

The WIRE

An award-winning
JTF journal

Bataan Memorial Death March *525th shows their grit*

More than 200 show for
first MLK Jr. 5K run

Burger burns boost morale



Trooper to Trooper

featuring

Senior Chief Petty Officer Donald Brock

Operations officer, NEGB

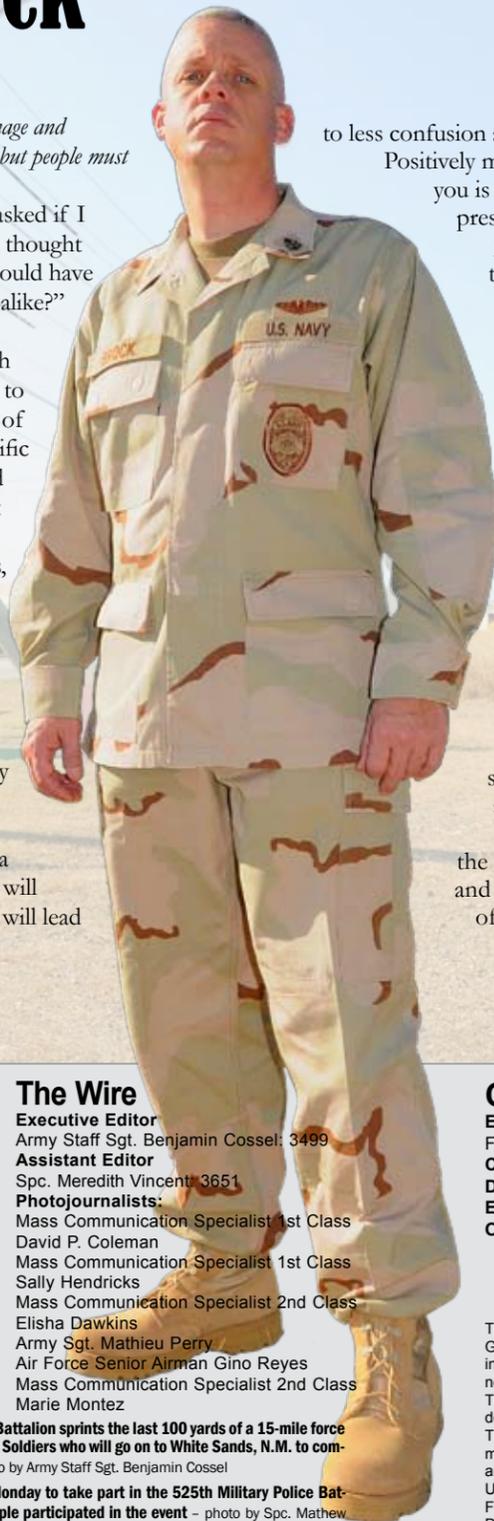
“Lead and inspire people. Don’t try to manage and manipulate people. Inventories can be managed but people must be lead.” ~Ross Perot

Recently, Troopers approached me and asked if I would write an article for *The Wire*. My first thought was “What am I going to write about that could have a positive affect on both junior and seniors alike?”

After careful consideration of the many current events and programs associated with the military, my thoughts kept coming back to leadership. There are many types and styles of leaders in today’s military and there are specific qualities that form the basis of how we lead in day-to-day operations. Some of the most important qualities I would like to share are integrity, communication, motivating others, team building and helping others succeed.

To me, integrity is the foundation of everything we do. As a leader, if you are not trustworthy then most will not follow you. Always be honest with your superiors and subordinates — once you have lost your integrity it is hard to get back. You may never gain it back completely.

Communication is paramount to the success of the mission and your success as a leader. Ensuring you are understood clearly will help produce a better product, on time and will lead



to less confusion and frustration within your workplace. Positively motivating and helping others succeed around you is challenging but your approach to people and presentation will help align everyone to the same goals and ideals. Your attitude and demeanor toward a job or specific mission is contagious and will inspire your people to achieve goals they never thought could be accomplished. Taking time out of your busy day to talk to your Troopers and help them resolve their problems will not only help them succeed but will help your unit flourish because your people can concentrate on the mission instead of having to worry about personnel issues. Many of us have natural leadership abilities. However, just as many, if not more, do not and must continuously practice these qualities to make ourselves better. Most of you out there in the JTF are leaders even at the lowest levels of rank. Leading by example is key to showing our juniors and sometimes seniors what the standards and expectations are, further building a tighter fighting team. One final thought, treat your people with the dignity and respect that you would want and demand it up and down the chain of command. Honor Bound!

JTF Guantanamo

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COVER: Pfc. Brandon Cummings of the 525th Military Police Battalion sprints the last 100 yards of a 15-mile force march, Sunday. The force march will whittle down to the top six Soldiers who will go on to White Sands, N.M. to compete in the 22nd annual Bataan Memorial Death March. – photo by Army Staff Sgt. Benjamin Cossel

BACK COVER: Troopers, Sailors and civilians came together Monday to take part in the 525th Military Police Battalion’s Martin Luther King, Jr. 5k fun run. More than 200 people participated in the event – photo by Spc. Mathew Muntzer



Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid greets China’s President Hu Jintao on Capitol Hill in Washington, 20 Jan 2011 (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

Chinese President Hu Faces Critics in US Congress

Voice of America News Service

Chinese President Hu Jintao has faced his critics in the U.S. Congress for talks on human rights, economic policy and North Korea.

House speaker John Boehner said he and his colleagues raised their “strong, ongoing concerns” of reports of human rights violations in China, including the denial of religious freedom, and the use of coercive abortion as a consequence of the “one child” policy.

He said “curtailing the aggressive behavior of North Korea” was also on the agenda.

Members of the U.S. Congress have expressed anger about China’s human rights record and its currency policies that many lawmakers believe are taking away American jobs. Mr. Hu met with House lawmakers before moving on to the Senate.

Boehner said he hopes dialogue with China on the issues will continue.

On Wednesday, Mr. Hu was the guest of honor at the White House, where he and President Barack Obama held talks on a wide range of issues, including human rights, North Korea and China’s economic policies. Mr. Obama said he reaffirmed America’s fundamental commitment to the universal rights of all people.

Boehner and Senate Majority Leader

Harry Reid turned down invitations to attend a black-tie White House dinner for Mr. Hu. Both lawmakers said they were simply waiting to meet with him Thursday. But anger is running high in the Congress over China. Reid called Mr. Hu a “dictator” during a television interview this week, but then said he regretted the remark.

Mr. Hu made a rare concession on the rights issue Wednesday during a joint news conference with Mr. Obama. After the U.S. president publicly called for China to uphold universal rights, Mr. Hu conceded that “a lot” must still be done to improve human rights in his country.

Mr. Hu is also delivering what China has billed as a “major address” to a U.S. business forum before traveling to Chicago, America’s third largest city. In Chicago, he will highlight cultural contacts between the countries and attend a contract-signing ceremony.

Another source of friction between the United States and China is the currency issue, as legislation has already been introduced in the U.S. Congress calling for tariffs on Chinese imports if Beijing continues to keep the value of the yuan artificially low.

Mr. Obama said Wednesday a higher yuan would help address the huge trade imbalance between the two nations.

Commission to Recommend Lifting Ban on Women in Combat

Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

A commission of current and retired officers, senior noncommissioned officers and civilians charged with evaluating Defense Department policies to ensure they promote equal opportunity plans to recommend lifting the ban on women in combat.

The nonpartisan Military Leadership Diversity Commission will make 20 recommendations to President Barack Obama and Congress to increase diversity and inclusiveness and develop “a demographically diverse leadership that reflects the forces it leads and the public it services,” according to a pre-decisional draft document posted on the commission’s website.

The final report is expected in March.

Consumer Advocates Seek Military’s Input

Mike Joseph
American Forces Press Service

Leaders implementing the federal government’s new consumer protection agency met with Joint Base San Antonio servicemembers here Wednesday to discuss the unique financial issues facing military families.

Elizabeth Warren, assistant to the President and special advisor to the secretary of the treasury on the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and Holly Petraeus, who recently joined the implementation team to help in establishing the bureau’s Office of Servicemember Affairs, will use information gathered from the meeting to create the new support office for military members.

“We need to get a sense of what’s happening [financially to servicemembers], because ultimately, we need to be able to build the right support structure,” Warren said.

Navy Recovers Body of Missing USS Halsey Sailor

Stars and Stripes

The U.S. Navy on Wednesday recovered the body of a female U.S. sailor reported missing from the guided missile destroyer USS Halsey a day earlier, according to a Navy official.

The sailor, whose name has not been made public, was spotted by a helicopter involved in the search and rescue operation, and recovered by a rescue swimmer, said Lt. Frederick Martin, spokesman for the Navy’s 5th Fleet. Her body was spotted about 75 miles east of Fujairah, United Arab Emirates. The Halsey had been operating in the Gulf of Oman at the time of the sailor’s disappearance.

News from the Bay

University offers tips on saving money

The Chapel Section of Joint Task Force Guantanamo is teaming up with Financial Peace University to teach Troopers how to manage their money safely and economically.

The classes, which are free and open to anyone who is interested, are held every Monday from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

“They will teach you tools you can use to help responsibly conserve financial resources,” explained Air Force Staff Sgt. Archie Gerald, JTF chaplain’s assistant. “Basically, they will help you increase your money.”

Gerald warned the classes are not limited to Troopers who have financial issues, but to anyone who wants to learn how to handle their money wisely. “It’s not just for people who are having problems,” he said. “It teaches you how to be more responsible in saving money for your future.”

There is room for approximately 16 people per class, said Gerald, but participants must sign up beforehand. For more information, contact JTF chaplain Capt. Daniel Price at x2305.

Spc. Meredith Vincent

Registration begins for glow golf tournament

Registration for the Feb. 5 Glow Golf Tournament will be held Saturday Jan. 22 and Jan. 29 from 9 a.m. to noon and Sunday Jan. 23 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Naval Station Exchange Atrium.

Tim Pflingsten, the event’s coordinator, said the tournament is open to all residents but there is a \$25 fee.

Pflingsten also said those participating should be at the golf course that Saturday by 6 p.m. for a 7 p.m. tee-time.

For more information about the glow golf tournament, contact Clara Bunch at clara3060@msn.com or dial 77501 or contact Pflingsten at tpflingsten@hotmail.com or dial 77706.

Army Staff Sgt. Benjamin Cossel

JSMART introduces circuit training for the work week

The Joint Stress Mitigation and Restoration Team of Joint Task Force Guantanamo is offering circuit training every Wednesday at the Camp America Pavilion from 11:00 a.m. to noon.

The training is designed to allow Troopers to exercise and release stress during their work week, said Navy Lt. Jason Duff, officer in charge for JSMART.

“It’s fun and everyone motivates one another,” explained Duff. “All the exercises can be altered to the person’s fitness level, so everyone will benefit.”

The program is only a couple of weeks old, said Duff, and therefore still trying to find its niche.

“We will certainly benefit from feedback as more and more people join,” he said. “We anticipate interest will begin to rise.”

Spc. Meredith Vincent

Bayview Club brings island fever to GTMO

The Bayview Club is hosting a Polynesian Luau Saturday, starting at 6 p.m.

Tickets for the evening’s dinner have already been sold out, but the show following is open to anyone, said Amice MacDonnell, community activities director for Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

“There will be island music, a witch doctor who will do fun things with the crowd, and a fire dancer,” elaborated MacDonnell.

The Orlando, Fla. 7-person group has visited Guantanamo Bay before and was a success.

“We brought them here last here and they sold-out,” said MacDonnell. “It was a very popular event so we decided to keep it going. We’re very pleased they could come back.”

MacDonnell said the MWR tries to bring events that will appeal to everyone.

“This is something for the whole community,” she said.

Spc. Meredith Vincent

Information dominance insignia awarded

Earning the distinction of being the first to have a new badge, 10 naval officers were pinned with the Information Dominance Corps Warfare insignia during a ceremony Thursday at the north east gate.

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary Roughead approved the insignia Feb. 19, 2010. Officer and enlisted personnel who earn the new insignia have to complete a rigorous personal qualifications program.

“The Information Dominance Corps will create a cadre of information specialists, who come with individual community identities and unite to be managed as a corps, developed as a corps, and to fight as a corps,” said Vice Adm. Jack Dorsett, deputy chief of Naval Operations for Information Dominance. “This warfare pin represents a command identity for the Information Dominance Corps.”

The Information Dominance Corps will consist of more than 44,000 active and Reserve Navy officers, enlisted and civilian professionals who possess extensive skills in information-intensive fields to develop and deliver dominant information capabilities in support of U.S. Navy, Joint and national warfighting requirements.

The new officer insignia is a two and three-quarter inches by one and one-eighth inches, gold matte metal pin showing a background of ocean waves, a crossed naval officer’s sword and lightning bolt with a fouled anchor and globe. The enlisted insignia is the same dimensions and design but will be oxidized silver.

Army Staff Sgt. Benjamin Cossel

Polynesian Luau
Bring your ohana to the Bayview
Saturday, Jan. 22
6 p.m. Polynesian Buffet Dinner
Show will follow
\$15.00 Adults, \$8.50 Children 12 and under
Purchase tickets at the Bayview, Tuesdays-Saturdays, 1730-2100.
Advance purchase required. Seating is limited! FMI, 75604.
Live entertainment includes hula dancers, fire knife dancers, Dr. Cardoo magic, music, and more!

Ceremony welcomes new Army NCOs

Story and photo by Army Sgt. Benjamin Cossel

As one of 17 noncommissioned officers to walk across the Windjammer stage Jan. 14, Sgt. Joseph Hansen stood rigid at the position of attention awaiting the conclusion of the ceremony. Just minutes before, Hansen signed a contract promising he would fulfill his obligations as an NCO — just one piece of the NCO Induction Ceremony hosted by the 525th Military Police Battalion.

“I’m really excited to exercise my leadership skills,” Hansen said. “I know being a sergeant is challenging, but I’m looking forward to it.”

Organizing the ceremony for the 525th was Headquarters and Headquarters Company 1st Sgt., Tina Brown.

“The purpose of today’s ceremony is to welcome our newly promoted Soldiers who are transitioning into the noncommissioned officer ranks,” Brown said.

The Soldiers will sign a contract stating they accept and will abide by the Creed of the Noncommissioned Officer, she added.

“These Soldiers realize they are no longer just a Soldier, they’re now a leader,” the 1st Sgt. said.

Taking to the podium as the induction ceremony’s guest speaker was Sgt. Maj. Harold Bodenschatz. Bodenschatz said he was humbled to be in the presence of so many noncommissioned officers and how, as a child, he knew he wanted nothing more than to be an NCO in the Army.

Before closing, Bodenschatz offered the young sergeants words of wisdom.

“No one is born to be a leader,” he said. “You’re made to be a leader.”

Bodenschatz went on to say those pinning on the chevrons had a long road ahead of them.

“It will take time and ... experience and if I can leave you with one thought it’s this,” Bodenschatz said, pausing for effect. “It is no longer about you, it’s about the Soldiers you serve. From this day forward, they come first in everything.”

After shaking hands with distinguished guests of the ceremony including Joint Task Force Guantanamo Commander Rear Adm. Jeffrey Harbeson and deputy JTF Commander Brig. Gen. Samuel Nichols, Hansen reflected on what he is excited to experience as a leader.

“I’m really looking forward to learning how to interact with all the different cultures and personalities of the Soldiers under me,” Hansen said noting he expected plenty of challenges to his leadership skills.

Speaking about the induction ceremony, Hansen explained he was proud to take part in the ceremony and valued the tradition and history of such events.

“These sorts of ceremonies are like one generation of NCOs passing the torch to another,” he said.



Noncommissioned officers with the 525th Military Police Battalion were welcomed into the ranks of the NCO Corps during an induction ceremony, Jan. 14, at the Windjammer auditorium. All told 17 newly promoted NCO’s were inducted.

Are you planning on playing any team sports this season?



“Flag football, but I need to find out how to get into it.”

-Senior Airman Shawanda Johnson



“Softball, I don’t know which position.”

-Spc. Anya Genoval



“No, I’m an individual sport kind of person. Tennis, boxing, etc.”

-Boatswain’s Mate 1st Class Randy Handshoe



“I’m writing a proposal right now for a Flowrider to make waves so we can surf and boogie board and stuff.”

-Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Garry Maxwell

Boots on the Ground



Navy first class petty officers take the advancement exam Jan. 20. If the exam is passed, the individual will become a board eligible candidate. After that, a board will select those promoted to chief petty officer. -photo by Senior Airman Gino Ryles

Petty officers take advancement exam

Story by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Elisha Dawkins

A group of Navy 1st class petty officers took their advancement examination, Thursday, at the Windjammer ballroom.

“As a chief petty officer we provide guidance for all Sailors,” said Chief Master-at-Arms Bryan Roelike assigned to the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion. “That guidance, whether it is professional or personal, is intended to assist Sailors so their focus can remain on the JTF Mission.”

Being a chief comes with a lot of history, going back to April 1, 1893 when the first chief petty officer grade was established.

Chief petty officers have two jobs: they are leaders and technical experts.

“To me, being a chief means setting the example for Sailors to follow, being a leader and leading from the front,” said Roelike.

Advancement for enlisted members E-4 to E-6 is based on performance, experience and exam scores. A first class must have

36 months in rate and complete an exam consisting of 115 occupational questions and 85 professional military knowledge questions.

“It is important to move up in rank and acquire more leadership to help our junior Sailors,” said Navy Counselor 1st Class Eric Rivera with NEGB.

Rivera said in preparing for the exam he practiced and researched information pertaining to his job, studied with other Sailors, attended a Command Career Counselor school in Norfolk, Va. and Reserve Career Counselor school in New Orleans, La.

“The advancement board is looking for leadership both ashore and afloat and diversity in tours,” said Master-at-Arms 1st Class Joshua Bright with NEGB.

Deployed Sailors who have individual augmentee orders are highly encouraged to monitor their career path for advancement.

“There are many Sailors who are IA here to Joint Task Force Guantanamo, many of

which may not follow up with their commands about their exam/profile sheets,” said Roelike. “If those Sailors miss an exam opportunity, it can set their advancement time-line back a whole year.”

Personnel Support Chief Dale Estridge, Chief Petty Officer for Naval Station Guantanamo Personnel Support Detachment, stressed Sailors must study their required material for their rate. Sailors also have online resources available for advancement and training in addition to professional military knowledge.

The results for the exam will be published between March and April. Whether deployed to Guantanamo or stationed back home in the United States, advancement in rate not only better the Sailor but overall leadership and trained skills.

“It is important to follow your path of advancement to give you the best chance for promotion,” concluded Estridge.

JTF chaplains host bi-monthly burger burn

Event boosts morale, brings junior, senior Troopers together

Story and photo by Army Sgt. Mathieu Perry

Servicemembers from the Joint Task Force Guantanamo Chaplain’s Office sponsored a burger burn outside Camp Delta Jan. 14.

The cookout is a way for the chaplains and their assistants to show JTF Troopers some appreciation and provide a place to relax in their stressful work environment.

“They (Troopers) work long hours and have hard jobs, sometimes they can’t always get to the chow hall,” said Navy Lt. Chaplain Anthony Carr. “So being outside the camps is a good way for them to get free food and camaraderie.”

Carr went on to say having the burger burn at a location outside of the camps is important because it provides a convenient place for Troops to eat for free and enjoy a sense of fellowship while at work.

“We have a lot of individuals that come up here to talk to the chaplains,” said Air Force Staff Sgt. Archie Gerald, JTF chaplain’s assistant. “It’s a one-stop shop if you will. They don’t have to go to the chaplains office to get access to the chaplain; we are able to go talk to them here.”

Carr said the burger burn is a wonderful opportunity to bring a variety of people from the task force together under a common theme.

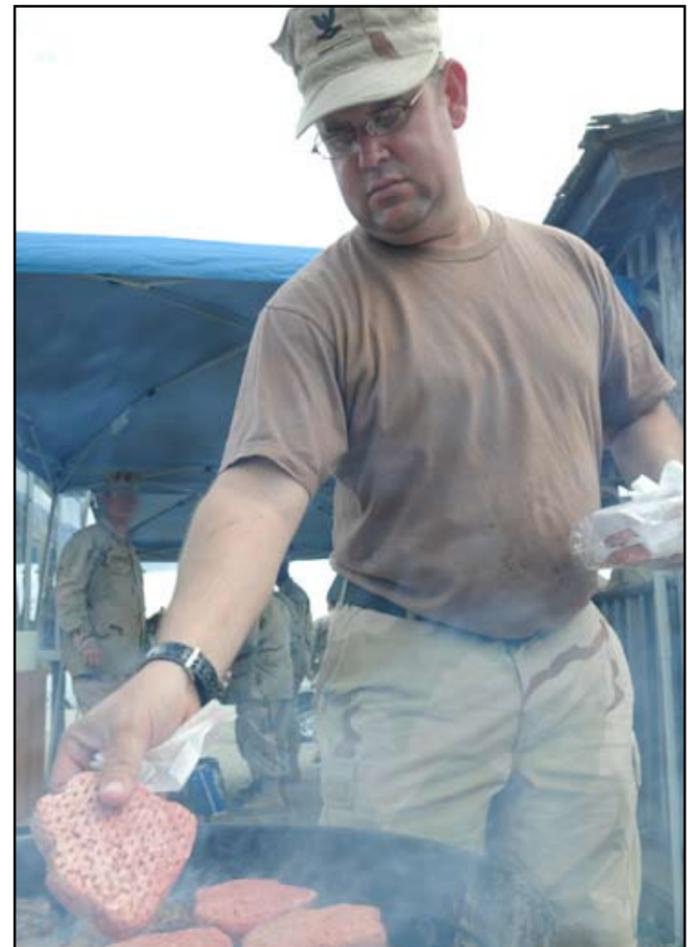
“We have people from different branches, different places in the states, and different neighborhoods,” said Carr. “But everyone loves a barbecue no matter where they are.”

The purpose of a burger burn is to meet key JTF leadership and benefit from their wisdom, said Gerald.

“It’s a valuable asset so that people can be mentored and learn the lay of the land if they have recently arrived here,” said Gerald.

Gerald said approximately 125 Troopers per day attend the burger burn. The cookout is usually scheduled mid-month for both night and day shifts.

“Just being able to see, mentor and raise the morale of the Troopers overall is a great accomplishment,” said Gerald. “So we are not only feeding them physically but also mentally, emotionally and spiritually.”



Religious Program Specialist 3rd Class Jeffrey Lauber, chaplain’s assistant, cooks for approximately 125 Troops during the burger burn held outside Camp Delta, Jan. 14. Burger burns can help boost morale as well as facilitate mentorship between senior leadership and junior troops.

Yoga class teaches exercise through breathing, movement

Story by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Marie Montez



Yoga instructor Everton Hylton leads a group of students through a series of positions known as asanas during Saturday’s class. - photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Sally Hendricks

Servicemembers and civilians from around Guantanamo Bay are welcome to join yoga classes several times a week at the Marine Hill fitness center offered

“I come here after a long day on the job to be at one with myself and get a little exercise to go along with it,” said Julie, a civilian who takes the class. “The music is real relaxing and I feel renewed after I’m done.”

Yoga classes taught in Guantanamo Bay are unique to fitness classes stateside. The postures or poses performed in this class that help condition the body are called asanas. Asanas are varied in each class to suit the students’ needs.

Instructor Everton Hylton’s interpretation of yoga emphasizes breathing with movement. Hylton’s teaching is done in a calm, dimly lit atmosphere with naturalistic sounds.

“This helps in concentration to perform each pose,” said Hylton.

Yoga is an expression of exercise many fitness enthusiasts prefer to traditional forms of strengthening and muscle toning.

“I teach yoga to help my students perform at their maximum capacity,” Hylton said. “They leave here to start or end their day uplifted with a better look on the world.”

Some say yoga is a religious exercise program. “I do not teach religion in my yoga class,” Hylton said. “I teach everyone to be at one with their body and to only do what their body will allow them to do.”

Hylton said his class has something for everyone and he hopes more people will join him at one of the several sessions to make their own assessment.

Yoga is an easy-to-learn workout program, requires no equipment, and soothes the soul while conditioning and toning the body as an alternative way to de-stress.

Marine Hill gym offers many classes including pilates, spinning, kick-boxing and many others. For more information contact the gym at 2285.

TRUE GRIT

THE GTMO EDITION

Story and photos by
Army Staff Sgt. Benjamin Cossel

The pre-dawn darkness masks the steely look of determination and resolve ironed across the 15 faces of the 525th Military Police Battalion Soldiers. The challenge ahead of them will push them to their physical and mental limits — five won't make it. For every Soldier who steps off from Kittery Beach at 5:30 a.m. Sunday, the goal is the same: earn a spot on the team heading to the high deserts of White Sands, N.M. for the 26.2-mile Bataan Memorial Death March.

"This is why the U.S. Military is the most lethal force in the world," battalion chaplain, Capt. Garland Mason said to the Soldiers as they prepared for the 15-mile trek. "Here we are at 5:30 in the morning on a Sunday — when others are still asleep — and we're going for a ruck march!"

On April 9, 1942, thousands of American and Filipino servicemembers were surrendered to Japanese forces. Those taken prisoner were marched for days through the scorching hot Philippine jungles on their way to the infamous prison facility, Camp O'Donnell. Along the way, those who fell were killed, those who talked back to their captors were killed and those who stopped to help a fallen comrade ran the risk of an on-the-spot execution.

In a series of essays written for the American Veterans Center, one survivor of the Bataan Death March, Army Col. Melvin Rosen, recalled witnessing such an incident of extreme brutality suffered by those captured.

"In the field where we met the Japanese, there was a large rectangular latrine off to the side. One American soldier had to defecate, and so he ran over to the latrine," Rosen wrote. "A Japanese patrol immediately went over and stabbed the American with his bayonet. Now, sometimes a bayonet does not come out cleanly, so the Japanese patrol shoved the man off his weapon into the latrine. A nearby Japanese patrolman was laughing. You do not know frustration until you have witnessed something of the likes of this."

Recognizing the significance of the event and the impact on families in New Mexico — the New Mexico National Guard's 200th Coast Artillery was among those captured at Bataan -- the Army ROTC Department at New Mexico State University began sponsoring the memorial march in 1989. The earliest days of the march saw only 100 or so participate. However, by 2010, more than 5,000 servicemembers, civilians and foreign military personal participated in the march.

On Guantanamo Bay, the group marched out and the journey Sgt. Laura Garcia of the 525th MP Battalion would later describe as "Hell ... the hardest thing I've ever done," began.

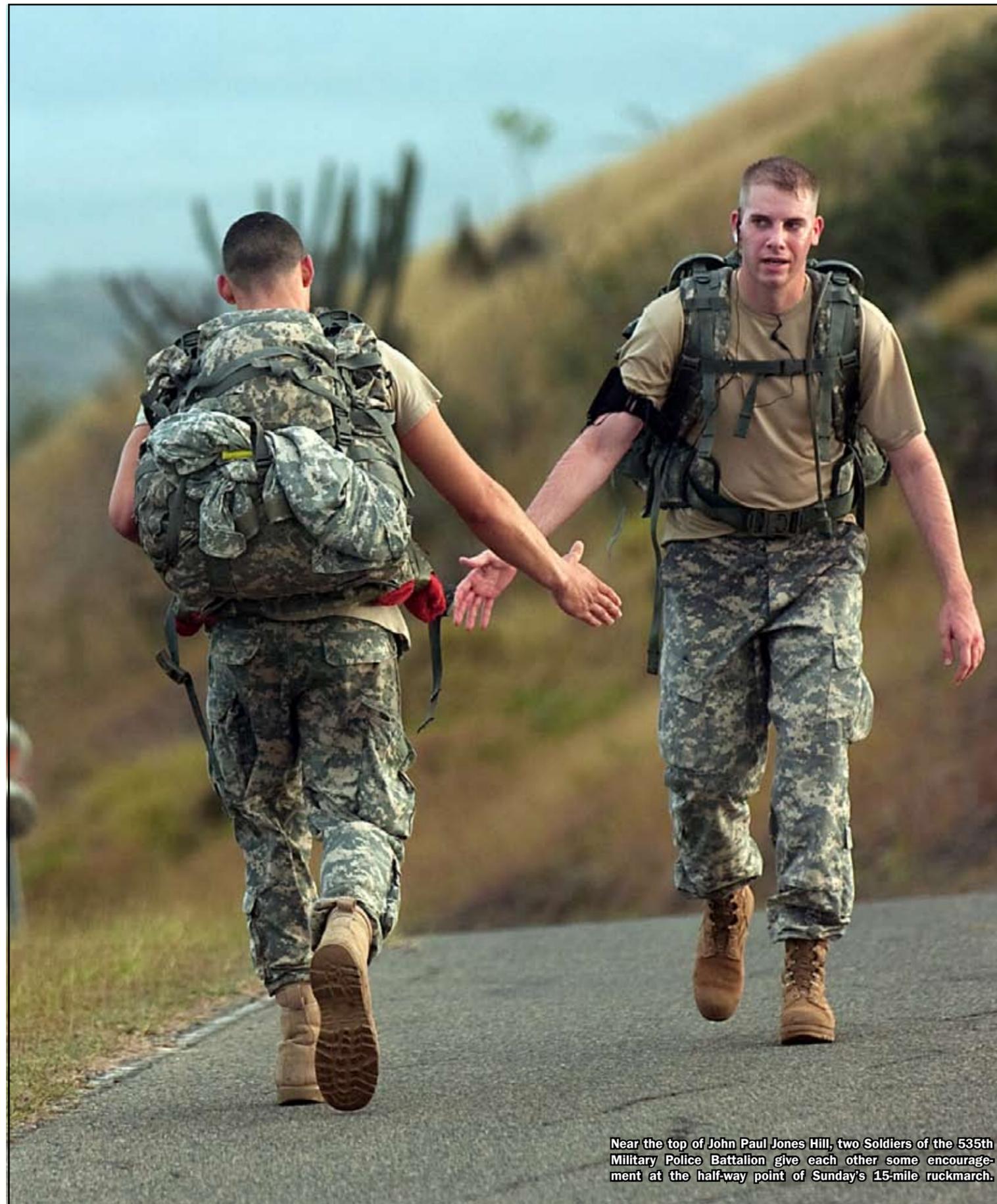
see MARCH, pg. 15.



525th Military Police Battalion Sgt. Laura Garcia leans in during a 15-mile force march Sunday. The march was the precursor to selecting a team of six 525th Troopers who will represent the battalion at the Bataan Memorial Death March in White Sands, N.M.



A member of the 525th Military Police Battalion stops to give his shoulders a slight reprieve while taking a drink of water during the battalion's 15-mile force march Sunday.



Near the top of John Paul Jones Hill, two Soldiers of the 535th Military Police Battalion give each other some encouragement at the half-way point of Sunday's 15-mile ruckmarch.

RUNNING FOR A REASON

Story by Spc. Meredith Vincent



Sgt. 1st Class Midza Crespo triumphantly finishes the MLK Jr. 5k run outside Denich gym. Crespo, second platoon sergeant for external security, placed second in the female 50 and above category.



Troopers begin their long journey as the Martin Luther King Jr. 5K run kicks off outside Denich Gym Monday morning. Introduced this year, the event brought more than 250 participants out, both runners and spectators. -photo by Spc. Matthew Muntzer

Runners of all ages, sizes and speeds lined up Monday morning at Denich Gym for the 525th Military Police Battalion's maiden Martin Luther King Jr. 5K fun run.

Tina Brown, 1st Sgt. for the 525th, said hosting a run was an inspired choice for the unit's assigned event.

"With our battalion, each unit is tasked to do a special event," Brown explained. "We decided instead of doing a traditional presentation or a guest speaker, we would do a 5K run, and that would allow us to get the whole installation involved."

Chris Fuller and Dana West work for the Oceanic Enterprise dive shop. They said they were informed of the run the day before, and decided to join in.

"It's very well-organized," said Fuller, who is only visiting the base for one week.

"We saw good camaraderie, great teamwork. It was a lot of fun."

Despite the holiday, runners climbed out of bed and made it to the gym by 6:30 a.m., just in time to run from Denich, down Kittery Beach road to the Tierra Kay housing, and back again. Brown said she was impressed by the number of people who participated.

"I'm glad everybody decided to come," she said. "We're hoping for a large turnout, and hopefully everyone is enjoying themselves today."

A large turnout, indeed. When the last person crossed the finish line, 248 was the final tally. While runners struggled to return their breathing to normal, fruit and water could be found inside the gym. Following the run, medals were awarded to the winners in each age group, along with T-shirts and a specially-made cake.



Runners approach the finish line at Denich Gym after completing the MLK Jr. 5K fun run. Fruit and cake was served inside the gym afterward. -photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Sally Hendricks

trooper focus

Army Spc. Angel Hernandez started to notice a disturbing vibe within his unit and work environment. He began seeing long faces. To combat the gloomy gray cloud that was starting to bring everyone down, Hernandez took it upon himself to engage his fellow Soldiers in something positive and started salsa lessons.

"The salsa dance class began when I started to see ... people becoming homesick," explained Hernandez. "They didn't know what to do with their free time. I thought it was a good idea to take them out of the rut."

This sense of purpose and initiative is exactly why his leadership nominated him to be this week's Trooper Focus, said Melvin Torres, 1st Sgt. for Company B, 296th Military Police Company.

"Spc. Hernandez accomplishes all tasks given to him without error and always on time," said Torres, adding Hernandez also demonstrates impressive leadership skills, citing the dance classes as an example.

Hernandez, who is a member of the Puerto Rico National Guard, joined in 2004 to help support his family and new baby daughter. He said he enjoys being in the Army not only for the constant challenges, but also because it opens up possibilities for his future.

"Now I can take care of everything," he said. "Because the National Guard gives me so many opportunities."

Hernandez has big plans for his future, both immediate and distant.

"My first goal is to make sergeant while



Army Spc.
Angel Hernandez

I'm here," he explained. "My second is to attend Warrant Officer School. That's what I'm working toward."

When not teaching Troopers how to salsa, Hernandez does his best to stay busy during his stay in Guantanamo.

"GTMO is very quiet," he said. "You have to find things to do so you don't get bored."

Hernandez occupies his time with various martial arts, tae kwon do and boxing. These particular hobbies also attribute to his motivating attitude toward physical fitness.

"He scored 275 points (on his APFT)," said Torres. "He is also always motivating his fellow Soldiers to improve their scores and conducting PT with them on his time off."

Hernandez seems satisfied with the direction his life has taken him. Looking back, is there any advice he would bestow on new recruits?

"If you don't know what to do with your life, or if you seem a little lost, let the Army help build a good future for you and your family," he said sincerely. "It worked for me, it might work for you."

Bullet Bio

Time in service: 6 1/2 years

Hobbies: boxing, tae kwon do, sci-fi books and watching movies.

Next goal: earning my E-5 and becoming a sergeant

Favorite movie: anything with Bruce Lee

Pet peeves: I consider myself a very tranquil person. I don't get upset very easily.

What's in your pockets? wallet, gum and all the cards that were given to me about command philosophy, use of force and all that good stuff.



Army Captain Daniel Price
Joint Task Force Guantanamo Chaplain

In Roman times, the god Janus was pictured with two faces, one looking forward and one looking back. Janus gave his name to the month of January, the first month of the year. And, like the Romans, we use this time of year to look back on the previous year as well as look ahead to the new one.

Why would we want to look back? There are many reasons. If it was a good year, we can see what we did right and plan how to continue on that track. If it was a bad year, we can learn from the mistakes we made and from how we handled things that happened to us. For example, because of lessons learned in years past, I need to be looking ahead now to determine where I will be going when I get home later this year.

The lessons we learn from the past, good and bad, point us to how we will grow in the future. We must ensure we can accumulate another year of experience rather than repeating last year's mistakes.

We also should use this time of year to look ahead to the future. While we cannot know exactly what it might hold for us, we can anticipate some aspects of it.

There are always new major events that come into our lives. Whether it is the upcoming birth of a child, a new relationship or the deepening of an old one, we can usually see what is coming far enough in advance to plan for it. We also generally know

when a PCS or an ETS is coming up.

For the Reserves and National Guard, we look forward to our return home to our families and the careers we left behind. Reunions with our families, friends and coworkers are not always easy. They will never fully understand what we deal with here, but we can plan ahead to make sure reintegration is as good as possible.

We also cannot fully anticipate the future. Good and bad things come up on us out of the blue. We cannot anticipate when a car accident or sudden medical issue will take a loved one from us or when a wonderful opportunity will drop into our laps. Both are possible. The key here is to plan ahead, but expect the unexpected.

In the first month of the year we are filled with a lot of hopes and dreams as well as many memories of the year before.

We look back to see where we have come from and we look forward to a new year full of possibilities and anticipate what it will bring. Happy New Year!



"The lessons we learn from the past, good or bad, point us to how we will grow in the future."

BRAVO ZULU!

The following individuals received letters of congratulations for their hard work and dedication from JTF Commander Rear. Adm. Jeffrey Harbeson. In addition to recognition in *The Wire*, Troopers receive a coin of excellence from the Admiral.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| AT2 Jeff Bell | YN3 Shauntasia Camacho |
| Pfc. Pedro Vazquez | MA2 Matthew Napolis |
| Army Staff Sgt. Andrew Elliot | Army Staff Sgt. Chavon-Lauren Salter |
| Pvt. Steven Landes | MA2 James Jones |
| Spc. Michael Smith | PS1 Juan Santana-Gonzalez |



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 Cristo
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

TRUE GRIT

Army Sgt. Mathieu Perry

This is the story of an aging marshal helping a 14-year-old girl, Mattie Ross, hunt down her father's killer and bring him to justice. The plot is nothing new. For those too young to remember, this is a remake of a classic 1969 western which originally featured the great John Wayne as Rooster Cogburn. The biggest flaw of the original was the plot's inability to compete with John Wayne's larger-than-life persona.

Leap forward more than 40 years or so and you will find Jeff Bridges smoothly playing the part of an eye-patch wearing, haggard drunk. While most viewers are familiar with the acting skills of Matt Damon (Texas Ranger LaBoeuf), I strongly suggest attending this movie, if for no other reason, than to become familiar with the acting talents of 14-year-old Hailee Steinfeld. She has set a new standard for actors her age and will surely be a name that will gain much more popularity.

Mattie Ross finds herself eye-level with responsibility as she must identify the body of her murdered father. She then goes biblical with an eye-for-an-eye attitude by hiring Deputy U.S. Marshal Rooster Cogburn to catch the killer and bring him to justice in Arkansas. Meanwhile, at the boarding house where she is

Rated: PG 13

110 minutes

Rating:



staying, LaBoeuf arrives on Tom Chaney's trail and promises to bring him to justice in Texas.

The plain-spoken, feisty and fearless Ross has a habit of changing people around. Her drop-dead determination and no-nonsense stubbornness combine to prevent her from being pushed around in the steeped traditions of the 1800s.

The trio soon embarks on a journey filled with challenges and dangers in the Wild West and the gritty justice of a time gone by. The Coen brothers remake truly stands on its own and deserves serious attention from all western movie fans. Saddle up your horse, pour some campfire coffee and head down to the Lyceum for a four banana rat affair.

	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Downtown Lyceum	The Green Hornet (PG13) 7 p.m. Love and Other Drugs (R) 9 p.m.	Tangled (PG) 7 p.m. Burlesque (PG13) 9 p.m.	The Next Three Days (PG) 7 p.m.	For Colored Girls (R) 7 p.m. Last Showing	Megamind (PG) 7 p.m. Last Showing	Morning Glory (PG13) 7 p.m.	True Grit (PG13) 7 p.m.
Camp Bulkeley	Burlesque (PG13) 8 p.m. The Next Three Days (PG13) 10 p.m.	The Green Hornet (PG13) 8 p.m. Love and Other Drugs (R) 10 p.m.	For Colored Girls (R) 8 p.m. Last Showing	Due Date (R) 8 p.m. Last Showing	True Grit (PG13) 8 p.m.	Skyline (PG13) 8 p.m.	Morning Glory (PG13) 8 p.m.
Clipper Club	The Last of the Mohicans (R) 7 p.m. Carriers (PG13) 9 p.m.	Fight Club (R) 7 p.m. Master and Commander (PG13) 9 p.m.	The Men Who Stare at Goats (R) 7 p.m.	Old Dogs (PG) 7 p.m.	Twilight Sage: New Moon (PG13) 7 p.m.	Pirate Radio (R) 7 p.m.	The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen (PG13) 7 p.m.
Other Events	Sunset Sail 6 p.m. Marina	Day Fishing Marina 6:30 a.m.				Free Bowling & Pizza 6 p.m.	

Call MWR at ext. 2010 for more information.

Movie Hotline - call 4880.

MARCH cont. .

The course took the Troopers all over the Naval Station. Reaching the top of John Paul Jones Hill – the halfway mark – the Troopers turned around and headed back to Kittery Beach for the finish.

Leading the charge to New Mexico was Master Sgt. Brian Stuckey. Stuckey started the ruck march at the front and never looked back, crossing the finish line first in three hours, three minutes.

Stuckey explained the 525th will send a team of six Soldiers to New Mexico to serve as the battalion's representatives. In addition to this march, there will be another next Sunday. The top six finishers will begin the arduous training program to compete in White Sands on March 27. Just behind Stuckey, finishing second, was the battalion's Command Sgt. Maj., Daniel Borrero. Borrero has already participated in one Bataan Memorial Death March so the advice he gave to Soldiers beginning the journey came from firsthand experience.

"This isn't something you can wake up for on Sunday morning, throw on a ruck and go do," Borrero said. "You've got to train; you've got to work up to it."

Borrero said one of the reasons he loves challenges like the Bataan Memorial Death March so much is how these sorts of events embody the Warrior Ethos.

"I will never quit, that piece of the Warrior Ethos was exemplified today," Borrero said. "Just take a look at the faces of the Soldiers as they cross the finish line and you'll see it in their eyes."

One such Soldier, Pfc. Brandon Cummings, fell across the finish line, his bottled water falling from his hand, his broken rucksack spilling out in front of him. Cummings finished in third with a time of three hours and 15 minutes, his body wracked with pain as on-hand medics attended to the doubled-over Trooper.

"Its just cramps," he explained. "My legs are completely cramping."

A few minutes later, Cummings limped around the parking lot of Kittery Beach with his friend and fellow Soldier, Pvt. Danny Harris.

"I wouldn't have made it if it wasn't for my battle buddy here," Cummings said, pointing to Harris. "He really helped me out there at the end when I really thought I was just going to give up."

Cummings said in addition to his fellow Trooper getting him through the end, his love of competition drove him to compete in the first place.

"I'm ready to go on, to go to New Mexico," Cummings said. "I'm ready to win."

Guarding the Coastline



U.S. Coast Guard Maritime Safety and Security Team 91114 patrols the coastline of Guantanamo Bay, Jan. 14. MSST 91114 provides maritime anti-terrorism and force protection for Joint Task Force Guantanamo. — photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Elisha Dawkins.

Around the JTF



Seventeen noncommissioned officers of the 525th Military Police Battalion were inducted into the Corps of NCOs during a ceremony, Friday at the Windjammer. — photo by Army Staff Sgt. Benjamin Cossel



Chief Petty Officer Jared Pringle reenlists during an underwater ceremony. — photo provided by Chief Petty Officer Jared Pringle



Joint Task Force (JTF) Guantanamo Chaplain Lt. Anthony Carr speaks with a Soldier, Jan. 14. Carr is the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion Chaplain for JTF. The JTF Guantanamo Chaplain Command provides services to Troopers regarding ethical, religious, moral and spiritual support. — photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Elisha Dawkins



Yeoman 1st Class Jyl Bucano, a member of the First Class Petty Officer Association, picks up litter around the Tierra Kay housing area, Saturday. — photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jordan J. Miller