

Volume 12, Issue 15

Thursday, March 31, 2011

# The WIRE

An award-winning  
JTF journal

## March Madness Gets Hairy

The history, the heroes and the horror!

# Trooper to Trooper

featuring

## Command Sgt. Major Daniel Borrero

Senior Enlisted Leader, 525th MP Battalion



With each passing moment that we serve there are always challenges to be faced. The challenge can be something as simple as properly wearing your uniform to something more demanding like charging into a firefight to pull a fellow Soldier out of harm's way. The challenges that each of us face each day are all unique, special and significant to that individual and at times to that unit. Here at JTF-GTMO these anomalies hold just as true. All Troopers here face individual as well as unit specific challenges that force each Soldier, Sailor, Airmen, Coast Guardsmen and Marine to, at times, fall back on what we term "Warrior Ethos" and/or our own service specific core values.

For example:  
The challenge of standing a post for 12 hours knowing full well that the person you are guarding would harm you at a moments notice. Or the challenge of providing professional medical care to an individual that would use your exceptional skills against you by saying you provided inhumane treatment versus saying, "thank

you for helping me with my ailment."

The challenge of walking away from an individual who has just spit in your face or has thrown feces in your face for the third straight day, yet you still remain professional in all that you do. Clearly, I could go on and on listing the various challenges one individual could face and for some of us we have faced all of the above listed here and maybe even more.

As a Senior Enlisted Leader for my unit, balancing the mission while keeping a watchful eye on all the individual and unit challenges is a charge all SEL's take on. We do this through our subordinate unit leaders. In the Army this starts with the team leader and squad leader and carries on through the platoon sergeants and first sergeants. All the while working hand in hand alongside our officer counterparts to make mission happen and take care of our Troopers. Recently, I received an anonymous letter sent to me

via the Battalion comment box, addressing a Soldier's challenge of trying to understand why a particular decision was made the way that it was. To this question, a part of my response was, we as a command place the needs of the mission to the forefront; which kind of sounds like "I will always place the mission first." While doing this we balance the safety of our forces against the resources available which kind of sounds like "I will never leave a fallen comrade" to ensure mission success which kind of sounds like "I will never accept defeat." While we persevere against the enemy and turn their non-compliant behavior toward a compliant status peacefully which kind of sounds like "I will never quit."

Although my explanations to the Soldiers was more specific based on the question, you kind of see where I am heading with this. So I challenge the leaders in the units to take the time out to talk with their Troopers and explain the why behind decisions made without using the terms "They said" or "They are making us" and accept that we - the senior leaders - are now, "They" and should hold ownership in decisions made by the respective commands. The Warrior Ethos and our service core values are tools that help us as leaders answer the questions of our Troopers and help us in overcoming our challenges as well. To the Troopers, you are all empowered with these same ethos and core values. I now "CHALLENGE" you to use them when you face adversity or whatever size hurdle comes your way. To ask for clarification and assistance and know that your shipmates, battle buddies and friends stand by your side to help you overcome any challenge, and that your leaders stand poised to assist you in anyway possible.

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COVER: A Trooper gives some furry lip service for The Wire. -- photo by Spc. Meredith Vincent



Wounded rebel fighters are treated in a hospital in Ajdabiyah after being brought in from the road to Ras Lanuf, in Libya, March 30. -- photo by Reuters

## Gadhafi forces drive rebels from key oil town

Voice of America News Service

Libyan rebels are frantically fleeing eastward after forces loyal to leader Moammar Gadhafi drove them Wednesday from a key oil port.

Western news reports from outside Ras Lanuf say rebels are retreating amid intense fighting with pro-government forces shelling them and firing rockets.

The reports said large numbers of rebels fled in pickup trucks, giving up nearly all the ground they had taken since a weekend push westward.

On Tuesday, pro-Gadhafi troops reversed the rebel's push, hammering them with tank and artillery fire and forcing a panicked retreat to Ras Lanuf. Opposition fighters pleaded for allied air strikes as they fled.

Loyalist troops also continued to besiege Misrata on Wednesday, the last significant rebel holdout in the west.

Western nations began enforcing a United Nations-authorized no-fly zone over Libya on March 19. On Wednesday, NATO member states begin enforcing all military operations in the North African nation.

## Lawmakers, 9-11 Commission Warn U.S. vulnerable to terror threat

Voice of America News Service

The former leaders of the bi-partisan 9-11 Commission say the United States has not done enough to protect itself from the ever evolving terrorist threat.

Commission Chairman Thomas Kean, former Republican governor of the eastern state of New Jersey, and Vice Chairman Lee Hamilton, a former Democratic congressman, testified before a Senate committee in the first of a series of hearings to review the U.S. response almost 10 years after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

Kean told lawmakers, while the United

States is better prepared to prevent attacks like those on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, there are significant gaps that require urgent attention.

He said the terrorist threat has become more complex and diverse, making small attacks from groups like al-Qaida more likely. He also warned there is a growing threat from would-be terrorists in the United States who are not affiliated with any group.

Hamilton said he is concerned the country has not done enough to streamline communication between its intelligence agencies, and it is still not clear which

federal agency or official is in charge.

Kean and Hamilton also raised concerns about the emergency command structure for cities and towns across the country, saying many communities have yet to decide who is in charge, if and when there is an attack.

Lawmakers at the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs committee hearing agreed that more needs to be done.

Committee Chairman, Senator Joe Lieberman (Connecticut) said the United States has sometimes avoided disaster thanks to an inept bomb maker or a faulty fuse.

# News from the Bay

Stories and reporting by Spc. Meredith Vincent and Army Staff Sgt. Benjamin Cossel



## Did you know going to the website WikiLeaks is a violation of government policy?

Have you ever wondered what is on the website WikiLeaks? The answer is information that should not have been released. If you attempt to visit the Wikileaks website from any computer – personal or government – you are violating Department of Defense policy and can be punished under article 92 of the UCMJ. If you attempt to gather information to post to Wikileaks or another website, or in any way release information to the public, you can be held accountable for your actions. Don't believe me, ask Pfc. Bradley Manning.

## Elementary school seeking volunteers

Teachers of the W.T. Sampson Elementary are seeking up to 20 volunteers for the school's yearly field day activities, April 6 beginning at 8 p.m. and concluding at 11:30 a.m.

"I have eight sections and having about three people per station has really worked well in case someone needs to take a break," said Coach Denise Winkler.

To give volunteers a run-down of the day's vents, Winkler said participants should be at the school no later than 7:45 a.m.

Food and drinks will be available in the school's teachers' lounge.

Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Winkler at x2207.

Upcoming MWR Community Events	
Apr. 29	Island Music at the Tiki Bar, featuring: Carribbean Chillers
Apr. 30	Day at the Bay, Ferry Landing Beach Celebrating Month of the Military Child
May 13-15	Coffeehouse Series, featuring: Shauna Sweeney
May 28	Memorial Day Concert, featuring: Natalie Stovall & Yung Joc
June TBD	Saving Abel Concert

## Who are you rooting for in the NCAA Final Four?



"I'm going with Kentucky."

Religious Programs Specialist 3rd Class Jeffrey Lauber



"Virginia."

Spc. Chaise Myers



"Butler – I want the underdog to win."

Air Force Staff Sgt. J.T. Peacock



"Virginia."

Spc. Jonathan Williams

## Boots on the Ground

# Trooper reaches education milestone, earns degree

Story and photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jason Tross

Navy Operations Specialist 2nd Class Ginny Mae Grady did more than just graduate with her associate's degree at the Naval Station Guantanamo Base Chapel March 20.

She passed yet another milestone and overcame some unique challenges on the way toward achieving her dream of becoming both a nurse and naval officer.

"Considering I'm the first person in my family to graduate, it feels awesome," said Grady. "Hopefully next year I'll get accepted to the MECP [Medical Enlisted Commissioning program] and be working on my bachelor's."

Grady, who currently works as a guard with the Naval Expeditionary Guard Battalion, earned her entire degree on active duty using the Navy's education programs and an internet connection.

"I've done everything online and paid for the entire thing with tuition assistance," said Grady. "I started taking one class at a time when I joined the Navy in 2005. It's been an ongoing process with a few classes here and a few breaks in between."

Between erratic work hours in the fleet and unreliable internet at Guantanamo Bay, Grady faced her share of difficulties.

"I definitely feel like the



discipline I learned in the military helped me with college," said Grady. "Online college isn't easy. I've lost so many papers due to the Internet kicking me off and

having to log back in. I learned the hard way to save my work."

see GRAD, page 7

## TROOPER FOCUS

### Pfc. Robert Carroll

Spc. Kelly Gary

With just more than a year in the Army, Pfc. Robert W. Carroll has already excelled as a Soldier, proving to his leadership that he has what it takes.

Carroll, a Guantanamo Bay guard with the 193rd Military Police Company, admitted one reason he joined was for the benefits but he was looking for more.

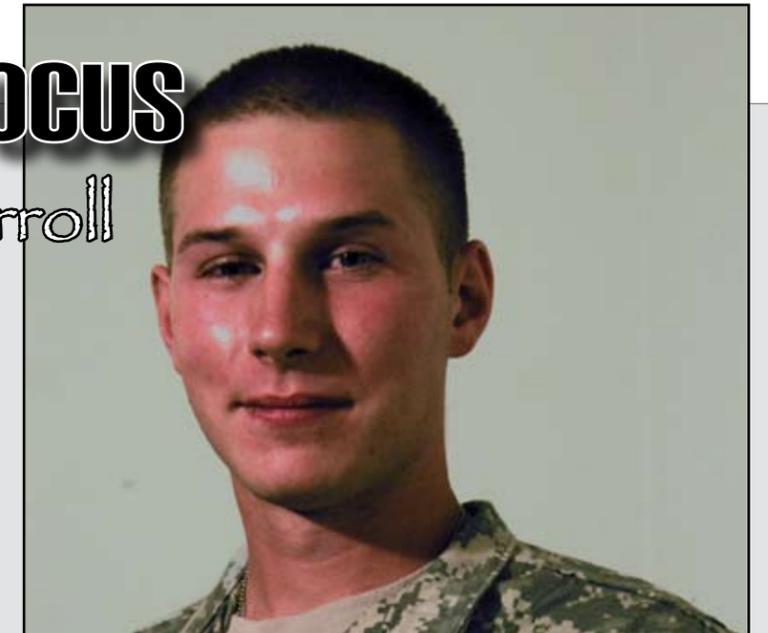
"I needed something to do with my life, something to push me in the right direction," said Carroll.

The direction the Army took him was straight from basic training to Guantanamo Bay. Since his arrival, Carroll's leadership said he has displayed great Soldier qualities.

"This Soldier goes above and beyond," said Sgt. 1st Class Glendon P. Moore, Carroll's platoon sergeant.

When Carroll is not working his long shifts, going to the gym or snorkeling, he is training for one of the various competitions he has been selected for.

"Since he has been here he has competed for and been selected for the Army Ten-Miler and the Bataan Death March team," Moore said.



Carroll expressed he has only benefited from being a part of the team.

"[The March] made me realize that I can do things I never thought I could," he said. "I never thought in my wildest dreams that I could ruck 26.2 miles."

Participating in these events has driven Carroll to excel.

"It is a good way to push myself. In the long run it will make me a better leader," Carroll said with conviction.

The Army has seven core values; of

## Bullet Bio

Time in service: 13 mo.

Hobbies: sports, snorkeling

Pet peeves: lazy people

Next goal: to make E7 in seven years

see FOCUS page 7



**Cheslea Handler gets real with DJ Funkenstein at Radio GTMO, Saturday afternoon.**



**An MWR official estimated approximately 1500 hundred people showed to see Handler perform Saturday night.**

# An evening with Chelsea

Story and photos by Spc. Meredith Vincent

More than a thousand people crowded the Downtown Lyceum Saturday night to see Chelsea Handler, host of E!'s late night talk show "Chelsea Lately," and her comedy team perform, courtesy of Guantanamo Bay's Morale, Welfare and Recreation and the USO.

"This was, by far, the largest turnout I have seen at an event since I arrived in GTMO," said Amiee MacDonnell, MWR community activities director. "We knew there would be a crowd but this even surpassed my expectations."

Handler was joined by Sarah Colonna, Chris Franjola and Josh Wolf, all comics and writers who work on "Chelsea Lately." The group arrived Friday evening. On Saturday they were given a small tour of Joint Task Force Guantanamo by JTF Guantanamo Commander, Rear Adm. Jeffrey Harbeson, with a stop by Kittery Café for lunch and autograph-signing.

The group then traveled to Radio GTMO, where they traded barbs with radio personalities Dr. J and DJ Funkenstein. The show began with insight into Handler's new book, "Lies Chelsea Handler Told Me," but soon veered off the rails into what became a hint of the act that night. Known for her crude behavior and deadpan delivery, Handler and Co. schooled the Radio GTMO crew – and a packed-in booth – in one-liners and jaw-droppers.

"That was great radio," exclaimed Mass Communication Specialist 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Justin Ailes aka Dr. J.

The interaction with Troopers

was exactly what the group was looking for, said MacDonnell.

"Chelsea and her team were excited to get out and meet the Troops," she said. "[They] made that clear from the time they arrived Friday night."

Tackling taboo subjects, raw material and confronting hecklers head on, Handler's team made it clear they meant serious comedy business as well. The shock factor did not discriminate. During Wolf's set, an unknown individual took to the stage dressed in a full gorilla costume.

"I can honestly say that has never happened before," laughed



**Josh Wolf monkeys around with an audience member. Wolf said this was the first show where a stunt like that had been pulled off.**

Wolf, who was clearly thrown off by the primate's appearance. The comedian had to be reminded by the audience what joke he was in the process of telling before the interruption.

MacDonnell, for one was



**Handler and her comedy team signed autographs at Kittery Cafe Saturday during the lunch hour, and then again after the show that night.**



**Sarah Colonna shows off her good side during her set at the Downtown Lyceum.**

pleased with the entire night's turnout.

"We really appreciate the USO sending celebrity acts of this caliber to GTMO," she said. "Shows like these really give people something to look forward to."

# Flight line security Masters-at-Arms protect base airfield

Story and photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Joe Ebalo

The Caimanera municipality of Cuba is widely known in the Caribbean for its bright, blue skies, calm tropical waters and breathtaking views of the Nipe-Sigua-Baracoa Mountains in the northern Guantanamo Province.

This sight greets incoming personnel who step off the plane at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay at Leeward Point Airfield. The next thing they see is a U.S. Navy Master-at-Arms Sailor clad in a blue digital camouflage uniform.

MA's are the primary law enforcement and security personnel of the U.S. Navy and are trained to guard piers and waterways as well as the surrounding areas in a patrol boat or vehicle. However, this small team of NAVSTA flight line security Sailors is tasked with the unique responsibility of protecting the base airfield and ensuring the safety of all NAVSTA and Joint Task Force Guantanamo personnel, visitors, equipment and facilities.

Security Department Operations Chief, Chief Master-at-Arms James Lloyd said whether the plane is filled with supplies or distinguished visitors, the flightline MA's are going to be right there to identify them upon arrival.

"Their mission is to ensure that 100 percent of the personnel with access to the airport is authorized to be there and to protect all aspects of flight line operations," said Lloyd. "It's a challenging job."

In addition to monitoring the actual runway and airport entrances, the flight line MA's are also responsible for upholding the U.S. Department of Transportation Security Administration travel safety guidelines by conducting physical inspections and operating the X-ray machine.

They are also required to stay in constant communication with the base Air Operations Department in order to support the various NAVSTA and JTF Guantanamo missions.

"The most challenging part of the job is



**Master-at-Arms 3rd Class Dominique Johnson, a patrolman stationed at Naval Station Guantanamo's Security Department, stands armed sentry watch in front of the air traffic control tower at Leeward Point Airfield, March 28.**

being in an isolated location away from the rest of the security department and having to deal with changes to different missions at a moment's notice," said Flight Line Security Leading Petty Officer, Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Benjamin Eastman. "But we are all well-trained and we know we have to stick together and execute as a team."

All MA's receive about six months of security and patrol operations training school before taking orders to an assignment. Once they check in to the NAVSTA GTMO Security Department, they go through continuous weapons qualifications and general military training. On average, MA's will work on and patrol NAVSTA for about three to five months before rotating to the flight line where they'll receive extensive TSA and airport security training, said Eastman.

Master-at-Arms Seaman Jessica Jimison, the most junior of the current flight line MA's, said she uses her training and relies on her teammates every day on the job. During a recent VIP visit March 28, Jimison was one of the first to greet a group of

U.S. Congressman and got the chance to have a conversation with one of our nation's decision makers.

"He asked me about my job and about where I'm from. He also thanked me for my service and for my professionalism," said Jimison. "On his way out I ran into him again and he told me he was impressed with how sharp all the servicemembers here were, starting and ending with me. Getting the chance to talk with a distinguished visitor like that made me feel more proud of the job I do in the Navy and here at GTMO."

In the MA community there is commonly known saying: "You can tell how a base operates and how well run it is the second you get to the guard shack." The security personnel are the most prominent representatives of an installation and – in the case of Guantanamo Bay regardless of whether passengers are flying in or departing – the flight line MA team are committed to making a good impression for the whole military community.

## GRAD cont.

Military members are entitled to various forms of assistance to pursue their higher education – be it a high school diploma, undergraduate or beyond. With the abundant services available, 19 students graduated this spring. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay Navy College Office Director Candice Rice feels that number reflects each graduate's drive

and commitment.

"It takes a very dedicated person to begin or continue their education while in Guantanamo," said Rice. "GTMO students face challenges such as slow internet and not having the capability to view videos due to the [Internet] bandwidth and arduous work schedules."

Grady confronted these

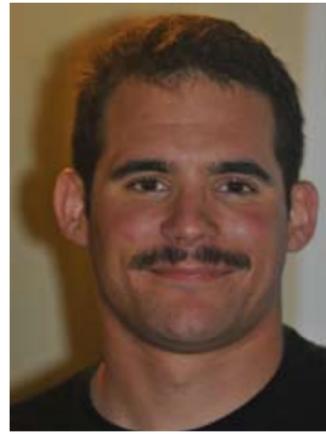
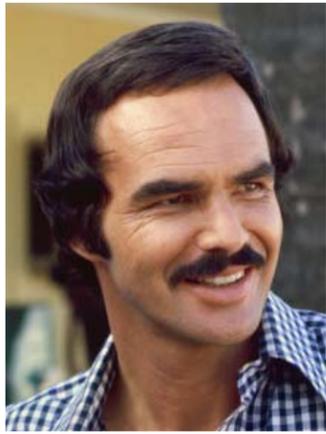
issues head on and remained focused on her long-term goals.

"I missed part of a mid-term test because I got kicked off [the Internet] half way through," said Grady. "But I got through it and still graduated."

Aside from studying and working, Grady also finds time to volunteer at the Naval Station Guantanamo Bay Naval Hospital.

There, she practices what she will need to know in the Nurse Corps – taking vital statistics, drawing blood and helping develop diagnoses.

"Ginny is a hard-charging individual who is dedicated to completing the goals she sets in life," said Rice. "A year ago when I met Ginny, she was smiling and it's great to see she still has that great, upbeat personality a year later."



# Real Men Grow MUSTACHES

Story and photos by Spc. Meredith Vincent

Guantanamo Bay residents may have noticed a curious trend sprouting on the lips of some servicemembers these past few weeks. While March Madness has long been associated with college basketball and the road to the NCAA championships, the month now has a new nomenclature, along with a new look. Breath a sigh of relief, GTMO: "Mustache March" is almost over!

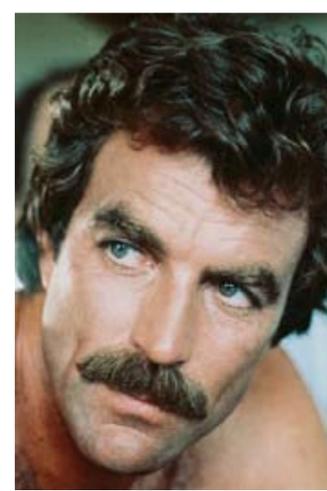
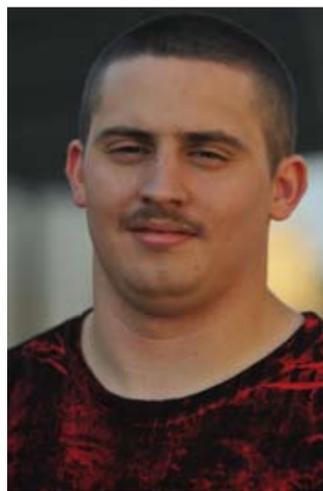
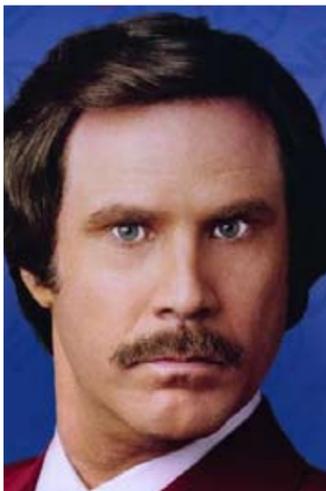
The history of Mustache March is surprisingly steeped

**"I don't like to go on the record ... and my mustache likes it even less."**

in military tradition and controversy. It all started with American fighter pilot and general officer Robin Olds. Olds was a "triple ace," with a total of 16 victories in World War II and the Vietnam War. He was known for his extravagantly waxed, non-regulation mustache, which he grew while in Vietnam. It was a common superstition

among the airmen to grow the "bulletproof mustache," but Olds was particularly proud of his. Upon his return home, Olds reported to Air Force Chief of Staff, Gen. John P. McConnell, who promptly stuck a finger under the fighter pilot's nose and said "Take it off." Olds answered automatically, "Yes, sir." It was from this incident that Mustache March was born, as servicemembers from all branches join together in solidarity and grow – oftentimes

**"It's going to be weird staring at myself in the mirror again."**



**"If I could, I would rip it off with my bare hands right now."**

hideous – mustaches.

The mustache did not always enjoy the notoriety it does today. In fact, in simpler times it was a sign of a boy coming into dignified adulthood. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, however, mustaches are often associated with the nefarious, the creepy and the reviled. The look has not been able to shake its ties to the over-sexed and over-groomed machismo of the 1970s, epitomized by Burt Reynolds and Tom Selleck and expertly lampooned in Will Ferrell's "Anchorman."

As further evidence of the mustache's plight for legitimacy, an organization was established to explain, defend and protect those who bore

the look. According to their website, the American Mustache Institute protects "the rights of, and fights discrimination against, mustached Americans by promoting the growth, care and culture of the mustache." The AMI sponsors an annual Mustached American of the Year and hosts several mustache competitions and charity events.

Luckily, there are signs of progress. The mustache is gaining new credibility and along with it, new life. Take a look at Brad Pitt's character in "Inglourious Basterds." Pitt himself actually dreamed up the look, which did not fit the World War II time period. The filmmakers rolled with it anyway and Pitt's loony yet heroic Lt. Aldo Raine stole a place in America's heart, mustache and all.

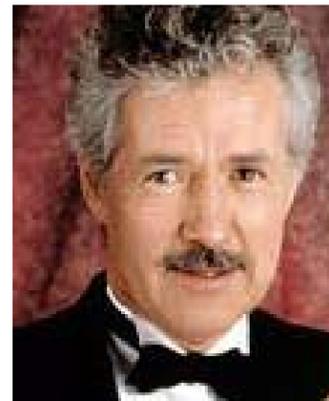
In 2006, documentary

filmmaker Jay Della Valle set out to reclaim mustache glory. In "The Glorious Mustache Challenge," Della Valle challenged a group of men to grow mustaches for one month – no beards, no goatees – and save the look from permanent extinction. With a range of ages, ethnicities and professions, these brave souls soon discovered how a sliver of hair on the upper lip can change a man's life, for better or worse.

During the month of March, servicemembers on Guantanamo Bay learned their share of lessons as well. While many joined the Mustache March challenge begrudgingly, they now admit it was a worthwhile bonding experience.

see MUSTACHE, page 19

**"Mine's like polar bear fur – it's clear but keeps [my lip] really warm!"**



*“Warning shots, warning shots! You are inside the zone, warning shots!”...*

Story and photos by  
Mass Communication  
Specialist 2nd Class  
Maddelin Angebrand

... Boatswains Mate 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Christopher Valdes, a qualified Coast Guard coxswain, ordered over the radio as he engaged his vessel's throttle to reach thirty knots, after warning his crewmembers they would be “coming up,” a term used by the U.S. Coast Guard to inform crewmembers that an increase in vessel speed is about to take place. In other words, hang on!

As the skies boast a brilliant blue color and the afternoon sun shone through scattered clouds above Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, the U.S. Coast Guard Maritime Security Detachment Joint Task Force Guantanamo welcomed three Naval Station Guantanamo harbor security Sailors for a couple hours of intense tactics, techniques and procedures training, March 25.

With four different scenarios about to unfold, the entire crew gathers to review a crucial safety brief, capitalizing on vessel-to-vessel communication, a max speed of 50

knots and a minimum distance of 50 feet between the vessels.

“Communicating is absolutely paramount to the safety of the crew and to the effectiveness of the mission,” emphasized Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr. Brian Clampitt, MARSECDET's commanding officer. “We have internal communications with the boat crew itself, so each of us needs to be talking to each other. If we see something that isn't safe, everybody's responsible to speak up. Then, we can break from the drill and start again if we need to.”

Both Coast Guard and Navy crewmembers and all coxswains suited up in Kevlar helmets and safety vests before boarding the vessels. The coxswain on a Coast Guard small boat is in charge of the vessel and all personnel on board. Coxswains, while underway, operate without regard to rank or seniority.

The training scenarios posed one vessel as the high value asset to be protected by one reaction vessel and one screening vessel. A fourth vessel posed as the opposing force vessel or “OPFOR.”

For the first scenario, the OPFOR acted as a weary fisherman, drifting near the “zone” where the Coast Guard and Navy both protect and patrol. Upon entering that zone, crewmembers of the reaction and screening vessel must make a warning announcement stating it is getting close to the “line.”

After giving the initial warning announcement, crewmembers follow a four-step approach to intercepting the vessel in order to protect their high value asset, which in a real scenario could be anything from a tanker to the U.S. president.

see TRAINING, page 19



Lt.j.g. Caitlin Quinn, operations officer, maneuvers a vessel while Master-at-Arms Seaman Brandon Shambaugh simulates the use of a mounted automatic weapon during a joint tactical training exercise on Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, March 25



# Coasties **GET WET** with the Navy

U.S. Coast Guard Maritime Security Detachment Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay conducts a joint tactical training exercise with the Naval Station Guantanamo Bay Harbor Security team on Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, March 25.

# Forces kill insurgents in Afghanistan airstrike

International Security Assistance Force  
Joint Command

A coalition airstrike killed more than 10 insurgents in the Bermal district of Afghanistan's Paktika province Sunday, military officials reported.

An air weapons team reported insurgents armed with rocket-propelled grenades massed at two known insurgent outposts, requested permission and launched precision airstrikes on both locations, officials said.

In other operations on Sunday throughout Afghanistan:

- An International Security Assistance Force patrol killed several armed insurgents and wounded others after being ambushed in Helmand province's Sangin district.

- Security forces in Kandahar province's Zharay district captured several suspected insurgents linked to a drug cache. The operations resulted in seizure of 1,500 pounds of marijuana and 350 pounds of marijuana seeds.

- In Khost province's Sabari district, troops captured numerous Hezb-E Islami Gulbuddin terrorists while searching for one of the group's facilitators responsible for procuring funds and providing the group with intelligence information.

- Afghan and coalition forces captured several suspected insurgents, including a Taliban bomb expert who is connected to several recent attacks on security forces and Afghan civilians, in the Pul-e Alam district of Logar province.

- Forces in Nangarhar province's Jalalabad district detained two suspected insurgents while searching for a Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan terrorist responsible for trafficking weapons and fighters from Pakistan.

- Based on tips from local civilians, security forces in Logar province's Mohammed district arrested a senior Taliban leader who is linked to other Taliban leaders throughout the province.

- In Baghlan province's Baghlan-e Jadid district, troops arrested two "high-value" Taliban leaders, officials said. One is a bomb expert responsible for attacks on security forces, while the other is responsible for assassinating the Nahrin district governor.

- Security forces in Kandahar province's Kandahar City arrested a Taliban leader responsible for planning and carrying out attacks on security forces after tips from local residents led troops to his location.

- Afghan and coalition forces found several weapons and drug stockpiles throughout Afghanistan. The operations resulted in seizure

of 18,810 pounds of ammonium nitrate -- a banned fertilizer used for explosives -- as well as 32 mortars and rockets, 15 machine-gun rounds, six rocket-propelled grenades and assorted bomb-making materials.

In March 26 operations:

- Forces in Helmand province killed an insurgent and disrupted enemy activity with mortar fire after spotting a group of insurgents maneuvering toward a known enemy fighter position.

- Security forces captured two suspected insurgents, including a weapons trafficker responsible for acquiring and supplying other insurgents with munitions and explosives, in Afghanistan's Kabul province.

- Afghan and coalition forces in Baghlan province's Baghlan-e Jadid district detained two suspected insurgents, including a senior Taliban leader, after local villagers reported them to security forces.

- In Kandahar province, troops discovered two weapons stockpiles and a bomb factory during a routine patrol. The operations resulted in troops finding the bomb factory, 110 artillery rounds, four mines, an 82 mm mortar round rigged with explosives and other bomb-making materials.

# DoD announces stationing of two Combat Aviation Brigades

Department of Defense  
Public Affairs

The Department of Defense announced Wednesday the stationing of two Army Combat Aviation Brigades. The 16th Combat Aviation Brigade will be split-based and established at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., and Fort Wainwright, Alaska, using existing aviation units not currently assigned to a combat aviation brigade. A new Combat Aviation Brigade, or CAB, will be activated at Fort Carson, Colo.

The 16th CAB stationing action realigns existing assets resulting in an increase of approximately 1,400 new Soldiers and 44 helicopters at Joint Base Lewis-McChord. This action for the split-based CAB at Joint Base Lewis-McChord will begin in fiscal year 2012, and is expected to be completed by fiscal year 2014.

The Army recognizes Alaska as a strategic location and will continue to maintain a significant aviation presence there. This stationing increases the invaluable medical evacuation strength in Alaska by three additional aircraft in fiscal year 2013. It also validates the Army's commitment and support to the aviation infrastructure through military construction programmed for replacement and upgrade of the aviation facilities.



Capt. Christopher Bulson and Capt. Zachariah Gummert, from Provincial Reconstruction Team Zabul, step off a CH-47 Chinook in Daychopan, Afghanistan, Mar. 29 - photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Brian Ferguson.

The new CAB activation at Fort Carson, Colo., will result in a total growth in Army forces and equipment by approximately 2,700 Soldiers and 113 helicopters. Fort Carson establishes the new brigade beginning fiscal year 2013 and is expected to be completed by fiscal year 2014.

The activation of these brigades will increase

the capabilities of the active component of the U.S. Army and increase dwell time for aviation units between deployments in support of overseas contingency operations. These combined force structure actions represent integrated changes that support the Army's transformation requirements.



# US Navy P-3C, USAF A-10 and USS Barry engage Libyan vessels

Joint Task Force Odyssey Dawn  
Public Affairs

USS MOUNT WHITNEY, At Sea (NNS) – A U.S. Navy P-3C Orion maritime patrol aircraft, U.S. Air Force A-10 Thunderbolt attack aircraft and guided-missile destroyer USS Barry (DDG-52), engaged Libyan Coast Guard vessel Vittoria and two smaller

craft March, 28.

The vessels were engaged after confirmed reports that Vittoria and accompanying crafts were firing indiscriminately at merchant vessels in the port of Misrata, Libya.

The P-3C fired at Vittoria with AGM-65F Maverick missiles, rendering the 12-meter patrol

vessel ineffective and forcing it to be beached after multiple explosions were observed in the vicinity of the port.

Two smaller Libyan craft were fired upon by the A-10 using its 30mm GAU-8/ Avenger cannon, destroying one and forcing the other to be abandoned.

# Essex ARG Assists Oshima Island in Restoring Power

Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class (SW)  
Eva-Marie Ramsaran

PACIFIC OCEAN (NNS) – Essex Amphibious Ready Group elements and Japan Self Defense Force members combined efforts to restore power to Oshima Island, Japan, March 27.

Marines assigned to the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), accompanied by Japan Maritime Self Defense Force Capt. Masanori Ide, liaison officer for the bilateral crisis action team, used landing craft utility vehicles assigned to Assault Craft Unit 1 to deliver 15,000 pounds of relief supplies, including food, water, and health and comfort kits.

Getting the vehicles and equipment to their intended destination proved to be a challenge, even before arriving on the island.

"This mission wasn't as easy as I thought it was going to be," said Electrician's Mate 2nd Class Raoul Simms, LCU deck supervisor. "The vehicles were not made to come aboard an LCU. It took some strategy getting them on board."

ACU-1 also faced challenges with getting the

LCU ashore, such as floating debris in the water. Instead of landing on a beach or ramp, as LCUs are designed to do, they pulled into a pier, which was a first for the crew. Despite these challenges, the mission proved successful.

"We were the link that was needed to provide the electrical vehicles and supplies for the Japanese workers, in order to restore power back to the island," said Quartermaster 2nd Class Miguel Thormes, LCU navigator. "Even though this mission wasn't as safe as we would have hoped, it was definitely for a good cause."

"Oshima island residents are suffering greatly. There is no electrical power at all. These vehicles will help them and help ease the situation," said JSDF Maj. Shinya Takase, operations officer, 1st Division, 41st Infantry Regiment, in charge of disaster response in Kesennuma. Japanese forces and Marines are doing very well in working through this together. At this moment, there is no other option to get these vehicles to Oshima. That is why we are so grateful for your help."

# MCPON: Happy 118th Birthday CPOs

WASHINGTON (NNS) – Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON)(SS/SW) Rick D. West released the following Chief Petty Officer birthday message to the Fleet March 28.

"My fellow chief petty officers,

On April 1st, our entire Mess will pause to celebrate 118 years of the United States Navy Chief Petty Officer, and we're not just celebrating another year of chiefs serving the Navy, we're celebrating everything it means to wear the fouled anchors we all cherish.

Those anchors are the symbol of a culture and a way of life, representing character, loyalty, a strong commitment to leadership, our core values, and Navy ethos. Our anchors carry with them a responsibility to live up to the tradition of selfless service, while remembering our proud heritage that we've spent 118 years building as we look toward our future.

Thank you Chiefs! Through your leadership of our Sailors, you continue to keep our heritage alive and our Navy strong — and as you know our Navy is the best it has ever been. Continue to make a positive impact on your command, your Sailors, yourself and our Mess.

Remember those who have gone before us and those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in service to our great nation.

Happy birthday Shipmates! I truly appreciate your leadership and the hard work you do every day.

Anchor Up and Hooyah Navy Chiefs!"

### Marine receives award on behalf of hero mother

Cpl. Tommy Bellegarde

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. — One doesn't need to be in the military to be a hero and ordinary citizens are certainly capable of extraordinary action.

The Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation recognizes civilian heroes with its annual Citizen Service Before Self Honors during a ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery every March 25.

One of the recipients for 2011 was Marie Conley, a crossing guard from Boston who was killed in the line of duty when she sacrificed herself to save the life of a young boy crossing the street in October 2008. Conley was seriously hurt after being struck by an automobile while shielding the child with her body to protect him from harm. Sadly, she succumbed to her injuries several days later.

Receiving the honors in her absence were her three sons including Cpl. Christopher Conley, a crew chief with 2nd Assault Amphibian Battalion, 2nd Marine Division.

"It's crazy — I can't even think of the right words," explained Conley about his feelings for receiving the award on behalf of his mother. "I'm just honored — it's an absolute honor."

The day before the ceremony, Medal of Honor recipients approached Conley, giving him their support.

"These people have gone above and beyond (the call of duty) and are thanking me for my service and my mother (for her bravery)," said Conley. "That hit me pretty hard — definitely in a good way though."

Marie Conley was selected from hundreds of other applicants to be one of three individuals to receive Citizen Service Before Self Honors. She was chosen directly because of her heroic actions on that October day over two years ago.

"I think what this does is, on a national basis, brings forward the fact that (there are) Americans out there who have the courage to do the right thing — who will put others before themselves," said Nick Kehoe, the president of the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation.

After originally learning about the accident in October 2008, Cpl. Conley was shocked and devastated by the sudden news. However he was not at all surprised to learn that his mother sacrificed herself to save a child.

"It didn't surprise me to be honest with you," said Conley. "Her whole life she always put other people first."



### Marine Corps spirit fills Feeding America

Lance Cpl. Lisa M. Tourtelot  
Marine Corps Air Station Miramar

SAN DIEGO — Marines from Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 16, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, helped Feeding America San Diego open its new warehouse, March 25.

Thirty Marines from MALS 16 assisted with the grand opening of the new building by cleaning and organizing the new warehouse and the Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron color guard performed during the ceremonies.

The Marine volunteers came to the warehouse a week before its grand opening to help clean, organize and prepare it for the celebration, explained Cpl. Mason Turner, an aviation ordnance systems technician with MALS 16.

"If we get one or two Marines here, they'll do the work of 20 volunteers," said Tim Ney, chief operations officer at Feeding America San Diego.

Turner explained that Marines bring military discipline and efficiency whenever they volunteer in community service.

"We have individuals who are outgoing,

they know what needs to be done and they're good with timelines," said Turner. "We get tasks from [Feeding America] employees and we get it done. This place looked pretty hectic last weekend," said Turner.

While Marine volunteers support Feeding America, the organization also supports local military families struggling to put food on the table, explained Ney.

"As much as the military contributes to our organization, we love to give back," said Ney, a former Marine. "I was in the fight. I understand the sacrifices."

Feeding America San Diego distributes food to more than 175 charitable organizations and feeds 73,000 children, families and seniors each week, which includes military families.

The new warehouse can move 16 million pounds of food each year, but this feat cannot be accomplished without efficient and well-organized help.

Turner explained he believes most service members enlisted to help their communities, and Feeding America is a great local opportunity to support.

### AFPC teams visit deployment bases, promote web-based personnel services

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — Air Force Personnel Center officials visited three bases in Southwest Asia March 1-9 to get feedback on personnel support for deployed Airmen and inform them about personnel services available through the Total Force Service Center and Air Force Personnel Services website.

Col. Jim Davis, AFPC's TFSC director, led a four-person team that held 17 focus sessions over eight days with diverse groups of Airmen ranging from general officers to junior enlisted members.

"One of the biggest things we wanted to do during our trip was advertise our current capabilities and discuss how the TFSC operates and liaisons with force support squadrons and military personnel sections to get personnel actions accomplished for all Airmen," said Davis.

"People need to understand that the AFPERS website and TFSC are the same entity. Much like customers who use online banking services from United Services Automobile Association via the web, email and through their phones, Airmen can access personnel information and other self-service applications through the same avenues," he added.

Colonel Davis said they received constructive feedback about current personnel issues affecting deployed Airmen. Many said they had difficulty understanding where to obtain specific information and how to request some personnel actions.

"We spoke to Airmen from various deployment categories who were down range from four to 12 months," the colonel said. "One of our key messages was that deployed Airmen should contact the TFSC for expedited service from our newly established deployment cell."

Tech. Sgt. Michael Condon from the 73rd Expeditionary Air Control Squadron superintendent and first sergeant at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, attended one of the focus sessions and said he had positive results using the TFSC for personnel assistance.

"I have contacted them about several issues and usually my issue was resolved immediately or I was given the information I needed within a day," said Condon. "With the reduction of force in the personnel career field, the member may need to temper their expectations about what we are able to do and how easy it will be to accomplish at our home station MPS. But, I believe the service we receive is constantly improving."

Beyond the dedicated deployment cell in the TFSC, efforts are currently underway to stage customer self-help computers and telephones at most Personnel Support for Contingency Operations, or PERSCO, locations in U.S. Air Forces Central's area of responsibility.

"This initiative does not end with these site visits," said Lt. Col. Steve Zubowicz, AFPC's TFSC operations chief. "Our dedicated deployment cell will continue expanding to meet customer demand and we will stand up a provisional TFSC element within the AOR to gain a first-hand customer perspective and further shape reach-back personnel support."

The new TFSC forward element would be in place by the end of April.

For more information about personnel services and self-service applications, log onto <https://gum-crm.csd.disa.mil>. All active duty, Guard, Reserve and civilian Airmen will need to create an account to log into the personnel services website using their common access card or a login name and password. Once they have an account created, they will be able to access personnel services, applications and information from home or any military computer.

Airmen accessing the information from personal use Web browsers may need to download Department of Defense root certificates at <http://www.dtic.mil/dtic/announcements/dodrootcertificates.html> if they are having difficulties accessing the personnel services website. For additional personnel assistance, call the TFSC at 800-525-0102, overseas DSN 312-665-5000 or use the form on the personnel services website under "My Account" using the "E-mail Us" link on the left side of the Web page.



Tech. Sgt. John Obermuller and a Japan Ground Self-Defense Force member join two sections of hose March 26, 2011, at Yokota Air Base, Japan. The hoses are part of water pump donated by the U.S. government to help the Japanese government stabilize the Fukushima nuclear power plant. Obermuller is assigned to the 374th Maintenance Squadron. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Krystal M. Garrett)

### Airmen aid Japan's effort to stabilize nuclear plant

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan (AFNS) -- A team of Airmen here labored nonstop March 25-27 to design and create essential components for water pumps to be used at a nuclear power plant in northern Japan.

The power plant, located roughly 130 miles north of here in Fukushima Prefecture, incurred catastrophic damage to its cooling system in an earthquake and subsequent tsunami March 11.

To help Japanese crews stabilize the reactors, the U.S. government purchased several water pumps to help their cause, and the Royal Australian Air Force helped transport them to Yokota Air Base. The Japanese hoses, however, didn't fit the attachment points on the pumps.

Airmen from the 374th Maintenance Squadron developed the solution.

Two teams of four Airmen on 12-hour shifts designed and fabricated the necessary adapters, pressure valves and other pieces so Japanese crews could use the pumps to augment the plant's cooling system. The pumps will be used to transport fresh water into the plant instead of ocean water, which leaves corroding salt residue when it evaporates. The project is another way Airmen have supported Operation Tomodachi, the overall relief mission to help the Japanese people in their recovery efforts.

"We were all wishing we could be a bigger part of everything that was going on," Airman 1st Class Jeremy Hamblin said about Operation Tomodachi. "Now we know we've had a direct impact in helping cool the reactors. It's nice to know we were there for them when they needed us."

The pieces were delivered March 27, with Japanese crews expected to place the pumps into service that day.



# 30 years later Petty Officer Lonnie Jones continues to 'Be The Light'

Coast Guard News Service

It was 30-years-ago Wednesday, the morning of March 30, 1981, and Jacqueline Jones could feel that something just wasn't quite right.

"I just felt like something had happened to Lonnie. Something just wasn't quite right. I had cooked Lonnie some breakfast, and it was sitting on the table waiting for him, and he never showed," said Jones.

Unfortunately Jones was correct. Something had happened to her husband of six years. In the early morning hours of March 30, 1981, Petty Officer 3rd Class Lonnie Jones, a machinery technician at Coast Guard Station Destin, had lost his life doing what he had been trained to do: save lives.

Almost 30 years later, on Nov. 19, 2010, Jones was honored posthumously in a ceremony at Coast Guard Station Destin. The ceremony, complete with taps and a flyover from Coast Guard Air Station New Orleans, was held under a crisp fall sky and attended by local dignitaries and Coast Guardsmen from units as far away as Mobile, Ala.

Local Destin businessman Ken Wright, a retired Coast Guard warrant officer, donated an Italian-made marble lighthouse statue, now a permanent tribute at Station Destin to Petty Officer Lonnie Jones. Wright, and Master Chief Petty Officer Timothy Hudson, officer-in-charge of Coast Guard Station Destin, unveiled the memorial lighthouse during the ceremony on Nov. 19 (see photo, right). The lighthouse, as described by Wright, is a fitting way to memorialize Jones.

"The goal of the memorial is to recognize what the Coast Guard does and the sacrifice made by Lonnie Jones. The late Petty Officer Jones will continue to save lives through his sacrifice," said Wright.

The tragic chain of events that occurred in 1981 unfolded in a matter of three hours. On that morning, lives were forever changed, a son would never meet his father, a wife would be left raising three children on her own, and the Coast Guard would be void of a dedicated shipmate.

The mishap report from March 30, 1981, chronicled the events leading to the demise of Petty Officer Lonnie Jones. The weather that March day was ominous. By Florida standards, it was a chilly 60 degrees, as Jones described it. Reports from the National Weather Service logged the day as overcast with dense fog, the sea temperature hovered at 58 degrees and there was a small craft advisory.

At approximately 5:45 a.m., a man walked into Station Destin reporting that the boat he was in capsized and one of his crewmembers was still missing. Somehow the man had struggled to shore, but he still required the assistance of the Coast Guard.

At 5:55 a.m., the station launched a 41-foot utility boat with three crewmembers, including Petty Officer Lonnie Jones, and by 6:10 a.m. the UTB crew was ordered to return to base because the second survivor from the initial search and rescue case was located safely on the beach.

As the UTB crew made its way back to Station Destin, the boat was struck broadside by a wave in seas greater than 15 feet. A second wave struck the UTB, eventually causing the boat to lose power and rudder control, and capsize with three Coast Guard crewmembers aboard. The three crewmembers were swept forward into the passenger's compartment of the UTB and found relief in an air pocket allowing the crewmembers to breath.

At 6:14 a.m., the crewmembers were standing in rising water in the forward compartment. It was then that the crewmembers sighted the jetties approximately 200 yards away. Fearing imminent death the three broke a side window and attempted to swim to the jetties without a life jacket in 58 degree water and 15-foot waves crashing over their heads. Two of the crewmembers successfully made the swim, but Petty Officer Lonnie Jones rapidly succumbed to hypothermia and perished.

The surviving two Coast Guard crewmembers were rescued via helicopter at 8 a.m. and medevaced to a local hospital where they were treated for hypothermia. At 9 a.m., Petty Officer Lonnie Jones's body was recovered and brought to the local hospital. By 9:25 a.m., Petty Officer Jones was pronounced dead. The cause of death: hypothermia-induced drowning. Sometime that morning Jacqueline Jones received a phone call from two of her husband's friends from Station Destin.

"They called and said that Lonnie had been in an accident while at work. I asked them if he was OK. They said he was in critical condition, but something still wasn't right," said Jones.

When Jones arrived at the hospital, she learned that her husband had passed away, leaving Jones with two young daughters, Michelle and Latesha, and one child on-the-way who would later be named Lonnie Jr.

"Lonnie never knew that I was pregnant



with our son," said Jones.

It has been almost 30 years since Lonnie's death, and Jones still misses him very much.

"For me that was the day my life stopped. I lived for my husband. I have never remarried. My husband was a gentleman and they just don't make men like him anymore," said Jones.

Jones described her husband as an outgoing, caring, loving person, who was a jokester. His job in the Coast Guard was very fitting to his personality.

"He loved people. He was always helping people because he said that's what made him happy," said Jones.

Capt. Peter Troedsson, chief of staff for the Eighth Coast Guard District, who offered some kind words to the Jones family during the memorial service, noted that Jones is now part of a long line of distinguished Coast Guardsmen.

"Petty Officer Jones made a commitment to the service of the American public. He now follows a long line of heroes," said Troedsson.

Jones may be gone, but he is not forgotten. The lighthouse at Station Destin will be a constant reminder for the Guardians who follow that the sea is not forgiving. Etched on that memorial are the words "be the lighthouse." Though gone for eternity, Jones will continue to "be the light," allowing his legacy to shine, lighting the way for Coasties

Spc. Justin Pierce

Whether you're a reservist, active duty, or even a contracted civilian, travel is a common occurrence in your military life. Attending classes, conferences and just moving around to different jobs can make anyone all too familiar with sub-par hotel gyms and lack of good weather or routes for outdoor training. Nevertheless, physical fitness is still an achievable goal during our times in transition. Here are a few techniques to maintain and even improve physically while on the go.

Recon your destination: One of the biggest assets the Internet gives a wayfaring wanderer is the ability to quickly and accurately reconnoiter an area they've never been to. Websites like Google maps not only allow you to see the roads and land marks topically, you can also use them to plan running routes. Everything from a total distance, to a quick boots on ground glance of the terrain can be obtained with just a little effort.

Use your resources: Anyone who spends time traveling from one town to another can become all too familiar with hotel "Fitness" rooms. Generally these rooms have a very bare minimum of equipment for weight training, a tread mill, and a bike. As the saying goes, however, when life hands you lemons it opens a window... or something like that. I won't argue that the complimentary fitness rooms are typically poorly furnished. If it's there though, why not use it? Running gives a great cardio workout that actually hits pretty much all of your musculature. Throw in some nice isolation exercises like dumbbell flies, even light weight, and you'll be heading toward a decent little workout.

Find hotels with pools: Whenever you have the luxury of choice, use it. Any hotel with a pool that still offers a competitive rate is a great tool for staying fit. Swimming offers a much less traumatic experience for your joints and still gives a good total body workout. The freestyle swim-stroke is a great example for this, your core is heavily worked turning from side to side, and your back, arms, legs and chest also enjoy a consistent use through the strokes. If you're not much of a swimmer, this is a great time to learn and practice; hotel pools are rarely deeper than five feet.

Pack your gym: I don't expect anyone to literally pack dumbbells in their checked bags or carry-on. Still, there are light weight alternatives that still provide good resistance training. Elastic bands are a great example of mobile gym equipment. These bands have caught on a bit more lately and new styles have emerged to appease both the



heavy and light weight travelers. Some even have slightly weighted handles. One word of caution when using bands in a new location, stress test any poles or anchors before you use them too much. A bed leg makes a great anchor for a resistance band, but some seemingly solid table legs may be more moveable than you'd think.

Connect with the local community: If you never ask, you'll never know is the mantra behind this tip. Contact local gyms and explain your situation, most are very accommodating to travelers, especially to servicemembers. If you can find a gym that will offer a reasonable rate for their facilities then why not take advantage? By calling around I've received outstanding discounted rates to full-sized facilities to even a couple occasions where I was invited to use the gym for free.

Following these few tips will take you a long way in staying fit while living in transition. Always remember though, exercise is only half the battle. Maintaining a healthy diet is just as important. Combine these suggestions with good eating habits and you'll be able to maintain your fitness no matter where the military may take you.

## 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**  
Friday 7 p.m.  
Chapel Annex  
**LORIMI Gospel**  
Sunday 8 a.m.  
Room D  
**LDS Service**  
Sunday 10 a.m.  
Room A

**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

**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

# BATTLE: LOS ANGELES

Sp. Meredith Vincent

Watching such a military-focused movie on a military base can be tricky business. It's important to be able to look past all of one's militant training and judge it based on the bigger picture.

So as I settled in to watch "Battle: Los Angeles," the story about a Marine unit battling an alien invasion, I was determined not to listen to all the nitpicking and naysaying going on nearby. So fair warning: this review is not going to be about what they got right or wrong, but on the larger themes

Staff Sgt. Michael Nantz has just put in his retirement papers. Cue alien invasion. That's how we roll.

Nantz, played by Aaron Eckhart – who is the second-most recognizable face in the movie – is tossed into a tight knit unit, complete with a brand new lieutenant. Because of a past incident in combat, the guys don't trust their new staff sergeant and the inner conflict begins.

But not before some stuff blows up. Equipped with much better technology and profound knowledge of where the biggest metropolis areas of the world are (movie aliens would be so good at playing Risk!), the invaders set about wreaking massive destruction on the human race. Yawn.

Things get tricky when the group starts collecting survivors and stragglers. First they stumble on a group of civilians, complete with Tom Brady's baby mama (Bridget Moynahan) and some kids. It's important to add children; they up the stakes and make it so much more dramatic.

Next they adopt Michelle Rodriguez as an



Air Force lass who got separated from her crew. With all due respect to my Air Force compadres, I was disappointed Rodriguez was not a Marine. The actress has made being an unflappable badass her specialty; she deserved that Marine uniform.

"Battle: Los Angeles" is a rousing crowd-pleaser, designed to manipulate movie-goers' emotions with cheesy monologues about selflessness and courage that play out like an after-school special. In a civilian movie theater, the message might be hollow and worthless. Surrounded by men and women who know these lessons first hand, however, can be a chilling experience that gives you

goosebumps. As with everything in the military, the importance of leadership is front and center. This isn't just the story of Nantz' struggle with his own demons. It is the story of the young Marines witnessing firsthand some of the sacrifices, tough judgements and decisions a real leader must make when looking down the barrel of hopelessness.

My personal gripe goes back to Rodriguez' character – and sorry guys, but I'm going to get all girl-indignant for a second. Why is it still a big deal for a woman to pick up a rifle and not only know how to shoot it but be

see MOVIE, page 15

PG-13

116 min.



## TRAINING cont.

"We take it slow at first and then we ratchet things up," said Clampitt. "We call it a crawl, walk, run approach to these different scenarios, so that everyone can get in the right mindset and keep that frame of mind before we take things to a higher speed."

From a Navy security perspective, the interactive training is an important part of working alongside the Coast Guard on Guantanamo Bay.

"It's good for us, because we don't get this kind of hands-on training as much as the Coast Guard does. So, it helps us learn," expressed Master-at-Arms 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Shawn Rutgers. "Our boats are a lot different, but we

can still learn how to maneuver with a hostile vessel with our boats just by watching and riding along with them."

The Coast Guard also noted how important it is to train alongside their Navy counterparts.

"Two of their coxswains have gone through the Navy's version of level two [coxswain] school so, it's good to train together in order to be able to compare different styles of training, driving techniques, positioning and different uses of force," explained Valdes. "While we're working out there if we have something happen, then we are knowledgeable of their level of training and mechanics."

For the last training scenario, the OPFOR posed as a real "bad guy" allowing both Coast Guard and Navy personnel aboard the reaction and screening vessels to fully engage and go through all four tactical steps to detect, intercept and interdict the OPFOR.

"We work with the NAVSTA daily on a consistent basis, so it's important for us to understand each other's TTP- or tactics, techniques and procedures," Clampitt said. "That's part of the reason we are out here with Navy personnel, so that we can exchange information and make sure that we understand what to expect if we have something that we need to engage together as a team."

## MUSTACHE cont.

mustache-centric conversations abounded as each individual became used to his particular new addition. Some were happy with the growth, some were frustrated. Many experienced operational trouble, such as eating and drinking. Each day was full of new discoveries and facial hair adventures. As April quickly approaches, most are looking forward to the moment when the clippers firmly eradicate the unwanted growth from their faces. A rare few have decided to keep their mustaches, explaining that, after 30 days of dedicated growth, parting with it would be too painful.

Morale is always a key element to any military operation. To many, Mustache March may seem like a silly stunt by servicemembers with too much time on their hands. But look closer and they might see something more meaningful. They might see Troopers accepting a challenge and joining ranks with their buddies. They might see Troopers standing strong and fast in the face of jeers and ridicule. They might see Troopers who take selflessness to another level in support of their squad, unit, shop or block and who believe in the importance of bringing some joy into the monotonous daily life of deployment. For 31 days, these men dared to think and dream bigger. Tom Selleck would be proud.

## MOVIE cont.

able to blow E.T. to smithereens? We are in the 21st century. Women have been in the military for decades now and with recent recommendations that females be allowed into combat units, why is this still used as a tool to shock and awe? Aren't we at a place where a chick in uniform can just simply kick ass without it being a big deal? Ok, rant over.

Remember that little alien invasion movie with Will

Smith and Jeff Goldblum? "Independence Day" did the same thing, but with way more style and humor. And "District 9" did it only a year ago, but with a lot more originality. "Battle: Los Angeles" is by no means a stand-out film. It's a re-hashed, thawed out version of a dozen movies before it. But sitting alongside hundreds of servicemembers, it's hard not to root for it. After all, "one team, one fight,"... right?



REMEMBER: LEAVE FRED ALONE UNTIL JUNE!

## FOCUS cont.

those seven, Duty stands out the most to Carroll.

"It is my duty to work in the camps," he said. "I don't like it some days but that's why I signed up and if that's the way I serve my country, that's the way I'm going to do it."

Carroll's dedication to the Army and his job has set him apart from his peers.

"He is probably one of the best privates I have ever had work for me," boasted Moore. "He is outstanding, very mature. That right there, in itself, will excel him through his career."

Although he is new to the military, Carroll is already off to a great start.

"He is one of our veteran privates," Moore said. "The others look to him for guidance."

Carroll said he plans on staying Army Strong for 20 plus years and hopes to reach the rank of sergeant major.

"There is no reason why he can't go all the way to the top," said Moore. "All you have to do is give him the chance to excel and he will."

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Downtown Lyceum	Justin Bieber: Never Say Never (G) 8 p.m.	Rango (PG) 8 p.m.	Battle: LA (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Country Strong (PG-13) 8 p.m.	No Strings Attached (R) 8 p.m.	The Roommate (PG-13) 8 p.m.	The Mechanic (R) 8 p.m.
	The Eagle (PG-13) 10 p.m.	Sanctum (R) 10 p.m.					
Camp Bulkeley	The Roommate (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Justin Bieber: Never Say Never (G) 8 p.m.	The Rite (PG-13) 10 p.m.	No Strings Attached (R) 8 p.m.	Country Strong (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Battle: LA (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Sanctum (R) 8 p.m.
	The Mechanic (R) 10 p.m.	The Eagle (PG-13) 10 p.m.					

Call MWR at ext. 2010 for more information.

Movie Hotline - call 4880.

# The JTF

# At Shutter Speed



## KEEPING A WATCHFUL EYE

Machinery Technician 3rd Class Jason Miller a qualified coxswain attached to U.S. Coast Guard Maritime Security Detachment Joint Task Force Guantanamo, stands watch aboard a safety vessel during a training exercise with the Naval Station Guantanamo Bay Harbor Security team, March 25. - photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Maddelin Angebrand.



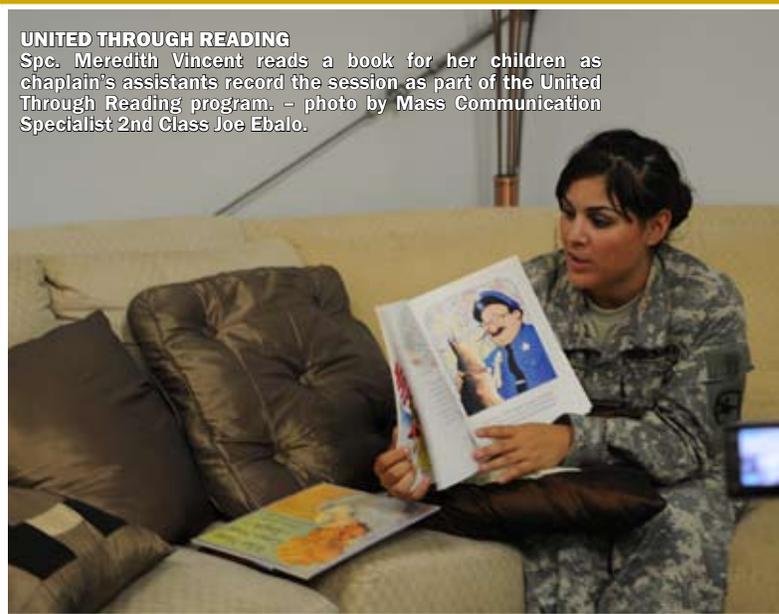
## UNDERWATER REENLISTMENT

Pfc. Justus Rallis carries the flag, March 25 during a reenlistment ceremony for Staff Sgt. RoseAnne Dundon. - photo by Army Staff Sgt. Christopher Begnoche



## PUNCHING FOR FITNESS

Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Nancy Mora attached to Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion Joint Task Force Guantanamo practices her boxing routine, March 25. - photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Maddelin Angebrand.



## UNITED THROUGH READING

Spc. Meredith Vincent reads a book for her children as chaplain's assistants record the session as part of the United Through Reading program. - photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Joe Ebaló.