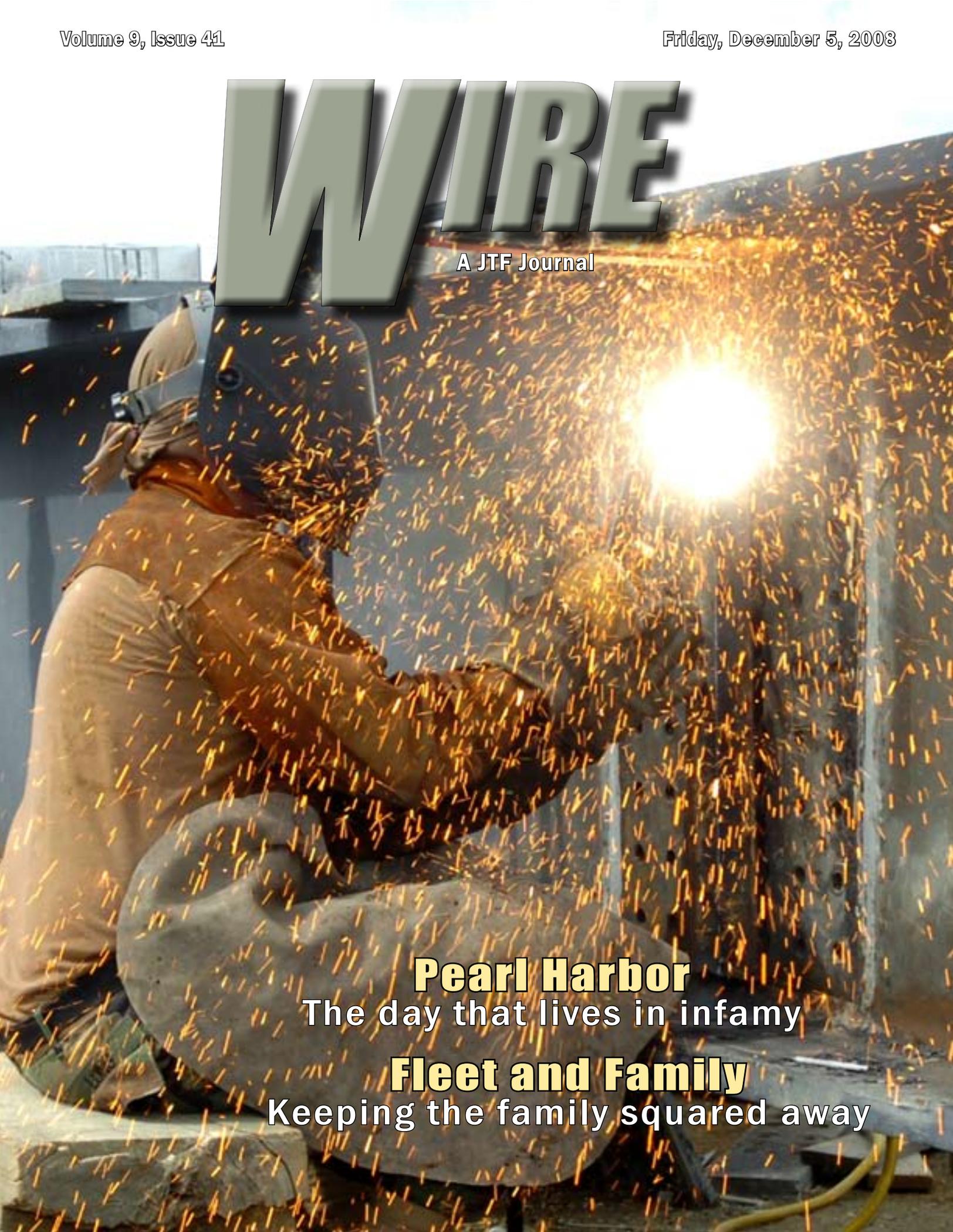


WIRED

A JTF Journal



Pearl Harbor

The day that lives in infamy

Fleet and Family

Keeping the family squared away

Military discipline & courtesy

**Army 1st Sgt.
Mark Provost**

525th Military Police Battalion

Military discipline is the tool that develops self-control, character, and efficiency. As a result, such training implies subjection to control exerted for the good of the group. It is the state of order existing within a command.

Discipline is not exclusive to military organizations, but applies to civilian society as well. No business organization could operate without it. Everybody is subject to the discipline of laws, ordinances, regulations and rules.

Few professions are as dependent on discipline as is the military. An army is best seen as a collection of individuals who must set aside their personal interests, concerns, and fears to pursue the purpose of the group collectively. The marshalling of individual wills and talents into a single entity enables an army to face daunting challenges and great adversity, and therefore achieve objectives unattainable except through concerted effort. The instrument by which this is accomplished is discipline.

The chief purpose of military discipline is the harnessing of the capacity of the individual to the needs of the group. The sense of cohesion that comes from combining the individual wills of group members provides unity of purpose. The group that achieves such cohesiveness is truly a unit. Effective discipline is a critical factor at all levels of the military, and nowhere more so than at the unit level.

Signs that discipline is present: a smart salute, proper wearing of uniform, prompt and correct action in case of emergency, and in battle, efficiency that brings victory in war.

Military courtesy among members of the armed forces is vital to maintain discipline. Military courtesy means good manners and politeness in dealing with other people. Courteous behavior provides a basis for developing good human relations. The distinction between civilian and military courtesy is that military courtesy was developed in a military atmosphere and has become an integral part of serving in uniform.

Most forms of military courtesy have some counterpart in civilian life. For example, we train Soldiers to say "sir" or "ma'am" when talking to a higher ranking officer. Young men and women are sometimes taught to say "sir" to their fathers or "ma'am" to their mothers – and likewise to other elders. It is often considered good manners for a younger person to say "sir" or "ma'am" when speaking to an older person. The use of the word "sir" is also common in the business world, such as in the salutation of a letter or in any well-ordered institution.

Military courtesy is not a one-way street. Enlisted personnel are expected to be courteous to officers, and likewise, officers are expected to return the courtesy. Mutual respect is a vital part of military courtesy. In the final analysis, military courtesy is the respect shown to each other by members of the same profession. Some of the Army's more common courtesies include rendering the hand salute, standing at attention or parade rest, or even addressing others by their rank.

Often it is these customs and traditions, strange to the civilian eye but solemn to the Soldier, that keeps those serving in uniform going in the unexciting times of peace. In war it keeps them ready to fight at the front. ★



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COVER:

Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Matthew Long, steelworkers attached to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Four, let sparks fly while welding a section of a bridge Dec. 1. NMCB Four is on a six-month deployment supporting Joint Task Force Guantanamo's construction projects. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Pfc. Carlynn Knaak



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.

Remembering...

the attack on Pearl Harbor

**Army Staff Sgt.
Gretel Sharpee**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Everyone knows the story – a sleepy Hawaiian island morning, an early warning siren that wasn't early enough, and the attack that forced the U.S. armed forces into World War II.

The Japanese meant the attack on U.S. Naval Station Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941 as a preemptive strike to hinder the U.S. Navy's Pacific fleet, allowing them to wage a more successful attack of their own against British and Netherland forces in Southwest Asia.

Unfortunately they succeeded in their attack, inflicting major damage to Pearl Harbor, but it didn't hinder Pearl Harbor for as long or in the extent they hoped for.

The Japanese focused their attacks on battleships and aircraft carriers and secondary targets such as cruisers and destroyers. This tactic was based on the belief that a battle in the Pacific would be fought using battleships.

Whether or not this was true, without battleships to rely on, the U.S. used their submarines and aircraft carriers in future incursions with the Japanese, ultimately crippling their naval fleet.

Another mistake made was not focusing on headquarter buildings around Pearl Harbor. The "Old Administration Building" survived unscathed, with the U.S.'s cryptanalytic unit in the basement

able to continue its intelligence mission aiding the Navy in future incursions with Japanese forces.

Today, two of the eight ships originally sunk during the attack at Pearl Harbor remain. One, the USS Arizona, was turned into a memorial for the 1,102 Sailors who died aboard the ship. The USS Arizona Memorial was also declared a National Historic Landmark on May 5, 1989.

In his Pearl Harbor speech to the American public following the attack, President Franklin D. Roosevelt said this:

"Today, Pearl Harbor remains an important part of U.S. history reminding us of the capabilities of our enemies. No

matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people, in their righteous might, will win through to absolute victory. ...Hostilities exist. There is no blinking at the fact that our people, our territory and our interests are in grave danger."

"...With confidence in our armed forces, with the unbounding determination of our people, we will gain the inevitable triumph. So help us God. I ask that the Congress declare that since the unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on Sunday, Dec. 7, 1941, a state of war has existed between the United States and the Japanese Empire." ☆



(Above) Today, the USS Arizona Memorial is a place where visitors can pay tribute to the more than 1,000 Sailors who lost their lives there. (Left) A rare picture of USS Arizona sinking during the second attack wave on Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.



Lt. j.g. Jesse Webster (left) and Senior Chief Petty Officer Charles Ferrante of the PSU 307 Shoreside Security Division, managed the internal security of the courtrooms during commissions at Guantanamo Bay.

Mission of the Shoreside Security

**Army Spc.
Megan Burnham**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

When the Port Security Unit 307 first arrived to U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, not only were they in charge of manning the transportable port security boats and patrolling the waters, they were also tasked to maintain security in the courtrooms during commissions.

PSU 307 is comprised of two divisions, enabling the unit to complete their role in the Joint Task Force mission both onshore and out on the open waters.

“One of our divisions is a waterborne division where they do water security on the bay,” said Lt. j.g. Jesse Webster, internal security officer in charge. “Our other division is a shoreside division where we’re the internal security for the courtrooms.”

In the sixth months that the Florida-based unit was deployed here, not much recognition was given to the shoreside division and their mission on base.

The shoreside division’s main mission was to transport detained enemy combatants, safely and humanely, from building AV-34 near Camp Justice to the courtrooms during commissions.

“Our job is maintaining security during the commissions in the courtroom from the time the detainee arrives until the time he leaves from [AV-34],” said Senior Chief Petty Officer Charles Ferrante, sergeant of guard in the courtroom.

While escorting doesn’t seem like a difficult job, it is a job that requires the ability to continually adjust to new and different scenarios on a day-to-day basis.

“When you’re doing missions like internal security or anything that involves the courtrooms, it’s not a cut-and-dry job,” said Webster. “There is always going to be something that changes on a daily basis.”

Training was a key task for the shoreside division during their deployment. The division trained every day when no commissions were scheduled, but made sure to train at least two to three times a

week when commissions were going on.

“Our training is based around the safe, humane custody and care of the detainees,” said Webster. “We train for any type of scenario to prevent any kind of detainee injuries.”

As a majority of the division is in the Florida law enforcement, many had the prior experience to effectively handle detainees during this deployment.

“It’s a good learning experience for them,” said Webster. “It’s a high profile mission and we’re making history while were down here.”

For many in the division, this was their second deployment to Guantanamo Bay; however, as the unit has been replaced by the PSU 305, it is unsure if the PSU 307 will be returning again in the near future.

“We had a vital role in the commissions process and the overall mission of the JTF,” said Webster. “This was my first deployment and it was a unique experience to work with the Navy, the Army, the Air Force and the Marines – it was a treat.” ✪

Meeting your needs. At home. At sea.

**Army Pfc.
Eric Liesse**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

For years, the Navy's Fleet and Family Support Centers have assisted service members with questions about retirement, relocation, personal finances, education, family troubles, or just general job skills in the civilian world. The dedicated support personnel at the FFSCs around the Navy have been a guiding beacon of information and assistance to Sailors and their families – all for free.

Guantanamo Bay Naval Station has had its FFSC "on the hill" near Bulkeley Hall for decades. In 2008, however, FFSC personnel here knew the Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers' need for assistance could be met much easier if a satellite office was set up within JTF's area of operation. To that end, FFSC opened an office at JTF's Trooper One Stop and started sending their personnel five days each week.

"We requested to have an office, refurbished it, cleaned it up and started to support the service members," said Patricia Williams, the director of Guantanamo's FFSC.

"We can lessen any stress put on by a deployment before [Troopers] go home," added Williams, a licensed clinical therapist with many years working with FFSCs around the Navy.

The shop at JTF's Trooper One Stop makes the many free FFSC far more accessible by eliminating the trip needed to get to the NAVSTA office. With NAVSTA's FFSC counselors being utilized to man the new shop, all services and assistance can be offered at both offices.

Ronald Lancaster, an FFSC counselor who specializes in and teaches the Transition Assistant Program, pulls no punches when counseling Troopers about their post-military plans, making sure they are acting on them and not just setting goals.

"I know a thousand stories and a thousands lies," said Lancaster. "What matters to me is you make the right decision with the right information." He often sees service members who make decisions "based either on misinformation, not enough information, or they interpret the information in the wrong way."

Lancaster teaches and counsels by drawing from his knowledge of transitions and expertise on the civilian job market – from how to perform in an interview and write a résumé, to how to dress appropriately and carry oneself in the civilian job world. Lancaster mans the Trooper One Stop FFSC office every Thursday.

FFSC Guantanamo's Life Skills Manager, Beth Cabiness, is new to the island, but draws from her background in business and years of teaching to assist



Naval Station Guantanamo now has a Fleet and Family Support Center satellite office within Joint Task Force's Trooper One Stop. Open Monday through Friday, the JTF office offers all services of the NAVSTA office, and for free.

service members with personal stress management and relationship classes and counseling – among other things.

"We have such a big team with such diverse skills that we can get you whatever help you need," said Cabiness. At the Trooper One Stop on Wednesday, Cabiness leads classes and programs such as Anger Management, Couples Communication, and Stress Management.

Cabiness also leads the Return Reunion Program which assists service members on healthy ways to reunite with families after a deployment, taking into account things such as loss of family time, changes in the home, or even economic changes in that service member's community.

"With the stress [JTF Troopers] are under, with the work they do, we just want to help," said Cabiness.

Dana Willingham helps service members with installation relocation services, as well as the Navy Family Ombudsman Program. An ombudsman is a "liaison between the families and the command" for deployed Sailors. They are able to get information to and from a command to all the families back home so families can stay informed of their service member's goals and overall mission, as well as alleviate harmful rumors that may spread.

Willingham, who works at the One Stop office Mondays, also assists Lancaster with Transition Assistance Program classes and teaches sponsorship classes. The sponsorship program helps incoming Troopers to a command by having a fellow service member give them information and introduce them to an installation.

"The first impression can make the difference between a great duty station and a disastrous one," said Willingham.

"I think just being in the military presents a special set of problems," said Richard

Ponder, the family advocacy case manager who deals with family abuse and instability who mans the One Stop on Fridays. "Just that separation from your spouse... has an impact on the marriage."

Ponder is called upon to interview both victims and alleged offenders in cases of family violence and abuse. With more than 25 years as a licensed marriage and family therapist, and previous work with FFSCs, Ponder can do screenings and "general talks" with families when things may not be all quiet on the home front.

"Please, on Fridays, if you have a need, just knock on the door," Ponder said, stressing that the stigma some service members have against the FFSC is not worth letting anxiety or family issues escalate.

"You can't do this job without having a heart for service members," said Lancaster, a retired Navy senior chief who served in Guantanamo in the late 1970s and has been a TAG teacher since 1992. "We have clinical psychologists here who could work for \$200 an hour, but they're here for pennies. They're here for the service members."

"What I'm most proud of for this Fleet and Family Support Center is that my crew is dedicated," said Williams. By staying late and taking walk-ins that need assistance, FFSC's personnel team – either at NAVSTA's or JTF's office – provides vital assistance on virtually any issue a service member may have.

JTF's Trooper One Stop FFSC office is open 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 10:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Fridays. However, the One Stop office will be closed through Dec. 12 for a Regional Accreditation site visit, while the NAVSTA office will continue to be open throughout the visit. The One Stop office phone number is 8127, while the NAVSTA office number is 4141. ☆



Troopers from the Joint Intelligence Group grab for each other's flags during the JIG's Thanksgiving Day football matchup, which pitted the unit's lower enlisted against its chiefs and officers.

What is Thanksgiving without football?

**Army Sgt.
Sarah Stannard**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Football and Thanksgiving. They go together like Mom and apple pie, like Sailors and a ship, like Dennis Rodman and Carmen Electra. And they've been together a lot longer, too. Since 1876, anyway.

It was in that year that the Northeast's newly formed Intercollegiate Football Association instituted their championship game on turkey's most illustrious day, and within a decade it was the premier athletic event in the nation. By the mid 1980's, 120,000 athletes from colleges, clubs, and high schools were taking part in 5,000 Thanksgiving Day football games across the country, and this year Joint Task Force Guantanamo's Joint Intelligence Group added pigskin to their own pursuits.

The unit's chiefs and officers challenged the JIG's lower enlisted to a flag-football battle on the dusty gridiron of Brandon Field, not unlike those fought on national television by (perhaps a little) better paid warriors.

The lower enlisted brought all of the spunk, enthusiasm and trash-talk that one would expect from a spry group of young'uns, while the chofficers bided their time. The teams exchanged touchdowns...once...and then the chofficers made their move. Drive

after drive the lower enlisted were stopped on the 10, four and two yard lines, while the seniors racked up touchdown after touchdown; taking the score to 21-7 at the half.

The second half of the game promised to be as dazzling as the first with on-the-fly refing bringing the game closer and closer to absurdity. The chofficers had the distinction of being awarded the only delay of game penalty (confirming the old adage that the wardroom cannot make a decision), while the lower enlisted's quarterback finally managed to connect with his receiver on a spectacular 50-yard-touchdown pass, quickly reversed because the receiver may or may not have been in bounds.

With the game at 35-14 and the seniors at fourth and long, the lower's defense finally stiffened, preventing what could have been the final nail in their coffin. The lower enlisted fought hard, but to no avail as they managed only one more touchdown to the chofficers' four.

With the final score 42-21 chofficers, both teams limped off of the field – hot, tired, dirty, but ready to do some serious Thanksgiving Day eating. ☆



Members of the lower enlisted team huddle during the Joint Intelligence Group's Thanksgiving Day football matchup, Nov. 27. The lower enlisted took on the chiefs and officers in a battle for gridiron glory - flag football style.

An ode to the blunder years

**Army Pfc.
Eric Liesse**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Awkward teenagers in awkward first-time love have long been the focus of awkwardly cute, popular stories. 2007's "Juno" was a huge critical and commercial success with rabid young fans, while John Hughes practically owned the genre in the 1980s. The latest – "Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist" – follows in this tradition with a dirty counter-culture touch.

The film follows Michele Cera as Nick, a straight-edge teen who loves indie-rock. He spends the film running around New York City's lower east side with Norah (Kat Dennings) searching for the underground punk band "Where's Fluffy?", who play shows at venues giving only clues to their location around town.

Cera plays Nick similarly to his character in "Juno": subtly sarcastic and very green to relationships after his recent breakup with glamour-girl Tris (Alexis Dziena). Dennings plays the strong-willed independent girl with her own relationship problems, so the pair comes together nicely.

The pair, who begins the film not knowing each other, meets after a concert of Nick's indie-punk band. Norah, who knows (and hates) Tris from school, runs into her at the show and quickly lies, telling Tris that she's at the show with her boyfriend. After ogling him on stage earlier, Norah haphazardly darts to Nick and makes him kiss her and pretend to be her boyfriend until Tris leaves.

Quickly learning of her horrible luck, Norah commits fully to her lie and leaves with Nick while carrying her immensely drunk best friend Caroline (Ari Graynor). Although they only just met, Nick's bandmates Thom (Aaron Yoo) and Dev (Rafi Gavron) already believe Norah to be the savior for Nick that can bring him out his month-long separation depression to finally get over Tris.

The remainder of the film plays out like a road-trip/coming-of-age/emo-punk love story, although it doesn't feel nearly as congested. The team of teens searches city-wide for any clue of "Where's Fluffy?" whereabouts, while also trying to find the drunken Caroline after she flees the band van thinking she was abducted from the concert. Caroline, stumbling around the city, also forces Norah to stay with Nick even after Norah seems fed up with him constantly taking about Tris.

The supporting cast with Cera and Dennings is thankfully massive, as you can

only watch so much of two awkward teenagers decide if they want to be together. Graynor as Caroline spends most of the film wasted off her rockers, but she's funny with it so it works. Thom and Dev constantly go back and forth about the band's name, all being lewd sexual references. Many noticeable comedians make unnamed cameos, including Seth Meyers, Andy Samberg and John Cho.

Cera and Dennings fit perfectly together as the intellectual youngsters who seem made for each other, though it does bring up lots of comparisons to Cera and Ellen Page in "Juno" – a better film.

"Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist" is a much simpler story than "Juno," so comparisons between "Playlist" and beloved classics can come up easier due to its simple story. However, this film stands perfectly fine on its own while uncomfortably gazing at its plain Converse All-Stars. ☆



PG-13
1 hour, 30 minutes

Rating: ★★★★★☆



TURKEY GOBLER SOFTBALL

Photos by Army Staff Sgt. Gretel Sharpee

The Cooper Field Softball fields were packed Nov. 28 through 29 for the Turkey Gobler Softball tournament. Nine teams signed up to compete and played at least three games each during the tournament. In the end, the top three teams were:

- 1st place: The Untouchables
- 2nd place: The Dukes
- 3rd place: The Docs.



Jamison Herrera hits a double for the The Dukes in their second game in the Turkey Gobler tournament.



Brandin Schuman tags a runner out while sliding into first base.

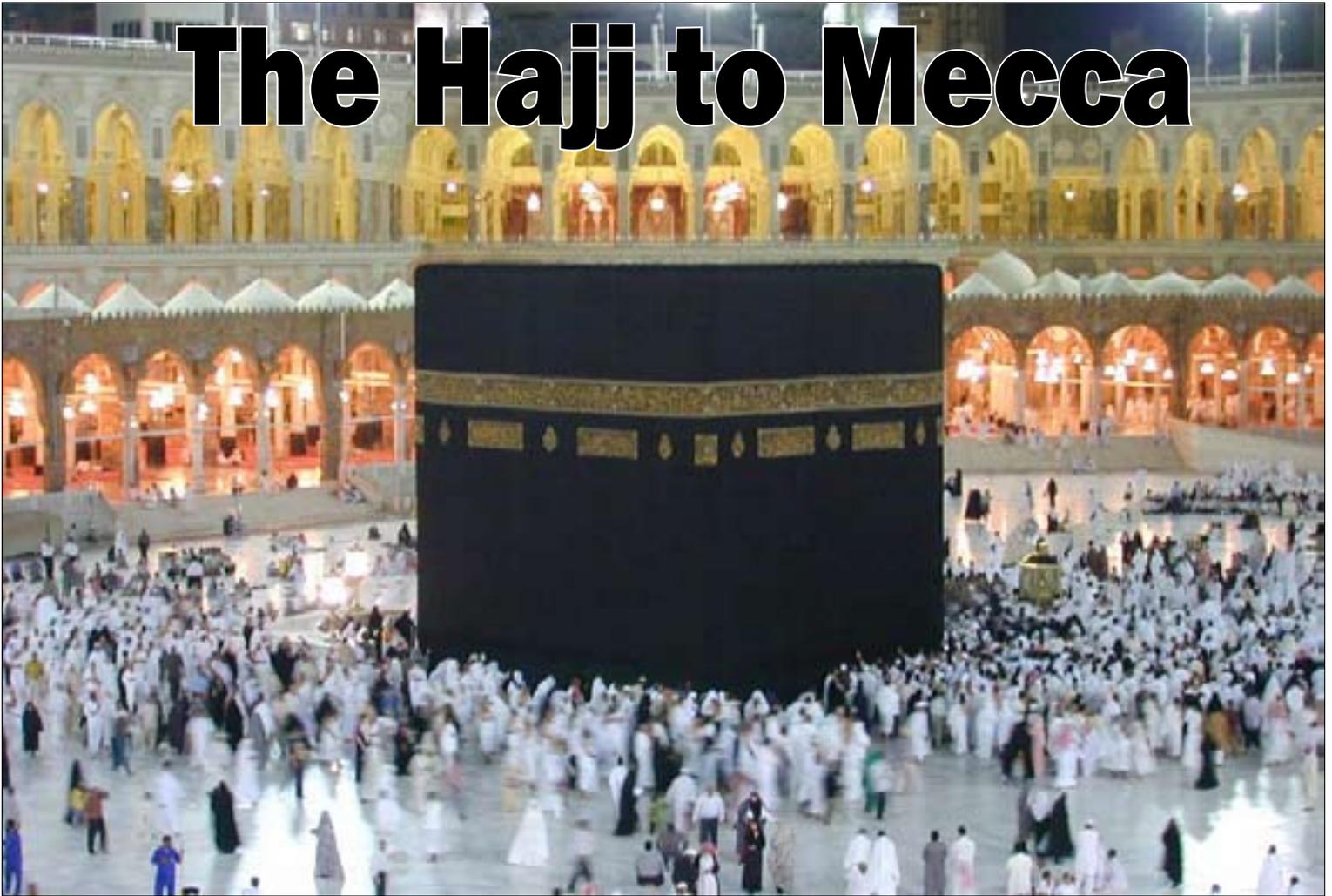


A member of the Dukes makes it to first base.



The Exhibitionists congratulate a team member after hitting a home run.

The Hajj to Mecca



On the first day of the Hajj in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, Muslim pilgrims walk around the Kaaba (the Black Stone) seven times at The Sacred Mosque. The Hajj is an obligation all Muslims, who are able, must complete at least once in their lifetime.

Army Spc. Megan Burnham

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The city of Mecca, Saudi Arabia, is currently filled with about 1.3 million Muslim travelers for the annual pilgrimage, called the Hajj, to fulfill a Muslim obligation to become a practicing Muslim.

In the Muslim tradition, the Five Pillars of Islam are five duties every adult must complete in their lifetime. These duties include Shahadah, professing Allah as the only God and Prophet Muhammad as his messenger; Salat, ritual prayers; Zakat, giving charity; Siyam, fasting during Ramadan; and the Hajj.

"These are the minimum things that are supposed to make you a good person, but everything else is also important," said Zak, cultural advisor for the Joint Task Force Guantanamo. "You must be honest with your job, be honest with yourself, be honest with your family and not harm other people."

The only requirement in attending Hajj is each individual must be able to afford the time as well as the trip to Mecca financially, and must also be healthy.

"If you have children you have to take care of them first – they become a priority," said Zak. "You're only supposed to do it once in your lifetime so you don't take the opportunity away for other people to do it."

When arriving in Mecca, participants, referred to as pilgrims, perform a series of ritual acts that symbolize the lives of Abraham and his wife Hagar. Also, everyone will put on ihram clothing before leaving Mecca for the town Mina where the Saudi government provides large tents to accommodate all the pilgrims.

"There are guides who help people with what to do and what to say," said Zak. "Food is also provided as well as medical assistance and security – it's all provided."

The first day of Hajj, Nov. 30, began with the first tawaf (Islamic ritual), called the Umrah. Pilgrims entered The Sacred Mosque (Masjid Al Haram) and walked seven times counter-clockwise around the sacred stone Kaaba (the Black Stone), kissing it after each circuit completed. Afterwards, pilgrims are required to offer two Rakaat prayers at the Place of Abraham. Before the day is over, pilgrims walk or run seven times between the hills

of Safa and Marwah. This is done as a re-enactment of Hagar searching for water for her son Ismael.

The next day involved traveling to Mount Arafat to the location where Muhammad gave his last sermon. Pilgrims spent the afternoon within the defined area until after sunset; there are no ritual requirements but many pass the time praying or thinking about their lives. After sunset, the pilgrims travel to Muzdalifah to gather pebbles.

The next ritual, stoning of the devil, is at the valley of Mina where seven pebbles are thrown to signify their defiance to the Devil and symbolize the trials Abraham experienced when deciding whether to sacrifice his son as demanded by God.

After the stoning of the devil ritual, an animal is sacrificed to symbolize God having mercy on Abraham and replacing his son with a ram. This four-day festival is called Eid ul-Adha where all pilgrims have an animal sacrificed in their name. A sheep sacrifice will account for one pilgrim while a cow can represent seven people. After the sacrifice, the meat is packaged and given to charity and shipped to poor people around

See **HAIJ/12**

A legacy of success

**Navy Petty Officer 1st Class
Jayme Pastoric**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

If Troopers are looking for an organization that helps the Guantanamo community, promotes ideas from strong-minded individuals and has a legacy of almost a decade, one association would like to hear what you have to say.

The African American Association is a group of highly motivated role models which provides guidance and assistance to both Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers and Naval Station personnel.

The AAA brings a level of maturity and professionalism in all areas, and they are motivated to inspire and lead Troopers to success.

"We promote a positive image of the African American community throughout Guantanamo Bay," said Maurice Elkins, association president. "We also strive for diversity and respect to other cultures and organizations."

The Guantanamo AAA provides a wealth of knowledge and like-minded individuals who come together to share ideas and help service members overcome issues that members have seen before.

"Having another mentor to gain knowledge from is one of the benefits from being in the organization," said Elkins

With six core members that are professionals in their respective fields, the

AAA is on a mission to promote a positive image of their association in Guantanamo Bay, organize events and educate all members, military or civilian.

"I joined the association because I was looking for a family atmosphere," said Navy

members. With meetings twice a month and a network of members around the world, the scope of learning and progressing as an association is limitless.

"We look for people who bring strong traits to the association as they would to their military or civilian job," said Elkins. "Purpose, dedication, loyalty, a sense of commitment and a pride above all is something we look for in new members."

Elkins promotes Guantanamo as being a breeding ground for productivity among its members. He said because it's such a close-knit community, you can alleviate a lot of the outside influences you would have in other areas.

"Strong role models can help foster a member's career," said Elkins. "Because of the small area, you can have more face time and a quicker response back."

Prior members from the association keep in contact with each other to maintain close ties and help maintain a world-wide network of support, with deep roots in Guantanamo.

"We get e-mails all the time from prior members that left the island asking how things are and how the last festivity was," said Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Carlos Barns.

Contact association president Maurice Elkins at 5100 for more information. ✪



Petty Officer 1st Class David Lowe. "Just that extra person to talk to, or get help from makes life easier."

The AAA is always looking for new

Asking for forgiveness

HAIJ from 10
the world.

Following the festival, pilgrims re-visit The Sacred Mosque which signifies the willingness to quickly respond to God and show love for him, called the Tawaf az-Ziyarah. Additionally, pilgrims travel to Mina to throw seven pebbles a second time.

The last ritual before leaving Mecca is a farewell ritual called the Tawaf al-Wada.

While detained enemy combatants at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay are unable to partake in Hajj, they are offered the opportunity to fast on the last day of Hajj, Dec. 7. On Dec. 8 and 9, feast meals will be given to them at dinner that they normally provide on Fridays.

“The whole purpose of this activity is to hope and ask God to forgive your sins,” said Zak. “When you do it, you have to be sincere. Think of it as going to confession where you ask God to forgive you.”

Zak added, “It’s important for all of us to understand what faith is. Faith consists of two things: giving thanks and having patience. All of us need to give thanks to God and be patient; whatever the problem is, it will be solved.” ✨



Living tents are provided by the Islamic government at Mina to accommodate all pilgrims during the Hajj. – Contributed photo

Sun Protection

Being outside on a warm, sunny day is one of life’s greatest pleasures, but getting too much sun can be dangerous.

- Wear Sunglasses that block 99 to 100 percent of UV radiation
- Wear a hat. A hat with a wide brim offers good sun protection to your eyes, ears, face, and the back of the neck-areas particularly prone to overexposure.
- Protect other areas with clothing during prolonged periods in the sun.
- Always use sunscreen when outside on a sunny day.
- Avoid the midday sun as much as possible. The sun’s UV rays are the strongest between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- Avoid sunlamps and tanning parlors. Sun beds damage the skin and unprotected eyes and are best avoided entirely.

Prevention works!

For more information, please email safety@jftgmo.southcom.mil



Wounded Warriors

The Guantanamo Bay community welcomes back Wounded Warriors for a second iteration of a long-term annual event. The group arrived Dec. 4 and will stay through Dec. 9. While here, the group will take part in several scuba dives as well as some local activities. The Wounded Warrior program is a rehabilitation program for severely wounded service members. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Jayme Pastoric

Boots on the Ground

by Army Pfc. Eric Liesse

What is your favorite Christmas or holiday song?

Army 2nd Lt.
Joshua Frey



“Gamma Got Ran Over by a Reindeer. That’s definetly my favorite.”

Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class
Cedric Davis



“Christmas songs? Jingle Bells, definetly.”

Army Spc.
Quentin Jones



“We Three Kings.”

Navy Seaman
Lynn Kauffman



“Gamma Got Ran Over by a Reindeer!”

Advent

**Navy Lt. Cmdr.
Clint Pickett**

JTF Command Chaplain

Sunday, Nov. 30, marked the beginning of the church year celebrated in many Christian churches. The church year begins with the season of Advent, which begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. The word "Advent" comes from the Latin word "adventus," meaning "arrival" or "coming."

Far from being a "warm-up" for the Christmas season, the focus of the time of Advent is awaiting the final coming of Christ, when the "wolf shall live with the lamb" (Isaiah 11:6) and when God will have "brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly" (Luke 1:52). This period of waiting is often symbolized by the Advent wreath, a wreath of evergreens with four candles. As each Sunday comes, another candle is lit, until all four candles are burning, just before Christmas.

The season of Advent is a great time to spend more time in prayer and meditation on scripture. While there are many ways to pray and meditate, I wanted to share

some thoughts from the book *Life Together* by the German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Though we may have chosen a passage from scripture, it isn't necessary to get through the whole reading in one meditation. It is perfectly okay to stop with one sentence or even one word that might jump out at us and capture our thoughts and imagination.

When we meditate, we shouldn't feel it is necessary to express our thought and prayer in words. "Unphrased thought and prayer, which issues only from our hearing, may often be more beneficial." As in many of our relationships, it is often better to listen than to speak!

It is also not necessary that we should discover new ideas in our meditation. It is fully sufficient if the Word, as we read and understand it, penetrates and dwells within us – just as Mary "pondered in her heart" the things that were told by the shepherds.

That is one reason why morning devotions can be productive, so that what we read can settle into our thoughts, and that we might carry God's Word around with us as we go about our daily routine, often without our being conscious of it.

Most important, Bonhoeffer wrote, is that we should not expect that we will always have some sort of unexpected, extraordinary experience when we do our meditation. This can happen, of course, but if it doesn't, it is not a sign that the meditation period has been useless. I think of meditation as being a bit like running. Not every day is going to be a great run, especially at the beginning. We need to just get out of bed, get the running shoes on, and hit the road. There will be times when we feel a spiritual dryness and apathy, but we need to push through and let God's Word come through.

And so, this Advent season, I invite you to take the opportunity to beef up your spiritual training program of prayer and meditation. Get a good start on the "new year," and see what you may have been missing. Your chaplains are eager to help whenever you would like! ★

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.

Spanish Protestant Worship

Sunday: Noon



Going out on top

**Army Pfc.
Carlynn M. Knaak**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Learning everything there is to know about the United States military can take a lifetime, and for some, even that might not be long enough.

However, when given only seven days to study, in addition to preparing a transfer of authority and continuing the mission, Coast Guard Petty Officer 1st Class Russell Wolfe gladly took on the challenge.

“I was told a week before actually going up in front of the board,” said Wolfe, a member of the Coast Guard Port Security Unit 307. “I was able to study a couple of hours a day to prepare.”

The questions asked during the competition range across the board from current events in the news to military rules and regulations.

Yet while answering the questions correctly is important, how you present yourself and the military bearing you exude are taken into account as well.

“It’s all very formal,” said Wolfe. “You have to sit at attention in front of six senior enlisted personnel and give a two minute spiel on who you are and what you do. It’s very nerve racking.”

In the end, Wolfe put all his nerves aside, kept his composure and earned himself the title of Joint Task Force Senior Trooper of the Year.

“I’m very excited—I believe this shows to everyone that the Coast Guard is here and representing well,” Wolfe said.

When asked how Wolfe thought winning this competition would benefit his military career, an excited tone rang out.

“The next time I go in front of a board, I know what to expect,” he said. “And when anyone asks about my recent awards I can say ‘Hey, I was the Joint Task Force Senior Trooper of the Year.’” ☆

**Coast Guard
Petty Officer 1st
Class Russell
Wolfe earned the
coveted spot of
Senior Joint Task
Force Trooper of
the Year.**



Air Force Staff Sgt. Shane Helms, one of two equipment operators in his department, creates a water drain to prevent flooding from torrential rain in an area just out side of the Expeditionary Legal Complex. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Patrick Thompson



A Hawks sinks a free-throw in the second-to-final game of the Turkey Shoot-Out Basketball Tournament at Denich Gym -JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Pfc. Eric Liesse



Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Robert Lees, is saluted by his son, Petty Officer 2nd Class Lees, during his retirement ceremony. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Pfc. Carlynn M. Knaak



Around the



JTF

A Guantanamo Bay resident attempted to win a frozen turkey by striking all 10 pins, three times in a row during the Turkey Shootout competition held at the Marble Head Lanes bowling center.-JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Megan Burnham