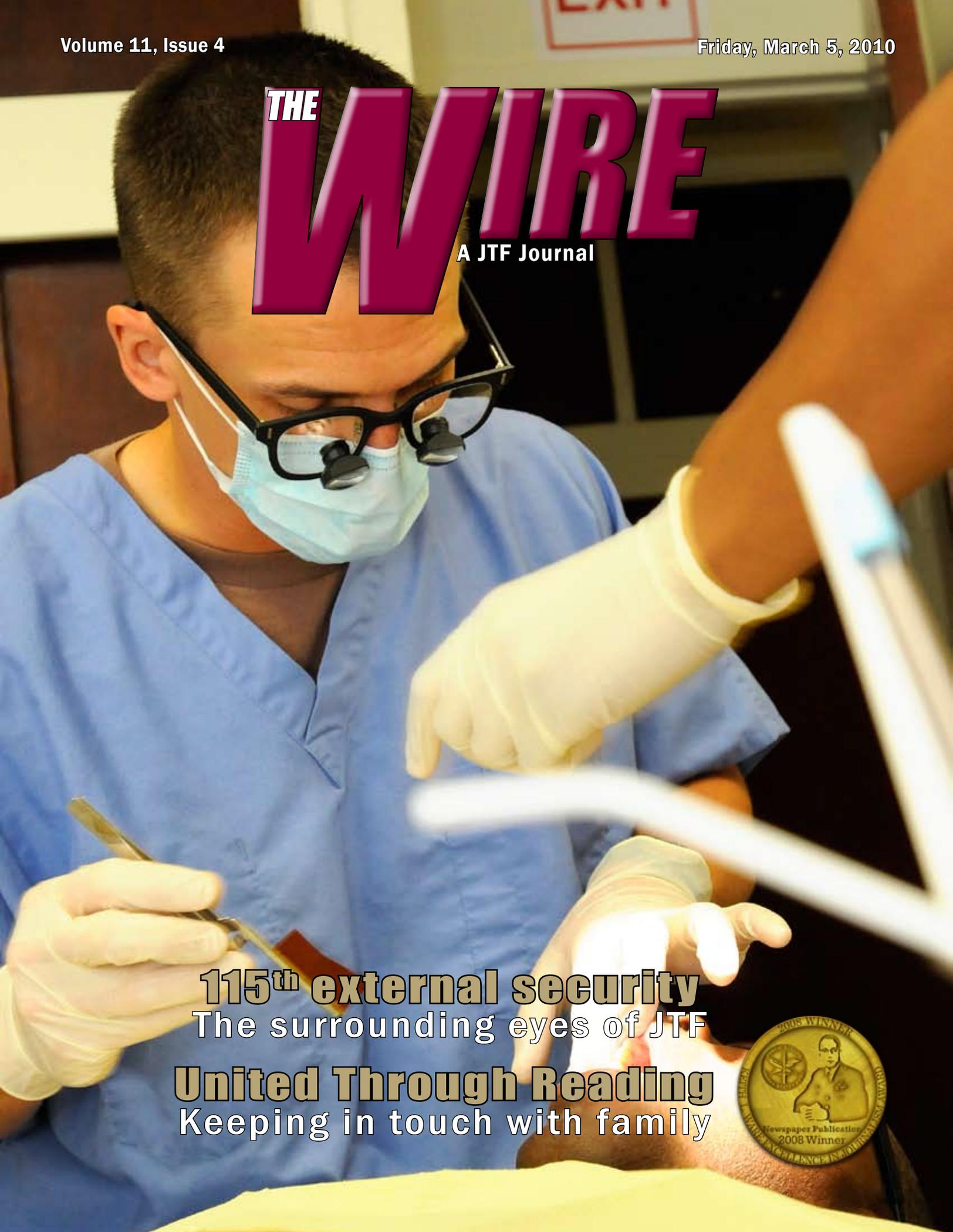


THE WIRE

A JTF Journal



115th external security
The surrounding eyes of JTF

United Through Reading
Keeping in touch with family



Speak up

Navy Command Master Chief
Scott Fleming

JTF Guantanamo Senior Enlisted Leader

For anyone who missed it, Jan. 22 passed more than a month ago and Joint Task Force Guantanamo remains fully employed, despite well-publicized plans to close the doors.

Many factors prolonged the closing including political debate, legal considerations and national security; and not by accident, professionalism and integrity from those of you serving the JTF.

It's easy to lose sight of the last reason because it's become an expected state of affairs, but by keeping the conditions of detention out of the discussion, you demonstrated that we remain committed to the safe, humane, legal and transparent care and custody of detainees regardless of external forces examining our merits in policy documents.

So the show goes on uninterrupted and your primary focus remains unchanged. That is no small task, but one everyone here is eminently qualified to complete.

Day-by-day, you do the right thing at every level – sometimes in the face of adversity and always under a spotlight.

Week-by-week, you continue to show the world the model for compassion and composure.

Month-by-month, you march forward undeterred by the spurious white noise, representing service and self in phenomenal fashion. These are the sustained actions that will be critical over the long haul to keeping the JTF ready for all challenges.

Even as we continue to execute detention operations with poise and precision, it's important to look to the future as well.

For much of 2009, many of our longer-term projects aimed at upgrading capabilities and quality of service were placed on hold until our disposition was determined.

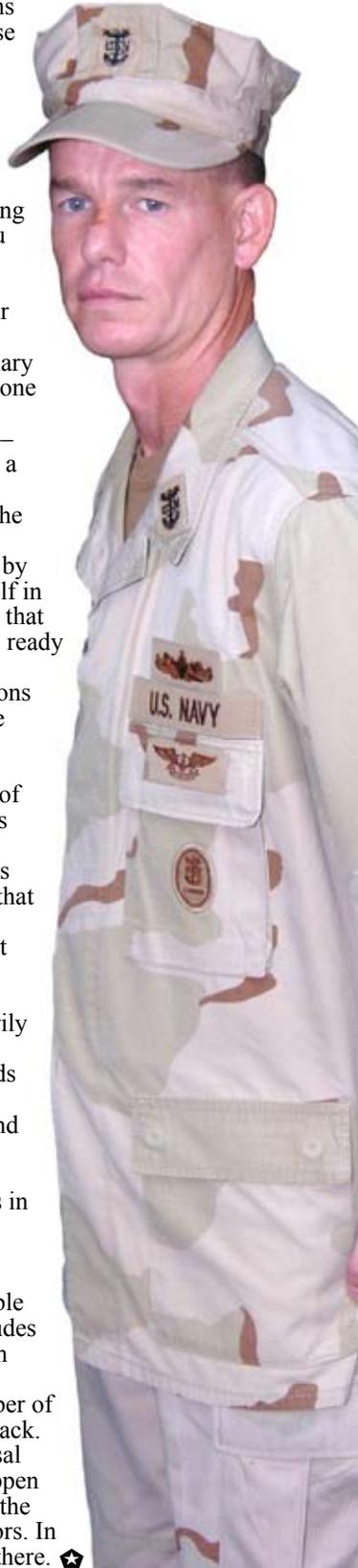
Now that we're certain no one is turning the lights out soon, it's time to identify and attack those areas that may have fallen off the radar.

The JTF has existed for eight years. A lot of smart people led us to where we are today in terms of procedures, facilities and priorities. However, that doesn't mean some of those approaches are necessarily still the best way to do business.

Environments change, technology improves, needs evolve and good troops with great ideas continually rotate into the organization. So take a look around and don't be afraid to share your thoughts. Old guys like me tend to see things through the lenses we've used forever – we need young troops to help us see things in a different light once in a while.

Housing, Morale, Welfare and Recreation and Internet access issues come up frequently. We work those issues continually within the context of available resources, but we can always use feedback that includes proposed solutions. MWR has a new leadership team that is very receptive to our input. S.C.S.I. is having discussions with the Navy on how to address a number of the issues you brought up in surveys a few months back.

I encourage you to use the avenues at your disposal to effect positive change. Some things might not happen overnight or even during your stay, but you do have the ability to influence conditions here for your successors. In any instance, speak up if you have an idea to get us there. ✪



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COVER:

Navy Lt. Jeffrey Hilley, with the Joint Troop Clinic, performs a dental procedure on a patient, March 2. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Marcos T. Hernandez

BACK COVER:

Sailboats sit dry-docked at the Marina, Feb. 24. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Zachary Harris

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 regard 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.



Navy Lt. Anthony Carr, Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion chaplain, listens to Personnel Specialist 3rd Class Montavious Jackson inside Camp Delta, March 1. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Athneil Thomas

JTF Chaplains, here for Troopers

Army Sgt.
Athneil Thomas

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Some Troopers in the Joint Task Force Guantanamo environment may need a little extra help to get them over the humps in their deployment. They can find that help through the chaplains at JTF.

“We are here because you are here,” said Air Force Lt. Col. William Ferrell, JTF command chaplain. “Our only reason for being here is to help you.”

He said chaplains also advise commanders on religious, moral and ethical issues and provide guidance to commanders on how to respond to requests for religious accommodation.

“The mission of chaplains is to facilitate the free exercise of religion as guaranteed by the Constitution,” Ferrell said, adding that chaplains serve as the principal advisers to the commander regarding the impact of religion on military operations.

There are four chaplains who serve and advise JTF Guantanamo’s command. Along with Ferrell, there is Air Force Maj. William Wiecher, JTF Guantanamo deputy command chaplain, Navy Lt. Anthony Carr, Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion chaplain, and Army Capt. Eric Bey, 525th Military Police Battalion chaplain.

Chaplains help the combatant commander in clarifying the rules on the expression of faith or spiritual principles for all assigned personnel, and guard against religious discrimination within the command.

“We serve as advisers to the commander in all matters moral, ethical and religious,” Bey said. “But generally, we nurture the

See **CHAPLAINS/12**



Air Force Lt. Col. William Ferrell, Joint Task Force Guantanamo command chaplain, gives guidance and support to a Trooper, Feb. 10. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Angela Ruiz



Army Pfc. Paul Garland and Army Pfc. Sean McCall check the setup of an antenna for voice and data tactical communications in Haiti, Feb. 28. – JTF Guantanamo contributed photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist Chief Robert J. Fluegel

Soldiers provide communication support in Haiti

**Navy Lt.
Arlo Abrahamson**

Joint Forces Special Operations
Component Command Public Affairs

Soldiers assigned to the communications directorate for the Joint Forces Special Operations Component Command have played a critical role in supporting civil affairs and other humanitarian operations conducted by U.S. special operations forces here during Operations Unified Response.

Special operations forces served as the commander’s eyes on the ground during the early days of the rescue and recovery phases of relief operations in the wake of a 7.0 earthquake that struck Jan. 12. These tasks rely heavily on vital links between forward elements and operational commanders, a support capability that Signal Corps Soldiers bring to an operation.

“There’s a lot of coordination and streamlining that goes into our job, because we have to work across a variety of networks and satellite feeds,” said Army Staff Sgt.

Kelly Williams, a communications team leader. “We have to ensure the end user, our people in the field, have the signal capabilities they need to accomplish their assigned tasks.”

To remain mission capable, Williams said, computer networks must continue to run efficiently. In addition, tactical, radio and satellite communications equipment must be managed and maintained.

“There’s a lot of security protocols and other procedures we must follow to run efficient networks,” Williams said. “We try to make that as transparent as possible for our users.”

But, as Army Staff Sgt. Wayne Potts explained, there’s also a hands-on portion of their mission.

“The civil affairs teams bring communications equipment with them to the field, but we show them how to get the most out of this equipment,” Potts said. “We want to make sure they have the right capabilities when they get to where they are going, so they can concentrate on the

overall mission we have here in Haiti.”

That mission, humanitarian operations, is one these Soldiers know they have enhanced with the skills they bring to the operation.

“We feel good knowing we played a part in the overall success of our mission,” said Army Sgt. Derek Auguste. “Communications are vital to an operation – everyone has to talk and coordinate with each other. We feel like we created an environment where that could be successful.” ★



Army Spc. Will Gilroy, a member of the 115th Military Police Company, peers out into a dark road while performing duties at Joint Task Force Guantanamo's access control point Roosevelt, Feb. 29 - JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Marcos T. Hernandez



Roving and watching

Navy Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class
Marcos T. Hernandez
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Keeping Troopers safe in Guantanamo is everyone's responsibility. But for Soldiers with the 115th Military Police Company's external security, it's their daily assignment.

"We run all the security on the outside and that makes everyone that's working on the inside safer," said Army Sgt. Justin Depot, a member with the 115th Military Police Company. "Especially the Troopers behind the wire."

Soldiers with the 115th, who are in charge of Joint Task Force Guantanamo external security, dedicate countless hours to guard just about everything in sight. Just try to get through an identification checkpoint

without the proper documentation.

"It's always 100 percent identification check out here. We stop every entry to the JTF, authorized and unauthorized," said Army Spc. Will Gilroy, a member of the 115th. "If you don't have the right items of documentation, you won't get in."

Guarding a checkpoint offers an advantage of constantly interacting with people and getting familiar with everyone who cycles through your post.

"Sometimes there are unauthorized personnel without an escort that try to get through, but I just turn them away politely," said Army Spc. Chad Richard, a member with the 115th. "They get frustrated, but it's what we do."

Officially, members of the 115th conduct security operations to protect friendly

forces and detainees from surveillance, sabotage and attack. They do that through entry control access, roving patrols and observation from both guard towers and observation posts. They also support military commissions at Camp Justice by providing security duties.

Additionally, they perform random vehicle inspections.

"We have very clear instructions on how often and how many vehicles we inspect," said Army Sgt. Dennis Corrigan, a member with the 115th. "We don't deviate from the formula and we don't cut corners. Ultimately, the safety and security of everyone inside the JTF is our responsibility. We take that task very seriously."

With surveillance operations a round-the-clock venture, the hours are long and the conditions are less than perfect. Regardless, each person in the 115th gets something different out of their experiences here.

"The best part about being here is you see this place in the news all the time," Gilroy said. "And then you finally get to come down here and get to know what it's like."

Roving patrols provide support to all of the camps and external security sites. They are available to check out unusual or suspicious activity spotted at any area around Camp America and can respond quickly to requests from all security positions.

The 115th's mission comprises just a piece of the security measures in place at JTF Guantanamo to keep the Troopers and detainees here safe. Working together with various other services and elements, the Troopers know their work is an important part of the JTF mission. ★

Aboard a Humvee, members of the 115th Military Police Company patrol a dirt road while performing external security duties at Joint Task Force Guantanamo, Feb. 29 - JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Marcos T. Hernandez



Learn your specific foot type

Alec Culpepper

JTF Guantanamo MWR Fitness Specialist

You can go a long way toward discovering what you need in a running shoe by looking at your feet.

According to Runnersworld.com, there are three basic foot types, each based on the height of your arches. The quickest and easiest way to determine your foot type is by taking the “wet test,” below.

First, pour a thin layer of water into a shallow pan. Next, wet the sole of your foot. Then, step onto a shopping bag or a blank piece of heavy paper. Finally, step off and look down.

Runnersworld.com says to look at the shape of your foot and match it with one of the foot types listed. Although other variables, such as your weight, biomechanics, weekly mileage and fit preferences come into play, knowing your foot type is the first step toward finding the right shoe for you.



Normal (medium) Arch

If you see about half of your arch, you have the most common foot type and are considered a normal pronator. Runnersworld.com writes that contrary to popular belief, pronation is a good thing. When the arch collapses inward, this “pronation” absorbs shock. As a normal pronator, you can wear just about any shoe, but

may be best suited to a stability shoe that provides moderate arch support or medial stability.

Lightweight runners with normal arches may prefer neutral-cushioned shoes without any added support, or even a performance-training shoe that offers some support, but less heft for a faster feel.



Flat (low) Arch

If you see almost your entire footprint, you have a flat foot, which means you’re probably an overpronator. Runnersworld.com says a microsecond after a foot strike, your arch collapses inward too much, resulting in excessive foot motion and increasing your risk of injury.

Overpronators are best suited for stability shoes or motion control shoes. Stability shoes employ devices such as dual-density midsoles and supportive “posts” to reduce pronation and are best for mild to moderate overpronators. Motion-control shoes have firmer support devices and are best for severe overpronators, as well as tall, heavy (more than 165 pounds) or bow-legged runners.



High Arch

Runnersworld.com suggests if you see just your heel, the ball of your foot and a thin line on the outside of your foot, you have a high arch – the least common foot type. This means you’re likely an underpronator or supinator, which can result in too much shock traveling up your legs, since your arch doesn’t collapse enough to absorb it.

Underpronators are best suited to neutral-cushioned shoes because they need a softer midsole to encourage pronation. It’s vital that an underpronator’s shoes have no added stability devices to reduce or control pronation, the way a stability or motion-control shoe would.



Service members of the Armed Forces have to be ready and fit to fight. To ensure physical fitness, service members exercise on a regular basis. Proper and comfortable workout gear is paramount.

“It is necessary to use proper running sneakers to ensure safety and comfort,” said Navy Intelligence Specialist Seaman Kaylie Gordon, with Joint Task Force Guantanamo’s Joint Intelligence Group. “With quality running sneakers you can also get a better workout. With support and comfort, running is easier and more fun.” ☆



Not your average “boy meets girl” movie

How far are you willing to go to prove your love for another? Are you willing to leave all that you are behind and forego sanity, just to be with “the one”? For Nick Twisp, the answer is simply, yes.

“Youth in Revolt” stars Michael Cera as Nick Twisp doing what he does best, an awkward teenager put in awkward scenarios and acting, you guessed it, awkwardly. Twisp is quite a pathetic young man who has never been able to make any real connections with any woman in his life. He is extremely mature for his age, preferring Fellini movies and Frank Sinatra instead of the latest Keanu Reeves epic and Linkin Park. It is because of these preferences, however, that make his internal monologue quite humorous and a pleasure to listen to during the movie.

When his mother’s boyfriend, Jerry, played by Zach Galifianakis of “The Hangover,” makes a bad car deal with some Sailors, the family takes a trip to Jerry’s friend’s “summer home,” which turns out to be a dilapidated trailer. It is in the trailer park that Twisp meets Sheeni Saunders (Portia Doubleday) and falls head over heels in love.

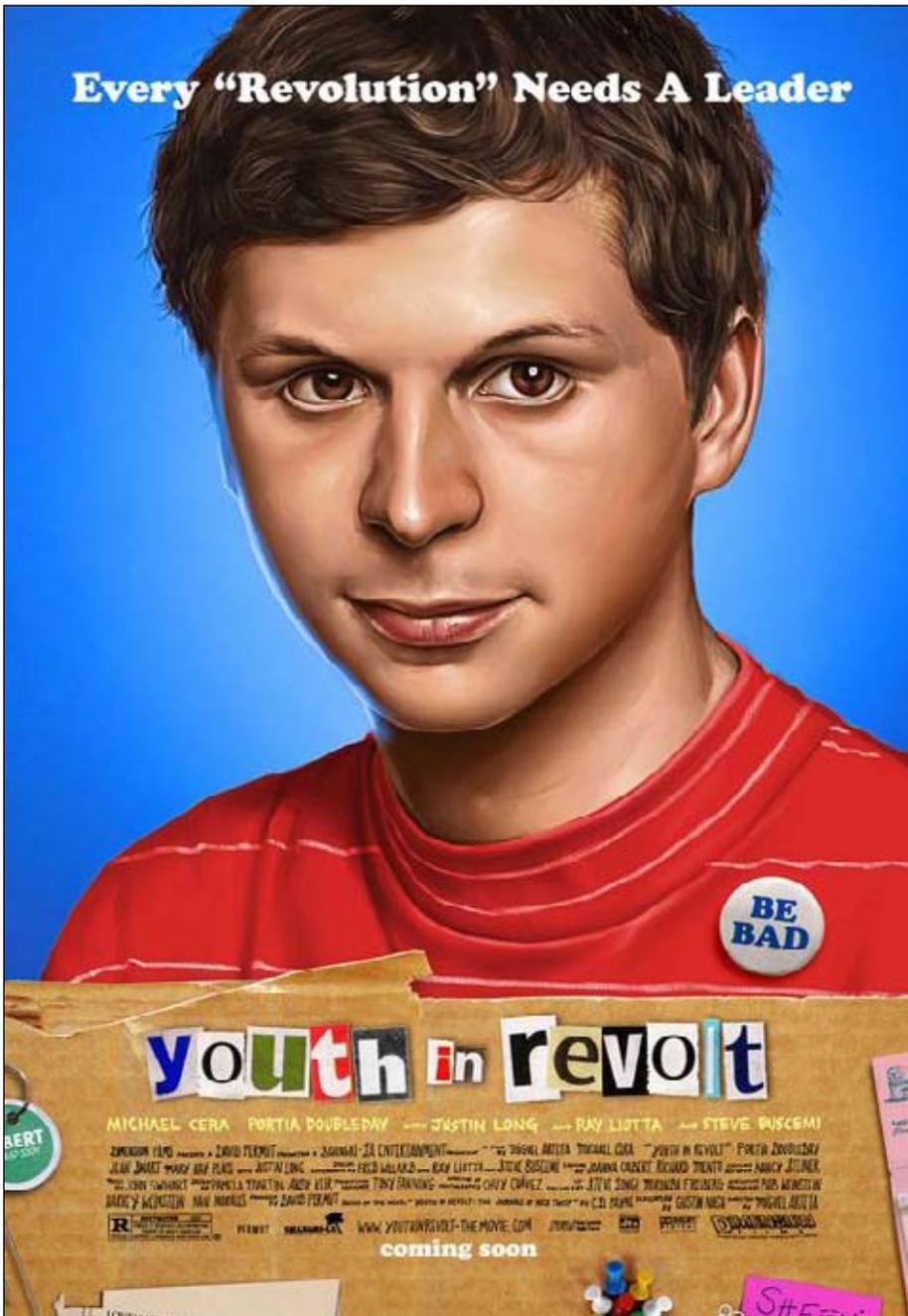
Nick and Sheeni hit it off after some very interesting encounters that leave Cera basking in all his awkward glory. Everything is going great until Jerry throws his back out and the family packs up and heads home. Before leaving, Nick makes a vow that he will do whatever it takes to get back to her, which includes getting kicked out of his house and moving in with his father, George Twisp, played by Steve Buscemi. It is at this point that Francois Dillinger, Nick’s alter ego, comes to fruition.

Francois is the exact opposite of Nick. He is confident, cool and collected at all times. He is the embodiment of everything that Nick thinks is cool, down to the mustache, which in itself is hilarious. Francois provides an opportunity for Cera that he’s never had before: the chance to play the cool guy. Surprisingly, he pulls it off quite well.

The lengths that Nick and Francois go to prove their love, or lust in Francois’ case, for Sheeni are hilarious. Unfortunately for Nick, Francois’ antics end up getting Nick into trouble with the law. When it comes time for Nick to choose between the girl or a clean getaway, he kicks Francois to the curb and goes the rest of his journey alone. It is in his final hours that Nick learns the bad boy does not always get the girl.

The support cast includes Ray Liotta, Justin Long and Fred Willard – who all provide serious comic relief during the most awkward parts of the film. Cera flawlessly executes both roles and manages to carry the movie with internal monologue not only from himself, but from his subconscious, personified by Francois.

The movie may seem slow to some members of the audience who aren’t paying attention to the subtleties of the monologue, which uses dry wit and dead pan humor progress the story. Cera has found his niche in being the awkward, boyish teenager, though in this film he proves that he can play the cool guy and still keep the audience laughing. ☆



R

90 minutes

Rating: ★★☆☆☆



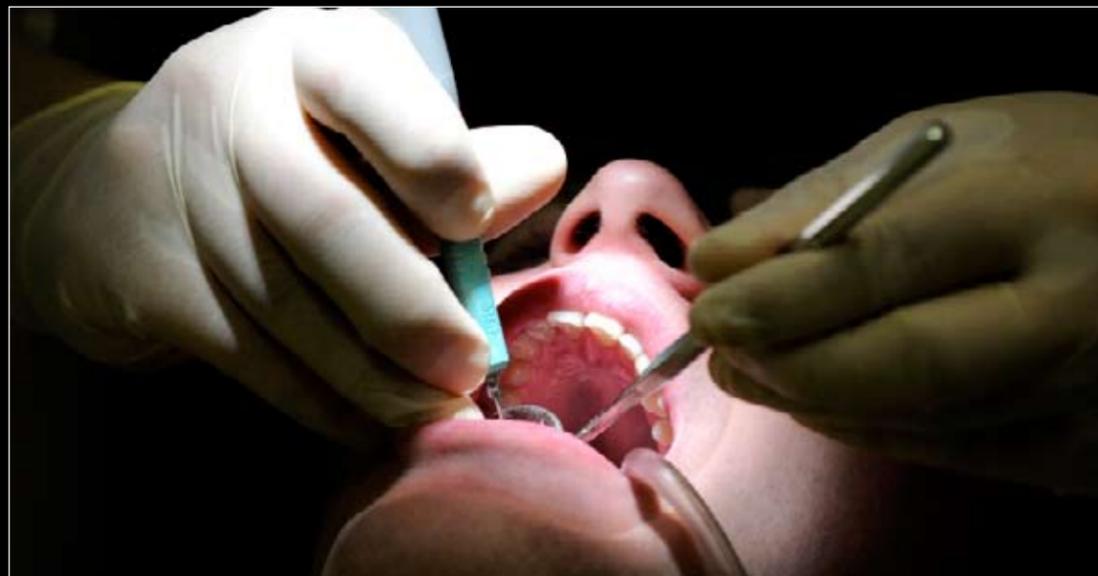
Navy Hospitalman 2nd Class Kentoya Mitchell, a member with the Joint Medical Group, assists Navy Lt. Jeffrey Hilley during a dental procedure at the Joint Troop Clinic, March 2.



(Left and Below) Navy Hospitalman 3rd Class Juan Estevez, a member with Joint Medical Group, performs a routine dental cleaning procedure on Seaman Timothy Wilson, a member with Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion, at Joint Troop Clinic, Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, March 2.

The dental wing of the Joint Troop Clinic performs roughly 170 cleanings in a three-month time period. They perform routine cleanings, routine operatives, fillings, surgeries, root canals and extract wisdom teeth.

JTF Guantanamo photos by
Navy Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class
Marcos T. Hernandez



A routine dental cleaning procedure takes place at the Joint Troop Clinic, March 2.



Colors fly in front of the Joint Troop Clinic, March 2. The clinic provides medical and dental care for Troopers assigned to Joint Task Force Guantanamo.



Staying in touch with the family

**Navy Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class
Katherine Hofman**
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Being away from home does not mean a parent deployed has to give up on instilling the need to read in their children.

Naval Station Guantanamo Bay and Joint Task Force Guantanamo personnel can now take advantage of the United Through Reading program – an initiative that allows parents to read to their children through video recordings.

UTR provides books and a video camera for service members to make a 20-minute recording while reading a book they have chosen for their kids. After recording the reading, the video gets mailed home for their child to watch as often as the child chooses.

“It just sounded cool,” said Coast Guard Boatswain’s Mate 2nd Class Jon Beam, father of four children. “So, I tried it. And, it worked just great!”

UTR was developed by Betty J. Mohlenbrock, a military spouse, teacher

and reading specialist, in response to her own children’s transitional stress and trouble in recognizing their father after his deployment

According to Mohlenbrock, the program allows the child to watch the recorded DVD multiple times when feeling stressed or distant from the parent.

The ability to repeatedly watch the video helps to comfort and reassure a child, especially the little ones, and helps them to keep an emotional connection.

Service members hear about the program in different ways.

“People came to present at our deployment brief, said Coast Guard Maritime Enforcement Specialist 2nd Class Edward Willey, father of two and a member of Maritime Safety and Security Team 91103 in support of JTF Guantanamo. “United Through Reading really connected with me and was one I thought I’d like to do.”

Regardless of how you hear about the program, there is usually something about the idea that compels certain people to try it.

Emotional bonding motivated Coast Guard Maritime Enforcement Specialist 1st Class Dan Chase, a member of MSST 91103 and father of a newborn, to try it.

“I want to send recordings to my son,” he said. “So later, when he grows up, I can explain to him why I wasn’t there for him the first six months of his life.”

Volunteer driven, the program would not be possible without the help and support of fellow Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen, contributing more than 250,000 hours and benefiting more than 500,000 children and parents.

Each volunteer is motivated differently but each sees the positive aspects of the program.

“My chief told me to find stuff you like,” said Navy Intelligence Specialist 3rd Class Anastasia Teres. “I heard about UTR and thought, ‘it’s perfect.’ I like kids and it helps families to stay connected, even when they are far away.”

To find out more information about the United Through Reading program, visit their Web site <http://www.unitedthroughreading.org/military/>. ★



Navy Information Systems Technician Seaman Apprentice Andrea Frank, with Carrier Strike Group 2, poses with her memento, Bob, Feb. 1. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Joshua Nistas

A piece of home away from home

**Navy Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class
Joshua Nistas**
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Making your Cuzco seem a little more like home makes being away from home a little easier.

Many Joint Task Force members make it a point to bring something significant from home to take the edge off deployment.

For Navy Information Systems Technician Seaman Apprentice Andrea Frank, with Carrier Strike Group 2, being deployed is a challenging period as a mother to 3-year-old daughter, Kathryn. After Frank had surgery in October 2009, Kathryn gave her a plush monkey named Bob.

Bob is Frank's connection to her daughter when deployed.

"I planned on bringing the stuffed animal when I found out I would be deployed," Frank said. "It's a way to remember the sweetness of my daughter."

Carrying a stuffed animal is not reserved for only moms who are missing their kids.

Navy Chief Aviation Maintenance Administrationman Paul Matthews, with Carrier Air Wing 8, carries a small stuffed teddy bear that he received from his son, Tyler. Smokey, as he calls him, has traveled

all over the world for the past 16 years.

"It's comforting to have a little piece of home away from home," Matthews said. "Smokey has more time at sea than most junior Sailors."

Smokey has traveled the world with Matthews, with the resulting photos of their experiences being mailed home to Matthews' family. Just to make sure Smokey remains by his side, Matthews has his rack number written on Smokey's tag, referring to the bed that Matthews occupies on ship, making sure that if separated, Smokey would return to Matthews.

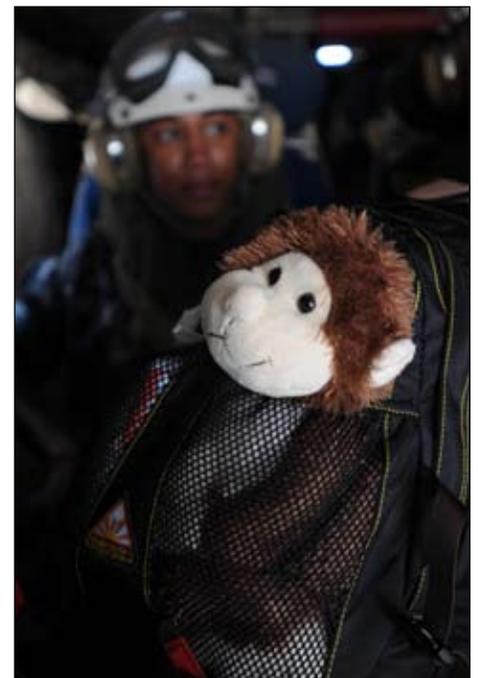
Although it's not from home, at least one Army troop keeps a possession near and dear to his heart.

Army Cpl. David K. King maintains a military challenge coin he received from his Army senior drill sergeant. King, the promotions non-commissioned officer, S-1 Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 525th Military Police Battalion, keeps the coin on-person to keep himself motivated.

"The coin has motivated me in several ways, while I've been away from home," King said. "It has shown me that in the Army, there are still leaders who openly acknowledge hard work and leadership potential. Someone so experienced and so knowledgeable recognized what I had

done."

The back of the coin reads, "No Obstacle Too Difficult, No Task Too Great," which reminds King that if he sets his mind to something, he can achieve it. ★



CHAPLAINS from 3

living, care for the wounded and honor the dead. Beyond this, we have the responsibility to provide or perform for the free practice of religion for all members of our command.”

JTF members who want to attend a service can visit the Troopers’ Chapel in Camp America for Protestant and Catholic worship services. There are also Sunday evening Truth Project meetings and Wednesday Bible study classes.

All services and Bible classes are open to the public, but if you need one-on-one counseling with the highest level of privacy, check with a chaplain.

“We provide an ear that is open to listening in a completely confidential way,” said Wiecher. “No other helping agency has that to offer.”

Every chaplain is ready and available for you if you need to discuss crisis counseling, marriage and family issues, life coaching, prayer, religious and spiritual advisement, visitation and morale boosting, according to Wiecher.

“Caring for the Trooper in all areas of their being is what we do,” Wiecher said.

Carr said the military members who he serves daily also serve as military role models to him. Carr refers to a biblical verse which best describes the service members and their mission: Philippians 1:6a, “I am confident of this, that the One who began a good work in among you will bring it to completion.” ☆

Army Capt. Eric Bey, 525th Military Police Battalion chaplain, cooks burgers and hotdogs during the Burger Bash in Camp America, Feb. 12. The Burger Bash was hosted by the Joint Task Force Guantanamo Chaplain’s office for the Troopers of JTF. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Marine Lance Cpl. Justin R. Wheeler



Alcohol Use Policy at JTF-Guantanamo

- **The possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages by a person under 21 is strictly prohibited.**
- **Operating any vehicle under the influence of alcohol is strictly prohibited.**
- **A single incident of alcohol abuse may result in any of the following: the loss of driving privileges, adverse administrative action, non-judicial punishment or judicial punishment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.**
- **Consumption of alcoholic beverages within the first 14 days of arrival and the last 14 days before departure from JTF-GTMO is prohibited.**
- **Public consumption of alcoholic beverages is permitted only in the following areas: Downtown Lyceum during movies, public beaches, Ferry Landing, outdoor dining areas of base clubs during operational hours, within the confines of JTF-GTMO personnel housing units and surrounding areas, parks and ball fields during sporting events and command functions and the golf course during regular use – check policy for times or specifics.**

For more information, please refer to JTF-GTMO Policy Memorandum #5, Use of Alcohol
<https://intranet/resources/pubs.html>



Lt. j.g. Malvin L. Fikes, with the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion, recites the reenlistment oath as Master-at-Arms 1st Class Shane R. McLerran and Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Daniel A. Stiefel repeat the oath during their dual reenlistment ceremony inside of Camp 6, Feb. 26. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Athneil Thomas

Boots on the Ground

By Marine Lance Cpl. Justin R. Wheeler

With the end of the Olympics, what was your favorite sport this year?

Navy Aviation Boatswain's Mate Handler 2nd Class Dusty Winkler

Army Sgt. Delicia Henley

Air Force Tech Sgt. John Stone

Marine Lance Cpl. Lorenzo Ruiz



"Snowboarding, because I'm a snow boarder."



"Ice skating, I think it's a very graceful sport."



"Hockey, it's the first time the U.S. has beaten Canada in 50 years."



"Snowboarding, because I wish I could do some of the tricks they do."



Eighth Commandment: Source of cohesion

**Air Force Maj.
William Wiecher**
JTF Deputy Command Chaplain

Western Christians throughout the world began a journey on Feb. 17 – their Lenten journey. That day, called Ash Wednesday, marked the starting point in a journey that leads to the holiest day in the Christian faith, Easter.

This season of Lent is a time for self-reflection, repentance and renewal.

One of the traditional exercises for Lenten season is for a person to become reacquainted with the Ten Commandments, which are God’s gracious guidelines for living. These guidelines are a gift to us and are not meant to be a burden or used as a club to straighten out the wayward.

The Commandments shape and inform how individuals can live together in community.

One Commandment in particular, the Eighth Commandment, stands forth as a source of cohesion for us as a joint force community: “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”

This Commandment, like no other, gets to the core of our life together. It reminds us of our responsibility to guard and protect our neighbor’s good name and reputation.

The greatest possession of anyone, even more than wealth, is their “good name.” Each of us has a responsibility to look out for each other’s good name and guard not only our own reputation, but our neighbor’s as well.

Unfortunately, our egos and our pride often get in our way of caring for another’s name. When tensions arise, as they do, sometimes it is easier to cast blame, ridicule and even gossip, than to assess the true situation and find a solution to remedy the problem.

We know all too well the result of such action: A breakdown of trust, decreased morale and failure to perform to one’s best ability.

The Eighth Commandment implores us to always put the best construction on what is said about another person, as well as about a given situation. This does not mean there is no critique or evaluation. Rather, such a critique must serve a greater good than merely “getting even” or making someone the scapegoat.

One commentator on this Commandment wrote, “Let this be your rule, then, that you should not be quick to spread slander and gossip about your neighbor, but admonish him privately so that he might amend. Likewise, if someone should whisper to you what this or that person has done, teach him if he saw the wrongdoing to go and reprove the man personally, otherwise to hold his tongue.” ☆

GTMO Religious Services

Daily Catholic Mass
Mon. - Fri. 5:30 p.m.
Main Chapel
Mon. - Fri. 12:30 p.m.
Troopers’ Chapel
Vigil Mass
Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Main Chapel
Mass
Sunday 9:00 a.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 Christo
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
Gospel Service
Sunday 1:00 p.m.
Main Chapel

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

Musical gator rocks GTMO

Army Spc.

Archie Corbitt III

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Going on his third deployment in seven years, Army Spc. Keith Chambers is no stranger to finding ways to keep himself entertained while away from home.

It's that experience and personal ingenuity that has helped him come up with an idea unique to Guantanamo.

"[To my knowledge], I have the only gator with sound in it," said Chambers, as he showed off his makeshift radio set. It consists of an MP3 player, speakers and a small 12-volt converter. "This is a great way to spend some time, especially after a long day at work."

It's this skill and ingenuity that earns Chambers, an armorer with the 786th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, his 15 Minutes of Fame.

Chambers joined the Virgin Islands Army National Guard in 2000. Since he joined the Army, he's been deployed to Afghanistan, Iraq, and now Guantanamo Bay. Chambers is instrumental in the operation of the motor pool as well as the storage and cleaning of weapons at Joint Task Force Guantanamo. He has found adjusting here a bit different from other assignments.

"The rules on a naval station are different from what I'm used to on an Army post," Chambers said. "It's a give and take, some rules are stricter, and some are more lenient."

After spending his first few days in Guantanamo and driving

to work with only the sound of the gator's engine to keep him company, Chambers decided to enhance things. That's when he "enhanced" his gator and added what he needed to be able to listen to music. Drawing from knowledge gained installing radio sets in cars, Chambers knew what he needed to get music, which he loves, into the gator he drives. Now, when he drives around GTMO, it's to the sounds of dancehall and calypso music. The music is new to many Troopers at JTF, but for Chambers, it helps him feel right at home.

"Chambers has always been a gadget guy," said Army Sgt. Leonard Richards, a mechanic with the Virgin Islands Army National Guard, who deployed with Chambers to Iraq in 2005. "He's smart and working with electronics is something he is good at doing."

Chambers said when members of the 786th CSSB see him on the road and hear his music, they can only shake their heads and say, "only Chambers would do something like that." The setup is not permanently installed and takes only a few minutes to put in place.

Aside from music and his gator, Chambers appreciates the benefit of being deployed to an environment where all branches of service are recognized.

"I used to worry about not knowing different branch ranks, but being part of this joint environment, I have learned a great deal about the interaction and cooperation between the branches of the military." ☆

Army Spc. Keith Chambers, an armorer with the 786th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, turns on a radio that he installed in his gator at Camp America, Feb. 16. Chambers, who has been deployed multiple times, finds unique ways to keep himself entertained while away from home. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Archie Corbitt III



Army Sgt. Tashaia Bedminster, with the Virgin Islands Army National Guard's 786th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, tops off a vehicle with transmission fluid, March 1. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Athneil Thomas



Around the

JTF

Navy Aviation Machinist Mate 2nd Class Juan Sealey, a guard with the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion, launches a golf ball from the tee on hole 17, March 1. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Athneil Thomas



Members of Capstone, a course on joint and combined operations for general and flag officers, tour Joint Task Force Guantanamo's Camp 6, Feb. 26. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Cody Black

