandler. "Also to pass along the knowledge I have gained over my military [career] to them."

Chandler's work ethic and professionalism comes from previous assignments as a recruiter and a drill sergeant. He also had prior platoon sergeant experience working for the headquarters platoon leading Soldiers in the food service, supply and administration areas while stationed at Hunter Army Air Field, Ga.

"Chandler is very professional in dealing with people," said Provost. "I've seen that he won't stop until the mission at hand is complete."

Since coming here in May, Chandler has demonstrated that taking care of his Soldiers is his primary mission. That doesn't go unnoticed by others in the unit.

For anyone who plans on becoming an NCO, Chandler leaves with this parting thought.

"Regardless of what your MOS is, once you become a non-commissioned officer, it's about effectively leading Soldiers." ★



Army Sgt. 1st Class Don Chandler gives a Soldier just arriving on base his initial counseling as part of the reception and integration process.



A guard from the 525th Military Police battalion stands ready as he prepares to move a detainee.
- JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Jayme Pastoric



Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Oreste Lebron, a crew leader in the Navy Mobile Construction Battalion 74, grinds rough edges off a metal frame. NMCB 74 provides construction and engineering support to Joint Task Force Guantanamo. -JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Erica Isaacson

Three Troopers from the 525th Military Police Battalion along with a West Point Cadet, carry a tent after performing an equipment inventory.
-JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Brian Jopek



Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Marcus D. Arnold, attached to the Joint Troop Clinic, performs an eye stain check to clear dust from a patient's eye. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Kleyntia R. McKnight

**AROUND
THE
JTF**