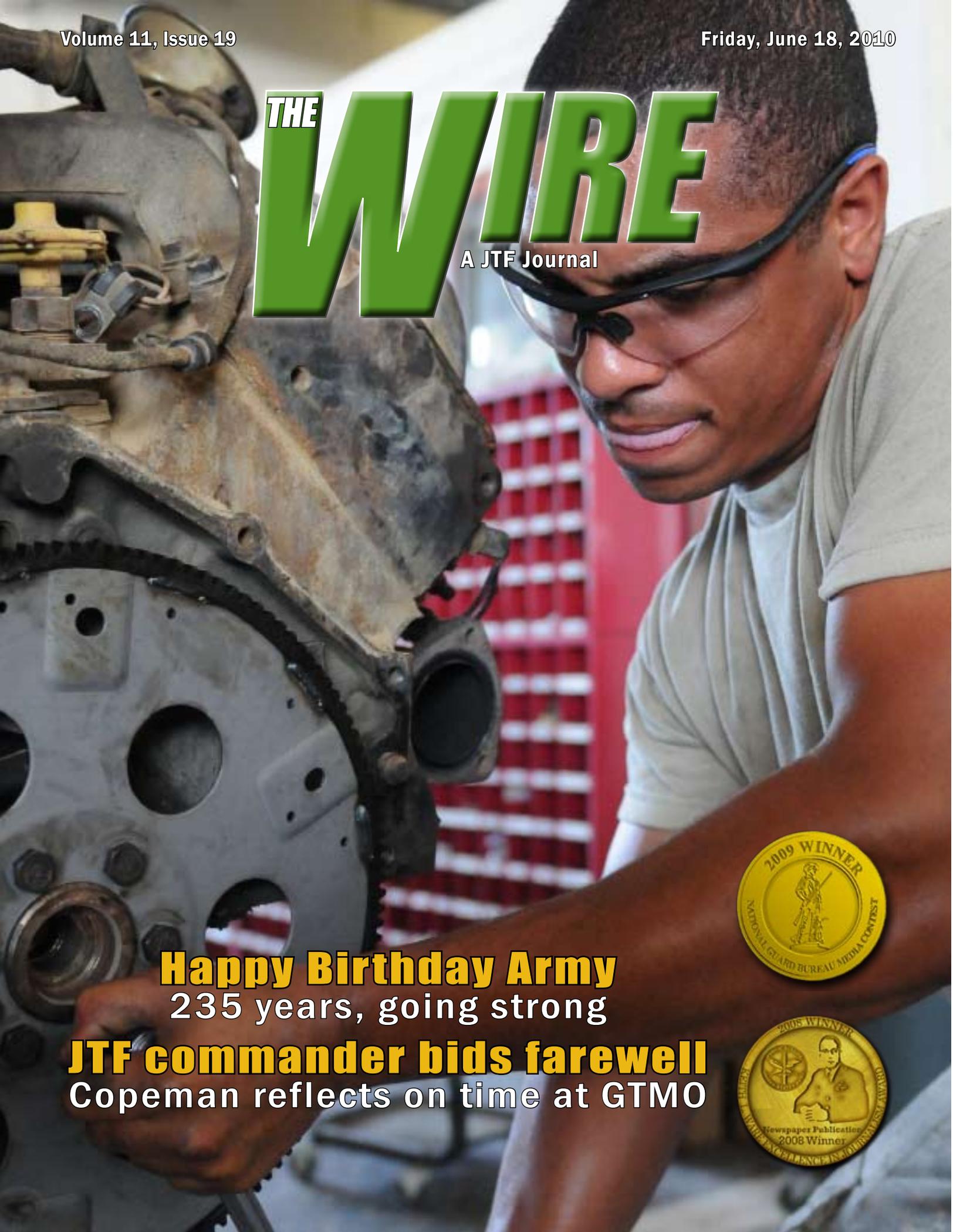


THE WIRE

A JTF Journal



Happy Birthday Army
235 years, going strong

JTF commander bids farewell
Copeman reflects on time at GTMO



Boots on the ground

Army Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Porrett
JDG Senior Enlisted Leader

We all have our idea of a military leader. When you speak of military leadership, you may imagine an admiral or general that has made great contributions to the history of the military.

It's not the biggest, smartest, loudest or strongest that is the greatest leader. Many times the opposite is true. As an example, the most decorated Soldier in American history was Audie Murphy. At only 5 feet 5 inches tall and 110 pounds, he was not physically intimidating. He countered his small stature with the heart of a warrior and displayed expert leadership principles.

We have all had and looked for "deck plate leaders" or "foxhole leaders." We recognize them by how they lead, never a bully or tyrant to their troops. They often saw something in us that we may not have seen ourselves – potential. They were the ones that took the time to really know their Troopers, be the positive role model, coach and mentor, and did the right thing.

These leaders are the ones that always do the right thing, share the hardships of their Troopers and are often found in the living areas, work areas and where Troopers relax from the rigors of the mission. They are always involved and their Troopers know it. They may be on the same ground as the Troopers, but never just one of them. Their leadership is present whenever, and wherever, they go. You know what to expect from them.

These leaders are in units that have the fewest incidents because they are involved. They give up the most valuable thing you can give: time. They take care of their Troops by listening, advising and making a correction when someone makes a mistake. They are not worried about popularity, but become popular as the "firm, but fair" leader all Troopers want.

They are the ones who continue the mission without complaining, as they know you can count on things affecting the mission, such as the weather being too hot, too cold, too dry, or too wet. They see distractions not as mission failures, but known hazards that need to be minimized. They know and follow the orders of the officers appointed over them and when the time permits, explain the "why" of things.

They are the ones that take risks and put good Troopers in leadership roles to help become the leaders we remember. They increase responsibility of their subordinates according to their ability.

Each of us can associate at least one name to whom you know to be a leader that always seemed to have their boots on the ground. Now is the time for our formal leaders to live up to the expectation that all Troopers are entitled to outstanding leadership. Our informal leaders have a responsibility to assist and support the formal channels of leadership and communication. Your reputation is being built today and your Troopers will talk about how you were a "boots on the ground" leader. Leading our Troopers is a privilege, not a right. While in your formal leadership position, take every opportunity to better your Troopers, your unit and yourself. ☆



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COVER:

Army Spc. Yusef Abdul, a light wheeled vehicle mechanic with the 525th Military Police Battalion, installs a flywheel on an engine before installing it into a Humvee at the 525th MP Battalion's motor pool, June 11. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Justin R. Wheeler

BACK COVER:

A sword sits by the Army's birthday cake before the cake-cutting ceremony at Seaside Galley, June 14. - 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.

Keeping Troopers equipped

Army Spc. Archie Corbitt III
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

From the vehicle you drive to the uniform you wear, everything we use in the military has to get here somehow. The S-4 logistic shop keeps the 525th Military Police Battalion well stocked and supplied at Joint Task Force Guantanamo.

“We are responsible for the logistics for the 525th [MP Battalion],” said Army Capt. John Burnett, 525th MP Battalion logistics officer. “Through this office, we oversee the supply rooms and manage the procurement, storage, maintenance and transportation of equipment for the 525th.”

The logistics field was originally divided into ordnance, quartermaster and transportation. However, through Army consolidation, they were all combined to create the logistics field.

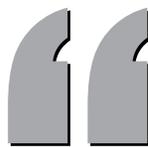
Army Pfc. Jerome Perry, clerk for the S-4 shop, focuses on the purchasing aspect as a member of the logistics team.

“We have to cover all the purchases for the battalion,” Perry said. “That budget easily reaches \$200,000.”

JTF-GTMO is Perry’s first duty station since joining the Army and is proud to be part of this important mission.

“I enjoy providing Troopers with the right gear and learning about my job,” Perry said.

Army Sgt. 1st Class Elmer Beeler has worked exclusively in the logistics field during his 18 year military career and treasures the unique opportunity to be in



I enjoy providing Troopers with the right gear and learning about my job.

– Army Pfc. Jerome Perry

this fast moving field.

“I chose to be a supply technician almost by chance, and I’m glad I did,” Beeler said. “I feel proud to be able to give something to Soldiers. From a pen and paper for their office to the tactical vehicles they drive, we give them the tools they need to get the mission done.”

The job of a logistics professional is not one that is widely known or even promoted within military circles. They are the men and women in the shadows providing

valuable resources for Troopers to complete their mission.

“Logistics does not get a lot of credit because we do a lot of work behind the scenes,” Burnett said. “There are rivalries between tankers and infantry, cavalry and airborne about whom is better, but they all need logistics to get their mission done.”

“The greatest thing about our military is that we have the ability to strike anywhere in the world,” Burnett said, “and that is due largely in part to our logistical capabilities.”

Service members overseas are accustomed to taking on added responsibility. This holds true for the S-4 shop in a deployed location such as

Guantanamo Bay.

“Mail is normally handled by S-1 – the personnel section,” Burnett said. “But, when in a deployed location, logistics takes over transporting the mail from one location to another.”

Taking care of the battalion in more ways than one, the S-4 stands ready to fulfill the needs of the 525th MP Battalion. In order to complete the overall mission you need all of the puzzle pieces; the S-4 shop does their part to complete the puzzle. ★



Army Sgt. 1st Class Elmer Beeler, 525th Military Police Battalion S-4 NCOIC, issues gear to a new Soldier at the S-4 warehouse, June 15. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Archie Corbitt III

An honor, pleasure

Army Sgt. Tiffany Addair

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

After a little over a year serving as Joint Task Force Guantanamo's Commander, Navy Rear Adm. Tom Copeman's tour comes to a close.

Copeman came to Cuba from his previous assignment in Hawaii as deputy chief of staff for operations and training for the U.S. Pacific Fleet. Upon hearing of his new assignment to command JTF-GTMO, he stated he was surprised and felt a little trepidation. But by the time he was boots on ground, he felt more at ease.

"As I learned more about [GTMO] I became increasingly intrigued by the mission and the complexity of it," Copeman said. "It was kind of everything I thought it would be by the time I got here."

Copeman's mission was clear – continue executing the safe, humane, legal and transparent care and custody of detainees. Although there was no mission to change, he felt that the conditions of detention based on the detainee's behavior, not the physical make-up of the camps, had room for improvement.

"We doubled the number of detainees that are now in communal living," Copeman said. "We went from a low 40 percentile to a high 80 percentile, and the physical assaults on the guard force have dropped from [approximately] 50 a week to [approximately] 50 this year."

Copeman attributes these successes to the increasing number of detainees living communally.

"There is a constant drop in tension between the detainees and the guards, because there is less contact," Copeman said. "Overall it has been a very positive accomplishment for both the detainees and the guard force."

One of the challenges Copeman faced during his tenure was keeping the Troopers motivated and rolling full steam ahead.

"The biggest challenge for me and the whole leadership team is to keep the Troops motivated and focused on following standard operating procedures and keeping the mission at the forefront of their mind," Copeman said. "This is a strange place in some respects. You can go from an almost overwhelming stimulus from assaults and verbal abuse to a very mundane existence, but you still have to keep the same level of focus."

Copeman has relied significantly on his leadership to overcome this hurdle.

See **COPEMAN/12**

Navy Rear Adm. Tom Copeman discusses his tour as JTF commander during an interview, June 8. – JTF Guantanamo photos by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Michael R. Holzworth



Busy “bees”



Navy Utilitiesman Constructionman James Thomas, leads the line in carrying a newly fabricated piece of sheet metal processed by an automatic building machine used for the KSPAN's exterior at the construction site near the Windjammer Pool, June 10. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Justin R. Wheeler

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

The Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 25, deployed from Fort McCoy, Wis., supports Joint Task Force Guantanamo and Naval Station Guantanamo Bay with completing construction projects to improve facilities and overall quality of life.

Since arriving at GTMO, they have constructed a weapons cleaning station for Marine Corps Security Force Company, a Marine Corps Old Course, an obstacle course and continue to do maintenance on base roads. They are currently constructing two KSPANs next to the Windjammer.

“Our mission is to provide safe and effective engineering during our deployment here,” said Lt. j.g. Benjamin Skaaland, officer-in-charge of the NMCB 25's Guantanamo Bay detachment. “The Seabees here have overcome manning deficiencies to accomplish our mission and maintain good relations with the base.”

Prior to arriving to GTMO, members of the NMCB 25 received training for six weeks in Gulfport, Miss., to gain knowledge of upcoming projects. Now fully trained, the Seabees of NMCB 25 can be found building

six days a week. With approximately 25 personnel total, their proficiency, quickness and teamwork is demonstrated each day as they work to construct the KSPANs near the Windjammer. The road thus far has provided challenges for the Seabees.

“It's all a learning curve,” said Navy Builder Senior Chief Stephen Ebel, assistant OIC of NMCB 25 and Seabee combat warfare specialist. “We have five different [Navy] rates, job titles, involved in our mission. We're trying to learn all of them in order to complete this mission. We are learning to be fluid.”

After all the hardships, the end result is the greatest reward.

“I plan to go home and show everyone that the troops are doing more than just operations in the Middle East,” said Navy Utilitiesman Constructionman James Thomas, with NMCB 25. “I want to finish these KSPANs and show that I've accomplished something.”

For Skaaland, the deployment will reward much more than sentimental memories.

“After we leave, this deployment will increase our training regime for our follow-on deployments and tasks,” Skaaland said.

“It makes us more prepared to handle any urgent missions in the future.”

Camaraderie and teamwork play a major role in the Seabees' success, he said.

“Our Seabees here work very well as a group,” Skaaland said. “We train, build and all work together toward the same goals.”

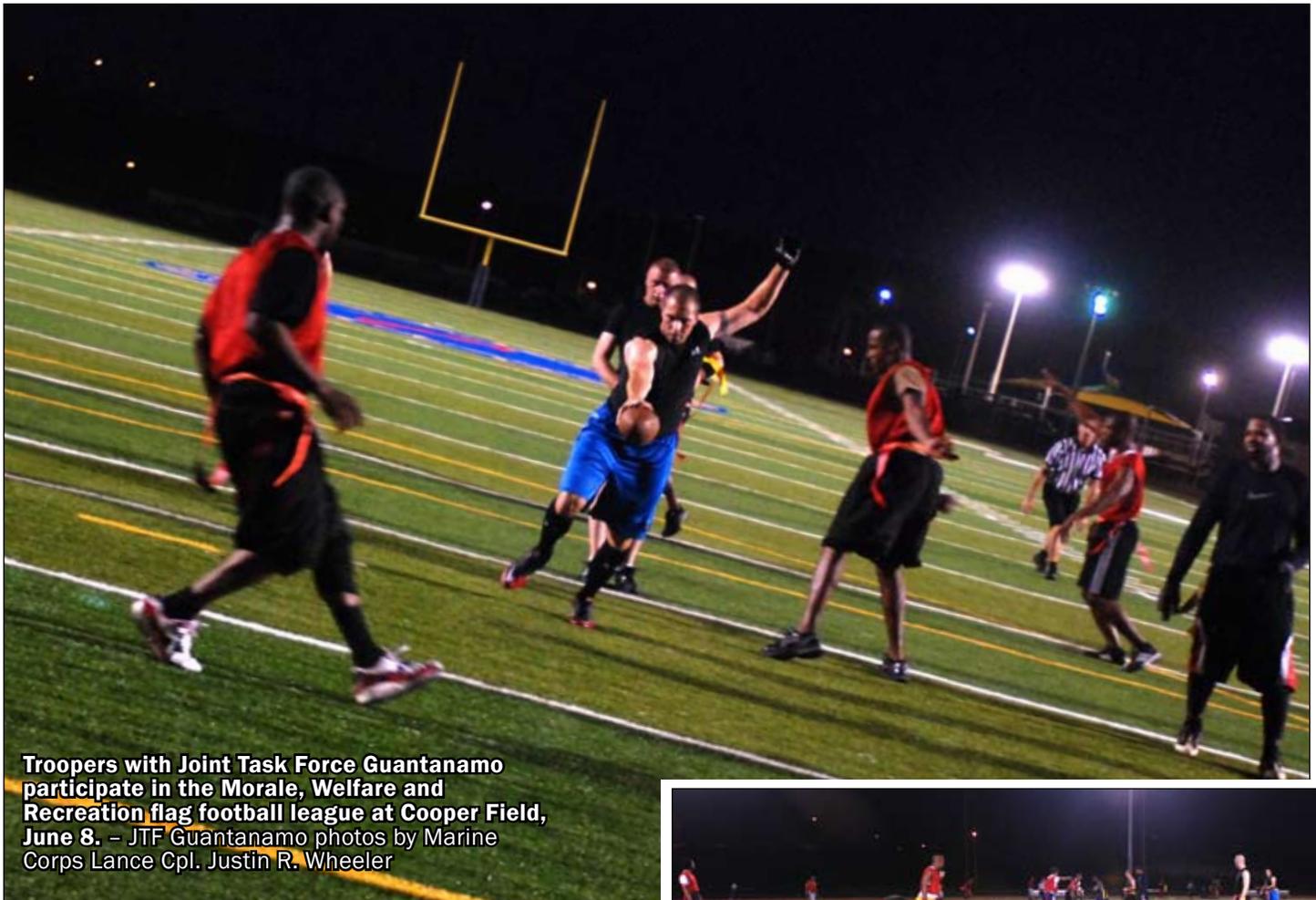
They also share this relationship with the Naval Station Guantanamo Public Works department, who initiate all orders for base engineering, construction, maintenance and contracting.

“It's important to have a good relationship because we both share the same goals,” Skaaland said. “Every Friday we conduct physical training with the public works department. We're all integrated.”

The NMCB's mission extends beyond GTMO with detachments in Haiti, Guatemala and Nicaragua. Using GTMO as a rally point, the detachments in Haiti and Guatemala have built a school and the detachment in Nicaragua built a water well.

The NMCB demonstrates quality in their work and their accomplishments are recognized not just in GTMO, but within many places within U.S. Southern Command. ☆

Flag football frenzy



Troopers with Joint Task Force Guantanamo participate in the Morale, Welfare and Recreation flag football league at Cooper Field, June 8. – JTF Guantanamo photos by Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Justin R. Wheeler

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



Troopers get together throughout the week to relive GTMO's variation of "Friday Night Lights" at Cooper Field.

Several days during the week Troopers participate on teams and compete in the Morale, Welfare and Recreation-sponsored flag football league.

"Participating in flag football enhances group morale and the development of a high state of mental and physical well being," said Robert Neuman, MWR sport coordinator. "It's about physical fitness, teamwork, camaraderie, stress release and having fun."

Troopers who participate in this MWR event boast about the league and what it offers them.

"The MWR sports program is really well [rounded]," said Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Kenneth Bonar. "It's a chance to escape the monotone daily routine and get out and do something exciting."

For Bonar, football has remained a tradition in his life.

"It's football!" Bonar said. "When you play as much as I did growing up, it brings you back to those good old days when you play now."

Bonar plays on the team Cool Guys. This team is comprised of some players who previously played for Pirates of the Caribbean. The Cool Guys derailed from the excessive competitive goals and play for one true reason, fun.

"We don't care about winning," Bonar said. "We were out there to have fun. Some people are angry or depressed and football is a chance for them to get away. Win or lose, we keep happy thoughts."

Each game Cool Guys introduce their competitors to their antics, like mismatched headbands. Even after losing many of their games, they continue to promote happiness and sportsmanship. This is what MWR activities are about.

"MWR activities draw the community [together], promote spirit de corps, enhance educational opportunities and provide support in periods of high operational tempo," Neuman said.

MWR is consistent with providing activities like flag football to the Troopers deployed to Joint Task Force Guantanamo and stationed at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay.

Another league of flag football will begin in September, only months after the current league's ending. There will also be a male and female division for the next league.

For more information about flag football or other sports, contact G.J. Denich Gym at ext. 77262. ★

No time to take names

Army Sgt. Tiffany Addair

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Dave Lisewski (Aaron Johnson) is a geeky teenager who goes unnoticed at his high school and hangs around a comic-book store with his two friends, Marty (Clark Duke) and Todd (Evan Peters). One day he questions why no one has ever tried to be a superhero. His friends jokingly laugh it off and think while it would be awesome to be a superhero, no one would be stupid enough to do it.

Soon into the start of the movie, all of the talk about being a superhero gets inside of Lisewski's head, and with nothing more than some clubs, a catalog-ordered wetsuit and a matching ninja-esque mask, he names himself Kick-A#\$ and sets out to fight crime.

Having no experience, no skills and no physical attributes, his first go at stopping the bad guy doesn't go over as well as he planned and it lands him in the hospital. After being stabbed in the stomach and run over by a car he recovers and leaves the hospital with a body full of metal plates and nerve damage. Determined to fulfill his dream of becoming a superhero he sets out to do a good deed and ends up stumbling upon his big break. He gets into a scuffle in a convenience store parking lot and overnight becomes a YouTube phenomenon.

Kick-A#\$ finds himself in trouble when he tries to take care of a situation that arose with Katie, (Lyndsy Fonesca) his new girlfriend who thinks he is gay. Luckily for Kick-A#\$, two *real* superheroes, Big Daddy (Nicolas Cage), an ex-cop-turned-vigilante, and his purple wigged, ninja-skilled daughter Hit Girl (Chloe Grace Moretz), show up and are looking for revenge. This dynamic duo stops at nothing to serve mob boss Frank D'Amico (Mark Strong) a piece of justice.

There is a mix-up and D'Amico thinks that Kick-A#\$ is single handedly picking off his "posse,"

when in reality he is in the wrong place at the wrong time and Big Daddy and Hit Girl are ousting his men. Trouble ensues when nemesis Red Mist (Christopher Mintz-Plasse) desperately seeks approval from his father, D'Amico, and offers to serve as a decoy to bring Kick-A#\$ in and ultimately set him up to die.

This plan fails and D'Amico finds out that Kick-A#\$ is not the superhero he is after. It is here the pace is picked up and action scene after action scene occurs until it leads the viewer to a dark sequence in which two major characters are being tortured live on the Internet. From here

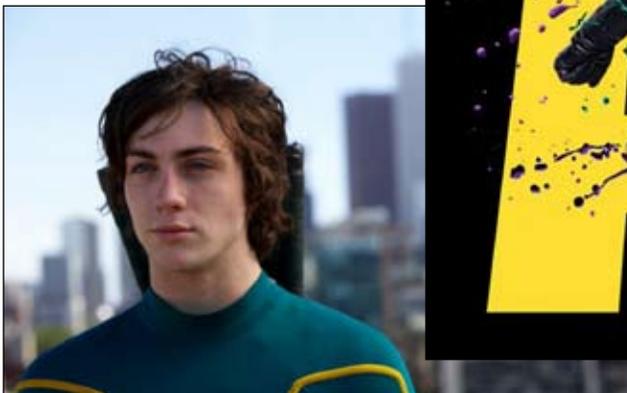
on out bloody mayhem is delivered by Hit Girl as she curses liberally and kills dozens of bad guys at a time. In the end there's a "mystery weapon," that is revealed and it doesn't disappoint.

In this movie violence and humor blend seamlessly to create an action packed film. The acting is very good across the board and the visual style of the movie is eye-popping. Although the movie is funny and filled with action scenes, it can be viewed as twisted and immoral. If blood and guts aren't your thing, or an 11-year-old girl cursing like a sailor doesn't sit right with you, this movie will not appeal to you. ☆

R

117 minutes

Rating: ★★☆☆☆



Happy Birthday Army

235 years strong

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



The Army celebrated its 235th birthday at Seaside Galley, June 14. The ceremony included the singing of the national anthem, a cake-cutting ceremony and guest speakers. This 235th birthday commemorates America's Army - Soldiers, families and civilians - who are truly Army strong!

The Army goes rolling along

Army Sgt. Tiffany Addair
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

From Afghanistan and Iraq to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and to each of the United States, Soldiers around the world celebrated the Army's 235th Birthday, June 14. Soldiers here at GTMO shared a unique celebration alongside Sailors, Airmen, Coast Guardsmen and Marines at Seaside Galley.

The ceremony started off with a welcome message given by Army 1st Sgt. Michael L. Baker Jr., 193rd Military Police Company senior enlisted leader, and the playing of the national anthem followed by an invocation.

Soldiers, Troopers and distinguished guests raised their glasses for a toast to the president, the Army, fallen comrades and families and loved ones.

In the midst of the ceremony was a cake-cutting ceremony with Army Col. Linda Ross, guest speaker of the ceremony and Joint Task Force Guantanamo behavior science consultant, and Army Pvt. Justin C. Champion, the most junior Soldier present, to symbolize the past and the future of the Army's history, traditions and heritage.

Ross noted the distinct celebration with all of the branches of service present.

"This celebration is perhaps different than most," Ross said. "When we look around we see members from various branches of service present here. There is strength in diversity. We must not fear diversity, but embrace it. For that is how we have, and will continue to evolve and succeed in a rapidly changing world."

Ross went on to highlight that the ideals and principles our country were founded on are the same ones we still fight for today.

"Led by George Washington, the American Continental Army was created in secrecy on this day in 1775," Ross said. "They began the fight for American Revolution. Their tenacity, fortitude and sacrifices created the nation of the United States based on the ideals of tolerance, individual freedom and democracy. Little could they have imagined then that today we would be imbedded in so many different regions across the world, continuing to fight for those same ideals."

President Barack Obama sent greetings to all those celebrating the 235th birthday of the Army. He addressed Army Soldiers and reminded them that they embody the best of our nation.

"As members of the greatest military force in history, you understand the blessings we cherish as Americans are not to be taken for granted," the president said. "Your resolve in defense of our nation and loyalty to your fellow Soldiers represent the best of America."

Two hundred and thirty-five years ago, the United States Army was established to defend our nation. From the Revolutionary War to the current operations taking place around the world, Soldiers remain Army strong and committed to the Army's core values and their beliefs.

"We are an institution that lives our values: loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage," Ross said. "Our Army today is noble by sacrifice, magnificent by performance and respected by all, because of the values we hold so dear."

Ross concluded her speech expressing her gratitude to be serving at GTMO with such fine and admirable fellow Soldiers.

"I am fortunate to be serving here with so many Army leaders, both officers and non-commissioned officers, who truly understand what a privilege it is to lead Soldiers, and the tremendous responsibility that accompanies that privilege," Ross said. "It is this kind of dedication and caring leadership that has resulted in our having the most professional and committed Soldiers in the history of our country, and what is essential to the future success of our Army." ☆



Army Col. Linda Ross speaks at Seaside Galley during the Army Birthday celebration, June 14. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Joshua Nistas



Destructive weather: Planning is everything

Navy Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class

Edward Flynn

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Being deployed to Joint Task Force Guantanamo or at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, it is essential to be prepared for a hurricane or any other type of emergency or potential disaster. Since a hurricane or tropical storm can quickly form throughout the Caribbean with little warning, preparing for an emergency, or even an evacuation, is a subject that should not be taken lightly.

This base is threatened by several hurricanes and tropical storms each hurricane season, including some that are classified as major hurricanes. These hurricanes and tropical storms are most prevalent during the months of August, September, October and November.

“JTF Guantanamo must protect its personnel, detainees, facilities and resources to the maximum extent possible to mitigate the effects of inclement weather and quickly restore primary mission assets following the occurrence,” said Army Lt. Col. Jorge Galoffin, destructive weather preparedness group member. “JTF Guantanamo’s worldwide responsibilities in the War on Terrorism require continuity of operations throughout the most intense period of any disaster.”

Since complacency could prove deadly, each JTF Trooper must be prepared for an emergency and follow JTF and naval base policy in the event of an actual emergency.

“It is important that we have a plan, so we are organized and can mitigate destruction of government property and more importantly, account for JTF Troopers and take care of them during a hurricane,” said Marine 1st Lt. Christopher Richardson, officer-in-charge of the destructive weather plan.

JTF established “Caribbean Fury,” an organized plan to provide critical emergency plans and specific guidance to follow during the preparation, execution and recovery operation phases of destructive weather, according to Richardson.

Ensuring frequent communication with your chain-of-command is a critical part of the emergency plan. To streamline this communication, JTF has also established a working group that includes destructive weather contacts, including a mayor, warden and other critical contacts. Mayors and wardens are provided with a roster of all personnel assigned to them and will provide specific instructions on where to go and what to do during an emergency.



Army Sgt. Jordan Wheeler, supply specialist with the 525th Military Police Battalion, moves destructive weather supplies at a Camp America warehouse, June 14. Boxes of supplies are palletized and ready to be taken to various hurricane shelters in the event of destructive weather here at GTMO. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Edward Flynn

This constant training and preparedness is a key component to any emergency or evacuation plan. Throughout JTF, the planning had been conducted on a frequent basis to ensure accountability and safety. As a key component to JTF, the Joint Detention Group carries the responsibility of ensuring the protection of detainees during a major storm, ranging from a tropical depression to a category five hurricane.

“Annually, we continue to update and test our destructive weather plan to ensure that through constant rotations, our Troopers and command element understand the actions taken in the event of a catastrophic storm,” said Army Master Sgt. Glen DeCecco, non-commissioned officer-in-charge of the JDG plans and operations shop. “We conduct exercises that test specific areas of response and readiness.”

JDG is also required to conduct an annual exercise using all internal command and staff elements with support from the JTF and Joint Medical Group. The most recent exercise conducted by the JDG used more than 70 Troopers and support staff from the JDG, JTF and JMG. This exercise

was developed to test our movement, relocation, tracking, and communication plans while providing continued security and care of detainees during a simulated category III hurricane.

As part of the communication outreach effort, each base personnel are directed to know and comply with the base-wide alert alarms. This will include standard pre-established siren wails to alert GTMO of condition readiness changes.

In the event of power failure, you can still stay connected by listening to radio station FM 102.1, FM 103.1 and AM 1340. These stations will carry emergency warnings, destructive weather forecasts, conditions of readiness and other emergency preparedness information. The outreach through the radio has emergency auxiliary power that will allow uninterrupted broadcast capabilities in the event of power outages.

Planning, preparation and following procedures is the responsibility of everyone regardless of your rank or position. Be familiar with destructive weather operations and keep personal items you would want in your hurricane bag handy. ☆

COPEMAN from 4

“I have received very, very strong backing from the camp leadership,” Copeman said. “I think we have, in particular, superior senior enlisted leadership, and they have gone above and beyond what I have normally seen.”

When asked how difficult it is commanding the most highly scrutinized military facility on earth, he responded by saying “for me personally, it doesn’t seem difficult, but the thing that is most difficult is explaining to Troopers that this place is not frequently portrayed in a positive light through the media, and to make them understand that it doesn’t necessarily reflect reality. It more frequently reflects what the political agenda of that reporter or newspaper is. That has been a challenge, because it is a hard message to explain to people,” he said.

Between the successes and challenges Copeman was clear that he is most proud of the behavior demonstrated by the Troops under his command.

“I am most proud of the level of discipline and professionalism that is displayed here, in particular by the guards on the blocks,” Copeman said. “Their self control, restraint and professionalism in the face of verbal and physical assaults are a testimony to how dedicated they are to the mission here. Also, they are well led by the senior enlisted leadership down on the deck plates.”

“I think that all the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen



Navy Rear Adm. Tom Copeman, JTF commander, and Army Command Sgt. Maj Mark Porrett, JDG senior enlisted leader, display a “joint” uniform presented to Copeman by the non-commissioned officers of JTF-GTMO, June 8. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Michael R. Holzworth

should be very, very proud of the work they have done here,” Copeman said. “They should proudly proclaim that they served here with their heads held high. They have done an incredibly professional job under more scrutiny than any other command on planet Earth, and have done so with the highest level of professionalism and discipline that I have seen in my 28 years in the Navy. It is something to be very proud of and it’s not easy to maintain that day-after-day here.”

As Copeman prepares to move on to

his next command, as the Navy’s Chief of Legislative Affairs in Washington, D.C., he does so with appreciation and gratitude of the work done by the JTF Troopers throughout the past year.

“It has been an honor and a pleasure for me to be here,” Copeman said. “I have learned a lot and it has been a great growing experience for me and I will always be proud to say that I was in command here. I will forever be extremely proud of all the work that all the people who have worked for me have done.” ★

Drink Water

- ! Don’t wait to feel thirsty - your body may need water before you feel thirsty.
- ! Drink enough water to replace your sweat loss.
- ! Remind your buddy to drink water. Refill your canteens or Camelbacks at every opportunity.
- ! Look at your urine. If it is dark in color or if you have not urinated, you need to drink



Newly frocked

Joint Task Force Guantanamo Sailors pose with Navy Rear Adm. Tom Copeman, JTF commander, after their frocking ceremony, June 11. Frocking is a long standing tradition in the Navy allowing Sailors to assume responsibility of the rank while awaiting their official promotion date. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Joshua Nistas

Boots on the Ground

by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Joshua Nistas

What country are you rooting for in the FIFA World Cup?

Air Force Senior Airman
Travis McLendon



"The United States, because as a non-soccer fan, it just seems like the right thing to do."

Coast Guard Petty Officer
2nd Class
Andrew Rodriguez



"I'm cheering for Mexico since I'm from El Paso, Texas, and Mexico is right there."

Navy Lt. Edward Valdez



"Spain, because I'm going against my brothers who are cheering for Mexico."

Army Brig. Gen.
Timothy Lake



"I'm rooting for the USA. They're our national team and they're going to make us proud."

Character and spiritual fitness



Air Force Maj. Kenneth D. Brown
Deputy Command Chaplain

While pastoring a church in south Louisiana, I witnessed the devastating impact of Hurricane Katrina. While my home received no damage, I know many who had their homes severely damaged and others who lost their jobs.

In the aftermath of the storm, our community, just east of Baton Rouge, was inundated with evacuees from those areas directly in the path of this catastrophe. The tragic circumstances of those who lost their homes, jobs, and in some cases family members, left an indelible image in my mind. Short trips in town that normally took 15 minutes turned into two-hour ordeals, while grocery stores and gasoline stations were running out of supplies daily.

On the one hand I saw people take leave of their jobs to deliver food and supplies, doctors and nurses voluntarily caring for the sick and injured, churches opening

their doors to house and feed people and neighbors getting to know one another by assisting each other with the debris removal and offering encouragement.

On the other hand there were looters stealing food and property, people lying about their personal circumstances to receive government aid and individuals masquerading as contractors swindling people out of their money.

Character does matter.

In the midst of such trying circumstances a person's true character is revealed. Good character is not produced instantly, but is harnessed over time as a result of the values and principles we choose to follow and by maintaining spiritual fitness.

We read in the New Testament that "physical exercise has some value, but spiritual exercise is much more important, for it promises a reward in both this life and the next," 1 Tim 4:8.

Neglect of spiritual fitness will reduce your ability to function and cope with the demands of deployment. Regular

prayer, reading of the Scriptures and corporate worship is the best formula for maintaining spiritual fitness. No matter your responsibilities here, make it a priority to spend time with God and allow Him to move in your life in a very special way here at GTMO. You have a choice to make your time here one of spiritual renewal and move closer to God, or to grow spiritually fat and weak.

While you are deployed at JTF, you will witness scenes you may never experience again as a military member. Why not add the experience of spiritual renewal to your deployment and discover the amazing power God has to change your life and discover the purpose he has for you?

Chaplains are here to help you in the midst of crisis and tragedy. However, you need not wait until such time to come speak with a chaplain. Anytime you have questions about your religious experience or simply want to converse about spiritual issues we welcome you to come by and talk to us and to join us for worship. ✪

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
Saturday 7:30 p.m.
Troopers' Chapel
Sunday 7:30 a.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

First stop GTMO

Army Spc. Archie Corbitt III
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Many of us on Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, have been in the service for a number of years and have seen many stations. There are a few who haven't seen a deployment or multiple duty stations, and have yet to gain that hands on experience.

Army Pfc. Jerome Perry Jr. is a supply clerk assigned to the S-4 shop with the 525th Military Police Battalion and Joint Task Force Guantanamo is his first duty station.

For his ability to go from advanced individual training to a deployed location and adapt in an ever changing environment, Perry has earned his 15 minutes of fame.

When Perry was asked to select places he wanted to be stationed, he chose Brazil, Ft. Hood, Texas and Korea. Instead the military chose to send him to JTF-GTMO.

"I guess they wanted the best, so they sent me," Perry said with a grin. "I enjoy providing Soldiers with the proper gear for their mission and learning about my job all at the same time."

Some of the adjustments Perry went through are similar to those many service members face coming to Guantanamo. Coming straight out of AIT and being dropped into a joint environment can be difficult.

"It was different for me," Perry said. "I had to learn about different ranks, how the Navy and Air Force work and how we [operate] differently from them."

Within the office Perry was able to focus on his own service operations.

"As far as my job in the S-4 shop goes," Perry said, "I don't work with the other services that much, but it is still a joint environment."

The assignment to Guantanamo was an eye-opening experience for Perry.

"I didn't know what to expect coming here," Perry said. "The day before I came down here I looked on the Internet and that's where I saw pictures of the detention camps and what not."

What awaited Perry was a command ready to help him grow as a Soldier, including scheduling a daily push-up routine.

"My first non-commissioned officer-in-charge saw that I was good at [physical training]," Perry said. "So he wanted to make sure I didn't slack off."

Army Sgt. 1st Class Elmer Beeler, S-4 NCOIC, keeps up training with Perry and other supply clerks within the 525th.

"Young Soldiers coming in are the future of logistics," Beeler said. "It's our job as NCOs to make sure they take the field forward."

"I enjoyed my time at Guantanamo," Perry said. "It gave me a chance to get a sense of what it's like to deploy and see what it's like to be away from family. You have to man-up and learn to live on your own."

From Guantanamo Bay Perry moves on to his original choice of duty station, joining an aviation unit in Fort Hood, Texas. ★

Army Pfc. Jerome Perry supervises gear being turned in at the S-4 warehouse, May 27. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Archie Corbitt III





Army Sgt. Chavon Salter and Army Sgt. Jon Whittle sing the national anthem during the Army birthday celebration, June 14. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Josuha Nistas



A Seabee with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 25 welds a piece of sheet metal at the construction site near the Windjammer, June 10. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Justin R. Wheeler

A Soldier stands watch in a guard tower overlooking Camp Delta, June 9. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Michael R. Holzworth



Around the



JTF