

THE WIRE

A JTF Journal



Commissions Support Group

Service at its best

Camp America liberty center

Place for Troopers to relax

Showing proper courtesy

Navy Command Master Chief Al Rivera
Former NEGB Command Master Chief

Some may view the military as having two types of courtesy: professional and personal. I say that courtesy is something that should be exercised in a personal and professional environment at all times, which eliminates the need to differentiate between the two. If we are consistent in our behavior, we need not concern ourselves with having to distinguish between the two because it is always appropriate to be polite, respectful and acknowledge one another, whether it is in a work or social setting.

As military service members, we are taught early in our respective training continuums that professional military courtesy is essential to establish and maintain a positive work environment and good order and discipline. Our respective services, undoubtedly, have their nuances, but when it comes down to brass tacks we all bear the responsibility of promoting a command climate that is conducive to cooperation and promoting a positive command climate. Leadership bears the responsibility of ensuring that we treat subordinates with consistency, without impulsive behavior, and promote the general welfare of our troops.

How many times have we witnessed Troopers not saluting, rendering a greeting or acknowledging their superiors? How many times have we seen superiors fail to acknowledge their subordinates? We have the opportunity to work among all the uniformed services within the Joint Task Force here in Guantanamo. Why not take advantage of this to learn some of the customs and traditions of our fellow services? This may provide greater insight as to why the respective organizations conduct business in the manner in which they do. It makes uniformed service members feel good when someone from another service acknowledges them by their proper title and rank. It may take a little extra effort to learn our respective ranks, but well worth the return on investment. Should someone make an attempt to address us by our rank or title and not necessarily get it right we should not be offended by it, but rather take the opportunity to assist him or her in learning the proper way to address a member of a specific rank or title.

We can all benefit from extending courtesies to one another, not only because it is a requirement in our respective military regulations, but also because it is the right thing to do in general practice. Has anyone really been having a rough day and have it turned completely around because of someone's courteous behavior? I believe we can all recall such an instance. Seniors must remember what it is like to be that subordinate Trooper who is intimidated by being in the presence of superiors. Subordinates must remember that superiors warrant respect given their rank, title and grade. Rendering a sharp salute, a basic greeting and receiving a sharp salute in return is representative of a crisp military organization. But extending courtesy in our every day dealings by using basic greetings, and acknowledging individuals in and out of uniform can have a tremendous impact in a trooper's day. It also promotes a positive climate whether inside or outside the wire. ☆



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COVER:

Jeff Congo, lead singer for the band Dial 9, from Jacksonville, Fla., performs for service members of Joint Task Force Guantanamo and Naval Station Guantanamo at the Tiki Bar, July 3. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Michael R. Holzworth

BACK COVER:

Fireworks burst over Guantanamo Bay, July 4. - 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.

Arming the guard force



Army Spc. Kevin Riley, 525th Military Police Battalion head armorer, maintains the weapons of his company. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Justin R. Wheeler

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

In Camp America exists one of the most important supporting elements of the 525th Military Police Battalion guard force: the 525th armory.

The armory is manned every day to supply 525th security elements with weapons.

“We have to maintain the accountability of the weapons, the security of the arms room and conduct weapons maintenance; it’s our responsibility to maintain the weapons,” said Army Spc. Kevin Riley, Headquarters and Headquarters Company 525th MP Battalion head armorer. “When it comes down to it, the weapons need to work.”

During morning and evening shifts, the armorers work to maintain the weapons to standards. Troopers with the 525th MP Battalion are satisfied with their daily results.

“They have a hard job,” said Army Spc. Jared Doolcy, 115th Military Police Company, 525th MP Battalion. “If they weren’t here, weapons would probably be covered in rust. It’d be a mess.”

Throughout Doolcy’s time with Joint Task Force Guantanamo, the armorers of the 525th have provided their fellow Soldiers clean and efficient weapons and occasionally

mentor Troopers in weapon repair.

“They definitely know their weapons,” said Doolcy. “If a problem with your weapon is not something too in-depth, they’ll teach you how to fix it.”

“It takes initiative to be armorer,” said Army Private Raymond Morris, S-6 Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 525th MP Battalion. “The armorers give us pointers on how to better clean our weapons and prepare for inspections.”

Despite the challenge of their unconventional working hours, the 525th armory is an enjoyable job.

“The working hours can be a little bit early, but overall it’s been smooth and efficient,” Riley said.

Prior to arriving to Guantanamo Bay, Riley didn’t expect to work in the armory. After being sent to Fort Bragg for armorer school, Riley returned to GTMO to what he names as his favorite job since he’s been in the Army.

For Riley, working at the armory is a major change from his original career field of working in food services.

“You get more responsibility here,” Riley said. “I’m the lead armorer for the HHC 525th, if I was late to work it would affect the guards and their shifts.”

Early in the morning and late at night,



Army Staff Sgt. David Guyette, 115th supply non-commissioned officer, issues a weapon to a 115th guard during a shift changeover, June 24. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Justin R. Wheeler

the armorers of the 525th open their doors, providing Troopers of JTF GTMO with protection. They are the backbone of the 525th’s security force. ★

Commissions moves smoothly



A flag flies near courtroom one, where hearings and trials take place for detainees, Jan. 12. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Emily Greene

Army Sgt. Athniel Thomas
JTF Guantanamo Public

Thanks to the staff at the Joint Task Force Guantanamo's Commission Support Group, Military Commissions move forward efficiently.

"We provide the support to ensure a smooth operation," said CSG Deputy Director Army Lt. Col. Beresford Edwards. "We have to coordinate with just about every entity on GTMO, so that we have all the skills available to help them do their mission."

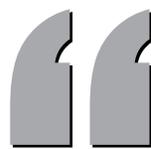
With all that is tasked to CSG, Edwards is sure he has the right service members for the job.

"We have a very professional staff. They're very dedicated to this mission," Edwards said. "They're competent, and they perform their duties and responsibilities in a professional manner."

From housing to cell phones and transportation, the judges, attorneys and support staff are taken care of by CSG

personnel. Their job is not complete once the Office of Military Commissions (OMC) staff is settled in; as a matter of fact, it's only beginning.

"The CSG Support Division provides logistical, technical and administrative support to the [OMC]," said CSG Support



The team goes above and beyond to ensure that all support requests are taken care of so that we are 100 percent ready for every commissions hearing.

– Air Force Capt. Cindy Messiah-Cuencas

Officer-In-Charge, Air Force Capt. Cindy Messiah-Cuencas. "The team goes above and beyond to ensure that all support requests are taken care of, so that we are 100 percent ready for every commissions hearing."

Along with keeping the OMC staff comfortable and giving them means of communication, CSG has to ensure that their more-than 45 acres of responsibility in Camp Justice is maintained and serviced

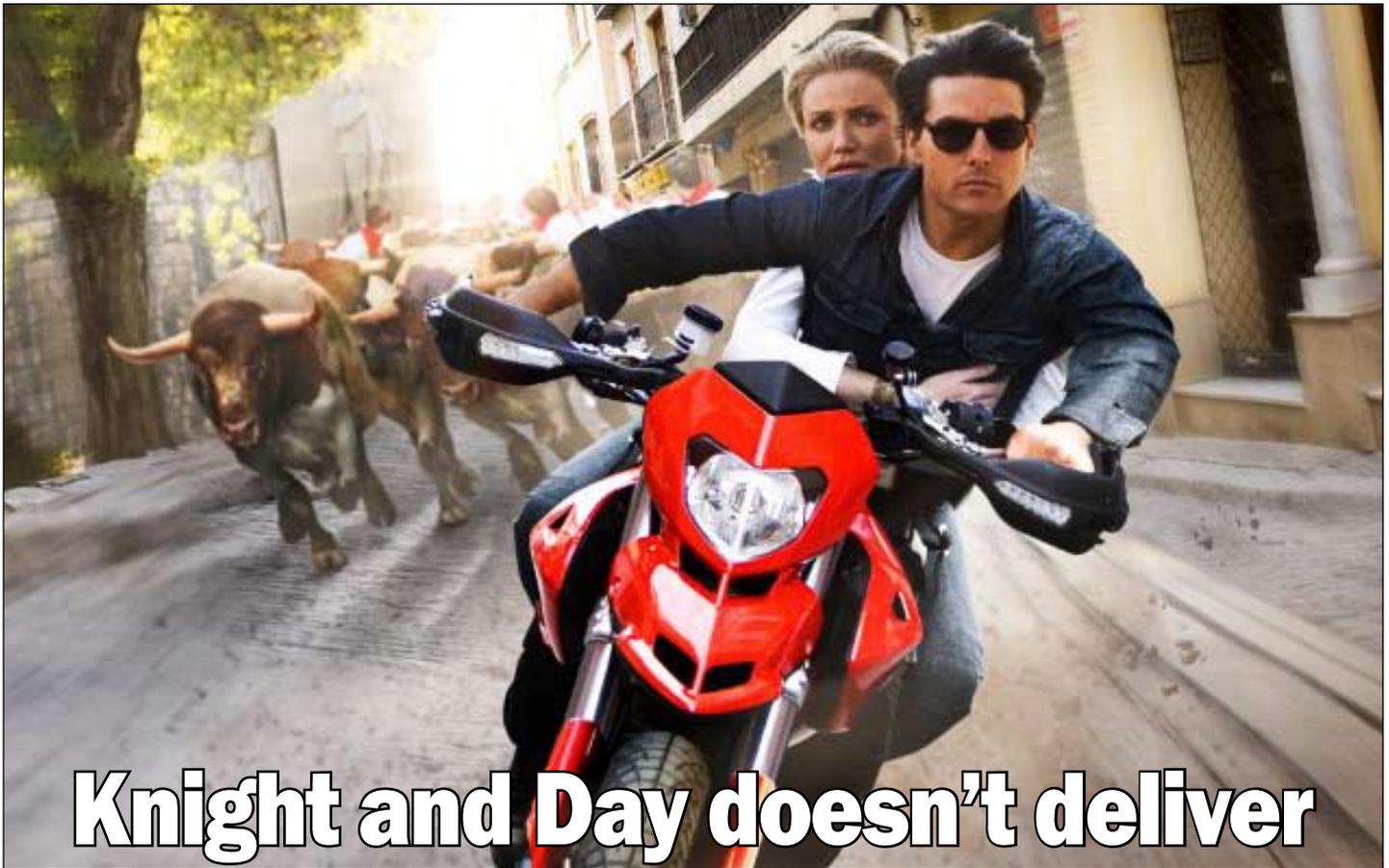
regularly. Once they ensure this sprawling facility is ready to accommodate the commissions personnel, they also have to set in place all security precautions.

Air Force Base Engineer Emergency Force units handle structural repairs and maintenance. Army and Coast Guard units provide Camp Justice security while Navy Master-at-Arms secure the Naval Station.

Bringing it all together is CSG's Operations and Security Officer-In-Charge, Navy Lt. Cmdr. Trent Thompson, who believes that cooperation equals success.

"The key to this whole thing is the willingness of all the other JTF directorates to make the commissions event a success," Thompson said. "It's critical and that's the only way we can accomplish this mission. I can tell you, this is a great bunch of folks in the JTF that make all of this happen."

So the next time you see the Military Commissions process flowing smoothly, know that it's because of the Commission Support Group. ✨



Knight and Day doesn't deliver

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

With a relatively clever title, two A-list actors and a trailer that foreshadows high speed action, "Knight and Day" had the recipe for awesome. Unfortunately, something goes awry along the way.

The movie starts off with Roy (Tom Cruise) and June (Cameron Diaz) bumping into each other at a Kansas airport. What seems like a chance encounter ends up being a moment that completely turns June's quiet life upside down.

It turns out Roy is a secret agent who is in possession of a highly classified battery, codename Zephyr. Roy is either rogue or being played by his agency. One of the only redeeming qualities of this movie is that it does a decent job of not letting you know which until near the end. After a very interesting plane ride home to Boston, which lands in a corn field, June finds herself waking up alone in her bed without remembering exactly how she got there.

Honestly, the movie could just end there and save viewers the next hour and 15 minutes, but sadly it doesn't.

June, who thinks the previous night was behind her or a dream, quickly finds out neither is true. The agency appears to take June in for

questioning and Roy swoops in to "save" her. After a lot of shooting and car chasing Roy and June escape, for the moment.

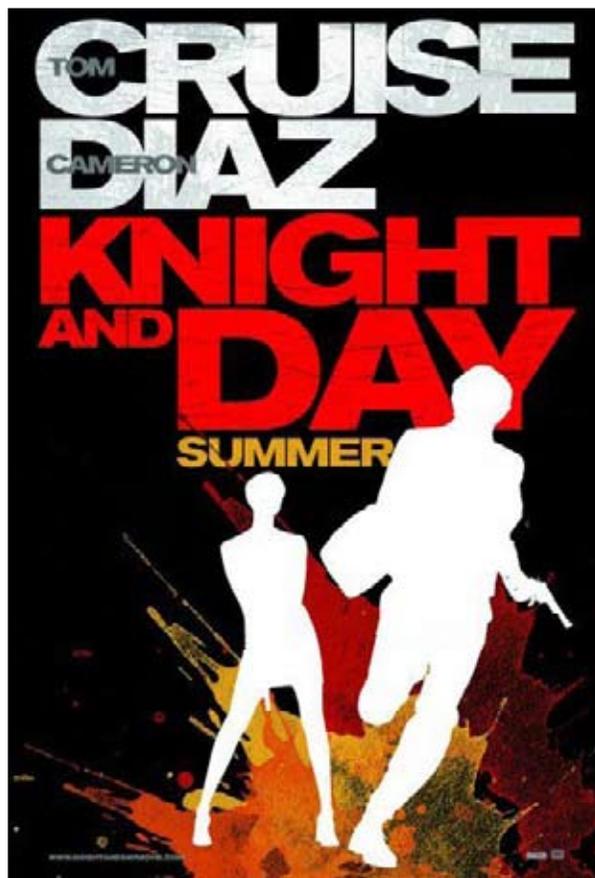
The movie from this point has little

downtime. Their journey takes them to a small island off the coast of Portugal, into Austria and onto the Orient Express.

The scenery is beautiful, but that's about it. They go through all these scenes shooting, running and jumping. You're asking yourself what's wrong with that, and it's really difficult to explain. "Knight and Day" is an action movie, but never have I been so bored. During this Eurasian journey, though, another of the only redeeming qualities of the movie comes to play. In one scene one of the agency guys is hanging out of a train by a sausage rope when he "meets" another train.

That's pretty much it for redeeming qualities. Once you find out who the good guys are, the movie gets very predictable.

I'd say only see this movie if you have nothing better to do. Fortunately movies are free down here or I'd have asked for my money back due to the fact there was no disclaimer at the beginning telling me what a waste of time this movie is. ☆



PG 13

109 minutes

Rating: ★☆☆☆☆



HOCUS POCUS

10
♣



10
♣

John Ekin, a magician and comic, performs for Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers and the Naval Station Guantanamo Bay community at the Tiki Bar, July 4. The Fourth of July celebration weekend was provided by Morale, Welfare and Recreation and included a magic show, fireworks and live music.

JTF Guantanamo photos by
Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class
Shane Arrington and
Army Sgt. Tiffany Addair

Camp America liberty center

Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class

Matthew Campbell

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Working at Joint Task Force Guantanamo can be a stressful job. Additionally, living at Camp America and finding off-duty activities can present unique challenges. For Camp America residents, feeling secluded at times is natural. Fortunately, at Camp America's Liberty Center, Troopers have the ability to relax in a casual and comfortable environment. Through the services and support of Morale, Welfare and Recreation, this liberty center enables Troopers to communicate with family and friends back home. With over 24 Internet-connected computers, communicating with family members is only a click away.

Other services provided by MWR include multiple gaming consoles, two pool tables, a ping pong table, a foosball table, and the opportunity to use sporting equipment. Additionally, a 32-inch television is available to watch sports and recently released movies. The MWR center also has a phone card dispenser and four phones allowing the Troopers to make calls off base.

The liberty center is managed by a dedicated and professional MWR staff, operating this facility seven days a week, 24 hours a day, to accommodate all shift workers.

"This is the best job I've ever had," said John Hackett, an MWR recreation aide assistant at the liberty center. "I enjoy helping these Troopers. They are good people and I'm proud to be part of this team." Hackett, with over eight years of service with MWR, has worked at this MWR location for four years and continues to assist Troopers

during their deployment.

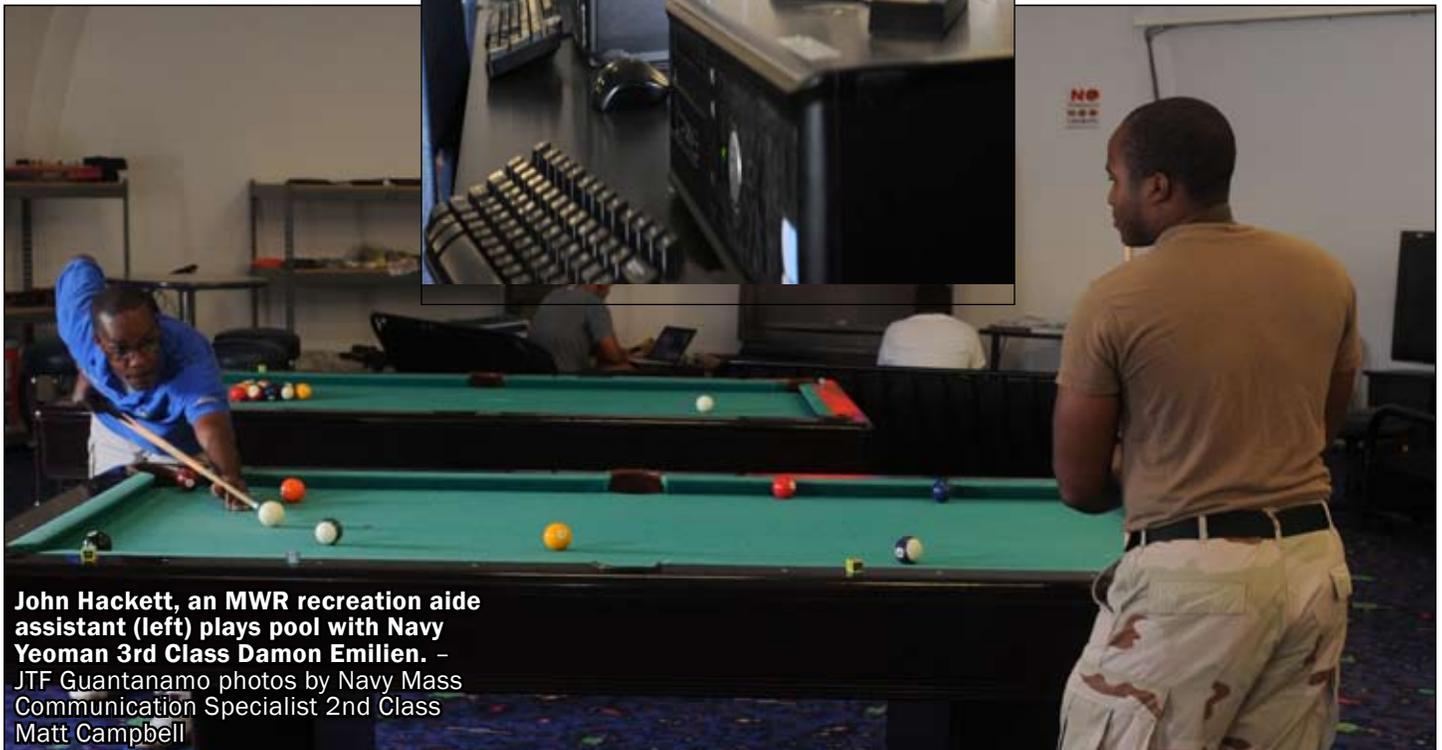
For the individual Trooper, spending a few minutes relaxing at the liberty center is a cherished experience. From talking to a loved one over the Internet, to participating in a ping pong tournament, time away from work can help relieve stress.

"This is a cool place to hang out," said Navy Yeoman 3rd Class Damon Emilien, a Trooper assigned to the Joint Intelligence Group. "I enjoy coming here as much as possible. It is a great opportunity to use the internet and talk to family, and the staff here is very welcoming and helpful."

So for those living in Camp America who are looking for a fun time in a relaxing environment and don't want to ride the bus downtown, the professional staff at Camp America's Liberty

Center has smiles and helpful attitudes, and can assist you with the many services they provide.

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 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, 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. ★



John Hackett, an MWR recreation aide assistant (left) plays pool with Navy Yeoman 3rd Class Damon Emilien. – JTF Guantanamo photos by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Matt Campbell



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

All four branches of the Department of Defense have websites dedicated to helping service members stay current on their branch of service's regulations and training requirements.

The sites aren't mirror images of each other, with only the banner at top identifying the different branch. There are many things offered on all of them, such as Information Assurance training, which all Troopers much have to access network computers, but there are also service-specific courses such as the Rosetta Stone language learning software offered on Army Knowledge Online (AKO) and Marine Net.

"Rosetta Stone is a great program," said Army Corporal Aljavan Martin, Joint Task Force Guantanamo Trooper. "I'm glad the Army foots the bill, because otherwise it'd be way too expensive for me to use."

AKO also provides many things for those pursuing professional development as well, such as correspondence courses which can add points to Soldier's promotion scores.

One of the key things the sites have to offer are DoD, service-specific and civilian-provided training courses. Navy Knowledge Online (NKO) offers, through its "e-learning" program, classes on meteorology, handling finances and general engineering training.

"Sailors utilizing NKO can engage in real time collaboration with peers, mentors and subject matter experts around the

world," said Navy Supply Corps Command Master Chief (Ret.) Jim Smith in a 2003 interview. "Starting at accession and carrying throughout their entire careers, Sailors will now have instant access to the NKO website, connecting them with their information, expertise and opportunities required to support their professional and personal development."

NKO hasn't slowed down over the years. In an article written earlier this year by Ed Barker, Naval Education and Training Command Public Affairs, he gives information on how the site is rigorously working to compile the materials Sailors need to study for their advancement exams.

"With the launch of the NKO pages and the addition of the occupational [bibliography] links taking Sailors directly to the document, Sailors can save even more time," Kirk Schultz from the Navy Advancement Center told Baker during an interview for his article.

AKO and NKO aren't the only sites offering professional development opportunities for their Troopers. Marine Net and Air Force portal also provide online courses in military education, leadership and information technology.

It's the attitude of providing information from across the Internet in one central location that makes all the service knowledge sites valuable tools to Troopers. On all four sites, there are links to a great variety of websites providing a wide gamut of information. Direct links are provided to MyPay, Military Onesource and the Department of Veterans Affairs, to name a few. 🇺🇸



Navy Chief Logistics Specialist Derrick Branch serves as proctor for a group of Sailors as they take their advancement exam. - JTF Guantanamo photos by Army Sgt. Athneil Thomas



Dynamic duo

Joey and Rory, a country music band, perform for Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers and the Naval Station Guantanamo Bay community at the Tiki Bar, July 4, during a weekend celebration. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Tiffany Addair

Boots on the Ground

by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Joshua Nistas

What inspired you to join the military?

**Air Force Capt.
Renee Rivera**



“Education and to travel out of the great state of Michigan.”

**Marine Corps Lance Cpl.
Lorenzo Ruiz**



“I really wanted to see what the Marine Corps was like.”

Army Sgt. Jose Parra



“Great benefits and career opportunities that aren’t offered in the civilian world.”

**Coast Guard Chief
Boatswain’s Mate
David Houg**



“I needed a more structured life and the Coast Guard helped me grow up.”

Humility

Navy Lt. Anthony Carr
NEGB Command Chaplain

I have been exploring the spiritual disciplines while I have been down in GTMO. I am looking at things like patience, generosity and compassion, and these past couple of weeks, I have looked at humility.

There are some people who are experts at self-promotion; they are their own best publicist. In any situation they will toot their own horn. Some people are arrogant and engage in a lot of “trash talking” and are even willing to throw other people under the bus to look good. Humility is the act of being content. I always thought humility had to do with being self-sacrificing and non-assuming, but even people who can’t even take a simple complement are drawing attention to themselves. I had to ask myself the question, do I have the right more than anyone else to certain things?

I, like everyone else, usually try to get prime parking spaces even if it means coming in earlier to get it. A lot of time is wasted just driving around seeing what is open. I decided to take the worse possible parking space when I went to work in the mornings. I found, what I first thought, was the most remote parking space there. I hiked the whole parking lot to get to the sidewalk. I passed by some pretty prime parking spaces and was tempted to grab one of them. I got used to it after a few days and there were some benefits, I always knew where my car was and although it was farther from work, it was closer to the exit. So all I really did was redefine what the best parking space was, and although I told no one about what I was doing, other people started parking in “my space” even though it was always vacant before.

My experiment in humility was pretty much a failure and I learned in so many ways how much I cling to my rights and how much I think I deserve things. The task of outwardly trying to be humble is pointless and probably, in the end, another form of pride. Humility has to be something internal, in the way you see yourself and the way you interact with other people.

We are in the military, we are going to have debates on which branch is the best, which sports team is the best and all the other choices we make everyday. But there is something about the words of Jesus that ring true as I make my trek back to my car when I go home, “If you want to be great, you must be a servant to all.” ✨

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 10 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

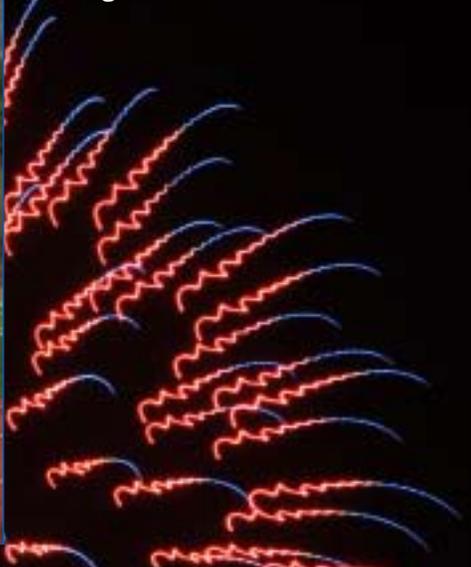
Bible study

Sunday 6 p.m.

Troopers' Chapel



Runners participate in a Family Freedom Fun Run, July 3. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Michael R. Holzworth



Blonde Ambition performs at the Tiki Bar July 3. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Air Force Tech Sgt. Michael R. Holzworth



Fireworks burst over Guantanamo Bay, July 4. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Tiffany Addair