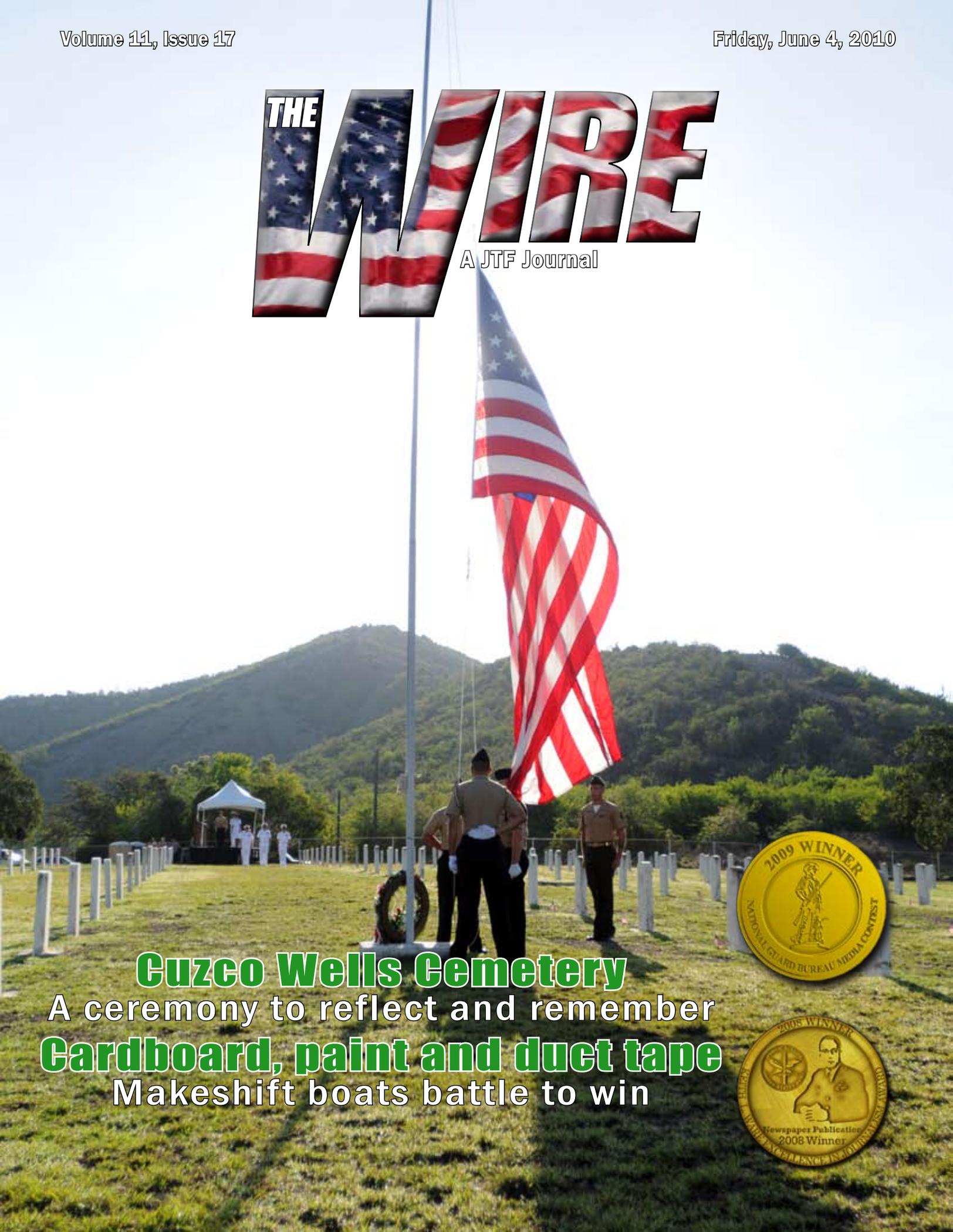


THE WIRE

A JTF Journal



Cuzco Wells Cemetery
A ceremony to reflect and remember
Cardboard, paint and duct tape
Makeshift boats battle to win



We are all leaders

Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Teri Herrera
Law Office Superintendent

“Who you are speaks so loudly I can’t hear what you’re saying.”

Although slightly less artful, this same idea was expressed by a previous commander of mine who often said, “talk is cheap.” Who you are and what you do is so much more meaningful than whatever morals you claim to hold dear. Anyone can claim to live up to high moral standards – but can you walk the walk?

Our newspapers are littered with colorful examples of public figures who engage in inappropriate and sometimes illegal activities, as with former New York Governor Elliot Spitzer. Spitzer, a former prosecutor who had gone after prostitution rings, saw his political career go up in flames when he was caught with prostitutes. John Edwards, who came close to being the Democratic nominee for president, had a cascading moral collapse. With all the politicians, sports figures, religious leaders, and even military leaders, there is no shortage of stories detailing falls from grace.

In addition to selling check-out aisle newspapers, these public whippings serve a useful public purpose. They help re-establish public norms and remind people what constitutes acceptable behavior. Predictably, the shamed politician comes back in front of the cameras to issue the required mea culpa, but before the public will allow them back into the fold, they must first admit the error of their ways. The No. 1 rule for public rehabilitation is to completely admit one’s shortcomings. This, again, reinforces society’s values.

The military, with its own culture and standards, similarly reinforces acceptable behavior. While this sometimes happens formally (e.g., courts-martial) usually, and thankfully our norms of behavior are mostly maintained by informal day-to-day interactions. Leaders set the example. When a leader establishes a climate that emphasizes integrity and character, these values flow downward like water. On the other hand, a leader who is seen as dishonest will set a negative tone for the entire unit. A leader who takes shortcuts and lies to his superiors should not be surprised when his subordinates also lie to him and fail to perform tasks as assigned. A bad leader will lead their troops right off the cliff.

These troopers will usually be led astray, but not always. Sometimes a junior member can turn the unit around. When lower ranking members make the right choices, their public display of courage can sometimes shame a leader into changing course. We like to think of the military as a purely hierarchical organization, but that is not completely true. We have all seen how the attitude and character of a junior member can change the entire environment of an organization, for good or ill. A trooper with a great sense of humor can make work that much more pleasurable, where a Soldier, Sailor, Marine or Airman with a poor attitude can make the day drag on.

I have no doubt that our public figures will never cease to be the cause of their own undoing and provide us a never-ending supply of sensational stories about their own downfall. With the voyeuristic pleasure these stories provide, it is also worth remembering that these stories carry a lesson we can learn from.

Each of us affects the moral climate of our organization. While senior leaders will have an outsized impact, an organization is, by nature, interconnected. Every one of us adds or subtracts to the moral climate. Formal leaders will adopt military values, and hopefully back up their words with deeds, e.g., walk the walk. The most junior among us may give fewer speeches, but are still displaying their values by their actions. We all lead by example. And in that sense, we are all leaders. 🍀



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COVER:

Sailors at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay lower the American flag to half mast at Cuzco Wells Cemetery in remembrance of Memorial Day, May 31. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Joshua Nistas

BACK COVER:

Sun strikes the gravestones on Memorial Day. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Joshua Nistas

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.



Security clearance awareness

Army Sgt. Athneil Thomas
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Operational Security should be a staple of every service members' career, but Troopers deployed to Joint Task Force Guantanamo – given the sensitive nature of their jobs – must also be vigilant in protecting their security clearance.

Everyday tasks like sending e-mails, surfing the Web, and even casual conversations can be those small things that cause major problems and jeopardize one's security clearance.

"We all need to pay attention to the small stuff," said Jim Woods, from J-2. "We should always be aware and remember to dot 'i's and cross 't's. It's the small things that people miss sometimes that start problems."

Command Security Manager Tony Camera said that JTF-GTMO has had its share of security issues.

"We have had problems with Troopers visiting sites that are restricted on a government computer," Camera said. "Due to the fact that we have more classified information than most commands, we have had numerous people commit multiple security violations that have resulted in the suspension of their clearances."

Besides the misuse of information technology systems, Camera said there are other activities that could cause Troopers to lose their clearance.

Alcohol abuse has been the cause for many Troopers to have their clearance suspended. Drunk driving is a quick way to lose your security clearance, and even more so when you get into an accident while driving drunk.

Improper sexual behavior and relationships have the same

effect. "We have had cases in the past where married Troopers have had intimate relationships with other Troopers resulting in clearance suspension," Camera said.

A Trooper's financial state could be another factor contributing to a clearance suspension. If a Trooper is writing bad checks or having money problems back home it will severely affect his or her security clearance with JTF.

If there is a job that requires a clearance and it has been suspended, then that individual may be forced to reclassify into another job or separate from the military. But, according to Camera, even if the job doesn't require a security clearance and adjudicative

guidelines are violated a person can be subject to some kind of Uniform Code of Military Justice punishment.

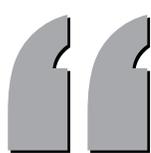
Some might think that the cost associated with obtaining a security clearance is minimal, but the research and investigation into issuing

a secret clearance can run as high as \$5,000 – up to \$10,000 for top secret.

The investigation and research time invested can be anywhere from six to nine months for secret, and nine months to a year for top secret. Once granted, a violation-free Trooper can expect to retain a secret clearance for 10 years and a top secret clearance for five years.

In addition, former service members in possession of a good security clearance are in demand with civilian employees.

"A person with a clearance doing the same job as someone who doesn't can expect to make about \$10,000 more per year," Camera said. "The higher the clearance, the wider the gap becomes." ☆



We all need to pay attention to the small stuff. We should always be aware and remember to dot 'i's and cross 't's.

– Jim Woods

Here too, valor rests



Navy Capt. Monte Bible, Naval Hospital commanding officer, Navy Rear Adm. Tom Copeman, Joint Task Force Guantanamo commander, and Navy Capt. Steven Blaisdell, Naval Station Guantanamo Bay commanding officer, place a wreath at Cuzco Wells Cemetery during a Memorial Day ceremony, May 31. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Joshua Nistas



Army Sgt. Tiffany Addair

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

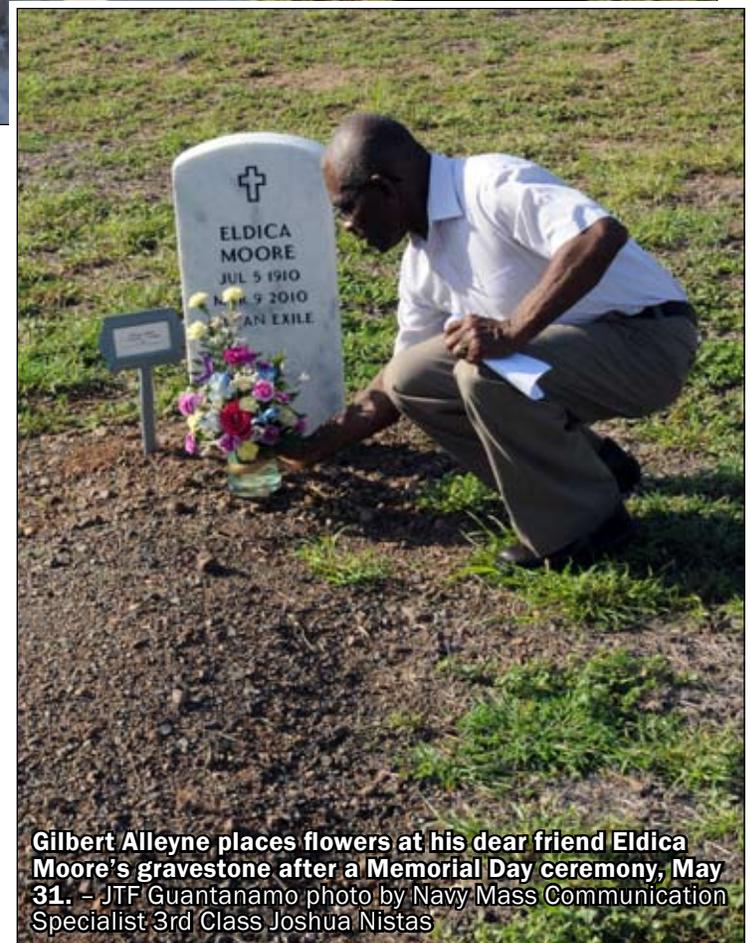
As the sun peaked over the hilltops that were once defended by Marines and Cuban forces, service members from Joint Task Force Guantanamo and Naval Station Guantanamo Bay gathered at the Cuzco Wells Cemetery, May 31, to remember and honor those who gave the ultimate sacrifice in support of freedom: their lives.

Navy Rear Admiral Tom Copeman, Joint Task Force Guantanamo Commander, reflected back on history to shed light on the importance of the day.

“Nearly two million men and women have died in combat defending our nation,” Copeman said. “Memorial Day is a special holiday, a single day during which we honor those who died in service to our nation, but to whom we continue to remember and honor in our hearts. Today we honor service men and women who have died in our defense. A key component of our nation’s greatness lies in our ability to honor, to appreciate and to cherish, through our actions and through our memories, all those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice to ensure our freedom and to their family and friends lives who are forever changed, and to whom we owe an enormous debt.”

The Cuzco Wells Cemetery opens to the public only on Memorial Day each year, providing an opportunity to remember those buried there and all of those who have died in service to their country. The cemetery was established in 1940; currently, Naval Hospital Guantanamo Bay is designated custodian for the cemetery. Prior to 1940 there were seven cemeteries and burial plots at various

See **VALOR/12**



Gilbert Alleyne places flowers at his dear friend Eldica Moore’s gravestone after a Memorial Day ceremony, May 31. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Joshua Nistas

Delivering boosts and smiles

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

Every day Troopers can look forward to receiving a piece of home through a service provided by the Joint Task Force Guantanamo postal clerks. Mail keeps morale up and gives Troopers an added push to stay focused on the mission.

The JTF post office in Camp America provides mail services for the Troopers six days a week.

“Our overall mission is to supply all Troopers with the Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and the Marine Corps with an opportunity to stay connected with their family and friends,” said Navy Logistics Specialist 2nd Class Terry Alexander, JTF post office lead petty officer. “Our mission helps the overall JTF mission.”

Navy Logistics Specialist 3rd Class CaSaundra Montgomery considers their services a necessity for the Troops.

“Mail builds morale,” Montgomery said. “It shows that they’re loved. For example, when Troopers receive a care package from someone they don’t know with a message reading ‘thank you.’”

Though postal clerks consistently work weekends, Montgomery feels rewarded knowing she brings happiness and excitement to her fellow Troopers.

“It’s not bad to work on the weekends,” Montgomery said. “Sometimes people are not able to make it to the post office the day prior, so they feel relieved to actually have another chance to send their mail. So it makes us feel good too. It also makes the time go by faster while deployed.”

Since she’s been in the Navy, Montgomery has especially enjoyed her time at the JTF-GTMO post office, providing a valuable service to the Troopers.

“I love it!” Montgomery said. “This is the best command I’ve ever worked for. We’re really trusted to do our jobs efficiently.”

Troopers at the JTF are thankful for these services provided. Army. Pfc. Kyle Wojcik, 525th Military Police Battalion, reinforces the fact that correspondence from home helps with being deployed.

“It’s a definite morale booster,” Wojcik said. “Mail makes you feel a part of what’s going on at home.”

Since he’s been with the 525th MP Battalion, Wojcik has received an assortment of goodies such as letters, pictures or food delivered from home.

“A remote control truck was my favorite thing that has been mailed here,” Wojcik said. “I received it in March from my wife. She knew I wanted one and bought it for me as a surprise.”

Mail is convenient, sometimes surprising and generally very helpful. In addition to boosting morale, mail services give the



Navy Logistics Specialist 2nd Class Christian Jackson calculates postage cost for Navy Religious Program Specialist 3rd Class Tania Gedeon at the Camp America post office, June 1. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Michael R. Holzworth

option to ship items that can’t be found or purchased on island.

“It’s convenient to have postal services,” Alexander said. “If you can’t buy something you want in GTMO then you have to buy it online. Those items come by mail.”

The Camp America post office is open

Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon. They provide services such as registering mail, locking outgoing mail behind cages, organizing mail, retrieving mail from mailboxes around GTMO and delivering JTF-GTMO mail to the main post office. ★

An MWR sport for all

Navy Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class

Edward Flynn

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs



(Above) Navy Quartermaster 3rd Class Marcus Ginn drives toward the basket during the Memorial Day basketball tournament championship game, May 30.

(Right) Navy Yeoman 3rd Class Kevin Kuhl shoots over the outstretched arm of Navy Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Leland Harris during the Memorial Day basketball tournament championship game.

Personnel from Joint Task Force Guantanamo and Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, both civilian and military, competed in a host of athletic tournaments during the recent Memorial Day weekend. Sponsored by Morale, Welfare and Recreation, sporting events included basketball and flag football tournaments.

"We are committed to hosting all kinds of recreation opportunities, including sports, outdoor recreation, live entertainment and special events," said Tara Culbertson, MWR director. "We know that living overseas in an isolated location has its challenges, but we are here to keep morale high and make living in GTMO a memorable and enjoyable experience."

Under the hot sun, determined JTF Troopers competed against each other and the base community for bragging rights while also demonstrating fair play. Playing in an MWR league or tournament is a tremendous opportunity to build esprit de corps while maintaining physical fitness. That's exactly what made this Memorial Day weekend a huge success for all.

Like all MWR athletic events, the cornerstone of these sporting events is demonstrating sportsmanship and treating your opponent with respect. Exercise and physical activity are also an essential part of the mission.

"Physical fitness is an important component of Navy family readiness for military personnel and the civilian workforce," said Robert Neuman, MWR sports coordinator. "Sporting events divert the community's attention from boredom and homesickness. It also allows them to relieve stress. Participating in a recreational sporting event provides opportunities to stay fit."

MWR administers a variety of recreation, social and community support activities throughout Naval Station Guantanamo Bay. This mission also includes contributing to the retention, readiness, physical and emotional wellbeing of military personnel and civilians on base.

MWR at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay offers three movie theaters, a marina, sailing center, bike shop, paintball course, climbing wall, nine-hole golf course, nine-hole disc golf course, bowling center, football field and track, two baseball fields, two pools, batting cages, a skate park, putt-putt golf course, go carts, tennis facilities, beach volleyball courts, racquetball, weight and cardiovascular rooms, water sport rentals, indoor and outdoor basketball courts, fitness classes, four liberty centers, hiking/biking trails and playgrounds.

So no matter what your interests or hobbies are, MWR has something that will fit your lifestyle. ★



- JTF Guantanamo photos by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Michael R. Holzworth

Classic tale retold



PG-13

140 minutes

Rating: ★★★★★

Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class

Zachary Harris

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Continuing with the recent trend of “rebooting” movies to paint new and different images of classic characters, “Robin Hood” tells the tale of the humble beginnings of the famed outlaw in a much different way from the movies predecessors. While the audience may or may not be familiar with portrayals of the character by the likes of Errol Flynn or the more recent version with Kevin Costner, Russell Crowe is able to channel the hero in a successful attempt to bring the story to a newer, younger audience.

The movie begins with a battle in France. King Richard “The Lionheart” (Danny Huston) is returning from the Third Crusade, pillaging the French countryside on his way back from the Holy Land in an attempt to recoup his kingdoms’ financial losses during the long war. It is here we meet archer Robin Longstride (Russell Crowe). He does not stand out from the rest of the archers, nor does he garner any special attention from the king as previous tales of the hero have portrayed. He does take care of the people who surround him, however, and in this way builds a trust amongst the men with whom he serves.

While in camp trying to make extra money gambling, he is accused of being a cheat by the rather large Little John (Kevin Durand) and the ensuing argument lands the two, along with Will Scarlett (Scott

Grimes) and Allan A’Dayle (Alan Doyle), in confinement. It is during their captivity that a freak stroke of luck from the French soldiers defending their castle results in the death of King Richard. During the commotion caused by the king’s death, Robin and his “Merry Men” make their escape toward the northern French coast in attempt to flee to England.

As the group makes their way through the forest, they cross paths with the king’s horse carrying his crown. When they investigate the cause of the freely roaming horse, they come across the king’s personal guards being ambushed by French marauders. They quickly dispatch all but two of the would-be assassins – only to discover that they have arrived too late to prevent the deaths of the king’s dead body’s escorts. Longstride comes upon the dying Sir Robert Loxley (Douglas Hodge) and accepts the burden of delivering the crown to England.

Robin and his men disguise themselves as the fallen knights and successfully makes their way onto a ship bound for England. Upon awaking, they are nearing London, where they are met by the king’s welcoming party. It is here that Prince John (Oscar Isaac) is given the crown and throne of the King of England. The new king sends Godfrey (Mark Strong), a false servant of the crown, to the countryside of England to collect overdue taxes from the already poor barons of England. In doing so, Godfrey attempts to weaken the

English people and create turmoil, so that his master King Philip of France (Jonathan Zaccai) can mount an invasion of England whilst its people are divided.

The movie proceeds from here, telling the origin of the fabled Robin Hood, before his well-known days in Sherwood Forest robbing from the rich to give to the poor. Ridley Scott and Russell Crowe have once again teamed up to produce a film that presents a great story in a fresh light, previously unseen in the chronicles of this hero. Crowe delivers a great performance of the humble, yet noble, character who wins the hearts and minds of the people. His burgeoning band of “Merry Men” continuously breathes humor and life into the roles they play while managing to keep the story on point. Mark Addy is perfect for the role of Friar Tuck – while his part is somewhat brief, it is no less entertaining. Oscar-winner Cate Blanchett as Marion Loxley is also a perfect fit for the actress who portrays the strong female character perfectly.

The viewer will have to discard any preconceived notion of the character and what the film will entail as there is little time spent in the forest and even less time spent robbing from the rich to give to the poor. This movie does not attempt to remake any of the numerous films that have told this tale. What it does attempt to do, and does exceptionally well, is tell the story of how the humble archer became the savior of the people and in doing so became a legend. ★

Red Jumpsuit Apparatus

The band Red Jumpsuit Apparatus performed for Troopers at the Tiki Bar for Memorial Day weekend, May 30. They flew down to GTMO from Jacksonville, Fla., courtesy of Navy Entertainment and MWR to spend time with troops for the holiday. Most of the band members come from military families, so they enjoyed spending time with the Troopers on such a meaningful weekend.

JTF Guantanamo photos by
Navy Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class
Joshua Nistas

David Cabiness, his two daughters and their two dogs paddle to shore in victory at the 2010 Cardboard Boat Regatta, May 29. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Matthew Campbell



Cracker Jacks, pirates, Marines, oh my

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

With every theme from pirates to marines, the Cardboard Boat Regatta held over Memorial Day weekend had something to interest both participants and spectators. The race was broken down into three different heats of competitors who had to paddle their cardboard creations out to a buoy about 25 yards offshore, make a right turn, paddle to another buoy another 25 yards away, make one more right turn and head back to the shore as fast as possible.

Of the 15 teams that competed, there could be only one winner. This year's winner happened to be a three-year veteran of the race, David Cabiness, facility manager for Naval Hospital Guantanamo Bay. While other cardboard craftsmen attempted to seal their boats with duct tape, Cabiness said the secret to a successful boat lied elsewhere.

"The secret is the paint," Cabiness said. "I used less than half a roll [of duct tape] to make my entire boat."

Cabiness' boat, "Cracker Jack: The Prize," was much simpler in design from the rest of its competition, including a Viking-inspired longboat, complete with a dragon head at the prow. Unfortunately for the other crews, Cabiness went into the competition with a simple, yet proven strategy.

"Keep the boat as straight as possible," Cabiness said. "Small

boats also turn better than large boats."

He had a secret weapon, though. In addition to his two daughters helping to propel the craft, the family dogs were also on hand to lend a paw if needed.

"I figured if I fell out of the boat first, I was just going to tie a leash to [my dogs] and just let them go," Cabiness said.

Aside from the actual race portion of the competition, several other awards were handed out including "Best Looking Boat" and "Best Theme." Marine Corps Cpl. James Sullivan, armory chief with Marine Corps Security Forces Company, said the best part of designing their boat, modeled after a Marine Corps Light Armored Vehicle, was the camaraderie.

"I enjoyed us all getting together and having a good time," Sullivan said. "[We] got out here, did our best and had a lot of fun."

Marine Corps Sgt. Luis Hernandez, motor transport mechanic with MCSFCO, echoed Sullivan's sentiments.

"My favorite part was getting together, relaxing and building the boat," Hernandez said. "It's unique, we definitely overcame the weather and other obstacles we encountered while building it."

While the Marines did not win the race this year, Sullivan is confident that next will be a different story.

"Don't even bother [entering next year] because we're going to win." ☆

Liberty Barracks Bash, summer fun

Army Staff Sgt. Shereen Grouby
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Nothing signals the beginning of summer more than the Memorial Day holiday weekend, so to start the summer fun a Liberty Barracks Bash was held at the Marine Hill Barracks.

The Barracks Bash, sponsored by Morale, Welfare and Recreation, is an event coordinated by the Liberty Program.

This program endeavors to enhance the quality of life and well being of service members deployed to Joint Task Force Guantanamo and stationed at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay.

“The bash allows service members to socialize in a relaxing picnic-style environment,” said Becky Creed, MWR liberty coordinator. “This is the second Barracks Bash held this year. The first was held at Tierra Key and there are plans to host one every quarter.”

Free food was provided at the barracks bash. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Athneil Thomas

The primary purpose of this type of liberty event is to offer activities which target active-duty personnel living in the barracks or base housing, including both single and unaccompanied personnel.

Saturday’s event held at the Marine Hill Barracks was just such an event.

“We brought everything; the food, drinks, music and the volleyball,” said Sigfredo Collazo, event coordinator. There was also a raffle, with prizes including gift certificates to boat rentals, Mongolian dinners and Pizza Hut.

To participate, all they need to do is show up, Collazo said. And show up they did; even with other activities available to attend.

“I did not expect that many people with all the other events going on; the concert,

the ball and ‘Iron Man 2’ playing at the movies,” Collazo said. “It turned out to be really good.”

Navy Storekeeper 2nd Class Brian Jackson, event volunteer who manned the music for the event, was also pleased with the turn out.

“I was surprised at the size of the turnout,” Jackson said. “It was pretty impressive to see the number of people that attended.”

For Navy Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Carlos Pires and Navy Master-at-Arms 3rd Class Deaven Robins, it was the free food and friends that brought them to the event.

Team building and camaraderie are what the liberty program aims to achieve. Based on the number of people that attended the Barracks Bash, the mission was accomplished. ☆



A Trooper leaps into the air and rears back to serve the ball, May 29. MWR held a Liberty Barracks Bash for Troopers to enjoy food and fun over Memorial Day weekend. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Athneil Thomas

Navy Rear Adm. Tom Copeman speaks at Cuzco Wells Cemetery during a Memorial Day ceremony, May 31. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Joshua Nistas



VALOR from 4

locations on the naval station. In 1944 the base commander decided that all known gravesites would be consolidated into one cemetery, with few exceptions.

Memorial Day is a day to reflect and realize that freedom is neither won nor kept without cost.

“We often hear that freedom has a price and that each generation pays its due,” said Navy Capt. Steven Blaisdell, Naval Station Guantanamo Bay commander. “Today we acknowledge a bill paid and say thank you to those who made the ultimate sacrifice.”

Copeman charged everyone to ensure that the deaths of American service men and women become no more than numbers etched in history.

“It has often been said that one death

is a tragedy, while millions of deaths is merely a statistic,” Copeman said. “What we must never do is to allow the deaths that occurred in our nation’s wars to become a statistic. Think of them individually as each of their family members thought of them.”

After the guest speakers made their remarks a Memorial Day poem was read. Following the poem, Marines fired a 21-gun salute.

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day and observed on the last Monday in May, commemorates the sacrifices made by men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military.

The holiday originated to honor Union soldiers in the years following the Civil War but was expanded after World War I to include American casualties of any U.S. military conflict.

In addition to the already recognized holiday, the National Moment of

Remembrance was established by Congress in 2000, asking all Americans to voluntarily pause and observe a moment of silence and respect in their own way at 3 p.m. local time.

Currently there are 340 people buried at the Cuzco Wells Cemetery, including those who died while on active duty in the military, the dependents of active-duty service members, merchant marines from the United States and other nations, Cuban residents and refugees, Jamaican and other foreign national employees, and Haitian refugees. Also, 30 Sailors from 16 U.S. warships and eight Marines who defended freedom are buried there.

As those who gathered on that early morning filed out through the gates one by one, they left behind the gravestones of those whose final resting place lies on an island where battles were fought and history was made. ★



Marines from Marine Corps Security Forces Company render a 21-gun salute during a Memorial Day ceremony, May 31. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Joshua Nistas



Remembering the fallen

Navy Gunner's Mate 2nd Class David Carroll and Navy Gunner's Mate 1st Class Thomas Folger, with Naval Station Guantanamo Bay's weapons department, fire a 40 mm saluting battery for a service salute on Memorial Day, May 31. The cannon was fired at the stroke of noon and fired every minute for 21 minutes. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Joshua Nistas

Boots on the Ground

by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Kellie Bliss

What did you do during the Memorial Day weekend?

Army Sgt. Lee McClure



"I spent it indulging in all the liberties that a person would be expected to indulge in."

**Navy Hospital Corpsman
1st Class Victoria Ferguson**



"I was the designated driver for several of my JTF Troopers and I danced at the Corpsman Ball."

**Army Sgt.
Ronald McDaniel**



"I played in the basketball tournament. We didn't do too well, but it was good PT."

**Air Force Staff Sgt.
Kimberly Edmonds**



"I went to the movies, cook-off, saw The Red Jumpsuit Apparatus perform and just relaxed."

Religious liberty

Air Force Lt. Col. William B. Ferrell

JTF Guantanamo Command Chaplain

Our country was founded by men who firmly believed in a providential God who is involved in the affairs of men and nations. They also firmly believed that each person's religious beliefs should be between that person and God alone, without interference or coercion from the government. In my mind this religious liberty is the greatest freedom we enjoy.

There are those who believe that religion is just a crutch for the weak-minded. Others go so far as to say that organized religion is dangerous, and the reason for all the conflict and strife in the world. I will have to admit I haven't watched the whole thing, but Bill Maher's documentary, "Religious," falls into this category.

I want to encourage you to do two things; first, cherish the religious liberty we enjoy in this country, and don't stand by and let it be taken away from anyone or by anyone. As our founding fathers believed, a person's religious beliefs are between them and God and the government has no place in it. This also means Bill Maher has every right not to believe. We all have the freedom to make our own choices.

Second, don't underestimate the value and power of faith. There is not a political solution to every problem and there is not a scientific answer to every question. Neither one of these can fill the place of faith. Laws may be able to control outward behavior, but faith has the power to change a person's heart. Science has made some amazing discoveries, but when it comes to the ultimate questions about the meaning and purpose of life, it comes up empty.

This being my last article for The Wire, I want to take this opportunity to say it has been a blessing, an honor and a privilege to serve with you here over the past six months. I have been especially impressed with the dedication and professionalism displayed by the guard force as you have faithfully done a very difficult job day after day. I hope our efforts as chaplains have been helpful to you in coping with the very



stressful job you do. Please know that you will continue to be in my prayers.

When I started my military career, the Cold War was still underway and we still had Troops fighting in Vietnam. In my more than 31 years in the military, both as active-duty enlisted and as a Reserve

chaplain, I have been to a lot of places and had a lot of great experiences, but these last six months at Joint Task Force Guantanamo have been the most challenging and the most satisfying of my whole career. I will always be proud to say I was a small part of the mission here. ☆

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

Catholic Mass

Sat. 7:30 a.m., 7:30 p.m.

Troopers' 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

Lights, projector, action

Army Sgt. Cody Black
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

From the sands of Iraq to the Pearl of the Antilles here at Joint Task Force Guantanamo; Navy Mass Communications Chief Jim Davis has more than seven deployments under his belt and knows how to unwind after a stressful day.

While deployed to Iraq with a combat camera detachment, he had an opportunity to see a side of the war most Sailors never get to experience. His dedication to maintaining the morale of service members around him and helping facilitate opportunities to relax, earns Jim his 15 Minutes of Fame.

While deployed to Iraq, Jim and his fellow teammates needed a way to relax, the weekly "movie night" became a highlight after long hours on mission, but no ordinary television set would suffice. One of his teammates had the idea of setting up a consumer-grade movie projector to give the service members a little piece of home away from home.

"I got the idea [for a movie night] when I was in Iraq," Davis said. "It gave us all the opportunity to enjoy fellow camaraderie and to hang out with friends."

Davis joined the Navy more than 12 years ago in 1998. While he has been stationed with many units of his own branch of service, working in a joint environment is nothing new to this salty Sailor.

"Here at JTF it gives us a chance to learn more about each other," Davis said. "It also lets you see how each branch is its own, yet still a part of 'one team.'"

He realizes that having movie nights on his block at the Cuzco Barracks allows anybody to stop by and gives him and his friends an opportunity to meet different people. Having this opportunity to relax and be able to forget that you are far away from home and family can make a big difference to the morale of service members.

"It's a great opportunity to be able to make an enjoyable night for people," Davis said. "If [Troopers] can forget the stresses of work or home for a few minutes then I've done my job."

What started out as an occasional operation now happens at least once a week pending on what new movies are released at the Navy Exchange or any interest in playing some video games.

"It's just not the same playing Cabela's Monster Buck Hunter on a 21-inch TV screen," Davis said.

Many great moments and memories have been had with these night outings. Having the chance to relax, let loose and be comfortable around each other is key. The laughter never seems to cease when Davis and his ever-expanding circle of friends get together.

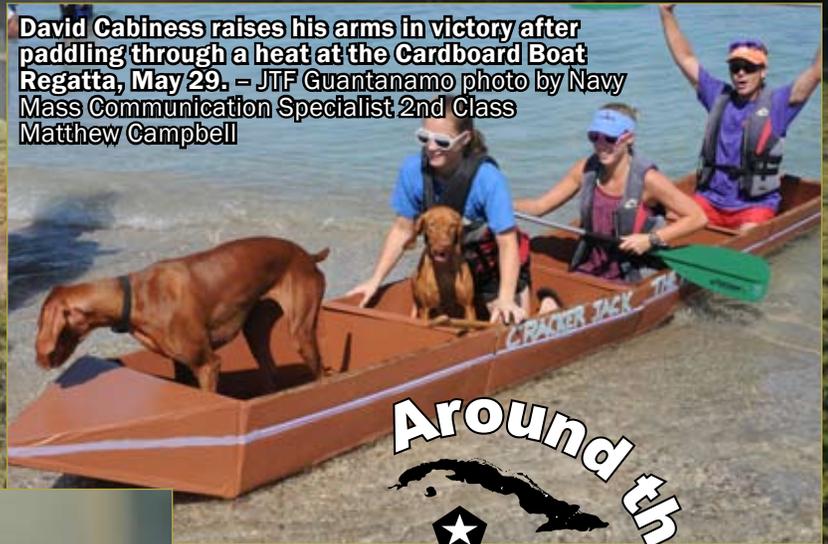
"If you see us sitting around in front of the big screen, come and pull up a chair," he said. 🌟

Navy Mass Communications Chief Jim Davis sets up his laptop and projector to start a movie at Cuzco Barracks, June 1. Davis watches movies and other big events frequently through his projector and encourages people to hang out and enjoy some down time. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Cody Black





Members of the band Red Jumpsuit Apparatus tour the Northeast Gate, May 31. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Joshua Nistas



David Cabiness raises his arms in victory after paddling through a heat at the Cardboard Boat Regatta, May 29. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Matthew Campbell



Navy Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Daniel Hines, attached to Marine Corps Security Forces Company Guantanamo Bay, fires an M-16 service rifle during a qualification shoot at Grenadillo Range, May 26. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Joshua Nistas

Around the
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