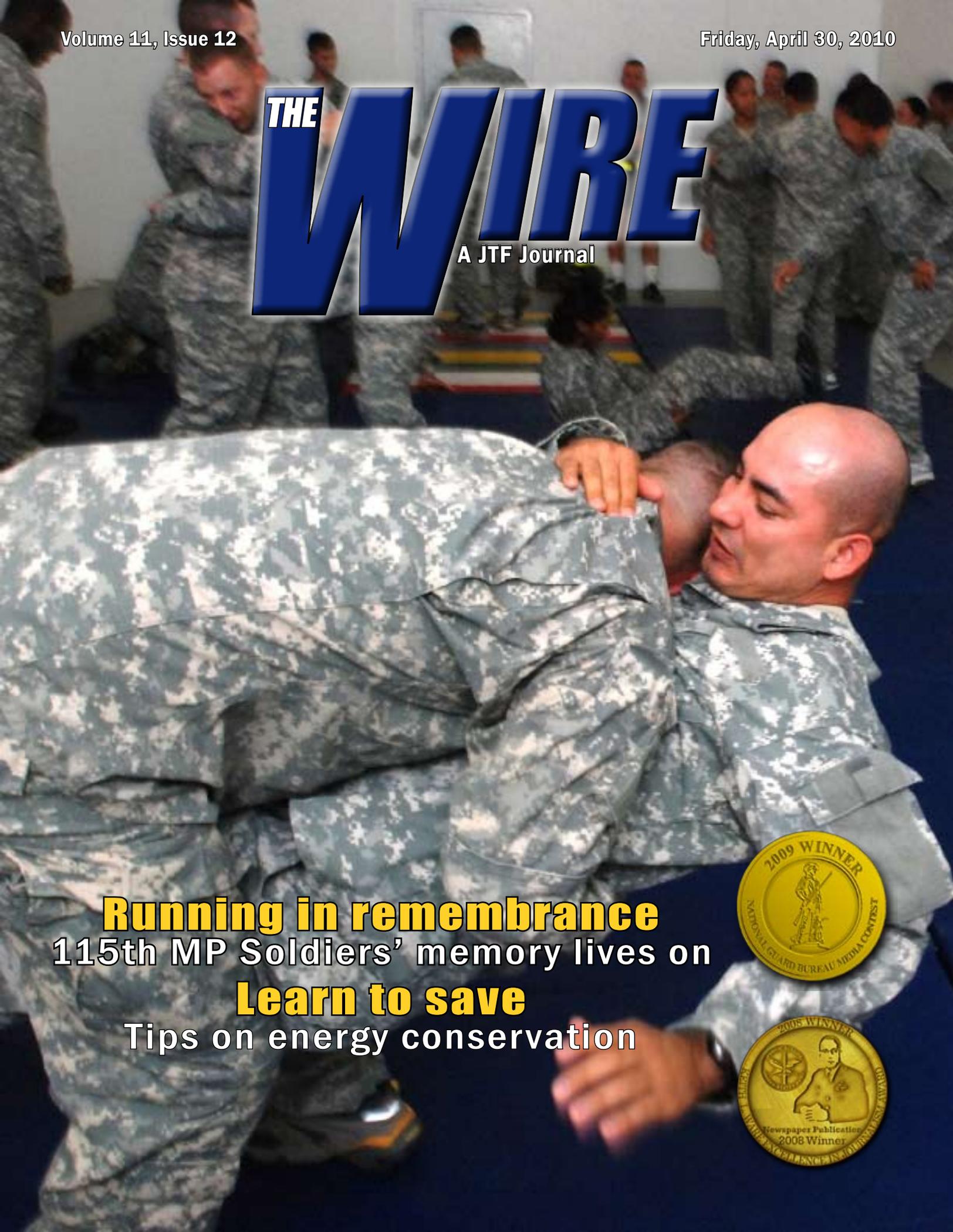


THE WIRE

A JTF Journal



Running in remembrance
115th MP Soldiers' memory lives on
Learn to save
Tips on energy conservation



Leadership laboratory

Navy Master Chief Petty Officer Scott A. Fleming
JTF Guantanamo Senior Enlisted Leader

Recently, we conducted the Joint Task Force Trooper of the Quarter boards, putting some of our most outstanding service members in the semi-stressful position of having their professional performance and military demeanor judged by a group of senior non-commissioned officers.

They may have been nervous or unfamiliar with a few of the questions, but they still stood tall in the batter's box and took hard swings. Without exception, the candidates represented their units and services with poise and distinction.

It only takes three minutes in a room with these warriors to understand why our armed forces succeed here and around the world: because almost universally, people who wear our nation's colors strive to exemplify and perpetuate the common ideals that unite them with their brothers- and sisters-in-arms.

Not rocket science exactly, but a proven theory in the power of righteous tradition, enduring culture and positive reinforcement.

Our services do a phenomenal job institutionalizing values that define their core character, but our people do an even better job making those principles part of their own personal code.

Men and women who sign up for a stint in military service have a thousand different reasons for taking the oath, but there is a common denominator: they all seek success. And within seconds of arriving at basic training, their aspirations are relentlessly subjected to abstract concepts like honor, integrity, courage, duty and excellence.

Over time, words and actions, both good and bad, from individuals and organizations, add substance to those virtuous ideas, steadily forging leaders from a sturdy alloy of precious strengths and solid convictions.

Still, the leadership laboratory is always open for business. None of us, no matter what pay grade or position, achieve absolute, infinite perfection in our pursuit of leadership chemistry. Instead, we chase an ever-evolving formula; our efforts unendingly shaped by environment, experience, observations, errors and those around us – battle buddies, wingmen, shipmates, peers, subordinates, mentors, spouses and anyone else with eyes and intuition to provide feedback.

Once we become static or complacent and stop accepting input, we're a short step from becoming obsolete.

At GTMO, success is equal parts continuity and fluidity, simultaneously maintaining personal integrity for the fundamentals and organizational flexibility.

Both of those attributes are contagious, passed from service to service, unit to unit and troop to troop as byproducts of our interoperability. Simply said, we make each other better by bringing our strengths to the table and taking time to learn, adapt and appreciate. We all embrace the JTF mission – safe, humane, legal and transparent – because those are non-negotiable. But there are a thousand other merits that add real depth to the JTF, and they all begin as a part of an inspirational personal code.

I tell all newcomers to widen their lens a little while they are here, to appreciate the many moving pieces it takes to complete the puzzle. There's more to that than just situational awareness – it's also a chance to absorb countless volumes of knowledge, wisdom and legacy, that collectively define the most impressive aspects of our armed forces.

Unarguably, that is a pretty cool parting gift for your service and sacrifice. 🇺🇸



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The Wire

Executive Editor, Command Information

NCOIC, Photojournalist:

Navy Mass Communication Specialist
1st Class Edward Flynn: 3592

Editor, Photojournalist:

Army Spc. Tiffany Addair: 3499

Photojournalists:

Navy Mass Communication Specialist

1st Class Mark Richardson

Navy Mass Communication Specialist

2nd Class Zachary Harris

Navy Mass Communication Specialist

2nd Class Sean Allen

Army Sgt. Cody Black

Navy Mass Communication Specialist

3rd Class Kellie Bliss

Navy Mass Communication Specialist

3rd Class Joshua Nistas

Marine Corps Lance Cpl.

Justin R. Wheeler

Contact us

Editor's Desk: 3499 or 3594

From the continental United States:

Commercial: 011-53-99-3499

DSN: 660-3499

E-mail: thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil

Online: www.jtfgtmo.southcom.mil

COVER:

Army Pfc. Kyle Wojcik, 525th Military Police Battalion, takes down Army Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Garcia during combatives training at G.J. Denich Gym, April 22. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Justin R. Wheeler

BACK COVER:

Army Pvt. Justin Champion, 525th MP Battalion, rinses his eyes out after being sprayed with oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray during a training exercise at Camp America, April 20. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Justin R. Wheeler

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.

FFSC: Supporting you through work, life

Army Spc. Tiffany Addair
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The Fleet and Family Support Center is here to help Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers and Naval Station Guantanamo Bay service members by providing services to strengthen personal and family skills to meet the unique challenges of the military lifestyle.

“We provide a range of services,” said Judith Greene, work and family life specialist. “Our services include deployment readiness, ombudsman program management, personal financial management, sponsorship training, transitions assistance, family employment readiness, relocation assistance, family advocacy, sexual assault prevention and response, life skills and clinical counseling.”

According to Clarence Lowery, FFSC supervisor, the Navy FFSC Website (<https://www.nffsp.org>) is a great source to find more in-depth information on services. Below is additional information on some of the services provided by your local FFSC:

Deployment Readiness – offers pre-, mid- and post-deployment programs.

Ombudsman Program Management

– establishes and maintains good communication between commands and families.

Personal Financial Management – provides classes on car buying, consumer awareness, budgeting, insurance and savings.

Transitions Assistance – ensures a smooth transition when service members decide to

treatment for service members and their families involved in incidents of domestic abuse.

Life Skills – helps service members approach military life with confidence.

Clinical Counseling – short-term counseling to help you sort things out and get to the heart of the problem.

Most of these services are currently offered at 81 sites worldwide. Of those, 58 carry all of the programs and services.

Greene’s primary responsibility is to assist people transitioning from the service, relocating, whether here or stateside, trying to find a job and trying to improve their job search skills. She feels a great sense of accomplishment when she helps those in need.

“The most rewarding part of my job is having someone let me know that their move went

well,” Greene said. “[It’s nice to hear] that they got the job they were looking for, or even that they were more comfortable with their job search skills.”

The FFSC is available for walk-in appointments at both the FFSC, Building 2135, and at the JTF Trooper One-Stop, the satellite office. Also, anyone can make an appointment or discuss the services the FFSC has to offer by calling ext. 4141. ✪



return to civilian life

Family Employment Readiness – addresses job search challenges and provides training on job searches, career planning, resume writing, interview techniques, etc.

Relocation Assistance – makes the moving process as smooth as possible for you and your family.

Family Advocacy – offers awareness and

Resumes - Where do I start? Federal Jobs - How do I get one?

Discuss how to upgrade your resume and interpret employment applications.

Find out about Federal hiring practices and Veterans Preferences in hiring.

Learn guidelines for writing and submitting a Federal Application.

- **When: Every Thursday**
- **Time: Between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.**
- **Where: JTF One-Stop, Bldg. 1451**



Navy Hospitalman Maikol K. Vega-Suarez (middle-right) and Navy Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Arthur J. Manning (right), both psychiatric technicians with the Joint Stress Mitigation and Restoration Team, hand out stress reliever tools to Navy Logistics Specialist 2nd Class Christian T. Jackson (left) at the Camp America post office, April 26. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Cody Black

Keeping Troopers mission ready

Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Zachary Harris
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The life of a service member is challenging. Spending months away from your family in a foreign place and working 12–18 hours a day can be taxing physically, as well as mentally. Some Troopers can get burnt out quickly without a way to blow off steam and relax.

For Troopers deployed to Joint Task Force (JTF) Guantanamo, the Joint Stress Mitigation and Restoration Team (JSMART) provides a venue to vent frustrations and seek help before stress becomes overwhelming.

“JSMART’s primary mission is to provide 24/7 mental health services to personnel assigned to JTF-GTMO,” said Navy Lt. Cmdr. Joshua Kenton, JSMART officer-in-charge. “We put an emphasis on ensuring individual and unit readiness.”

While the primary mission is mental health services, JSMART also provides a variety of educational and preventive services including sleep hygiene, relaxation training and stress management.

Navy Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Christopher Parker, lead petty officer of JSMART and a psychiatry technician, believes the department is as beneficial to a Trooper as higher education.

“People go to college to learn more about other topics,” Parker said. “Why not come in to JSMART and learn something about

yourself?”

From services provided by JSMART, including anger management or informal counseling sessions, Troopers are able to deal with their issues in a constructive way – before the issue becomes debilitating.

“There’s a lot of stress here for the guards and other members while deployed away from [home],” said Hospitalman Maikol Vega, psychiatry technician with JSMART. “If there’s something wrong, not [getting help] can make [the problem] worse.”

According to Parker there is often a stigma associated with seeking help for mental stress. While visiting the JSMART office is the best place to seek help, there are also less formal ways to do so.

“You can pull me aside anywhere and we can talk or you can come in,” Parker said. “It’s not bad for your career; it can help.”

The JSMART staff is ready to assist Troopers with a myriad of problems, ranging from occupational to domestic. Parker believes that figuring out the issue is the hardest problem he will face during his time at GTMO.

“Personally, I think that with the team we have here, there is almost no subject that we have not seen or dealt with on a personal or professional level,” Parker said. “The only challenge will be helping the individual understand that no matter how overwhelming the problem, we can work on a plan to cope with it in a positive way.”

For more information, contact JSMART at ext. 3566. ★

115th runs 11.5 in memory

Navy Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class
Edward Flynn
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Joining the military may be one of the best decisions a person can make in life, but it does not come without a cost.

Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers from the Rhode Island Army National Guard's 115th Military Police Company were joined April 24 by other JTF Troopers and members of the GTMO community to remember and honor four members of the 115th MP Co. who were killed in action.

Army Staff Sgt. Joseph Camara, Army Sgt. Charles Caldwell, Army Spc. Michael Andrade and Army Staff Sgt. Christopher Potts all died while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"These brave men were well respected, and they paid the ultimate sacrifice," said Army Spc. Eric Carrier, a 115th member. "We are a tight knit group and when we lose one of our own, it hits home for everyone."

With a motto to "Never Forget," this walk/run event honored the memory of their fallen comrades.

"The 115th MP Co. is proud to sponsor and host this event in memory of those Rhode Island Army National Guard Soldiers who gave the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of our great nation," said Army Capt. Nicolas Pacheco, 115th MP Co. Commander. "We are fortunate to host this event down here in Guantanamo Bay, and are grateful to all who helped make this memorable event a reality."

With the GTMO sun beaming down, the walk/run tested the endurance and



Photos and boots are displayed on the 115th MP Co. colors of four fallen Soldiers who died in the line of duty. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Mark Richardson

stamina of approximately 180 participants throughout the 11.5-mile course. With a start and finish location at Windmill Beach, the course wound throughout Naval Station Guantanamo Bay. Spectators cheered on participants along the entire route.

In addition to the walk/run in memory of the fallen, the 115th MP Co. celebrated its 58th birthday, while practicing basic soldiering skills and building internal and inter-unit esprit de corps, according to Pacheco.

Although time continues to pass, the memory of these four soldiers will live on forever in the hearts of this proud and historic MP company.

"These fallen men were exceptional Soldiers who demonstrated loyalty and duty, while upholding their values and Army values as well," said Army Lt. Col. Alex Conyers, commander of the 525th MP Battalion. "It is a fitting tribute and a tremendous way to honor and remember these four brave soldiers." ☆

JTF Troopers and members of the GTMO community joined together April 24, to run 11.5 miles in memory of four fallen Soldiers of the 115th MP Co., April 24.
– JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Mark Richardson



Preparing combat skills



Army Sgt. 1st Class Willam Frizzell, combatives instructor, 525th Military Police Battalion, demonstrates a mounted technique on Army Sgt. 1st Class Douglas Johnson, 525th MP Battalion, during 525th's combatives training at G.J. Denich Gym, April 22. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Justin R. Wheeler

Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Justin R. Wheeler
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

A combat training tool that was introduced to soldiers in basic training now aids the 525th Military Police Battalion's safe and humane treatment of detainees.

The modern Army unit implements combatives into its monthly physical training regime. Like other units, the 525th MP Battalion conducts combatives once a month.

"It's another form of physical fitness," said Army Capt. John Burnett, officer-in-charge of logistics "It emphasizes the warrior concept."

The amount of combatives experience for each Soldier is marked by a recorded skill level. The initial skill level is one and the highest level is four. If you are at level three you can certify new level ones, and those at skill level four can certify new level ones or twos. All Soldiers receive combatives training in basic, but not every

Soldier receives certification for level one. Throughout the levels, combatives competitions are offered to Soldiers as a form of motivation.

"It's ideal Army," said Army Pfc. Kyle Wojcik, communications, 525th MP Battalion. "It's fun and it helps Soldiers develop efficient skills for combat."

Most Soldiers here continue to learn the fundamentals of level one [combatives], Wojcik said.

"I haven't experienced training from the later levels of combatives [yet]," Wojcik said. "I'd like to continue and become a level-three instructor."

Some Soldiers with the 525th furthered their training and became level-one certified.

"[Army] Sgt. Aaron Rogers and I recently attended the level one combatives class at Ft. Hood's combatives school," said Army Spc. Anthony Berkowitz, chaplain's assistant with the 525th MP Battalion "I thought it was an excellent course."

For Rogers and Berkowitz, combatives serves as an extra achievement to help them stand out amongst the other competition in the upcoming Army Southern Command board.

While it can serve as a leg up on the competition, as a whole, it serves a much more important role: success in combat.

Combatives uses the techniques of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and adds various alternative martial arts for combat practicality, according to the Combatives Level 1 handbook. Depending on the situations troopers are exposed to during war, combatives evolves and adapts.

"Combatives helps the Headquarters and Headquarters Company by teaching them discipline and confidence while building camaraderie," said Army 1st Sgt. Timothy Parrish, 1st sergeant of HHC, 525th MP Battalion. "The Soldiers of HHC seem to be more confident in knowing that they can defend and protect themselves if need be." ★

Not the finest Brooklyn has to offer

Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class
Zachary Harris
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

“Brooklyn’s Finest” revolves around the lives of three different police officers working different assignments at various points in their careers. It centers on the choices the three cops make as they navigate through a week policing the streets of Brooklyn.

The film opens with Eddie (Richard Gere) violently awaking in his barren apartment alone on a bed with no sheets or blanket. He appears hung over and immediately reaches for a bottle of Irish whiskey and downs a healthy dose. He then reaches into his nightstand, pulls out his service revolver, puts it in his mouth and pulls the trigger. The gun is empty. He has seven days until retirement.

The film shifts to Tango (Don Cheadle), a deep undercover narcotics detective who has blended in so well with his criminal contemporaries that he has become part of the largest and deadliest narcotics ring in Brooklyn. He has been undercover for so long, his life has started to fall apart and he desperately wants nothing more than to be transferred to a desk job. His friend Caz (Wesley Snipes) has just been released from prison and is attempting to lead a

crime-free life. Tango and Caz have a deep bond resulting from time spent incarcerated together.

Sal (Ethan Hawke) is a narcotics officer trying to make ends meet with a wife, seven kids, twins on the way and a house that is becoming a health hazard due to wood mold, all on a cop’s salary. His attempt to buy a new house for his family has been stymied by a lack of money. It is for this reason that he resorts to stealing when his unit raids drug dealers’ operations. With every day, he becomes more desperate to give his family the life and home he feels they deserve.

The movie is driven by the different characters’ one-on-one interactions with the other players in the film. Cheadle and Snipes have the best interaction in what is the best developed and told of the three stories presented.

Hawke is able to portray the loving father and husband during one scene, and in an instant revert to a desperation that is only exceeded by the most strung-out drug addicts.

Gere’s story arc is very depressing. Eddie is a man who wants nothing more than the sweet release of death or retirement, depending on how much he’s had to drink.

The characters’ stories are predictable after the different aspects of each tale have

been revealed. It is unfortunate that such a great cast was given a rather dull story, with many cliché, cop-movie scenarios. The interactions between the supporting cast and main characters drives the tension in the film, leading toward the intertwined climax of two of the characters. It is a suitable ending to a predictable film.

The viewer will undoubtedly head into “Brooklyn’s Finest” expecting another “Training Day” masterpiece from the director of both films, Antoine Fuqua. However, the viewer will undoubtedly leave the theater wondering if it was indeed the finest Fuqua had to offer. ☆



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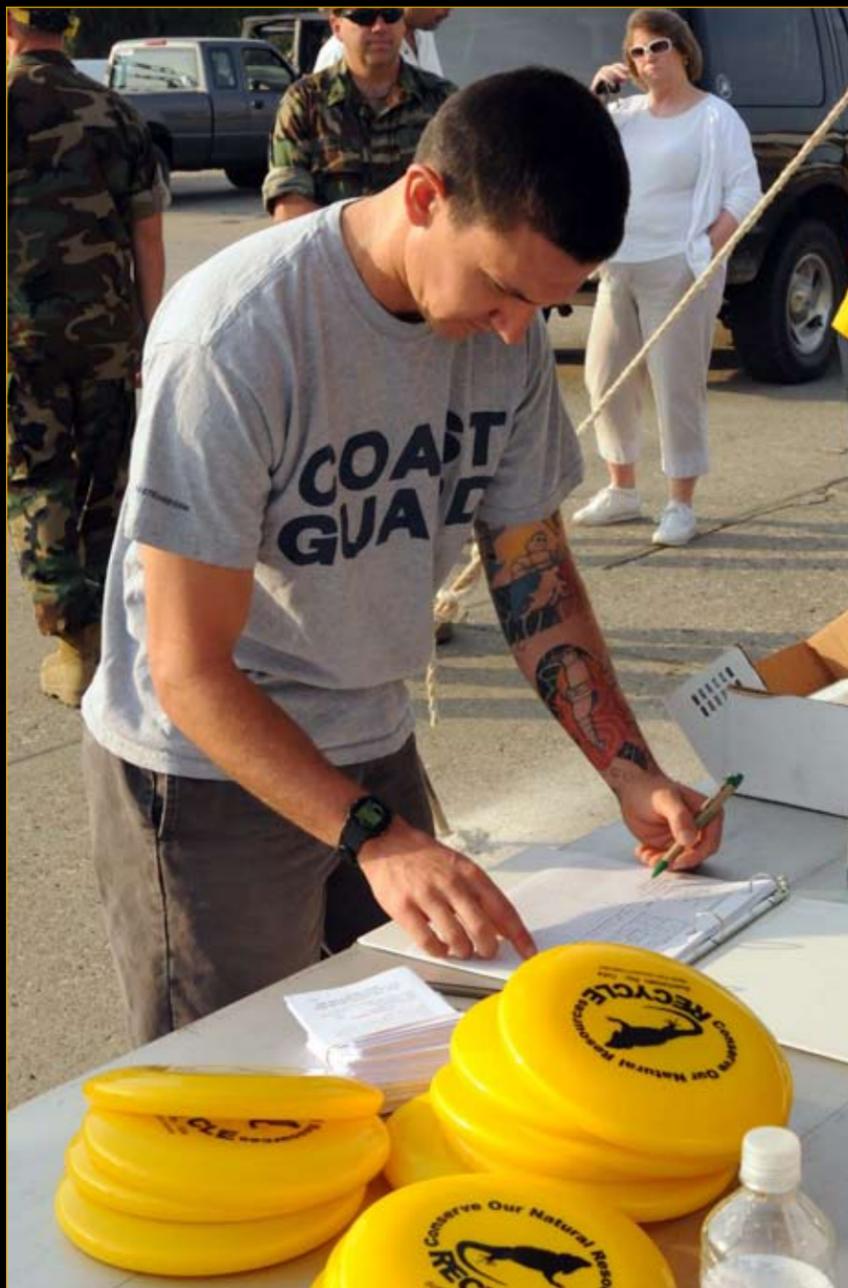
132 minutes

Rating: ★★☆☆☆

Navy Cryptologic Technician 2nd Class Zachary Carver picks up trash at Glass Beach during GTMO's Earth Day clean-up, April 23.



(Right) Coast Guard Storekeeper Chief Petty Officer Cory Sidlo signs in to his area of responsibility for Earth day at Windward ferry landing, April 23.



Members of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 25 pick up trash during the Earth Day clean-up.

Earth Day clean-up

Earth Day clean-up participants carry trash to the end of a Cuzco barracks block in preparation to haul it to a dumpster.



Troopers clear out trash at the Cuzco barracks, April 23.

Conserving energy at GTMO

Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Justin R. Wheeler
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The Navy paid approximately \$40 million for power produced on Naval Station (NAVSTA) Guantanamo Bay last year, according to Tim Wagoner, resource efficiency manager.

Conserving energy is complex, but Wagoner provides a simple solution.

"If you don't need it, turn it off," Wagoner said. "This means household electronics should be unplugged for the sake of conserving energy. Keeping items plugged in, like video game consoles, DVD players and cell phone, iPod or battery chargers is using a lot of energy."

"They are all using energy," Wagoner said. "If they're simply plugged in they're using energy."

Prices of electricity are measured in cents per kilowatt hour, with the average price in the United States being 9.35 cents per kilowatt hour in January 2010, according to the United States Energy Information Administration. The price per kilowatt hour in GTMO is more than triple that average, Wagoner said.

At the average United States kilowatt price, if 100 people's 100 watt light bulbs remained on for 24 hours, for each hour the cost of the power produced would be 94 cents. This results in around \$23 for 24 hours per person and about \$2,250 for all 100 people. When taking other appliances like DVD players, televisions, coffee makers and stereos into consideration, this cost increases dramatically.

At Joint Task Force Guantanamo, the overall mission requires the use of a lot of electrical power. Wagoner suggests a means to Troopers to help cut the cost.

"When you leave for chow or leave work for the day, turn your computer monitors off," Wagoner said. "After a year, a computer monitor, while on power saver mode, will save over \$100 [in energy costs.]"

Wagoner also suggests a few other good habits: turn off your water while brushing your teeth or shaving, turn off appliances and electronics when they're not being used and replace old light bulbs with energy efficient bulbs.

Also, with every degree increase from the coldest setting on the air conditioner, one percent of cost is saved, Wagoner said.

Mike McCord, environmental director of NAVSTA Environmental Management Systems (EMS), encourages developing these energy saving habits for future living off military installations.

"You could pay an extra \$400 because you left the light on," McCord said. "You'll learn really fast."



By recycling, Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers can prevent the waste of useful materials and reduce the chances of pollution. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Justin R. Wheeler

Energy saving habits play a huge role in EMS's mission: identifying and managing important environmental aspects and impacts of mission activities. EMS implements an installation environmental policy and improves environmental performance.

While keeping energy conserving concepts in mind, JTF Troopers can

complete the mission at a lesser cost and in a more environmentally safe fashion.

"Each resident, whether military, civilian or private contractor is responsible for performing their activities in a manner that protects the environment," McCord said. "[Each resident should] exercise proper stewardship of our natural and cultural resources." ♡

Energy Conservation Tips

- Turn off your water while brushing your teeth or shaving.
- Turn off appliances and electronics when they're not being used.
- Replace old light bulbs with energy-efficient light bulbs.

Making a splash

Army Spc. Tiffany Addair
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs



Navy Master-at-Arms 1st Class Roderick Hopes, Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion, blows bubbles while submerging underwater, demonstrating a breathing technique, April 22. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Tiffany Addair



Army Sgt. Maj. Sheryl Mason, Inspector General non-commissioned officer-in-charge, practices breathing techniques while swimming across the pool, April 22. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Tiffany Addair

“Just keep swimming, just keep swimming.”

To some Troopers this is a well-known quote from the Disney movie “Finding Nemo.” For other Troopers this is their mantra while taking swimming lessons, one stroke at a time.

Morale, Welfare and Recreation provides swimming lessons for Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers, Naval Station Guantanamo Bay service members, DoD civilians and naval station residents. The lessons are given during the months of March through October, when the weather is most conducive to outdoor activities.

“There are six different levels that we offer with our lessons,” said Anthony Roberts, Windjammer Pool facility manager and swimming instructor for 12 years. “Level one and two are water exploration. Level three focuses on stroke development. Level four is stroke coordination, while level five is stroke refinement and level six is advanced swimming.”

Different Troopers bring different goals and motivations to the lessons

The driving force behind Army Sgt. Maj. Sheryl Mason’s goal of learning how to swim is to take advantage of all the amenities GTMO has to offer.

“Most of the ‘down time’ activities here, such as scuba diving, snorkeling, boating and fishing, are water related,” said Mason, Inspector General non-commissioned officer-in-charge. “I figured I need to learn to swim first, before I can participate in those activities.”

Navy Master-at-Arms 1st Class Roderick Hopes’ objective is to hone his swimming skills and to get his second class swim qualification for the Navy.

As with any goal, there are the good times – accomplishing a task bringing you toward the success of your goal, and there are challenging times.

Hopes and Mason are on common ground when it comes to their greatest accomplishment. They both agree that the biggest feat has been learning to swim, without fear, in the deep end. Their biggest challenge thus far differs slightly. Hopes’ test has been learning proper breathing techniques. While this is the same for Mason, there is a little more to it than that.

“The most challenging task, so far during the lessons, has been breathing and putting all the techniques together, Mason said, adding that you have to concentrate on moving your arms, kicking your legs and breathing, all at the same time.”

The lessons are available to people of all ages. Roberts feels it is easier to teach younger children how to swim, because while adults know the dangers, kids have no fear. With this in mind he exercises more patience when working with adults to achieve their goal. This extra effort is noticed by students taking the classes.

“The instructors are great,” Hopes said. “They are very patient with students.”

See **SWIM/12**





Navy Master-at-Arms 1st Class Roderick Hopes, Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion drug and alcohol program advisor with Joint Task Force Guantanamo, comes up for air while swimming across the pool, April 22. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Tiffany Addair

SWIM from 11

Mason praised the instructors and their patience.

“They are great and very knowledgeable,” Mason said. “They really take their time and break swimming down by what each body part is supposed to do.”

Lessons are \$30 and are available Monday through Thursday. Each course is taught over a two-week period; lessons are approximately 30-to-45 minutes long.

After their first week, Mason and Hopes both feel a lot more comfortable in the water than when they first began. They are also both glad this service is afforded to them.

“GTMO is surrounded by water,” Mason said. “If you can’t swim, what better place is there to learn?”

For more information, contact Tony at ext. 84968. ♡

Upcoming Class Dates

May 10-20
 May 31-June 10
 June 21- July 1
 July 12-22
 Aug. 2-12
 Aug. 23- Sept. 2
 Sept. 13-23
 Oct. 4-14

Disaster Supply Kit

■ *The following items should be stored in a readily-accessible container in case of emergency:*

3-day supply of non-perishable food and water

Manual can opener

2 uniforms

3 T-shirts

3 pairs of socks

3 pairs of underwear

1 pair of boots

Wet weather gear

Reflective belt

Towel

Clothes for sleeping

Toothbrush and toothpaste

Razor with extra blades

Shaving cream

Deodorant

Brush or comb

Baby wipes

Toilet paper

Sleeping bag

Blanket and sheets

Flashlight with extra batteries

AM/FM radio with extra batteries

First-aid kit

Trash bags

Duct tape



A burning simulation

Army Pfc. Black Prawul, 189th Military Police Company, 525th MP Battalion, Joint Task Force Guantanamo, conducts an event at one of four stations after being sprayed with oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray during a training exercise at Camp America, April 20. After being directly sprayed with OC spray, the participant runs to the first station where he or she is required to withstand a simulated pummeling. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Marine Lance Cpl. Justin R. Wheeler

Boots on the Ground

by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Kellie Bliss

How do you relieve stress during your time off?

Navy Logistics Specialist
1st Class Mark Hotham



"I like to go to movies or read. I have always enjoyed reading."

Air Force Senior Airman
Dana Cockrell



"I go snorkeling. Swimming has always been my favorite de-stressor since I was a kid."

Army Spc. Bryce Fulmer



"I like to go diving. The only thing you worry about under water is the sharks."

Army Master Sgt. Wreko
Reese



"I go fishing with my troops, because it calms my nerves and I can keep an eye on my Soliders."



God is love

Army Capt. Eric Bey
525th MP Battalion Chaplain

At some point, anyone who believes in God will ask a very important question. This inquisitive nature is not only normal, but is part of the design. God longs to be known.

The question: Who is God?

Of the many characteristics that define God, I find one to be the basic foundation of them all.

I John 4:7-8 tells us that God is love. So, what is love? The Bible gives us this answer in I Corinthians 13, known as the “love chapter.” It is our duty, being created in His image and likeness, to learn what love is, and ultimately who God is.

We learn who God is, and we are able

to use His example in dealing with others. When we treat others lovingly, we show them a reflection of God.

God is patient and willing to bear our trying attitudes and actions calmly, without complaining. He is slow to anger. We must be patient with others as a witness to God’s love. We may also show this attribute by waiting on the Lord.

King David tells us that he patiently waited on the Lord. He was heard and lifted from his trial. God gave him a new song, so that many would turn to the Lord.

Loving-kindness is a term used to describe God’s tender affection toward us. It is a concept far beyond our intellect or nature. It is supreme kindness. God will endure our questioning, doubt and rebellion with sympathy, loving us all the while, to prove His loving-kindness. Practicing kind and polite words and deeds will show others, in part, how God loves them in

whole.

Confidence is defined by trust and boldness. Having confidence in God will create questions in the hearts of those around us. “Who is this God?” Pridelful and boastful words will turn the spotlight on us rather than Him. God has given us the power to do what He does through love, in order to win souls. All we have to do is keep the spotlight where it belongs.

God is not self-seeking. Nothing He does is for his own sake. We are given several promises that prove that God will give us good things, and has great plans for us.

As we show this aspect of love to others, we must

examine our own intentions. Joyfully sacrificing our own desires for the benefit of another is a wonderful way to minister to that person, and others who may be watching.

We do not often hear the phrase “forgive and forget” anymore. When that phrase was more popular, a common response was, “I will forgive, but I will never forget.”

What a huge burden to carry around an ever-growing file cabinet of those who have wronged us! This is not how God deals with us. When we come to Him for forgiveness, He separates our sin from us. It is a great testimony to minister to others in the love of forgiveness.

As we become mirrors of God’s love, reflecting His image to the world, it will create desire in our observers. May we be patient and kind, humble and selfless, and forgiving and honest. Today, may we show, but a small reflection of the face of God. ☆

GTMO Religious Services

Daily Catholic Mass
Mon. - Fri. 5:30 p.m.
Main Chapel
Vigil Mass
Saturday 5 p.m.
Main Chapel
Mass
Sunday 9 a.m.
Main Chapel

Protestant Worship
Sunday 9 a.m.
Troopers’ Chapel
Islamic Service
Friday 1:15 p.m.
Room C
Jewish Service
FMI call 2628
LORIMI Gospel
Sunday 8 a.m.
Room D

Seventh Day Adventist
Saturday 11 a.m.
Room B
Iglesia NI Christo
Sunday 5:30 a.m.
Room A
Pentecostal Gospel
Sunday 8 a.m.
Room D
LDS Service
Sunday 9 a.m.
Room A

Liturgical Service
Sunday 10 a.m.
Room B
General Protestant
Sunday 11 a.m.
Main Chapel
United Jamaican Fellowship
Sunday 11 a.m.
Building 1036
Gospel Service
Sunday 1 p.m.
Main Chapel

GTMO Bay Christian Fellowship
Sunday 6 p.m.
Main Chapel
Bible Study
Wednesday 7 p.m.
Troopers’ Chapel
The Truth Project Bible study
Sunday 6 p.m.
Troopers’ Chapel



Navy Yeoman 2nd Class Joni Winkler poses for a photo in front of his office, April 15. Winkler safeguards vital information for JTF Guantanamo. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Angela Ruiz

information of military members were to be released, it could fall into the wrong hands.

“The reality is, if I did not safeguard this information, personnel here at GTMO and their family members could possibly become targets of our adversaries,” Winkler said. “Without this office, a lot of service members’ information could fall into the wrong hands.”

“This office is very important in supporting the JTF mission of transparency. We could not do the job we do without Winkler,” said Navy Yeoman First Class Brandy Elliott, lead petty officer of the FOIA office. “I have complete confidence in his ability to do the job.”

Although he has been in the Navy for five years this Winkler’s first deployment for Winkler, who. He is also experiencing separation from his wife for the first time, who is pregnant with the couple’s first child.

“It has been difficult, but I am able to talk and see her everyday using a webcam, so I am able to see her as the pregnancy progresses,” Winkler said. “Because we are able to talk every day, we were able to choose a name, and I can see the things she is buying for the baby.”

Along with the excitement of returning home to his wife, Winkler will also be happy to return to his duty station, in the Administrative Department at the Naval Operational Support Center located at Naval Air Station North Island in San Diego. His leadership will be happy to have him back as well.

“Winkler’s work performance is outstanding. He is truly an asset to the North Island’s Administrative Department and has been greatly missed,” said Navy Yeoman Class Sarah Benoit, the Administrative Department LPO at NOSC North Island. “Winkler hit the ground running upon checking aboard and set the standard for excellence. He has always been a team player with a positive attitude.”

Along with his duties in administration, Winkler is also the command color guard coordinator and the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation treasurer at the NOSC.

As Winkler’s time at the JTF draws to a close, he looks forward to going home to begin his new role as a father, and reflect on his time here.

“It was a good experience. I can now say I have been deployed. I feel like I was able to take advantage of many of the unique opportunities Guantanamo has to offer,” Winkler said. “I made many new friends, and was able to meet people from all branches of the military. I think this was a rewarding experience that will benefit my career as I move forward in the Navy.” 🌟

Safeguarding our information

Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class

Sean Allen

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Navy Yeoman 2nd Class Joni Winkler feels proud of his part in completing the Joint Task Force Guantanamo mission. Winkler, a Freedom of Information Act clerk for the Joint Detention Group, plays a specific role in the transparency of the entire JTF mission.

For his efforts to safe guard vital

information, Winkler has earned his 15 Minutes of Fame.

“FOIA allows various groups and individuals to request information, ranging from that of detainees to service members here in GTMO,” said Winkler. “It is my job to support that request, review the information, and ensure that all identifiable information regarding service members and camp regulations is safeguarded.”

This is important, because if identifiable



Navy Builder 3rd Class Justin R. Newlon, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 25, plants a stake while building a form to pour concrete for the support base of a KSPAN near the Windjammer parking lot, April 27. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Cody Black.



Around the



JTF

Army Sgt. Lee McClure, Joint Troop Clinic non-commissioned officer-in-charge, uses a microscope at the clinic, April 16. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Joshua Nistas



Participants in the Marine Corps Security Force Company's Moonlight Run begin the run at the Northeast Gate, April 23. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Matthew Campbell

