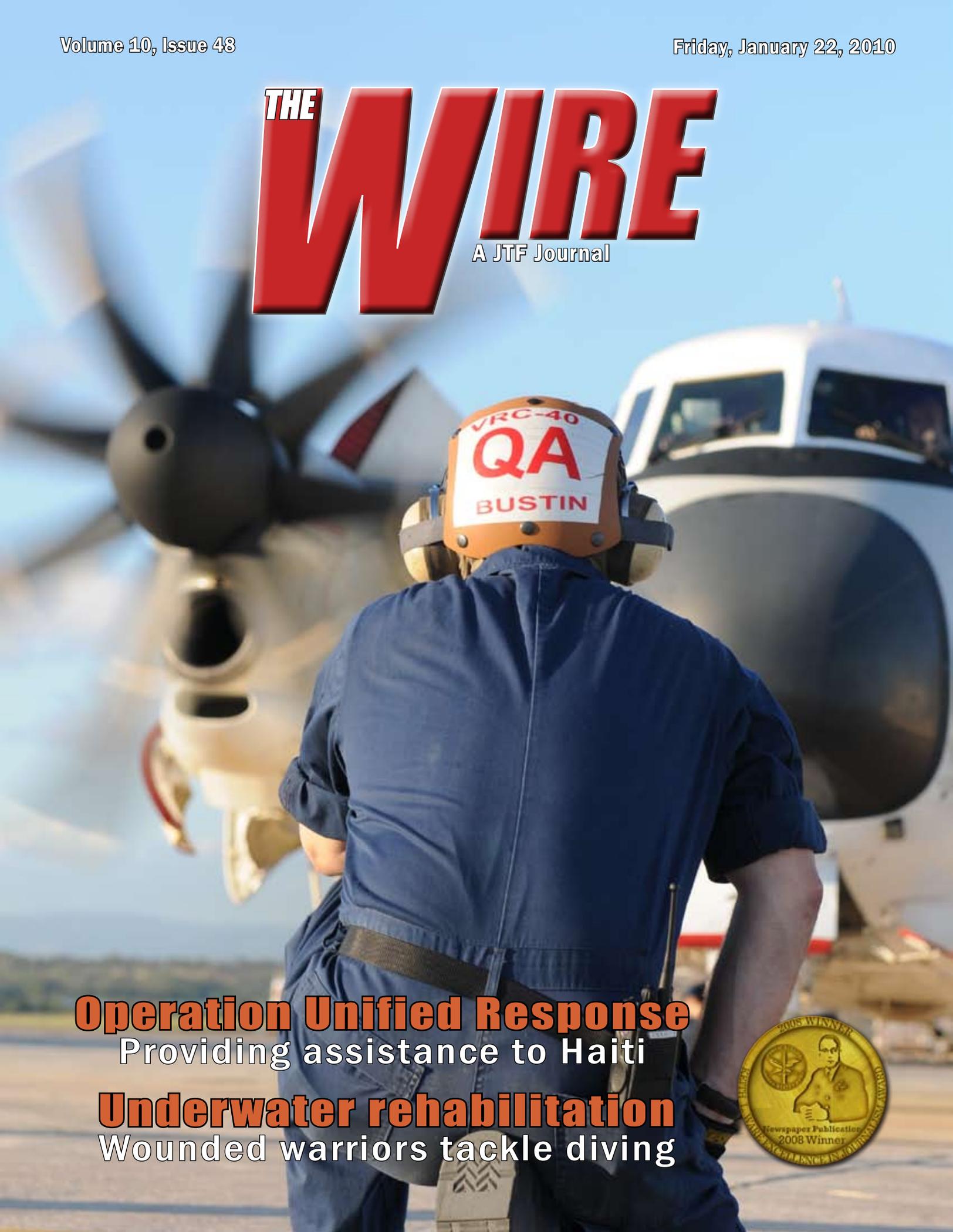


THE WIRE

A JTF Journal



Operation Unified Response
Providing assistance to Haiti

Underwater rehabilitation
Wounded warriors tackle diving



Finger pointing

**Air Force Senior Master Sgt.
William Parker**
J-6 Superintendent

Have you ever found yourself in a situation where you clearly did your part of the task but the overall task failed because someone, somewhere failed to do their part? The temptation for finger-pointing can be overwhelming and you may be ready to throw someone under the bus. I can assure you though, when you're standing before the boss answering for the failure, it is not the time for finger-pointing. In my experience, the best course of action is to focus on completing the original task at hand, determine the root cause and, finally, document preventive measures to combat future failures – excuses and blame are seldom well-received. Let me explain.

Leadership's expectation is task completion. What's more, task completion leads to mission accomplishment. We're tasked to get the job done, despite significant challenges. For example, if the task is to deploy five Troopers to the moon by the end of the month, that's exactly what leadership expects – no excuses.

As leaders, we're tasked to find possible solutions to make this happen. Our pursuits are the "art of the possible" not the "this is impossible." When the possible seems impossible, we're tasked to bring forth courses of action for senior leadership decision. Senior leaders will then consider the actions for approval, redirection or possible cancellation. Either way, we're tasked to find solutions. It's not about being a "yes man," it's about the mission. So don't exhaust yourself searching for reasons preventing mission accomplishment – start with the art of the possible.

Once you've charted a way ahead for mission accomplishment, then and only then should you search for the root cause that initially prevented mission accomplishment. You may have uncovered or seen symptoms that contributed to this failure while charting your way ahead. Just remember, initial reporting is suspect and symptoms aren't necessarily the cause. In other words, don't jump to a hasty decision; commit your time to seek out the root cause. Once you've defined and documented the root cause, you're now equipped to take preventive measures.

Preventive measures may very well include disciplinary actions, controls, checklists and a host of other measures. But please know this, in my experience failures often occur at handoff. That is to say, one group or person does their part and then hands it off to another. While this line of thinking is process oriented, it says little about a team. A team is after all, one-for-all and all-for-one – right? Then it is at the team's handoff where finger-pointing needs to take place. A team doesn't just say, I'm done with my part. Teams collectively cover each others' backs and work together to ensure the team is successful. So as you seek out preventive measures, make sure your team knows its role and the role of its members.

In short, when you're one-for-all and all-for-one and you're standing on the carpet in front of the boss, finger pointing and blame should be last on your list. Git-r-done! ☆



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COVER:

A flight crew member directs a C-2 Greyhound carrier onboard delivery aircraft from VRC-40 at the Naval Station Guantanamo Bay airfield, Jan. 17, in support of Operation Unified Response. –

JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Cody Black

BACK COVER:

Navy and Coast Guard helicopters operate around the clock at the Naval Station Guantanamo Bay airfield, Jan. 17, in support of Operation Unified Response. –

JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Cody Black



The WIRE is the official news magazine of Joint Task Force Guantanamo. It is produced by the JTF Public Affairs Office to inform and educate the Troopers of JTF Guantanamo through news, features, command guidance, sports and entertainment. The WIRE seeks to provide maximum disclosure with minimum delay with regards to security, accuracy, propriety and policy. This DoD news magazine is an authorized publication for the members of the Department of Defense. Contents of The WIRE are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or Joint Task Force Guantanamo. It is printed by the Document Automation & Production Service with a circulation of 1,000.

Able body, able mind

■ *Wounded service members continue rehabilitation process*

Army Spc. Tiffany Addair

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Six wounded warriors with the Soldiers Undertaking Disabled Scuba program arrived at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Jan. 14 to receive open water and advanced scuba certifications. The SUDS program from Walter Reed Army Medical Center and Bethesda Naval hospital is designed to facilitate the rehabilitation process for injured service members returning from combat.

SUDS was established three years ago and is running full steam ahead. Coordinating an average of 10 trips a year for more than 160 injured veterans, the program provides hope for those injured and wondering, “what’s next?” in life. John W. Thompson, SUDS president and certified scuba instructor, started the program after being stationed at GTMO with his wife in 2004.

“We knew what a tight community there was here and after I got the program started at Walter Reed I knew this would be the first place I wanted to run a trip,” Thompson said. “I knew how supportive the military and civilian personnel down here would be for us to bring a group of injured veterans to scuba dive.”

While Guantanamo Bay offers a unique dive experience, it also offers medical benefits to the injured, both physically and mentally.

“These are individuals with extensive injuries returning from Iraq and Afghanistan and the program enhances their mobility and increases their range of motion,” said Paul E. Gause, dive medical officer with SUDS. “It also gives them the opportunity to get used to any prosthetics.”

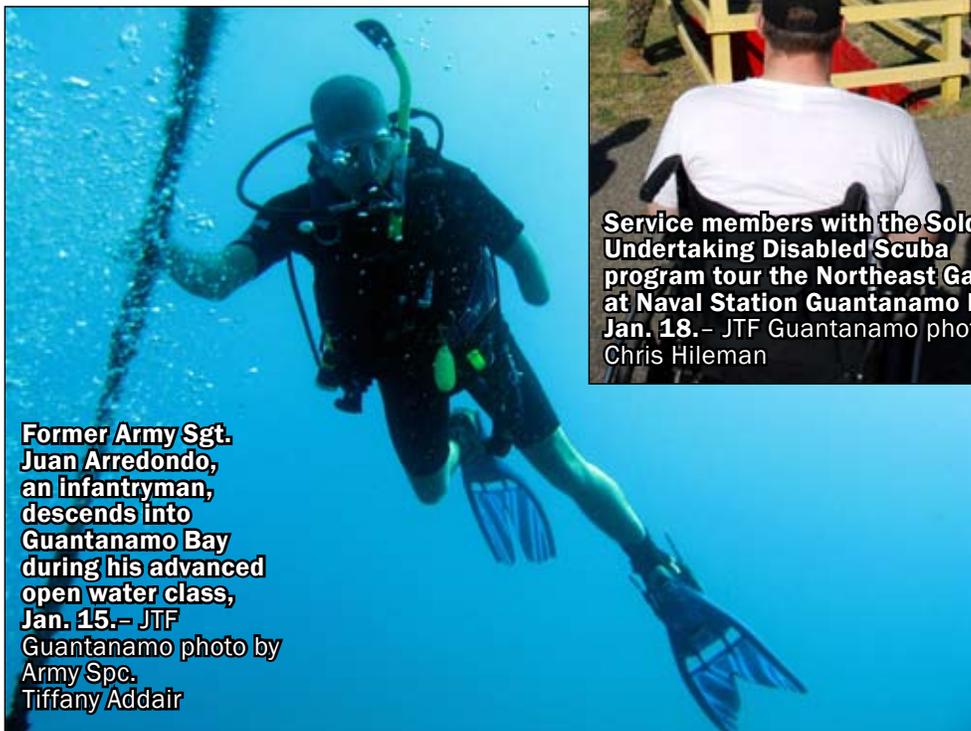
Army Spc. Evan D. Marcy, a combat documentation/production specialist, lost his left leg after an injury sustained in Afghanistan. Scuba diving helps him stay physically fit and assists with his progress through the rehabilitation process.

“I like water sports, but it is different when you lose a limb,” said Marcy. “Diving is a good cardiovascular exercise and helps me maintain my core strength, which helps me walk better.”

See **REHABILITATION/10**



Army Spc. Evan D. Marcy and Army Sgt. Derrick Ford glide through the water during their open water class, Jan. 16.— JTF Guantanamo photo by Chris Hileman



Former Army Sgt. Juan Arredondo, an infantryman, descends into Guantanamo Bay during his advanced open water class, Jan. 15.— JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Tiffany Addair



Service members with the Soldiers Undertaking Disabled Scuba program tour the Northeast Gate at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Jan. 18.— JTF Guantanamo photo by Chris Hileman

Airmen from the 106th Civil Engineering Squadron of the New York Air National Guard work to reinforce recently-installed air conditioning units at the Naval Station Guantanamo Bay main chapel, Jan. 18. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Edward Flynn



Making improvements

Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Edward Flynn

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Airmen from the 106th Civil Engineering Squadron of the New York Air National Guard arrived at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Jan. 16, and hit the ground running in support of various engineering and construction projects at Joint Task Force Guantanamo and throughout the base. This highly-skilled engineering squadron replaced Airmen from the 190th Civil Engineering Squadron from the Kansas Air National Guard for a two-week Deployment for Training.

The 106th CES includes many Airmen from the New York City Police and Fire Departments, along with members of the construction and building trades and heavy equipment operations. This unit has gained invaluable experience from their civilian jobs and various military deployments, including many who volunteered in New York City immediately following the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

The 106th CES will gain significant training and experience working under the direction of the 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron. The 474th is responsible for construction and sustainment of Camp Justice and the Expeditionary Legal Complex in support of military commissions at the naval station.

“The 106th greatly enhanced the JTF mission with their exceptional engineering and construction support of various projects here and throughout the base,” said Air Force Master Sgt. Laurie Cherry, JTF

coordinator of the two-week Deployment for Training. “It is a win-win for the base and JTF. Airmen receive on-the-job training and enhance their engineering skills in this joint environment.”

Prior to the official arrival of the 106th CES, Cherry worked closely to ensure their smooth transition with logistic support and establishing specific goals and assignments. During this deployment, the 106th CES will maintain generators, conduct preventive maintenance and continue refurbishing the cannon wheels on the often-traveled and highly visible Sherman Avenue. These airmen will also provide engineering and construction support at Camp Justice, throughout the JTF and on the Leeward side of the island.

“In any deployment, training and hard work are key in ensuring the job is done correctly,” said Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Vincent Fondacaro, the operations chief of the New York unit. “Our unit focus is to have the ability to survive and operate in a contingency environment, maintain a state of readiness to respond appropriately to any kind of emergency, foreign, domestic, natural or man-made. Operating in a deployed environment assures members the vital training necessary to achieve the desired level of readiness to be effective.”

Through the expertise and professionalism of the various engineering and construction squadrons, these ongoing projects continue to enhance the JTF mission and improve quality of life for military members, their families and detainees. ★



Airmen from the 106th Civil Engineering Squadron of the New York Air National Guard conduct repairs on the Naval Station Guantanamo Bay main chapel, Jan. 18. The 106th is at Guantanamo for two weeks to work on projects throughout the naval station and Joint Task Force Guantanamo. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Edward Flynn



Members of the Naval Station Guantanamo Bay community march from the Windjammer to the naval station chapel as part of a celebration of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, sponsored by the Guantanamo Bay Black Heritage Organization, Jan. 18. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Edward Flynn

A celebration of change

**Navy Petty Officer 1st Class
Edward Flynn**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

As the nation paused to honor and remember slain civil rights leader and Nobel Peace laureate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., members of the Naval Station Guantanamo Bay community gathered Jan. 18 at the Windjammer Ballroom to commemorate his birthday and celebrate the life of the heroic civil rights leader. Organized by the Guantanamo Bay Black Heritage Organization, a march was held from the Windjammer to the Naval Station Chapel. Many held hands and sang songs from the civil rights era, including “We Shall Overcome.”

“This was an exciting event where different backgrounds came together to honor and remember the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King,” said Mrs. Tracy Gamble, the organization’s president. “King influenced and reached many people and fought for equality and dignity for all people.”

Stressing this year’s theme of “A Celebration of Change, Change has Come,” the ceremony’s guest speaker, Darrell LaBorn, discussed the history of the civil rights movement in America and how changes helped Barack Obama become the first African-American president of the United States. LaBorn, a Vietnam Veteran, provided a discussion and slide show



Residents participate in the march in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr., Jan. 18. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Edward Flynn

presentation on the history of the civil rights movement.

“King was placed here at the correct time to address injustice and to continue to fight for equality for all,” LaBorn said. LaBorn also encouraged the gathering at the chapel to stay involved in helping their neighbors and community.

Many of the marchers and those gathered

at the Windjammer and base chapel proudly recalled how Dr. King influenced them and their military careers. “It is important to celebrate Martin Luther King’s birthday as a reminder of a great civil rights leader who fought bravely for equality among the human race without regard to color,” said Navy Chief Petty Officer Jillian Easley, a Trooper at Joint Task Force. “He inspired a nation to dream and seek to accomplish what may seem to be the impossible.” Easley also credited Dr. Martin Luther King in having a positive impact on her naval career. “His efforts allowed me to have an equal opportunity in all my endeavors. He paved the path that allowed Sailors to work in a harmonious, cohesive environment.”

Navy Capt. Steven Blaisdell, commanding officer of Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, reminded the audience of the important contributions made by Dr. King and others in the civil rights movement. He also credited King with inspiring a country to follow his call for equality and justice.

Dr. King made civil rights his life’s work. He inspired others to follow his lead. On the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., King delivered his best-remembered speech, “I Have a Dream.” Since his death, many changes have come for Americans of all races. To join the Guantanamo Bay Black Heritage Organization or for more information, call Gamble at 4814 or 77108. 📍



(From left to right) Navy Petty Officers 2nd Class John Runkle, Casey Shell and Eric Jones watch as Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Justin Halsey putts on the sixth hole at Yatera Seca Golf Course, Jan. 20. The golf course is one of many ways Troopers at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay have to relax. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Michael Baltz

Golf at GTMO's lateral hazard

Army Sgt. Michael Baltz

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

For more than 50 years, Yatera Seca Golf Course at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay has been supporting Troopers.

"It is very important for [Troopers] to be able to come out here and relieve stress," said Morale, Welfare and Recreation golf staff aid Solomon Phillips. "I am proud of what they are doing, and they deserve to come out here for some relaxation. It's not the best, but I am sure it works. People always come out here, and they have a fun time."

There are nine holes, and each of them has two different tee boxes, giving the course a full 18-hole experience. The course is cut routinely.

"The greens have to be cut, watered and the pins have to be occasionally moved," Phillips explained. "We always have to cut the fairways, which can be difficult because of all the rocks."

MWR has inexpensive rates, making it possible for all to play.

For the driving range, a bucket of balls cost \$1, golf clubs are free to Troopers and \$5 to everyone else – the same applies when playing the course. There are no greens fees, but the golf cart fee is \$10 for one person, \$15 for two people.

"It is an inexpensive way to have a good time," said Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class John Runkle, with the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion, who plays almost every weekend.

"A few months ago, we started trying

to play every weekend," Runkle said. "It is always fun. You have to watch where you hit the ball, so you can see if it hits a rock or not."

Runkle often plays with other NEGB Troopers, including Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Eric Jones.

"The golf course is a lot of fun. It helps get your mind off the mission," Jones said. "Along with the friendly greens, the wildlife makes everything worthwhile."

Runkle and his golfing buddy, Jones, who has been golfing for seven years, found something extraordinary when playing a few weeks ago.

"We walked up to the eighth hole, and there was a 10-foot python," Runkle explained.

"Along with the iguanas everywhere, this course can be quite the sight," Jones added.

Due to rough terrain, the golf course can be difficult, but Phillips is working on that.

"I am working toward enhancing the golf course," Phillips said.

Phillips has a few tips for Troopers who are interested in golf.

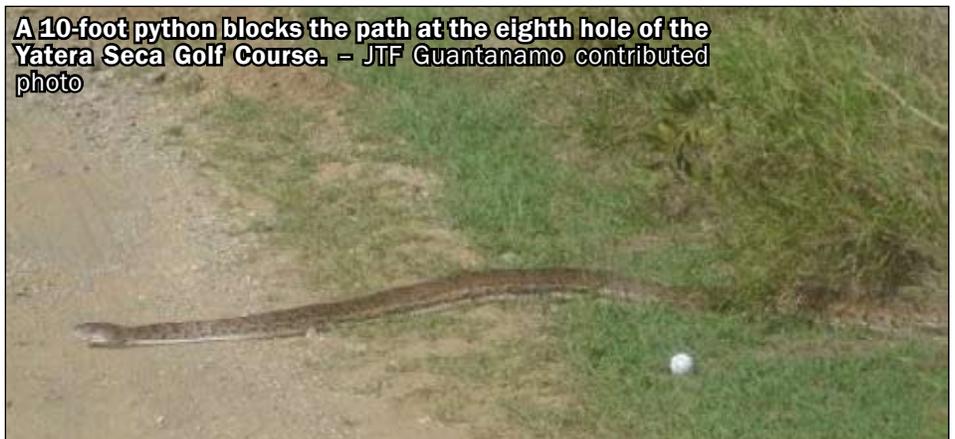
"People should take care of the items MWR provides them," Phillips explained. "The damage done to golf carts and clubs will be felt by other [Troopers], and isn't fair to them."

He also advises golfers to wear sunscreen and comfortable shoes and says golfers are allowed to bring their own coolers, filled with their beverage of choice.

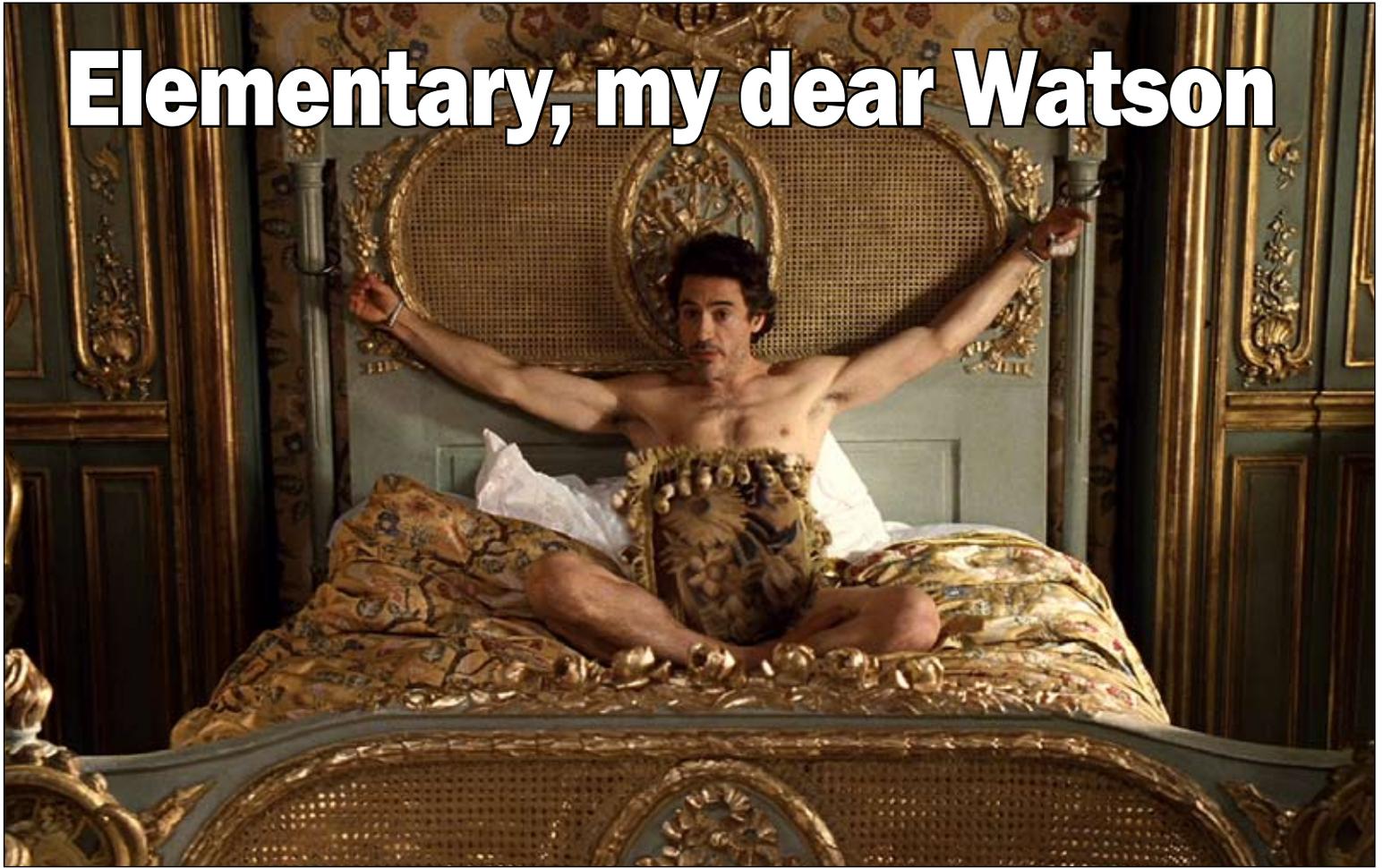
"We have everything you need at the club house: balls, golf apparel, caps and several other things," he added. "It is a good place where people can come and hang out."

The course opens at 8 a.m. every day and closes at 7 p.m. and is on a first-come-first-served basis. For more information, call the golf course at ext. 77288. ★

A 10-foot python blocks the path at the eighth hole of the Yatera Seca Golf Course. - JTF Guantanamo contributed photo



Elementary, my dear Watson



Army Sgt. Emily Greene

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Arthur Conan Doyle's character Sherlock Holmes is a mainstay in Western literature. First introduced in the novel, "A Study in Scarlet," the Victorian pop culture hero has fascinated the reader with intellectual crime-solving for over 100 years. However, we have never seen a Holmes like this!

The latest film rendition of the infamous character, played by Robert Downey Jr., has all the elements of the classics. He is a pipe-smoking, violin-playing bachelor abiding at 221B Baker Street. But this Holmes is more than that. This Holmes knows how to knock a few heads together too. Downey's portrayal of Holmes is perfect; characterized by his twitchy wit and haggard insolence. He makes the somewhat stodgy character come alive onscreen in a way appealing to men and women alike.

Holmes' eccentricities are balanced nicely in this film by the ever-loyal side-kick Watson. Portrayed by Jude Law, Watson is the patient doctor who tries to keep Holmes out of trouble and make sure he eats every once in a while. The banter between Downey and Law bring the characters to life and is sometimes more interesting than the plot. The friendship between Holmes and Watson reminds the audience just how much of a love-hate relationship the best of friends operate in.

The visual style of the film is interesting



PG-13
125 minutes

Rating: ★★★★★

and provides an excellent backdrop which compliments the actors. A smoky, greasy, steam-punk Victorian London provides an interesting concept of just how nasty things may have been in Doyle's time and allows the viewer to understand how so many crazy Victorian-era crimes could come to be. It is half-expected that Holmes and Watson will stumble across Jack the Ripper as they traipse through the city, leaping from windows and crawling through sewers.

Guy Richie's direction of the film certainly adds a level of excitement and urgency that has not previously been seen in productions of "Sherlock Holmes". Known for his work with "Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels" and "Snatch," Richie manages to make "Sherlock Holmes" kind of cool. Cool in an artsy, thoughtful kind of way.

If only the plot were as cool as the direction. Richie leads the characters through a complicated, unbelievable web of deceit at the highest levels of societal influence. The web is sometimes so convoluted it seems a waste of time to really try and follow it anyhow. Luckily, the clever acting and witty scene construction give the audience plenty to follow without actually needing to know what is really happening with the crime at hand.

"Sherlock Holmes" ends with a promise of more to come and that's a good thing. One movie is not enough for a viewer to get his fill of the fun and games the Doyle stories have to offer. 🎩



Pallets of water and tents wait to be loaded into nearby C-2 Greyhound aircraft at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay's airfield, Jan. 19. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Andrew Hillegass



Flight crews wash the outside of a C-2A Greyhound carrier onboard delivery aircraft on the flight line at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Jan. 18. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Rachel Simpson



Flight crews prep a C-2A Greyhound carrier onboard delivery aircraft at the Naval Station Guantanamo Bay airfield, Jan. 17. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Cody Black



Operation Unified Response

Aircraft mechanics from Fleet Logistics Support Squadron VRC-40 Detachment Four, perform maintenance on a C-2A Greyhound, Jan. 15. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Joshua Nistas



Crews at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay prepare to load bottled water onto a Navy helicopter bound for Haiti, Jan. 18. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Emily Greene



Military Sealift Command rescue and salvage ship USNS Grasp (ARS 51) arrived at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay for refueling and supplies while enroute to provide humanitarian assistance to Haiti, Jan. 17. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Edward Flynn

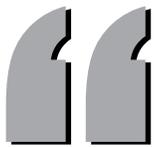
The road to recovery goes through GTMO

Service members with the Soldiers Undertaking Disabled Scuba program tour the Navy Dive Locker, Jan. 17.- JTF Guantanamo photo by Chris Hileman

REHABILITATION from 3

Former Army Sgt. Derrick Ford, an infantryman, noted that after just a couple days of diving, the strength of his ankle and calf muscles increased and it was easier for him to stand for longer periods.

After sustaining an extensive injury, such as losing a limb, individuals' attitudes and outlook on life can change drastically. Through the SUDS program, mental stability and positive outlook are often reached. The program offers the



Diving showed me that I can do anything an able-bodied person can do.

– Former Army Sgt. Derick Hurt

injured veterans multiple trips throughout the year which give them the chance to interact with other injured service members and find common ground through the struggles and triumphs of the recovery process.

“Being a part of this program and seeing the progress of the other guys gives you hope,” Marcy said.

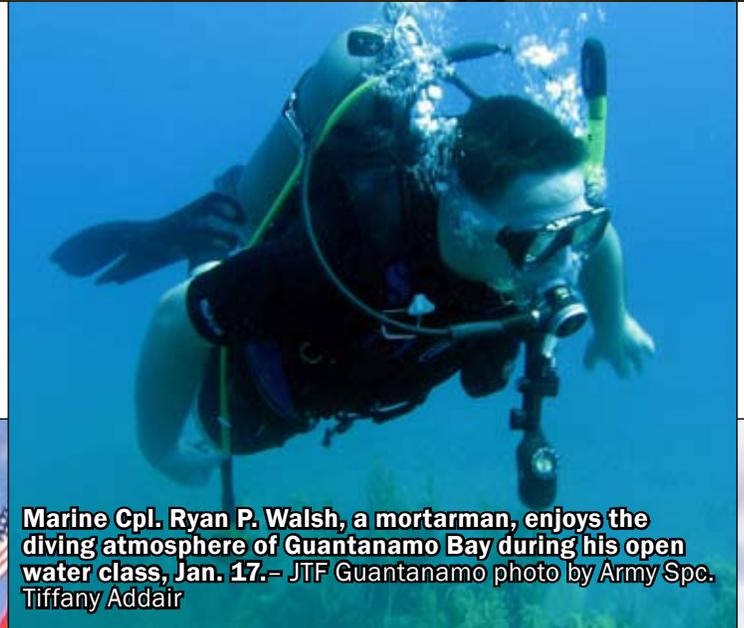
Former Army Sgt. Derick Hurt, a scout sniper and infantryman, lost his right leg in 2003 and decided to amputate his left leg in 2009 after the pain became unbearable. He said scuba diving is a check off the “bucket list.”

“Diving showed me that I can do anything an able-bodied person can do,” said Hurt.

“All of these guys come back from Iraq and Afghanistan with severe injuries and they won’t be able to lead the life that they led before, but diving is one activity that they can do,” said Thompson. “Folks with these caliber of injuries see that they can actually scuba dive and it opens doors for other things that they might want to try.”

Thompson stated that there is truth in the fact that water is the great equalizer.

“So many things are much easier to do in water with these types of injuries than on land,” Thompson said. “You don’t have gravity to deal with. It is almost like an astronaut floating through space.” ☆



Marine Cpl. Ryan P. Walsh, a mortarman, enjoys the diving atmosphere of Guantanamo Bay during his open water class, Jan. 17.- JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Tiffany Addair



Army Spc. Evan D. Marcy prepares his gear and receives instruction before entering the water, Jan. 16.- JTF Guantanamo photo by Chris Hileman



Coast Guard Seaman Dan Rinell, with the Coast Guard Cutter Forward, takes advantage of the wireless internet connection at the Naval Station Guantanamo Bay library, Jan. 11. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. 1st Class Michael Gholston

Read any good books lately?

**Army Sgt. 1st Class
Michael Gholston**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Naval Station Guantanamo Bay's MWR library facility is much more than an edifice filled with books. It offers a free internet café as well as Wi-Fi connectivity to its patrons. Kenisha Stewart is the library supervisor with a staff of one full-time and five part-time technicians who keep the library open seven days a week.

"Our hours of operation are Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. until 9 p.m. and Sundays and holidays from noon until 9 p.m.," said Stewart, who has been with the MWR library for the past six years.

Besides offering a large catalogue of books, the library services include a free internet café with 18 computers available as well as free Wi-Fi that patrons can hook up to, either inside or directly outside of the building.

"The internet café is very popular," said Stewart. "A lot of our guests come in just to use this service that is available for 30 minutes at a time. If it is not busy, you can sign up for a second 30-minute session. We want to make it equitable for anyone waiting to get online."

Wi-Fi connectivity is a great alternative for anyone with their own computer. Once users register, they are offered unlimited time online either in or directly outside the library.

Coast Guard Seaman Dan Rinell said that he likes to use Wi-Fi while in port to take care of personal business.

"The library is a great place to pay my bills online," said

Rinell, who is deployed onboard USCG Cutter Forward in support of Operation Unified Response.

Local college students have also found that the free Wi-Fi greatly enhances their ability to complete online courses.

Jackie Weissrock has worked at the library since April of last year. "The thing that I like best is the books," said Weissrock. "We have a large selection to choose from; including audio books."

Registered library users can check out as many books as they like for up to 30 days at a time. The selection includes specific sections such as fiction, non-fiction, historical, reference and student research.

There is also a children's section where story hours are conducted every Friday at 10 a.m.

Stewart is particularly fond of this section which she helped to develop several years ago. She says that local children, regardless of their age, are always welcomed during her story time sessions.

"I really like working with the children and helping all of our patrons," Stewart said.

An eclectic entertainment section is located adjacent to the library's internet café. Movies and television DVDs are available with a wide variety of current and past titles to choose from. These DVDs can be checked out three at a time for three days. This, too, is a very popular area for anyone to enjoy at no cost.

Providing public access to information, knowledge and entertainment, the MWR library plays a vital role in spanning the digital divide at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay. ★

Gates orders additional ship, eyes more capability for Haiti

Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

Just hours before another earthquake hit Haiti early this morning, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said the Defense Department is sending a port-clearing ship and evaluating additional capabilities to assist the disaster relief effort.

Gates announced that he signed deployment orders this morning to send a port-clearing ship equipped with cranes to get the port operating within a week or two to speed up aid distribution.

“We are looking at a variety of other capabilities,” he said. “We are trying to look at alternative routes there might be to get bulk food and bulk supplies in there.”

Gates responded to a reporter’s question during a news conference in New Delhi, where he met earlier today with Defense Minister A.K. Antony.

Shortly afterward, a magnitude 6.1 tremor struck northwest of the capital of Port-au-Prince, exacerbating difficulties already plaguing Haiti. The extent of the damage is unknown.

Getting around Port-au-Prince remains challenging, Gates said, expressing hope that more routes will be cleared within the next 24 to 48 hours so trucks can begin delivering more aid.

“You cannot fully meet the needs of over 2 million people using helicopters,” he said.

Seeing trucks out on the road providing desperately needed supplies also will reduce the chance of people turning to violence out of desperation, he said.

Gates said he’s pleased by cooperation between the U.N. peacekeeping force in Haiti, the Haitian government and U.S.



Air assets like the C2-A Greyhound carrier onboard delivery aircraft are playing an important role in delivering aid to the victims of the Jan. 12, 2010 earthquake. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Cody Black

commanders on the ground in supporting the relief effort.

“Everything I hear is that the three have established a good working relationship in terms of establishing priorities for what actually flows into the country,” he said.

Americans should feel proud of the U.S. response, Gate said, noting the governmental agencies and nongovernmental organizations working together to assist.

The U.S. Coast Guard was on site in Haiti “literally within hours after providing limited support,” he said. “And with each passing hour, more and more American

forces and ships and capability have flowed into the area.”

While proud of the U.S. contribution in Haiti, Gates resisted saying he’s satisfied with the response. “As long as 2 million people in Haiti are still struggling to get food and water, fuel and medical care, it would probably be a mistake for anyone to say they are satisfied with the level of effort,” he said.

“That said,” he continued, “It is hard for me to say what more the United States could make available or how we could make it available faster to deal with the tragedy there.” ☆

Haiti Disaster Relief

Instructions for donation:

Do not send cash; the American Red Cross will only accept checks or money orders

Make checks or money orders out to the American Red Cross

Local Red Cross officials suggest placing International Disaster Relief Fund or IDRF in the memo section;

this will allow the money to be used where it is needed most

If Haiti is indicated in the memo section, your donation will be limited to use only in Haiti

Other donation locations:

Worship centers: Contact the chaplain center at ext. 78069 for individual worship service donations

Internet: There are a number of organizations currently accepting donations online

Identify legitimate donation Web sites and use caution when providing sensitive information such as bank account numbers and social security numbers



Providing assistance to earthquake victims

Approximately 70 U.S. citizens evacuated from Haiti board a U.S. Coast Guard aircraft bound for the United States after making a brief stop at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Jan. 17, 2010. The naval station is serving as a hub for logistics and personnel bound into and out of Haiti as part of Operation Unified Repsonse. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Cody Black

Boots on the Ground

by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Edward Flynn

What are you most proud of in your military career and why?

**Navy Petty Officer 1st Class
Michael Watkins**



"Being part of a special forces combat mission in Iraq and serving at the 'Tip of the Spear'."

**Army Sgt.
Janelle Lobby**



"Being part of the JTF mission and working in this joint environment."

**Army Spc.
Vaughn Francis**



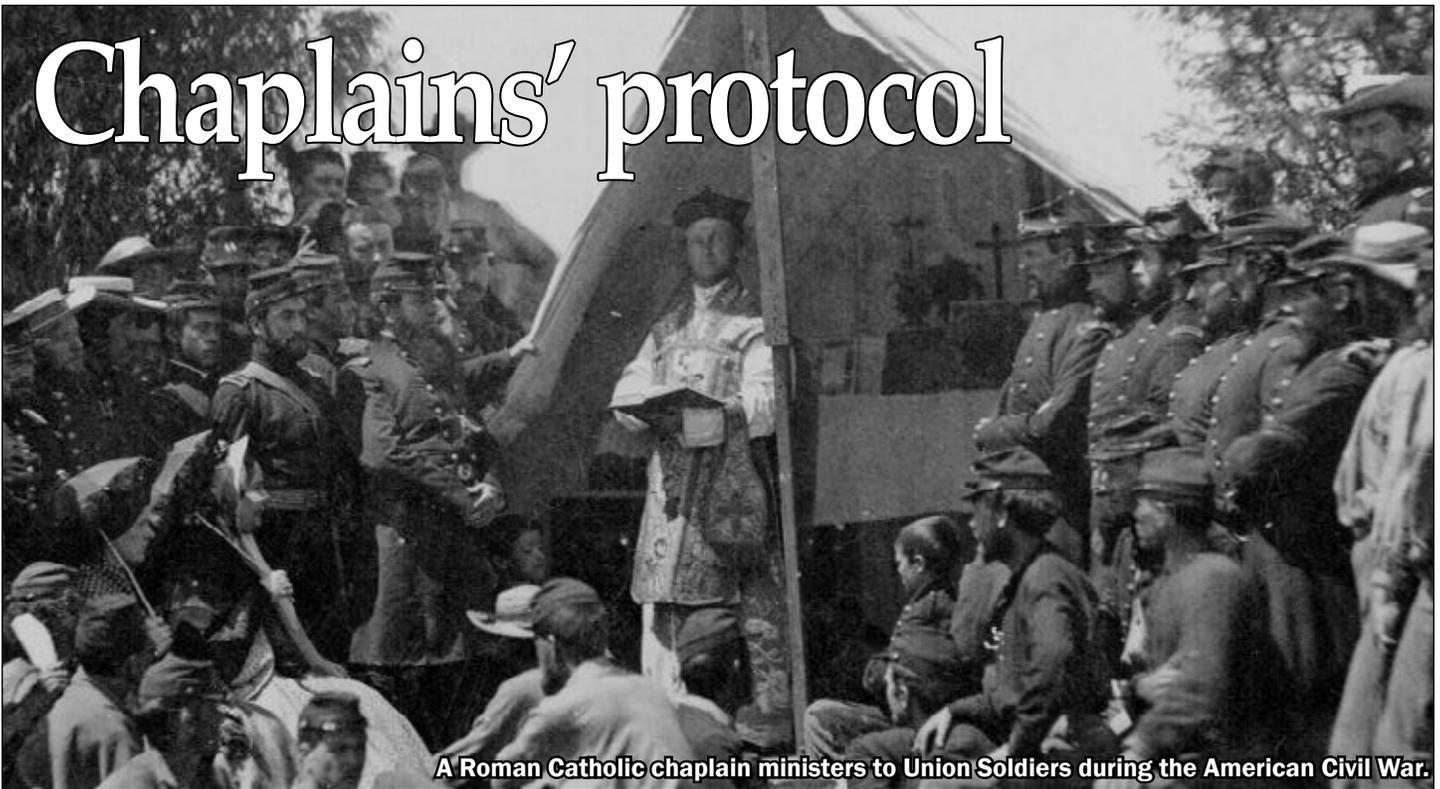
"Being deployed and receiving excellent skills and training."

**Army Spc.
Keith Chambers**



"Serving as a proud member of the Virgin Islands National Guard and my military friends."

Chaplains' protocol



A Roman Catholic chaplain ministers to Union Soldiers during the American Civil War.

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

JTF Guantanamo Command Chaplain

Chaplains have been a part of the military in this country since colonial militias first gathered to go into battle. The local minister was nearly always a part of this group. When George Washington took command of the Continental Army in July 1775, there were 15 chaplains serving in the 23 regiments that made up his army. During the Civil War, the chaplaincy became more formalized. The current structure of the chaplaincy in the United States military dates back to World War I.

Through my more than 25 years as a military chaplain, I have frequently been asked questions about the nature of the chaplaincy. One of the more common questions has to do with the issue of separation of church and state; how are chaplains, who are essentially ministers, government employees? It is a valid question, and there is a good answer.

The concept of separation of church and state comes from the first clause of the first amendment to the Constitution which states, Congress shall make no law respecting an

establishment of religion. This means the government cannot establish a state religion or promote one religion over another. The first amendment goes on to say, "or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." This is known as the free exercise clause and it guarantees each American the right to practice the faith of his or her choice, or no faith at all, without fear of interference from the government. The chaplaincy in the military is set up to fulfill and protect both of these clauses.

On one hand, a chaplain is a commissioned officer in the military and must meet all the requirements that any other officer must meet to maintain that commission. In addition, a chaplain must be a fully qualified minister, priest, rabbi, imam, etc. and be endorsed by their faith group to serve in the military as a chaplain.

In order to keep the endorsement, a chaplain must remain faithful to the beliefs and practices of his or her particular faith group. If the endorsement is lost due to behavior that is contrary to the beliefs and practices of the faith group, the chaplain is very quickly removed from the military. Chaplains are responsible to the endorsing

agency, not the government, when it comes to their faith beliefs and practices.

Accommodating the free exercise of religion for all military personnel is one of the primary functions of chaplains. In carrying out this function, a chaplain has the dual responsibility to provide direct religious support to those of his own faith group and to facilitate the religious practice of those faith groups who do not have a chaplain available.

I am a Christian minister, therefore, the worship services or Bible studies I lead are specifically Christian in nature, but I also have the responsibility to make sure that personnel of any other faith group have the facilities, resources or leadership needed to practice their faith. I take my responsibility to facilitate the free exercise of religion for all Troopers very seriously.

The bottom line is, chaplains are here for all personnel, regardless of religious faith or absence of it. We are able to provide direct religious support to those of our own faith group, we have a responsibility to facilitate religious support for those whose beliefs are different from our own, and we are here to offer care, counsel and support to all. ✪

GTMO Religious Services

Daily Catholic Mass
Mon. - Fri. 5:30 p.m.

Main Chapel

Vigil Mass
Saturday 5:00 p.m.

Main Chapel

Mass
Sunday 9:00 a.m.

Main Chapel

Gospel Service
Sunday 1:00 p.m.

Main Chapel

Protestant Worship
Sunday 9:00 a.m.

Troopers' Chapel

Islamic Service
Friday 1:15 p.m.

Room C

Jewish Service
FMI call 2628

LORIMI Gospel
Sunday 8:00 a.m.

Room D

Seventh Day Adventist
Saturday 11:00 a.m.

Room B

Iglesia Ni Cristo
Sunday 5:30 a.m.

Room A

Pentecostal Gospel
Sunday 8:00 a.m.

Room D

LDS Service
Sunday 9:00 a.m.

Room A

Liturgical Service
Sunday 10:00 a.m.

Room B

General Protestant
Sunday 11:00 a.m.

Main Chapel

United Jamaican
Fellowship
Sunday 11:00 a.m.

Building 1036

GTMO Bay Christian
Fellowship
Sunday 6:00 p.m.

Main Chapel

Bible Study
Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

Troopers' Chapel

The Truth Project
Bible study
Sunday 6:00 p.m.

Troopers' Chapel

Army Sgt. 1st Class Michael Gholston (right), talks with his fellow Soldiers after coming off a range at Fort Dix, N.J., while in training to deploy to Iraq in 2007. - JTF Guantanamo courtesy photo



From Vietnam to Guantanamo

**Navy Petty Officer 1st Class
Marcos T. Hernandez**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Leadership and professionalism are words lived by Army Sgt. 1st Class Michael Gholston. Gholston, a 55-year-old public affairs supervisor, is currently serving at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay in support of Joint Task Force Guantanamo.

Gholston joined the Navy in 1973 where he had the opportunity to serve in the Vietnam War as a combat videographer. He has supported many other operations including Operation Eagle Pull and the evacuations that took place in Cambodia and Saigon. He spent 12 years on active duty in the Navy as a journalist working on radio and TV broadcasts. He then left the service for approximately 15 years and applied his military skills to working for the radio broadcast department at Public Broadcasting Service in Alaska. Throughout the years, he also held managerial positions with different companies.

In 2005, Gholston joined the Army National Guard after feeling a need to be involved in the War on Terror. In 2007, Gholston deployed to Iraq with the 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment of the Oregon National Guard as a public affairs non-commissioned officer-in-charge.

“The best part about my job is to continue

learning new things and working with the different branches toward a common goal. I like the fact I am part of something bigger than myself. Viewing events through a lens, and at the same time participating in those events, is a great thing. I feel very fortunate to be in that role,” said Gholston. That role has earned Gholston the Vietnam Service Medal, a Combat Action Badge, Humanitarian Service Medal for support of Hurricane Katrina relief efforts and a Bronze Star in 2008 while working for Tactical Division North in Mosul.

“I’ve been impressed with his adaptability and his ability to acquire the knowledge and skills he needs to become a successful NCO,” said Maj. Don Troxell of Bend, Ore., his former commander. “I feel privileged to have served as a commander with someone who served with public affairs in Vietnam. He was standing on the deck of the U.S.S. Hancock when they evacuated the refugees from Vietnam. I remember watching that on the news as a kid, and Sergeant Gholston was actually there.”

Due to his strong leadership and extensive experience, Gholston is well-regarded by his fellow Troopers.

“He possesses great leadership skills. He’s always willing to help the troops and has really been an asset to the public affairs team here at Guantanamo, and I believe

he will continue to do so in his personal life,” said Army 1st Sgt. Shellie Lewis, first sergeant for the 107th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, which Gholston volunteered to deploy with to Guantanamo.

Gholston has been on active duty since 2007 and emphasizes the importance of all new experiences brought forth collectively in his career as a Navy Sailor and as an Army Soldier. “It’s interesting to see how people react to a situation during a crisis, and being a positive part of that effort and helping people and the mission is a great feeling. It makes you aware of your surroundings. If you’re not aware, then you’ll miss the story,” states Gholston.

Strongly encouraged by his wife Trudy, Gholston started chronicling his life experiences while on his current deployment to the JTF. The book, according to Gholston, starts with his time in Vietnam and ends with his time in Iraq.

“The book is finished. It is currently being looked at by a West Coast publisher. The book is centered mostly around my experiences in the military and, if everything goes well, publication will take place in mid 2010,” says Gholston.

A year shy from retirement, Gholston is eager to deploy once more. “My goal is to be able to deploy to Afghanistan before retirement,” said Gholston. ★



Flight crews wash the outside of a C-2A Greyhound carrier onboard delivery aircraft on the flight line at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay after supporting operations in Haiti, Jan. 18. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Rachel Simpson

Around the

JTF



Service members from U.S. Naval Hospital Guantanamo Bay set up Base Exercise tents in preparation for the possible expansion of urgent care services required in support of Operation Unified Response, Jan. 17. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Blair Heusdens



A team of aviation structural mechanics with Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron Fifteen (HM-15) work together to repair a landing gear strut from a U.S. Navy MH-53E Sea Dragon helicopter, Jan. 18. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Emily Russell

