

THE WIRE

A JTF Journal

Providing transparency
Public affairs team facilitates
media visits

Independence Day
Happy Birthday, America!



The military family

Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Ronald Arthur
474th ECES Operations NCOIC

Family is defined as a group of people sharing common ancestry or a group of like things. A family, as related in a military sense, can be defined as a unit, squadron, section, platoon, brotherhood, etc. In my 20 years of service with the Air National Guard, I have been a member of a unit that I would call family. All families have differences, and this holds true for most military units. Differences range from personal beliefs and religious backgrounds to race, gender and rank. Because of these differences, problems can arise while coping with the pressures of military life.

Each member of a unit faces the pressure of deployments, operation tempo, and family and each handles these pressures in his or her own way. Troopers may open up to their supervisor, senior non-commissioned officer or a good friend. Some will decide to keep their problems all to themselves. Others may turn to a harsher form of coping with pressure, such as withdrawal, behavior that is out of their normal character or excessive use of alcohol.

Many Troopers deploy individually; they may not deploy with their unit of assignment. When a unit deploys as one, that unit cohesion is an intangible product that will help many Troopers cope with the pressures of a deployment. In a unit everyone knows their buddy, his or her strong points, weaknesses and heart, much like one knows one's own immediate family. Sometimes these qualities are easily seen in a person, but sometimes different qualities are revealed during a deployment. Some personnel may show leadership qualities, or qualities of a good listener. As a unit, members are able to support each other because they are more familiar with each other's qualities. When a Trooper knows the qualities of his fellow Troopers, they form a bond that is often inseparable. The unit learns to work together as a family despite its differences.

As members of Joint Task Force Guantanamo, we are made up of all five branches of the military. Each branch is unique in its abilities. Due to working together, the different branches have formed a bond, a brotherhood, a family. During deployments in my past, I have had opportunities to work with each of the other branches of the military, but it wasn't until I had been assigned to the Joint Task Force that I ever experienced the makeup of all of the different branches working together so strongly. Each section of the JTF has a different composition. Some are a mixture of two or three different branches and some are a combination of all five. As a member of the greatest military force in the world, I have noticed that with these combinations sometimes comes strife. We may all work for the same "Uncle Sam," but we sometimes speak totally different languages. Also, we often approach tasks with a different sense of urgency. Even though we may have these differences I have noticed that every branch, every department, every section and every Trooper has one goal, and that is to make sure that this country remains free.

As we all serve our tour of duty, we meet new people. Some of these people impact us positively and serve as valuable support tools. In my life I have had the opportunity to have an immediate family that has always supported this great nation. I grew up in a military home, where my father served his country with valor for more than 39 years. My mother has supported my father and me in everyway possible during our careers. I have also been blessed to have a wife and children who have supported me during my military life. In addition, I have been surrounded by some of the best men and women to ever wear the uniform of the United States military. I hold the honor of calling these men and women my family. ☆



JTF GUANTANAMO

Commander:

Navy Rear Adm. Jeffrey Harbeson

Command Master Chief:

Navy Master Chief Petty Officer
Scott A. Fleming

Office of Public Affairs Director:

Navy Cmdr. Brad Fagan: 9928

Deputy Director:

Navy Lt. John Ferrari: 9927

Operations Officer:

Army Capt. Robert Settles: 3649

Supervisor:

Air Force Master Sgt. John Asselin: 3649

The Wire

Executive Editor, Command Information NCOIC, Photojournalist:

Navy Mass Communication Specialist
1st Class Edward Flynn: 3592

Editor, Photojournalist:

Army Sgt. Tiffany Addair: 3499

Photojournalists:

Air Force Tech. Sgt. Michael R. Holzworth

Navy Mass Communication Specialist

1st Class Mark Richardson

Navy Mass Communication Specialist

2nd Class Shane Arrington

Navy Mass Communication Specialist

2nd Class Matthew Campbell

Army Spc. Juanita Philip

Navy Mass Communication Specialist

3rd Class Joshua Nistas

Contact us

Editor's Desk: 3499 or 3594

From the continental United States:

Commercial: 011-53-99-3499

DSN: 660-3499

E-mail: thewire@jftgmo.southcom.mil

Online: www.jftgmo.southcom.mil

COVER:

Fireworks light up the sky over Naval Station Guantanamo Bay during the Independence Day celebration that took place July 4, 2009. This year the festivities will take place July 4 at 9 p.m. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Richard M. Wolff

BACK COVER:

Waves wash up on shore at Girl Scout Beach. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Shane Arrington

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.

Medically recording Troops



Army Sgt. Oscar Tovar turns the record cabinet to retrieve a record, June 24.
- JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Shane Arrington

Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Shane Arrington
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The Joint Trooper Clinic is the one-stop shop for most medical situations involving Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers.

They hold sick call, handle some minor surgeries and deal with just about everything from physical injuries to the flu. A less appreciated job, even though it involves something seen almost as soon as you walk through the door, is the responsibility of keeping up with almost 2,000 medical records belonging to Troopers who are constantly rotating in and out of JTF-GTMO.

Even though the entire Department of Defense is moving away from paper records and using the Armed Forces Health Longitudinal Technology Application (AHLTA), Army Sgt. Oscar Tovar, JTC floor non-commissioned officer, said it's still good to have the paper copies just in case.

"Just because the computers are down doesn't mean we stop treating patients," Tovar said. "We keep very good records here."

Working in a joint environment presents unique challenges for all Troopers. The JTC is no exception, but the staff adjusts and manages to keep every branch of service organized.

"We deal with all branches," Tovar said. "It's difficult at first, dealing with all the different little things between each branch, but once you get the hang of it, it's not that bad."

Another thing that makes handling medical records at JTF

GTMO unique compared to other commands is the way people come in.

"Sometimes we get big units that come in waves," said Army Sgt. Ronald McDaniel, healthcare NCO. "And other times it's the one or two Navy [Individual Augmentees]. No matter the number, we carefully collect the records and file them one at a time to insure proper storage."

No matter how careful they are, there are times when records aren't there when a Trooper comes to the clinic. McDaniel said in many cases it is an unintentional mistake by the individual Trooper.

"When checking in, all personnel are supposed to bring us their records," McDaniel said. "Unfortunately it doesn't always happen. Sometimes a Trooper will leave their command without the record, or in big units they expect someone to take care of it for them. It's also not uncommon for people to just hang on to their records."

Not having your records when going into the clinic does not mean you will get turned away, AHLTA makes sure of that, but it is recommended to take them to the JTC during the check-in/out process.

"Even though we keep good records, in the end it's the Trooper's responsibility to know where their stuff is," Tovar said. "The individual needs to make sure every piece of paper work from another hospital or the emergency room finds its way to us so we can properly file it."

For more information, contact the JTC at ext. 3395. ★



(Above and below) Members of the media relations team escort visiting media inside the detention facilities. – JTF Guantanamo photos by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Joshua Nistas

Behind the wire



The safe, humane, legal, and transparent care and custody of the detainees is the primary mission of Joint Task Force Guantanamo. One way JTF shows the world how well we accomplish the mission is by providing media tours of the facilities. The job of providing clear and accurate information to the media concerning Guantanamo, falls on the JTF Public Affairs media relations team.

Some of the world's most well-known newspapers, radio and television stations begin planning for this trip months in advance. From the United States all the way to China and many countries in between, journalists send in documents required to complete the vetting process so they may visit JTF-GTMO.

The media that visit the JTF are given a typical tour that takes them through the detainee library, detainee hospital, and Camps 4, 5 and 6. The media are guided through the camps by subject matter experts, along with the media relations team, who are able to answer questions and provide factual information.

"There is always a member of the public affairs staff escorting and answering general questions about the JTF and documenting everything the media members ask," said Army Sgt. Antheil Thomas, media relations escort.

The journalists are also offered interview opportunities with the JTF commander and deputy commander, the Joint Detention Group commander, and camp guards. These interviews allow the media to get their information firsthand from Troopers who work in the camps and have daily interaction with detainees.

The members of the media photograph, videotape and create audio recordings that document the camps, to show the living conditions of the facilities. They are allowed to photograph guards and detainees as long as operations security guidelines are followed.

A key mission of the public affairs office is upholding and maintaining OPSEC.

"The media are given a base of ground rules when requesting to come to GTMO," said Navy Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Maria Blanchard, media relations lead petty officer.

Every evening after the media have finished their tours for the day, the media relations team reviews all photographs, audio recordings and video footage. The PAO staff ensures the guidelines were followed and the security of the Troopers and JTF as a whole remains intact.

Although Camp X-Ray is under a protective order, the media are able to view it and it gives them the opportunity to see how it exists today and how much has changed since 2002. Camp X-Ray was open for 92 days while Camps 1, 2, and 3 were under construction.

Media fly down to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba each week to fulfill the transparency part of the JTF mission. It is that transparency that takes some media members by surprise. Most news stories the media creates show the public how the JTF provides safe, human, legal, and transparent care and custody for the detainees at JTF-GTMO. ✪

Toys tell their story

Navy Mass Communications Specialist 2nd Class

Shane Arrington

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

No matter what section you find the DVD in months from now, or how many parents took their children to watch it in theaters, Toy Story 3 is far from being a kid's movie. Sure there are animated toys running around everywhere, but the story is one for the adults in the crowd, mainly the ones just leaving home and starting a life of their own.

The previous movies were all about the interaction of the toy gang and their human, Andy, but in the third installment that dynamic is gone. The opening scene of the movie paints the picture that as Andy has grown up, he has come to neglect the toys that love him, despite their efforts for attention, which include conducting a military operation to steal his cell phone. And to make matters even worse for the gang, Andy is packing up for college and booking them a one way ticket to the attic. Due to some parental complications however, the flight was detoured.

After being accidentally put into the trash by Andy's mother, the toys brake free and hide in a box of donations on its way to a daycare center. At first this seems like a good thing. None of them are happy to

be separated from Andy, but here is a place filled with children to play with them. It seems like paradise. The good feeling is only made stronger after their tour of the daycare by Lotso, the huggable bear in charge. Everything is perfect, until recess was over.

Lotso and his crew throw Woody, Buzz and the gang into a room full of children too young to appreciate toys. It's torture, and at the end of the first day they are so battered and bruised they know they must find a way out. Unfortunately for them, Lotso isn't having it. Not only did he have the whole place under guard, he found a way to turn one of Andy's toys to his side.

In the end, there is nothing like wanting to escape from a terrible place and wanting to get back to the person you love, which forces these toys to become very resourceful. After getting some inside information, and setting up some brilliant tactical plans, they retrieve their turned comrade and make their escape ... right into another unpleasant situation.

During their escape attempt Lotso tries to stop the gang, but only ends up sharing their fate. They all find themselves in a trash truck on its way to the landfill. At the landfill they are on their way to certain death when they discover a way to escape. During

the dumping onto the death machine, Lotso becomes stuck and can't escape. Woody, the good toy that he is, helps Lotso escape and narrowly misses death himself. You would think this must turn Lotso around, make him not quite such an evil bear, but you would be wrong. A little while later he has the chance to return the favor and just runs away, leaving Woody, Buzz and the gang to their fiery doom.

Luckily for the toys, during the confusion of almost getting sliced, diced and incinerated, a few of their own make it to safety and turn off the machine of death. Lotso however, get what he deserves.

Tired and dirty, the toys finally make it home from the landfill just in time. They jump into a box just before Andy gets back to his room and pretend once more to be inanimate objects. Seeing them returned after he thought they were gone forever, Andy decides it would be best to not throw the toys into the attic to collect dust, but instead to give them to a young friend of the family where they will be loved and played with.

So while the story may seem simple, and the characters are made with a computer, this is still a story more for the young adult. While Andy may not have much screen time, it is still his coming of age story. ☆



G

108 minutes

Rating: ★★★★★



Prayer breakfast

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



Donating dozens of DVDs

Navy Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class
Mark Richardson
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Guantanamo Bay's Morale, Welfare and Recreation Library is an entertainment haven for all Guantanamo residents, including Troopers stationed at Joint Task Force Guantanamo.

Recently, the First Class Petty Officer Association held a movie drive to increase the selection of DVDs – one of the library's most used amenities.

Movies were collected over a three-week period, during which more than 100 movies were donated. Additionally, FOX Home Entertainment shipped several titles, including the blockbuster "Avatar."

One Trooper who borrows movies often from the library started running out of new titles to borrow. This triggered the organization and effort of the movie drive.

"I frequently borrow movies and over a period of several months, you start going through movies and you realize there's a need to do something more," said Navy Engineman 1st Class Matthew Bodenner, movie drive organizer. "As part of this outreach effort, some of us came together and decided that it would be beneficial if we did a movie drive to benefit the base community."

Library personnel welcomed the new additions to its catalog of movies now available for check out.

"The DVDs are now part of the collection that is heavily used here," said Amy Webster, Naval Station Guantanamo supervisory librarian. "This is going to add a huge variety to our collection."

The movies are now added to the library catalog and available for patrons to check out. Plans are already in the works to hold another library movie drive in the near future.

All those involved in the drive said they had fun and really wanted to thank all those involved.

FCPOA is open to all E-6's, regardless of branch of service, and is seeking support. For more information, e-mail Navy Master-at-Arms 1st Class Laryl Helberg at laryl.k.helberg@jftgtmo.southcom.mil. 🌟



Navy Engineman 1st Class Matthew Bodenner, of First Class Petty Officer Association at Joint Task Force Guantanamo, gives more than 100 movies to Amy Webster, Morale, Welfare and Recreation Library supervisory librarian June 9. FCPOA conducted a movie drive to add to the variety of the library's collection. – JTF Guantanamo photos by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Michael R. Holzworth



Born on the 4th of July

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

July 4, 2010 will mark the 234th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

This historic document is more than just a piece of paper. It is a symbol of our nation's freedom, independence, and commitment to certain ideals and values. More than two centuries ago, a newly established nation built a government based on "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." Today, as we celebrate this cherished gift from our Founding Fathers, Independence Day also offers us the opportunity to reflect on the greatness of our country and the strong values that unite Americans from all walks of life.

This celebration of the birth of our country has always been a significant and cherished national holiday. It is a time for red, white and blue. A time for families to come together with picnics, fireworks, barbecues, parades, watermelon and our beloved Uncle Sam.

"The 4th of July is one of my favorite holidays, because it is a celebration of our nation's proud history, and a time to be

with family and friends without the stress associated with other holidays," said Army Capt. Nicolas Pacheco, 115th MP Company commander. "As an activated and deployed Guardsman, it is an honor to serve our country and play a role in defending our liberties, and way of life as our forefathers and militia did nearly 200 years ago."

As we ponder the meaning of the national birthday of the United States, let us also remember those veterans that paid

The 4th of July is one of my favorite holidays, because it is a celebration of our nation's proud history.

– Army Capt. Nicolas Pacheco

the ultimate price for our freedom, liberty and happiness.

From the Battle of Bunker Hill during the American Revolution to the ongoing War on Terrorism, we also celebrate this important holiday thanks to the heroism of American military men and women.

Through their unselfish duty and sacrifice as American veterans, these brave service members helped build a nation and defended our democracy. These veterans defined our country and forged our history.

"An enormous amount of pride in being an American," is how Navy Religious Program Specialist 2nd Class Tania Gedeon described the national holiday. "Every day I wear this uniform is a tremendous privilege and serving on active duty on the nation's birthday is special."

Additionally, the freedom we enjoy can be traced back to our Founding Fathers and their love of liberty and freedom. The same freedom is defended today by not only those serving in the U.S. military, but by heroic firefighters, police officers and other emergency service providers. The zeal and unyielding spirit of the American citizen made this day a reality.

Through the establishment of our new country, generations of families continue to enjoy the freedom in which the country was built upon. It is fitting that July 4th is enjoyed by families throughout the country. It is an opportunity to come together as a country and reflect on the greatness of her people.

Most share a sense of pride in being a citizen of this great country. It is in that same spirit of freedom that we proudly celebrate the birthday of our country and acknowledge the patriots that made this a reality. Happy Birthday America! ☆



Burger burn

Army Capt. Eric Bey, 525th Military Police Battalion chaplain, cooks burgers during a Joint Task Force Guantanamo chapel sponsored “burger burn,” June 18. The chapel staff does many events like this to help build the morale of service members who work throughout JTF Guantanamo. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Michael R. Holzworth

Boots on the Ground

by Army Spc. Juanita Philip

What do you feel the 4th of July is about?

Army Sgt. Daniel Brown

**Navy Yeoman Seaman
David S. Rodriguez**

**Army Sgt.
Boyce Richardson**

**Air Force Staff Sgt.
Tulles Johnson**



“It’s about everything we fight for.”



“It’s about a sense of freedom and the ability to be able to do whatever it takes to fulfill my dreams.”



“It’s about my nation’s fight for freedom and my island’s emancipation.”



“It’s about celebrating our nation’s freedom.”



Land of the free, home of the brave

**Air Force Lt. Col.
Daniel L. Figueroa**

JTF Guantanamo Command Chaplain

Navy Religious Programs Specialist 2nd Class Ellyse Corbeil, non-commissioned officer-in-charge of Joint Task Force Guantanamo's chapel operations, sent me an article last week about Van T. Barfoot, who was born without much fanfare June 15, 1919 in Edinburg, Miss. Twenty-five years later, on May 23, 1944 near Carano, Italy, Barfoot advanced through a minefield and single-handedly took three enemy machine gun nests that were raining down fire on his Soldiers. He alone captured 17 enemies. Later that day he stopped three enemy tanks with a bazooka. Last December, at 90 years old, he was told he could not fly the American flag outside his Virginia home, and he won that battle too.

As we know very well, freedom is not free. At this very moment, thousands of brave Americans are defending freedom on land, sea and in the air. Almost 100 troops have given their lives this month alone in Afghanistan.

Most Americans know the opening words to Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, "Four score and seven years ago." After the first paragraph Lincoln wrote, "It is for the living, rather, to be dedicated to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us, that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to the cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion, that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain, that this nation, under God, shall have new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the

people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

On this 4th of July we are honored and privileged to be a part of the tip of the spear engaged in defending our country, our freedoms and our way of life, by carrying out the JTF-GTMO mission. In the words of our National Anthem, we live in the land of the free and the home of the brave. This nation was born, and freedom lives because of brave men like Barfoot.

As a Christian chaplain, I also believe that man's greatest freedom is made possible through faith in God who can free us from the tyranny of sin, addiction and death. Once again we are the defenders of every American's right to freedom of religion and belief.

On this 234th birthday of our nation let us give thanks for the faith, courage, and sacrifice of Gen. George Washington and the brave men of the Continental Army. ★

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



Army Staff Sgt. Melanie Roach salutes Army 1st Lt. Aaron Rozovsky as he enters Roosevelt gate, June 22. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Michael R. Holzworth



Army Sgt. Jordan Wheeler and Army Sgt. Kevin Foley, members of the Rhode Island National Guard's 115th Military Police Company, prepare to move destructive weather supplies at a Camp America warehouse, June 23. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Edward Flynn

Around the

JTF

Air Force Gen. Douglas Fraser, Commander of U.S. Southern Command, listens as Marine Corps Maj. Winston Tierney, Marine Corp Security Force commander, gives a briefing at the northeast gate, June 24. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Michael R. Holzworth

