

THE WIRE

A JTF Journal

115th transfers authority
PR provides external security
Military Police's birthday
69 years of service



Integrity counts

Army Master Sgt.
Grant P. Henne
J2 NCOIC

Integrity is a value we look for in all of our Troopers and especially our leaders. Integrity is important to every member of every service and is the value that we speak of when we want to describe trustworthiness and responsible.

The Army defines integrity as doing what is right, legally and morally. It is being willing to do what is right even when no one is looking. It is our "moral compass" and inner voice.

It's by having integrity that we are able to earn credit among our peers. We are judged by others during our whole career on whether we have the integrity to complete a mission or a task. Exhibiting integrity allows others to trust us to lead with the assurance that the job will be done and it will be done right.

Integrity is like interest earned on a bank account. Every time we take on a job or responsibility and accomplish that task without a supervisor looking over our shoulder, then we have added interest to our integrity account.

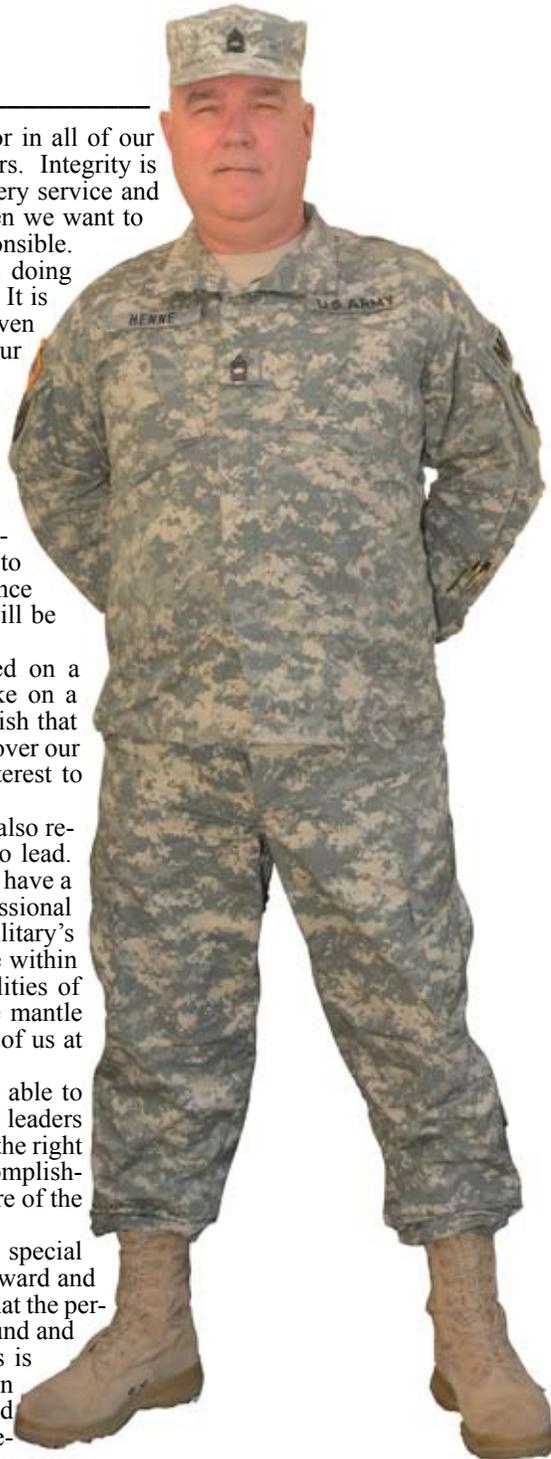
A Trooper's personal integrity also reflects on the individual's ability to lead. It's important all service members have a high degree of personal and professional integrity. This is because of the military's tradition of making sure everyone within a unit can assume the responsibilities of the person placed above him; the mantle of leadership can fall on any one of us at any time.

It's paramount all Troopers be able to feel and know they can trust their leaders to be responsible enough to make the right decisions that will ensure accomplishment of the mission and the welfare of the troops they lead.

As leaders, we look for that special Trooper who is willing to step forward and do the right thing. We also know that the person who takes the moral high ground and follows his or her moral compass is not always the most popular person in the group. These Troopers need to be cultivated and mentored because they have chosen to make the right choice and show they have the integrity to do what is right.

The biggest challenge to integrity is peer pressure. Sometimes fellow Troopers can put great pressure on each other. This may be illustrated when a job is done to minimum standards in order to finish work early or only doing half the mission by taking unnecessary or risky shortcuts.

A person with integrity will step forward and convince the others to do the right thing no matter how unpopular that may be. If you wish to be that go-to person, then I urge you to know your job and your Troopers, and always have the integrity to do what you have been entrusted to do and accept responsibility for your actions in everything you do. 🇺🇸



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COVER:

Army 1st Sgt. Melvin Torres of B Co., 1/296th Infantry Regiment raises the Puerto Rican flag outside their administrative office, Sept. 20. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Joshua R. Nistas

BACK COVER:

Rich Green of GTMO Ink tattoos Petty Officer 2nd Class Katie Embleton, Master-at-Arms, Sept. 27. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Air Force Senior Airman Gino Reyes

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.

Army Capt. Nicholas Pacheco, 115th Military Police Battalion commander, rolls the guidon signifying completion of their mission for JTF Guantanamo, Sept. 22. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Juanita Phillip



New Troopers, same mission

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

The Puerto Rico Army National Guard's B Co. 1/296th Infantry Regiment relieved the Rhode Island Army National Guard's 115th Military Police Battalion of its responsibility of providing external security to Joint Task Force Guantanamo during a transfer of authority ceremony, Sept. 22.

Capt. Nicholas Pacheco, 115th MP Battalion commander, said he is proud of the job his Soldiers have done this past year.

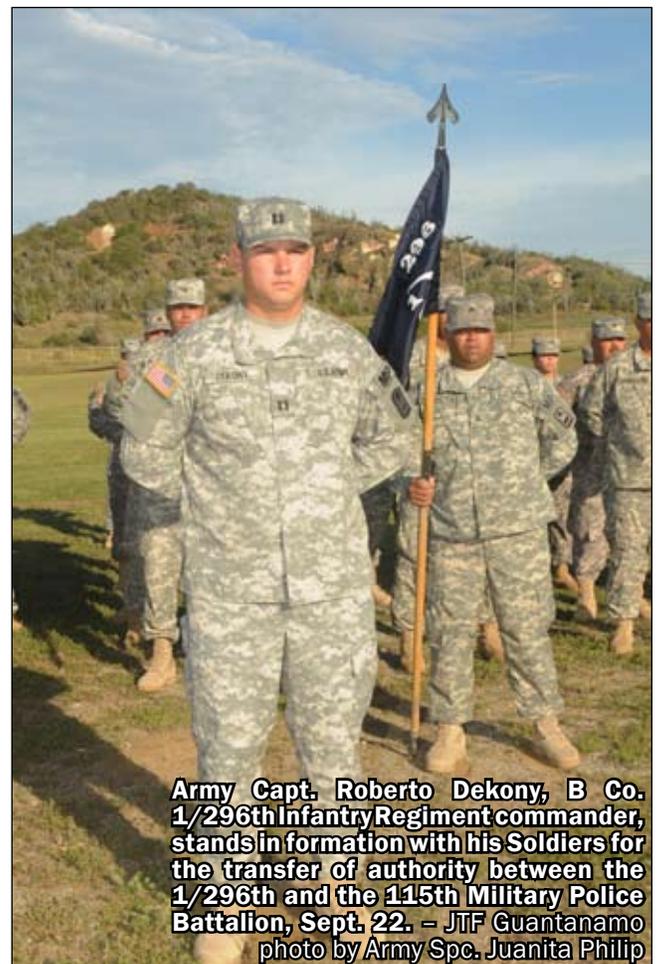
"The accomplishments of the 115th are many, too long to list," Pacheco said. "We believe that we have raised the bar for our mission and completed a number of different tasks to improve our readiness."

Providing external security to JTF Guantanamo is a complex mission. The Soldiers of the B 1/296th will find themselves doing everything from checking identification badges at the gates to providing security and manning specialized security forces within the detention facilities.

Capt. Roberto Dekony, B 1/296th commander, said he is proud to take on the mission the 115th has so diligently carried out the past year. Dekony, like Pacheco when he and his Soldiers began carrying out their mission in GTMO, strives to find better ways to carry out the mission.

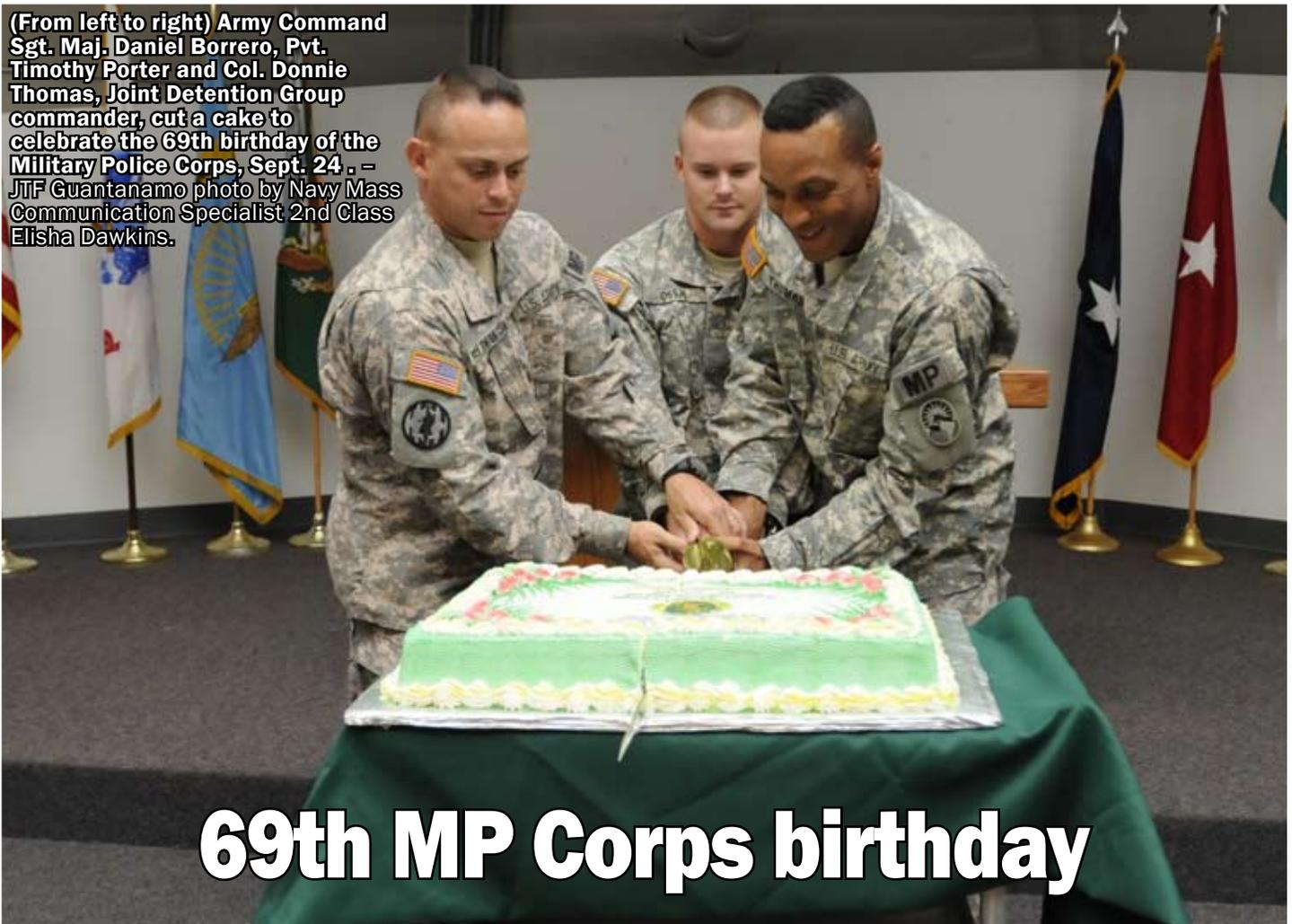
"We hope to accomplish new standards and raise the bar," Dekony said. "I have no doubt that my Soldiers will accomplish that mission. We will keep supporting the Overseas Contingency Operations here, and enforce the SOPs [Standard Operating Procedures] and regulations at JTF Guantanamo."

Until the last detainee is released or transferred, providing external security is critical to ensuring the safety of everyone within the gates of JTF Guantanamo. Dekony said he looks forward to providing this safety for the next year. ✪



Army Capt. Roberto Dekony, B Co. 1/296th Infantry Regiment commander, stands in formation with his Soldiers for the transfer of authority between the 1/296th and the 115th Military Police Battalion, Sept. 22. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Juanita Phillip

(From left to right) Army Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Borrero, Pvt. Timothy Porter and Col. Donnie Thomas, Joint Detention Group commander, cut a cake to celebrate the 69th birthday of the Military Police Corps, Sept. 24. — JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Elisha Dawkins.



69th MP Corps birthday



Army Col. Donnie Thomas, Joint Detention Group commander, speaks during the 69th Military Police Corps birthday celebration ceremony, Sept. 24. — JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Elisha Dawkins.

Army Staff Sgt.
Shereen Grouby

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Birthdays and anniversaries are special occasions. The 525th Military Police Battalion celebrated the Military Police Corps Regiment's 69th anniversary at Troopers Chapel, Sept. 24.

Joint Detention Group Commander Col. Donnie Thomas offered his appreciation to the fellow military police in the audience.

"Thanks to all the great soldiers who are here — they are a small token of MPs that we have. We have nearly 50,000 military police throughout the global war on terrorism," said Thomas. "This birthday celebration is all about you and what you do for our military police corps to make it successful. You do a great job."

The ceremony centered on the theme of this year's anniversary, "The Army's Triple Strand of Strength, Military Police Corps Regiment."

The military police's triple strand is comprised of the military occupational specialties of 31B, Military Police; 31D, Criminal Investigations Special Agent; and 31E, Internment/Resettlement Specialist.

These military occupational specialties were showcased during a slideshow. The photos presented military police of the past and present. It showed what military police

are doing at Joint Task Force Guantanamo, offering insight to the challenges of being a military police here. It also showcased the JTF Guantanamo Army team who attended this year's Warfighter Challenge Competition.

The grueling 12-event competition, held at Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo., started with 36 teams and by the second day was down to 22 teams. The three-day event included a road march, obstacle course, maintenance test, written exam and an oral board for the finalists.

"The miracle of this competition is that it stayed on focus with the triple strand. You would be inspired to watch soldiers after completing a 15-mile road march run out and cheer their peers in," said 525th Military Police Battalion Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Borrero. "They honored the JTF and the JDG and individual warriors, finishing tenth overall out of 36 teams Army wide."

The Military Police Corps is one of the youngest branches of the United States Army. It was officially established September 26, 1941. It can trace its lineage and history back to the American Revolution. This corps has participated in all current military operations within the last decade and is instrumental in operations here at Joint Task Force Guantanamo. 🇺🇸

WILL FERRELL MARK WAHLBERG

THE OTHER GUYS

PG 13

107 minutes

Rating: ★★☆☆☆

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

“The Other Guys” is the perfect mix of old school cop movie and comedy sketch. If “Lethal Weapon” and “Saturday Night Live” got together, this movie would be their baby.

Allen Gamble (Will Ferrell) and Terry Hoitz (Mark Wahlberg) are NYC police officers who find themselves constantly out-done by their more flashy and arrogant peers. Gamble, a former accountant, is perfectly OK with sitting at his desk, but Hoitz wants to atone for a terrible past mistake and get out on the streets to become a hero.

This movie is nuts. Any time Gamble and Hoitz find themselves in a situation that would be serious in any other movie, they do or say something completely off the wall that leaves you either laughing or shaking your head in disbelief.

Early in the movie Hoitz’s dark secret is revealed. It took

him from being next in line to head the homicide department to sitting at a desk with an accountant for a partner. If a real cop had done what he did, a gang of crazy New Yorkers would have thrown him into the Hudson River with a cement block tied to his feet.

It takes some ridiculous gun battles, homeless orgies and the meeting of Gamble’s gorgeous wife (Eva Mendez) for Gamble’s secret to come out, but it is definitely worth the wait. Hoitz’s reaction to Gamble’s wife continues to be a source of laughs throughout the movie. In typical alpha male attitude, he simply cannot comprehend how the geeky accountant married someone so attractive. The relationship between Gamble and his wife also continues to be a great source of comedy throughout the movie.

One of the difficult things about writing movie reviews is the temptation to say too much. As I’m writing this I keep picturing and hearing funny scenes and quotes that I want to type, because they are hilarious. Quotes like “I’m like a Viagra pill with a face!” and “Ay, ay, ay, if I want to hear you talk I will shove my arm up your [butt] and work your mouth like a puppet.” will keep you laughing from beginning to end.

While “The Other Guys” definitely falls into the category of stupid-funny, the characters are interesting, the writing fresh, and the story, while slightly weak, keeps your attention through sheer ridiculousness. It’s no “Anchorman” or “Talladega Nights,” but the Ferrall/Wahlberg team does not disappoint. ★



The Rhode Island Army National Guard's 115th Military Police Battalion passed the responsibility of providing external security for Joint Task Force Guantanamo to the Puerto Rico Army National Guard's B Co. 1/296th Infantry Regiment during a Transfer of Authority ceremony, Sept. 22.

JTF Guantanamo photos by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Elisha Dawkins and Army Spc. Juanita Philip



Conch season, what to know



The Queen Conch is a large, marine, gastropod mollusk. Mollusks (from the Latin word molluscus, meaning “soft”) are a phylum of invertebrates with more than 100,000 known species. It has a spiral-shaped shell with a glossy pink or orange interior.

**Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class
Wesley Kreiss
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs**

For many stationed at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, it is their first time being in close proximity to the ocean. Many gather seashells as a memento of their time spent at the beaches, and frequently that shell is a conch shell. But one must know the rules for acquiring such treasured shells.

A conch (pronounced *konk*) is a common name which is applied to a number of different species of medium to large-sized mollusks or their shells, which generally are large and have a high spire and a siphoned canal.

Conch season here is all year round except for three months: March, April and May.

COMNAVBASEGTMOINST 1710.10 is the base regulation regarding marine life, conches, shells and reefs at Guantanamo Bay. Here, the limit is one per day. Severe fines and penalties can be imposed for removing immature conches from the ocean.

The Queen Conch, also referred to as the pink conch, has a bright pink sheen on the smooth inside of its shell. The shell itself grows into a spiral design with protruding spikes. A Queen Conch can grow to be 12 inches long and weigh more than four pounds.

Nine-inch conch usually show maturity. Maturity means it had a chance to reproduce, thus replenishing the population.

Conch season was setup to let the Queen Conch breed. When they are three-and-a-half to four-years-old, they will go into shallow sandy areas to find a mate. They are a long-lived species,

generally reaching 20-30 years-old; however, the lifespan has been estimated as up to 40 years according the Office of Protected Resources – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries.

Conch can be found on the ocean floor ranging from shallow water to 250 feet. “Some will find a larger conch in deeper water, because most people do not dive that deep,” said Derek Fredrick from the NAVSTA scuba shop. He added, “There are many varieties of conches at Guantanamo Bay.”

Conch are prized both for their edible meat and attractive shell. Conch shells are sometimes used as decorative planters and in cameo making. Some South American aboriginals used cylindrical conch beads as part of breastplates and other personal adornment. In some Caribbean countries, Queen Conch shells are occasionally used as a building material, either in place of bricks or as bulk for landfill.

According to the NOAA Fisheries website, the Queen Conch is not listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), but is recognized under Annex II of the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Protocol (SPAW) and appendix II of Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

MWR provides a link on the JTF-GTMO intranet to a Naval Station guide on marine life commonly seen in Guantanamo Bay. The guide includes limits on conches, size restrictions and prohibited marine life. So enjoy conch season for most of the year at Guantanamo Bay, but always be safe, know the regulations and receive proper diving instructions from certified instructors. ☆

GTMO Ink tattoos Troopers

Army Spc.

Juanita Philip

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Army Pvt. Tim Passet, a guard with the 189th Military Police Company, gets inked by tattoo artist Guapo, while his friend, Army Pfc. Andy Bestor, also a guard with the 189th MP Co. lends moral support, Sept. 23. – JTF Guantanamo photos by Army Spc. Juanita Philip



One of the many good things about serving overseas or even at stateside locations in the military, is the local art scene. Service members sample the regions style by sometimes getting tattoos at the port of call or installation at which they are stationed.

At Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, personnel are limited to the confines of the base, so entertainment or art have to come here.

Morale, Welfare and Recreation sponsored ‘GTMO Ink.’ Tyler, Rich, Guapo, Dee, Miho, Shoe and Kevin, are a group of tattoo artists from Massachusetts and Colorado who get together once a year to provide tattoos to residents at Guantanamo Bay. The group has traveled to GTMO for seven years to tattoo personnel here.

“MWR has a contract with the tattoo artists to provide services here at GTMO through Oct. 1,” said Amiee Mac Donnell, the MWR community activities director.

Tyler Green and his brother, Rich, have become regular visitors to Guantanamo Bay. They provide their unique services to Troopers at GTMO in the hopes their services help relieve the stresses of service members’ jobs.

The tattoo artists arrived on island Sept. 19, and thus far have been working 15-hour days to accommodate as many customers as possible. “We have 12 working days on island,” Green said. “We start at 9 a.m. and work continuously to midnight. It’s tough but it’s what I can do to say thanks.”

Many of the JTF-GTMO service members visited the tattoo artists to have mementos of their time here permanently inked on their skin.

Patricia Farley, a Navy Legalman 1st Class attached to the Office of Military Commissions as a court reporter, visited GTMO Ink before leaving the island for another assignment. “I wanted something from Guantanamo Bay that I could keep forever,” she said.

The group is contracted to provide tattoos that meet Department of Defense military grooming standards. An excerpted copy of the grooming standards, pertaining specifically to tattoos, for each branch is on-site where the services are performed.

“I am very thorough about following the regulations. I’m briefed every time I come down here on what’s acceptable. The first time I came down here I was given a two-inch book to read, and I was only on island for three days.” Green said of his first visit. “Now, the regulations are condensed to one or two pages for every branch, and we keep a copy on-site all the time.”

Tattoos are regulated in the military; here are some examples of the following regulations: Naval Administrative Message 110/06 stipulates that any tattoo/body art/brand that is obscene, sexually explicit or advocates discrimination of any sort is prohibited. Administrative separation could result for personnel disregarding this guidance.

Army Regulation 670-1, Paragraph 1-8, section e, states that tattoos or brands on the head, face and neck are prohibited, as well as any indecent, racial extremism and ethnic hatred designs. This list is very extensive and well-defined as to what is permissible and what is not. The regulations for the other services can be found at Air Force Instruction 36-2903 and Marine Administrative Message 29/10.

Green went on to say that many times he unfortunately has to say no to a lot of people who come with tattoo ideas that he feels will cause a problem with regards to the regulations.

“I have a sense of responsibility to the commanding officers who allow this to happen, I don’t want to disrespect anybody ... or prohibit someone from doing their job.” ☆

(Below) To keep his tattoo dry and clean for 24 hours, Navy Lt. Troy Wright, administrative officer with the Joint Intelligence Group, gets his tattoo wrapped in plastic wrap by GTMO Ink tattoo artist, Dee, Sept. 23. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Juanita Philip





Keeping well stocked

Army Sgt. Joyce Richardson of the Joint Visitors Bureau, and Army Spc. Lindon Dagou of Joint Task Force Guantanamo Command Element, stock cases of water in the JVB's storage container. The water is used during distinguished visitor tours of JTF Guantanamo facilities, Sept. 24. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Juanita Philip

Boots on the Ground

by Army Spc. Juanita Philip

What is your favorite form of entertainment or activity here at GTMO?

Navy Information
Technician 2nd Class
Stephanie Blakovick

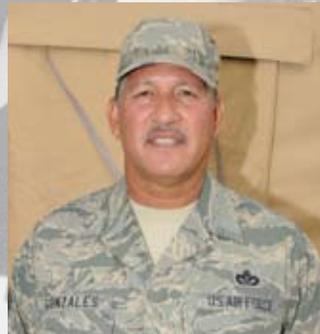
Air Force Chief Master Sgt.
Al Gonzales

Coast Guard Cmdr.
Adrian West

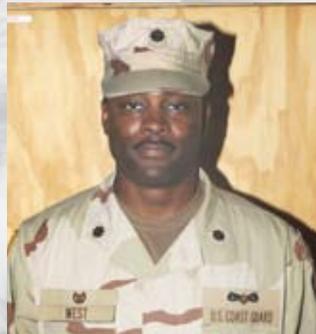
Army Sgt. Keith Chambers



"The movies. They always have all the new ones – and at different times, so I can see them all."



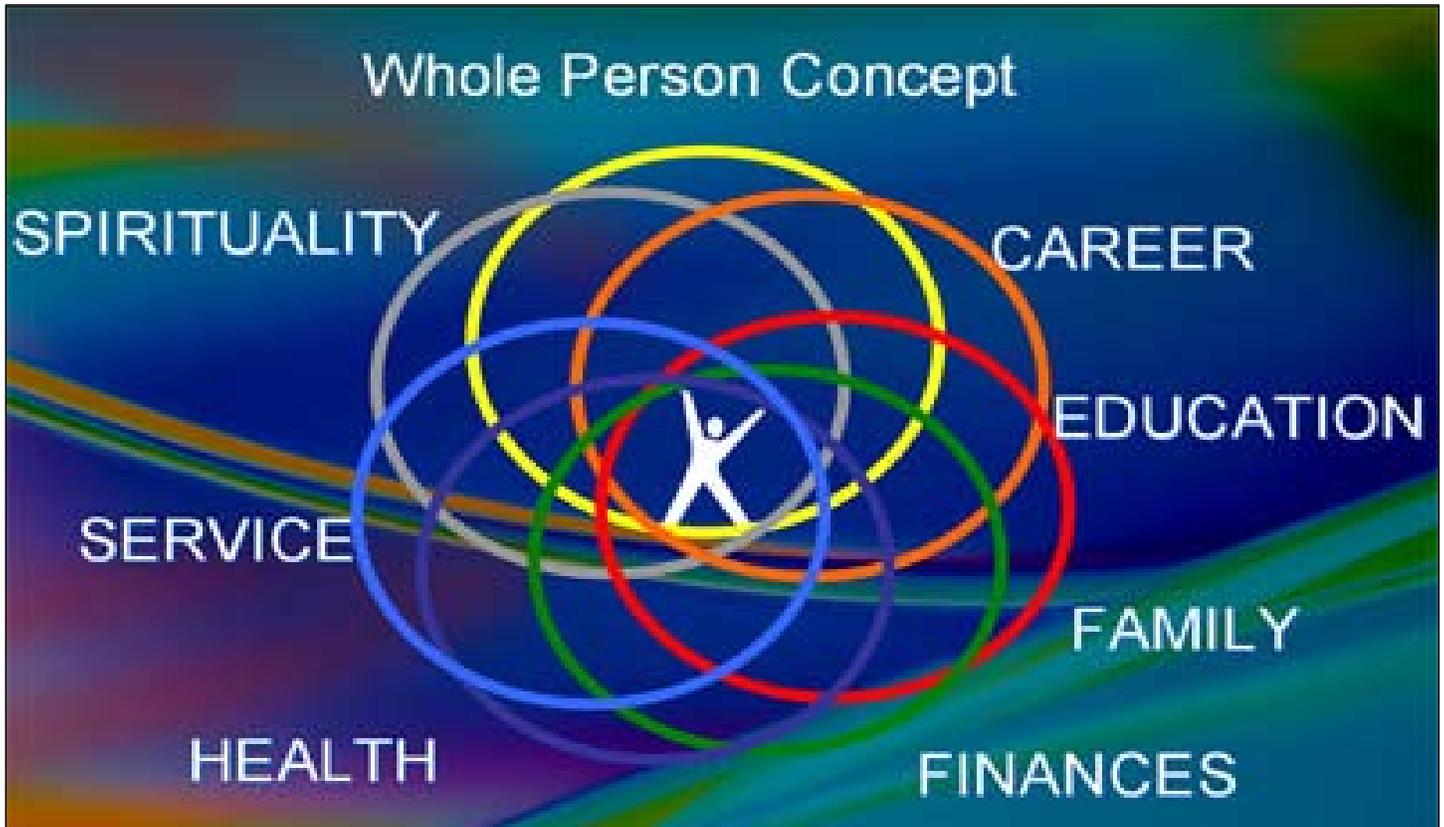
"Boating, snorkeling and preparing home-cooked meals all weekend long. I do it all."



"Sports programs – it is a chance to get fitness in, build camaraderie, and it's healthy competition."



"Playing sports and deejaying – because of the competitiveness, and to see people enjoy themselves and de-stress."



**Army Capt.
Eric Bey**

525th JDG Battalion Chaplain

Lately I am hearing a lot about the “Total Soldier Concept,” which includes family, emotional, physical, social and spiritual aspects.

Since the birth of our great nation, we have recognized that we are spiritual beings. The need for spiritual expression and growth is essential, yet we neglect it from time to time. I wondered why that might be.

Perhaps it is personal prejudices against religion in general. Perhaps it is just too difficult to try and deal with the myriad of tenants for each individual faith group, or perhaps it is a simple matter of time restraints.

I would venture to say that because we have neglected the spiritual element of the human condition, we are where we are today.

In the United States a growing number have thrown the “sanctity of human life” to the wind without regard to any consequences.

Suicidal ideations and attempts are at alarming rates, addiction to technology and “keeping up with the Joneses” are causing people to live beyond their means. Personal debt is spiraling out of control, our national debt and unemployment rate are growing. Infidelity, promiscuity, pornography, violent crime, drug addiction, and alcoholism are also growing problems. It seems that justice can be bought.

The number of good role models and heroes seems to be dwindling. Things are getting worse, not better. Have we allowed those who have no fear of God to ravage our nation?

Throughout history, when nations have awakened from their sleep and turned to God in their despair and disrepair and said, “enough is enough,” God has granted them “revival” and blessing. Let us once again become the shining beacon of hope to a lost and dying world.

In order to address the “whole person concept” the spiritual must not be ignored! Take time to reacquaint yourself with God, read the Bible, attend a worship service and let your voice be heard about the social, moral and ethical problems of the day and I will see you on the high ground! ☆

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
Church of Christ
Sunday 10 a.m.
Chapel Annex
Room 17

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

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

TATS FOR TROOPERS

GTMO Ink tattoo artist Rich Green inks Navy Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Katie Embleton, Sept. 27. GTMO Ink comes to Guantanamo Bay annually to provide Naval Station Guantanamo Bay residents and Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers the opportunity to get tattoos.

JTF Guantanamo photos by
Air Force Senior Airman Gino Reyes

