

The WIRE

An award-winning
JTF journal



Cox-Sure

At the helm with
Coast Guard coxswains

The Forgotten Sport

Kickball season winds down

Master MA

Senior Master-at-Arms
visits MA Sailors

Trooper to Trooper

featuring

Sergeant First Class Benjamin Cossel

NCOIC, Command Information

I realized the fulfillment of one of my major life goals this past Friday, a goal 20 or so years in the making.

Near the end of his military career, my father was about to pin on master sergeant. After talking it over with my mom, ultimately he decided what was best for him and his family was to go ahead and retire, even though it meant he would have to go out as a sergeant first class. Twenty years of faithful service in the U.S. Army, including two tours in Vietnam, and my father retired at the rank of sergeant first class.

Way back in 1992 and all of 18 years old, standing in front of the military entrance processing station in Anchorage, Alaska with mountains of paperwork in my hand, I had one goal in mind – at a minimum, make it to the same pay grade as Dad, an E7 (I was in the Marines and aiming for Gunny). Friday, standing before the Soldiers and Sailors who helped me along the way, I finally reached that goal.

Along a military career that saw me start in the Marine Corps and then make my way to the National Guard, two things have proven themselves as key components of my success - establishing goals and taking something from everyone you meet.

Studies consistently show those who sit down and plan both short-term and long-term goals, develop a plan to accomplish those goals and then implement that plan are



far more likely to succeed overall. Those who allow themselves to float on the ocean of life like so much flotsam and jetsam hoping the waves will eventually get them back to shore will find much less success. As Dennis Hopper so famously said in some retirement commercial, “You’ve got to have a plan, man!”

This, of course, does not mean you won’t have to go back and correct course over time. Anyone who has taken more than a breath of life knows the ever-shifting winds of the world have a tendency to punch holes in the best of battle plans. Just like a plentiful garden, you have to pull the weeds, switch things around occasionally and adjust accordingly. While it may not seem like it in the immediate, with a well-tended plan you will eventually get there, even if it takes 20 years.

Nearly as important as setting goals is always taking something from those you interact with. No matter what rank you are, there is always someone you can learn from, thereby adding a tool to your toolbox. That said, there will be those times when what you take away is the best example of what NOT to be.

As a young lance corporal, I worked for a particularly difficult sergeant. This sergeant was what we liked to refer to as a poster Marine. He looked good – his boots were always spit-polish glass, his uniform creases razor sharp, what hair he had left on his balding scalp was always 0-3 with a taper.

But this sergeant was also a tyrant who made it very clear he did not care about

see TROOPER page 19

JTF Guantanamo

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COVER: A vital component of any Coast Guard vessel, the coxswain is the Guardian in charge of the boat responsible with keeping all equipment and personnel safe. – photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jason Tross

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GTMO WikiLeak-ed documents show complexity

Voice of America News Service

Human Rights activists say the WikiLeaks Guantanamo documents show the United States has held hundreds of men at the facility for years with little or no hard evidence against them.

But, other experts say the previously secret risk assessment documents show the potential danger the men pose and the difficulty of figuring out who to hold and who to release.

When the United States was attacked on September 11, 2001, there was a rush to figure out who these terrorists were, how many there were, where they were and how to stop them. The effort included the U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan and the detention of hundreds of Afghan and foreign fighters there and elsewhere.

In a fateful decision, U.S. officials decided to send some of the men to the U.S. Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where facilities could be built to house them and they could be treated as “enemy combatants”, not exactly prisoners of war and also not under the jurisdiction of U.S. civilian courts, at least not initially. That gave U.S. military and intelligence interrogators a secure and relatively free environment in which to extract desperately needed information from the detainees.

But that led to sub-standard living conditions for the early detainees, and years of harsh interrogations, legal complexities and international condemnations. These

newly published documents shed some light on those years during the administration of former President George W. Bush, when the military created a process to determine which detainees to release and which to continue to hold.

“I think in a lot of ways that is the story of Guantanamo,” said Shane Kadidal.

Shane Kadidal is a senior managing attorney at the Center for Constitutional Rights in New York.

“You throw a whole bunch of people in, with not really very much evidence at all to justify bringing them in in the first place, subject them to abusive interrogations for years, and then rely on things their fellow-detainees said about them to hold everybody,” he said.

Kadidal and other legal experts and Human Rights advocates say the leaked documents show that many Guantanamo detainees were held based on thin evidence, and often based partly on things said by other detainees. He says detainee statements are notoriously unreliable, especially if they are made during abusive interrogation sessions. He says that is not a sufficient basis for extending a person’s detention.

“How can anybody say what someone is likely or not likely to do in the future, especially when they have such limited and unreliable information about what they’ve done in the past? It’s really a fool’s errand to try to make a reliable assessment about dangerousness,” said Kadidal.

But at the conservative Heritage Foundation research organization in Washington, senior foreign policy analyst James Carafano says that is exactly what U.S. military panels must do to protect the United States from potential terrorists held at Guantanamo. And he says it is not accurate to assume that the secret “risk assessment” documents published this week are the only things on which detention decisions were made.

“They don’t necessarily represent all of the information that the U.S. government has on the detainees,” said Carafano. “So, reading them, for example, would be like listening to one witness in a courtroom hearing and not listening to anything else and then determining a judgment. You wouldn’t do that.”

But Carafano also acknowledges that trying to determine what someone might do in the future, based on what they did, or might have done, in the past is bound to be difficult.

“We knew it was very, very hard,” he said. “The government has an obligation not to release anybody who could potentially attack the United States. A lot of that’s based on intent, so I don’t think it’s surprising necessarily that the government got part of the things wrong.”

Of the total of 779 men held at Guantanamo since the detention facility was opened in 2002, 607 have been released or transferred to custody in their home countries. Estimates of how many of those have subsequently engaged in terrorism vary from a low of six per cent put forward by a liberal research organization, the New America Foundation, to a high of 25 per cent estimated by the chief of U.S. intelligence in December.

Pentagon spokesman Colonel David Lapan cannot discuss details of the leaked documents because they are still technically classified. But he says they provide evidence of the type of challenges faced by the military officers who make detention decisions.

“It shows the difficulty of both this administration and the previous administration relying on all these bits and pieces of information from various sources on the battlefield and off in an effort to determine whether we can safely hold people or whether they can be repatriated, or returned, to their own countries,” said Colonel Lapan.

And that leads some experts to conclude the United States must continue to hold some of the Guantanamo detainees because they are too dangerous to release, while others conclude the uncertainty means more men should be released, or at least given formal trials as soon as possible so the evidence can be evaluated in court.

News from the Bay

Stories and reporting by Spc. Meredith Vincent and Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Maddelin Angebrand

NFL Players Tour visits Guantanamo Bay

Navy Entertainment and Morale, Welfare and Recreation are scheduled to co-sponsor an NFL Players Tour May 4 - 6, featuring four Super Bowl XLV champions.

Daryn Colledge, Frank Zombo, Nick McDonald and Jason Spitz are members of February's Super Bowl champs, the Green Bay Packers. Also on the tour roster are Will Henderson and Tony Moll.

"The community is invited to take photos with the players and get autographs during various appearances around the base," said Amiee MacDonnell, activities director for MWR. "The players will also be out visiting with the Troopers throughout their stay."

The players will visit Seaside Galley at noon Wednesday, the Windjammer at noon and the Teen Center at 4 p.m. Thursday, then Gold Hill Galley at 11 a.m. and Cooper Field at 7 p.m. May 6.

For more information, contact MacDonnell at x4882.

Jimmy Buffett tribute band visits the Tiki Bar

The Tiki Bar is scheduled to host Jimmy Buffett tribute band the Caribbean Chillers Friday at 8 p.m.

Hailing from the Orlando area, the Caribbean Chillers are known as Florida's hottest Buffett cover band, said Amiee MacDonnell, activities director for Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

"The crowd can expect a lot of Buffett songs you know by heart and plenty of audience interaction," said MacDonnell.

For more information, contact MacDonnell at x4882

This fun-filled day is held to honor April as the Month of the Military Child, so bring the kids, your swim suits and sun block.

Activities include free paddle boats, kayaks and canoes all day as well as live music by the Caribbean Chillers.

"The community can expect fun activities and an opportunity to meet with other people and departments from the base," said MWR Activities Director Amiee MacDonnell. "We will have a floating iceberg that stands about 14 feet tall anchored in the water to climb on as well."

No need to pack a lunch either, because there will be a full concession stand complete with Pirate Punch and Shark Soda.

MWR will also giveaway flip flops, beach balls and kids' sunglasses while supplies last.

For more information, contact MacDonnell at x4882.

Free boat rentals, live music at Ferry Landing

Come join in the fun while soaking up some sun at Morale, Welfare and Recreation's "Day at the Bay" celebration, April 30, from 10 a.m to 2 p.m. at Ferry Landing Beach.

What do you like most about your job?



"The fact that so many people get to see me!"

Religious Programs Specialist 3rd Class
Jeffery Lauber



"Meeting new people."

Hospital Corpsman 1st Class
James Frymire



"It's a lot of hands on. It's not a desk job - we get to break stuff!"

Equipment Operator 3rd Class
John Guillenagudelo



"Helping others by providing legal assistance."

Spc. Andres Combariza

Boots on the Ground



Spc. Joel Gonzalez-Lopez

Spc. Kelly Gary

After serving in Kuwait and Iraq as an infantryman, Spc. Joel F. Gonzalez-Lopez, Joint Detention Group laundry noncommissioned officer, is enjoying his third deployment with a new military occupation specialty.

After taking a break for a year, Gonzalez-Lopez changed his MOS to 92Y, unit supply specialist, because he was ready for something new.

"When I started in the infantry it was difficult," said Gonzalez-Lopez. "You have to save lives and when you are in a line unit you are risking your own life at all times."

Six years as an infantryman was a good amount of time and Gonzalez-Lopez said he welcomed the change of pace. Even though the mission is different, Gonzalez-Lopez still takes on a large workload and does what it takes to successfully complete each task.

"He is very able and organized," said Sgt. 1st Class Luis A. Rios, S4 NCOIC. "He always completes the mission."

Gonzalez-Lopez said he is willing to do whatever it takes to get the job done.

"I am always working," Gonzalez-Lopez said. "I am always fixing or ordering something or helping my NCOIC."

His duties do not end there. He also insures the detainees get their proper clothing, submits purchase requests, conducts inventories as well as acts as the mail courier. Some tasks appear to be less important on the surface, but in reality are the foundations for an efficient operation. Rios put this concept into perspective.



"The JDG is like a wheel," said Rios, explaining everything is connected and there are many key elements involved. That wheel would not be able to turn without Soldiers like Gonzalez-Lopez.

Even though he works up to six days a week, Gonzalez-Lopez tries to find time to go bowling and fishing with his friends. He said he likes to keep busy on and off work and has numerous of goals for the future.

He plans on having a family one day but said right now he is focused on his education and career. He has only a few classes left before earning his bachelor's in psychology and is looking to move up in rank.

Gonzalez-Lopez hopes to get promoted this year and obtain an active guard reserve job after this deployment.

Rios commended his ambition and said he has no doubt Gonzalez-Lopez could reach his goals.

"I think he will make an excellent NCO," said Rios. "He is made of the right material."

Gonzalez-Lopez said he doesn't want to stop at E5.

"I will finish my twenty years," he promised. "Sounds scary, but I want to be sergeant major someday."

Gonzalez-Lopez offered advice that

Bullet Bio

Time in service: 10 years

Hobbies: bowling

Pet peeves: incompetent people

Next goal: to get promoted to E5

Advice to junior Troopers: "Keep motivated, finish what you start."

he follows and believes every Trooper should adhere to.

"You have to keep motivated," he said. "You will encounter obstacles. You have to move around them and keep going. You have to finish what you start."



USE OPSEC! THINK BEFORE YOU TALK, POST OR BLOG!

PSEC ALERT

Wikileaks information is still classified!

The documents leaked on Wikileaks and spread by the media can be expected to re-focus attention onto the Joint Task Force and our personnel. Even though you may see the stories in the news and on the web, this does not de-classify any information. It is a violation of Department of Defense policy for JTF personnel to visit the Wikileaks website or re-post leaked information. All hands should verify privacy settings on social media sites (Facebook, MySpace, etc.) and do not post anything that can make you a target for information gathering.



Capt. Tito Arandela, Navy Expeditionary Combat Command's force security and anti-terrorism officer recognizes outstanding Sailors at a master-at-arms community brief on Naval Station Guantanamo Bay after touring the Joint Task Force side of the base, April 20.

Senior master-at-arms visits GTMO Troopers

Captain promises better training, longer A-school

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

The Navy's first security limited duty officer to reach the rank of captain visited Joint Task Force Guantanamo, April 18-22, to meet with the master-at-arms community.

Capt. Tito Arandela currently serves as Navy Expeditionary Combat Command's force security and anti-terrorism officer and the master-at-arms' community representative.

Arandela initially joined the Navy as a personnelman in 1975. Despite his desire to work in the law enforcement community, the Navy didn't have the career path for new Sailors to enlist directly into the master-at-arms

community. After serving at three commands as a personnelman, he earned his Bachelor's Degree in Criminology and cross-rated to the master-at-arms field.

Today, he is seeing his hard work pay off as he turns what was once a mere thought into a reality.

"This is a fulfillment of a promise I made myself," Arandela said. "When I crossed over to MA, a first class MA gave me my badge, my belt, my baton and traffic-ticket book and said 'go out there and do it.'"

Arandela knew he needed structured training to be good at his job- training he didn't receive.

"I said 'no one is going out on the streets until they're well trained and ready to go,'" he recalled.

Arandela spoke to more than 100 security force members stationed here about a new and



Arandela speaks to the master-at-arms community during a April 20 brief held at Bulkeley Hall auditorium.

exciting future for the master-at-arms community.

Upcoming changes will include: longer A-school, new training facilities and more emphasis on the 141 core skills of the master-at-arms.

"Right now, we've done the curriculum review and we know what we need to do," explained Arandela. "We're now looking for funding to make sure we implement that. We want to hit A-school first so we get the new breed of MAs well-trained and

catch everybody else up."

Arandela also pointed out the new community will allow master-at-arms transferring to a new command to carry their qualifications with them instead of re-qualifying at each command.

"It's discouraging and insulting to their intelligence and experience," said Arandela. "So

Kickball commences end-of-season countdown

Story and photos by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Joe Ebaló

If the flag football games are the most physical and aggressive and the co-ed volleyball matches are the most intense and popular to watch among the Guantanamo Bay community, where does that leave kickball? In third and the least-talked about of the sports in the 2011 Morale Welfare and Recreation Guantanamo Bay Spring Athletic League.

That does not mean, however, the games lack excitement or athletic competition.

Players from the JTF GTMO Misfits kickball team sum up why they play the game in one three-letter word and it is not win. The word they use instead is one many athletes normally would not use to describe their competitive spirit: FUN!

“Kickball is definitely the funnest team sport to play here,” said Eric Reed, Misfits’ infielder. “With other sports like football, basketball and volleyball, different teams have varying levels of experience – someone could have been playing the sport all their life or even played for their high school or college teams. It’s not like that at all with kickball. Almost everyone only played as a little kid – not for trophies or to win the season, but just to have a good time and have fun.”

Just like baseball and softball, kickball is played on a diamond-shaped field. The rules are the same, but in place of the small baseball or softball is a larger, rubber ball roughly the same size as a basketball and gone are the bat and gloves.

The Misfits lost their game against the Average Joe’s 9-2 Monday night and are winding down their season with only three games left before the playoffs. With a record of two victories and nine losses, the Misfits are far from a winning season, but that does not stop the energy, smiles and laughs the players bring with them to

Cooper Field.

The Misfits team manager and designated kicker Stacey Conti said the happy and light mood is a regular thing for her and her fellow kickball players.

“Our team motto is ‘just for fun’ and that’s how we make it,” said Conti. “Athletic or not we have a good time.”

While on defense, the players are in constant communication with each other about where the other team might kick the ball or what is the best way to get a base runner out. On offense there is no shortage of shouted encouragement and cheering for the current batter. As in most team sports, there is one position on the field that is exceptionally challenging and dictates the flow of the game.

“My goal is to roll or pitch strikes and it’s not always easy,” said Lauryn Dempsey, pitcher for the Misfits. “I like to be active and I jumped at the chance to play because ... when I played in grade school it was great and now this second time around it has been nothing but fun.”



Lauryn Dempsey, pitcher for the Misfits, tosses the ball toward homeplate during Monday night’s game at Cooper Field.



John Sullivan, first baseman for the Jolly Stompers, reaches for a throw as the opposing team’s runner races to the plate during a game at Cooper Field, April 22.

Messing around ON BOATS

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

The U.S. Coast Guard provides round-the-clock maritime security 365 days a year for Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Just ten people drive that security. They are the Coast Guard's Tactical Coxswains.

These highly skilled professionals are not your average boat drivers. They are trained and certified to lead the Coast Guard's small vessel-based security teams while conducting maritime antiterrorism and force protection operations. Coxswains are the captains of these boats in all capacities.

"Our unit's responsibility is to patrol Guantanamo Bay and three miles out into the Caribbean Sea," said Coast Guard Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Carl Habeck. "As coxswains we're responsible and accountable for each of our boats and the crews and passengers aboard - basically everything about this boat."

He and the other members from Maritime Safety Security Team 91114, based out of Miami, work with the other services to enforce maritime law from the bay. That includes making sure vessels stay in their lane.

"Part of our agreement with Cuba is there is a commercially viable shipping channel through Guantanamo Bay," said Coast Guard Boatswain's Mate Chief Jason Lind, a tactical coxswain for MSST 91114. "Foreign-flagged vessels, usually Cuban, come through the gate here. So we ensure those vessels stay within the parameters of that channel or lane."

Lind, a Chief Petty Officer, is a minority among the other coxswains, who are mostly more junior petty officers. Habeck, for example, initially qualified as a coxswain at 21 years old.

"That's a lot of responsibility for a young person and it demands a lot of maturity at that age," said Lind. "You have an E-4 who is in charge of a 41-foot Coast Guard boat and responsible for the safety and conduct of the passengers and crew completing whatever the mission may be, law enforcement or public affairs, safe navigation and safety of the vessel."

A critical part of the coxswain selection process is screening for the best communicators - something each coxswain will heavily rely on throughout their careers.

"Per Coast Guard policy, the coxswain has independent authority," Habeck explained. "Now that doesn't mean we just start telling people, 'hey you do this or you do that.' You learn to work as a team. We maintain a rank structure because this is still the military, but there is no room on a 25-foot boat for a power struggle. We learn to work together."

These water-loving mariners thrive on the difficulty and challenge of their unique position. Each is charged with the safety of their crew and the equipment.

"All my friends growing up were at college partying in frat houses and going to mom and dad on the weekends," said Habeck. "I was 250 to 300 miles off shore in the ocean with three to four guys on my boat. If something went wrong there was no 911. So if something goes wrong out there, my crew is going to look at me and say, 'what do we do?'"

"I have to be able to give them an answer - the right answer. I also have to trust my crew that they can provide me with answers," he added.

Business is anything but casual while on patrol. That does not mean these coxswains and their crews are not having the time of their lives.

When explaining what he does for a living, Lind uses this Kenneth Grahame quote: "There is nothing - absolutely nothing - half so much worth doing as messing around in boats."

It is his way of saying he loves his job.

"It's just fun," Lind claimed. "It's the dynamic aspect of the mission that makes it fun for me. Whether it's the blue water or the gorgeous landscape, I love it."







Yeoman 3rd Class Maranda Samuel, attached to Joint Task Force security shoots a 9mm pistol at the JTF firing range during a line leader qualification class.



LEA L I

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

Qualifying to shoot a 9mm pistol is something most Troopers do in boot camp, but few use this skill continuously throughout their military careers. Those who do use a handgun on a day-to-day basis must truly understand the weapon and have a profound respect for it.

This is something Master-at-Arms 1st Class Errol Cummings, Joint Task Force Guantanamo range instructor, teaches his Troopers on the range.

“Line is hot! Line is hot,” yells Cummings as a shooter and his line coach do jumping jacks to get their adrenaline pumping for the four-point 9mm pistol course. “Shooter, line coach, are you ready?”

As the shooter and line coach approach, Cummings pressures the line coach to give loud, clear instructions to the junior shooter. His intent is serious.

“This is an advanced class, which not only covers the basics of the different weapons systems, but how to identify fundamental errors in a new shooter, or bad habits in an occasional shooter,” said Cummings. “The line coaches are trained in these areas and armed with the tools to assist the shooter in correcting mistakes, which allows the shooter to achieve the highest qualification possible and gives them confidence with this tool of defense.”

As shooter and line coach take to the range, the line coach watches like a hawk. Is the shooter staying behind the barrier while reloading? Are they keeping their body low to the ground? These are life-saving tactics when real bullets are flying.

see **LINES**, page 19

FEATURE |

LOADING NEWS



Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Stephen Kingsley, attached to Joint Task Force security, takes a low stance on his way to another barrier during a line leader qualification class at the JTF firing range.



IN THE TRENCHES

Army medical units rub elbows with Ivy League, make history

Rob McIlvaine
Armed Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON -- The Army Medical Department made history by cracking open a door to military recruiting that's been tightly closed for more than 40 years.

Students, faculty and staff at the Yale School of Medicine toured a mock version of a forward surgical hospital on display on campus, April 14, 2011.

Deployed to the front lines during war, actual forward medical facilities can be erected and functional in an hour -- fully equipped with the tools and medical personnel necessary to save severely wounded servicemembers during what is considered the "golden hour" of injury.

Attendees met with members of the 947th Forward Surgical Team, which is deploying to Iraq in May, about the capabilities of the roving hospital.

"There hasn't been this much brass on campus since World War II," said Dr. Kristaps Keggi, a professor of orthopedics and rehabilitation at Yale, who served in a MASH unit on the front lines during the Vietnam War.

Dubbed Operation Golden Odyssey, the event was not a recruiting effort, but rather a joint educational symposium between Army medicine and the university to showcase to the campus community the Army's expertise in medicine, life-saving procedures and vast humanitarian outreach.

In initiating this venture, Maj. Michael Filipowicz, officer in charge of the medical recruiting station in Wallingford, Conn., wanted to help dispel the myth that the Army is just about fighting wars.

"We're doing humanitarian missions across the globe and that's something Yale is very interested in," said Filipowicz. "We shined a bright light on a dark subject and successfully illuminated the great things the Army and Army medicine does for local and international communities."

Never before has Army medicine been allowed to display such a robust presence at Yale, and it's been difficult for military recruiters to reach out to students ever since ROTC was removed from campus in 1969.

Filipowicz believed some students at Yale,

which is ranked among the top 10 in medical research, could potentially be interested in money for college and medical training only the Army can offer.

In an effort to eventually open that door, he approached the university about working together on developing a mutually beneficial presentation. Much to his surprise, Yale's administration was receptive to his idea.

Dr. Robert Alpern, dean of Yale School of Medicine felt the event was a success and said Yale is committed to doing what it can to support the U.S. armed forces and their students.

"As a medical school committed to health

a forward surgical team is able to set up. She meets with hundreds of students a year and is looking forward to spreading the word about Army opportunities.

"The technology available to treat wounded Soldiers and allowing them to remain functional members of society after serious injury is an astounding advancement that we need to hear more about in the general public," McJunkins said. "Being part of the Army is certainly not for everyone, but for those students who can thrive in a military environment, there are great opportunities to practice medicine in a wide variety of arenas -- domestic, international, war zones -- that they may not have in another medical training program."

Dr. David Leffell, deputy dean for Clinical Affairs and a professor of dermatology and surgery at Yale, said the military, like universities, provides skill training and leadership education. The military also reinforces values similar to those in Yale's own value system, which are present in the university motto, "For God, for country and for Yale."

"I think the opportunity for medical students and residents to spend time in the military and learn about the culture and understand

the importance of what you do is critical to creating well-rounded physicians who will be better able to contribute and give back to their country," Leffell said.

Because the event at Yale was not a recruiting effort, no "lead cards" were generated, but Filipowicz estimates about 80 students attended who he said were extremely impressed by the scope of humanitarian missions across the globe and the mobility of Army surgical care.

Filipowicz and Lt. Col. Pablito Gahol, commander of 1st Medical Recruiting Brigade, believe the credibility of this newly formed partnership will ripple through social media and in the long run, eventually generate leads and interest not just from Yale, but other universities as well.

"The immediate return on investment is simply the promotion of the Army medical department, the acknowledgment that we exist and that we're not just about the war fight," said Filipowicz. "We were beating the medical drum, but playing the Army song"



Members of the 947th Forward Surgical Team man a mock version of a forward surgical hospital on the Yale School of Medicine campus, April 14. - photo by U.S. Army

care around the world, Yale applauds the Army for taking on a humanitarian role and hope our students will come to understand this role our armed forces play," Alpern said. "I was impressed, but not surprised, by the level of sophistication of the medicine practiced."

"We wish to provide information to our students so they can best make decisions regarding their career choice [and believe] our students would benefit from knowing more about educational and career opportunities in the Army," Alpern explained.

Col. Raymond Dingle, Army Medical Recruiting Brigade commander, said visitors to the forward surgical hospital were "blown away and impressed" with what they saw.

"It was great to hear folks who've never served before saying (they) support the U.S. Army and (that) military service is honorable," said Dingle. "We probably gained 50 advocates that day."

Kristin McJunkins, director of Health Professions Advising on the undergraduate level at Yale was impressed with how quickly



Enlisted Retention Board provides some benefits for fleet

Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- The recently announced enlisted retention board (ERB) will help the Navy achieve mandated end strength, the chief of naval personnel (CNP) said in an April 25 interview.

The ERB will eliminate overmanning in 31 ratings and will benefit high-performing Sailors in the long run by improving advancement opportunities. The Navy has witnessed improved retention over the past decade which can be attributed to factors such as work-life balance initiatives and improved recruiting. Additionally, the slow economic recovery has influenced many Sailors to re-enlist.

"We are attracting and retaining the highest quality force we've ever had and these Sailors are increasingly looking at the Navy as a great long-term career choice," stated chief of naval personnel, Vice Adm. Mark Ferguson. "With this sustained high retention, systems designed to help maintain the balance in our Force, particularly Perform-to-Serve, have become over-burdened.

As a result, re-enlistment and advancement opportunities for our high-performing Sailors are being negatively impacted Fleet-wide."

The ERB will review Sailors in 31 of the most overmanned ratings and will look at performance to fill a specific number of retention quotas within competitive groups broken down by rating, pay grade and years of service. The board will value Sailors with proven performance in challenging billets, while Sailors with negative performance indicators such as convictions for drunk driving, declining performance evaluations, lost security clearances and non-judicial punishments will be less competitive for retention quotas.

By focusing on performance in addition to quotas, Navy reinforces its strategy to retain the best and brightest.

"In designing this board, we were determined to separate only those Sailors in ratings needed to rebalance the force and stay within our congressionally mandated manpower limits," Ferguson said.

Although the number directly affected by the ERB represents

a small percentage of Sailors, the impacts will be felt across the force.

While Navy-wide advancement opportunities to E-5 declined modestly over the past several advancement cycles and E-6 opportunities remained relatively stable over the same period, opportunities to both E-5 and E-6 in the 31 ratings being considered have dropped steadily. Reducing overmanning in these ratings will result in career stability and will likely result in increased advancements in these ratings.

Not only will the ERB help stabilize advancement opportunity in the 31 ratings, currently undermanned ratings will benefit from the expanded conversion opportunity Navy leaders approved in advance of the board. Several factors that are normally mandatory for rating conversion, including maximum years of service, maximum paygrade, and minimum activity tour requirements, are being waived. This will allow the greatest opportunity for Sailors who would otherwise be board-eligible to ensure their continued service,

while increasing manning in ratings that the Navy has been challenged to fill.

"Our Sailors are dedicated to serving their country, and this is why we are providing additional opportunities for them to convert into undermanned ratings ahead of the board," Ferguson said. "Sailors will see the benefits of increased manpower support in some critical areas."

Sailors chosen for conversion into the undermanned ratings listed in NAVADMIN 129/11 will be exempt from the board and will be given an opportunity to continue serving in areas of need for the Navy. The procedures for requesting conversion will be released by the beginning of May and applications will need to be received by June 15 to be considered.

A more balanced force - the goal of the ERB - will benefit the entire Fleet, Ferguson said.

"Improved advancement opportunities, expanded PTS re-enlistment quotas, and increased manpower support in needed ratings over the long term - these are the positive results," he said.

SECNAV says Tomodachi made US, Japan alliance stronger

Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

YOKOSUKA, Japan (NNS) -- The Secretary of the Navy thanked more than a thousand 7th Fleet Sailors and Marines in Yokosuka Apr. 20 who participated in disaster relief operations off the coast of Japan.

The Honorable Ray Mabus expressed his gratitude to Sailors assigned to 7th Fleet ships who gathered at the Yokosuka waterfront for an all-hands call.

"To be as flexible as you were, to go from one mission to suddenly turn and do humanitarian assistance and disaster relief without costs, without changing any equipment, any people, changing any training and going from your normal day-to-day jobs without any hesitation and doing it so well, no other country can do that and no other service can do that like the people here," Mabus said.

Within hours of the earthquake and resulting tsunami that struck Japan March 11, much of the U.S. 7th Fleet was on the move, re positioning ships and aircraft to assist the Japanese Self

Defense Force in their relief efforts.

The U.S. Navy brought 22 ships, 132 aircraft and more than 15,000 personnel to conduct missions as part of Operation Tomodachi.

Tomodachi is the Japanese word for 'friendship.'

In the days and weeks that followed, 7th Fleet forces delivered more than 260 tons of relief supplies to groups of isolated people ashore. They systematically mapped and cleared harbors from obstructions to navigation, provided fuel and supplies to Japanese ships and aircraft, and searched more than 2,000 square miles of ocean in a concerted effort to find the remains of victims.

"There is no other force in the world other than the United States Navy and Marine Corps



Secretary of the Navy the Honorable Ray Mabus speaks to Sailors and Marines involved in Operation Tomodachi, April 20. - photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Aaron M. Pineda.

that could have done what you all did," Mabus said.

Mabus said Operation Tomodachi demonstrated the U.S. commitment to its longtime alliance with Japan.

"The partnership between America and Japan was made stronger because of what you did," Mabus said.



For those military members looking to continue their education after they move on from the Marine Corps, the Leadership Scholar Program essentially serves as “the foot-in-the-door,” expediting the admissions process to attend colleges and universities. The LSP helps a student along the way, in what can be a long and confusing process choosing an education path. - photo by Cpl. Jenn Calaway,

Leadership Scholar program helps Marines prepare for college life out of the Corps

Cpl. Jenn Calaway
Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — For those military members looking to continue their education after they move on from the Marine Corps, the Leadership Scholar Program essentially serves as “the foot-in-the-door,” expediting the process for college and university admission. The LSP basically helps a student along the way, in what can be a long and confusing process choosing an education path.

Under the LSP, Marines can attend nearly one hundred colleges and universities spread all throughout the United States, making this opportunity hard to ignore.

Applicants must be active duty, reserve or veteran Marines who are planning to attend a school as a freshman or transfer student. If an applicant is an active duty Marine, they must be honorably discharged before the beginning of the school semester they plan to attend.

“The LSP works with colleges and universities around the country to expedite the admission process for Marines,” said Beth Morgan, director, Higher Education Initiative, LSP. “The advantage of working through the LSP versus applying on their own is that with the LSP, the college or university may guarantee admission to

Marines who meet their standards. Even where there is no guarantee, LSP has established direct lines of communication with the admission office and an LSP recommendation adds significant weight to the application.”

Once contact with the school is established and a Marine is enrolled, students essentially live a normal college life.

“Institutions dictate all academic criteria, along with residency and other requirements; and establish all documentation deadlines, processing timelines, and reporting instructions,” Morgan said. “Institutions will also decide how many LSP applicants they will accept each year.”

Former Marine Sgt. Nicholas Keith has attended college through the LSP program since 2009. “It’s the most advantageous decision I’ve ever made,” said Keith, a student at Chico State, located in Chico, Calif. “I never would have been able to get my bachelors degree if it weren’t for this program and now I’m going to be the first person in my family to ever graduate college.”

“The LSP is available to help Marines who want to continue their education and become better prepared to compete in today’s tough job market,” Morgan said.

After an interview process, students are asked to provide: a Screening Board Report

(from chain of command -- model would be a meritorious promotion board report), a copy of High School transcripts (unofficial), a copy of college transcripts (unofficial), SMART Transcript, certified true copies of Record Of Service, Basic Individual Record, Basic Training Record, awards page, and education record, Letters of Recommendation (optional) and a personal essay of 250 words about their desire to participate in the program.

“Since we kicked off the LSP in October, we’ve got roughly 40 students utilizing the program in colleges and universities as we speak,” said Morgan. “Now we’re just really starting to vamp it up due to the fact we’ve got so many schools actively participating.”

Though students are still required to pay for their actual education, through either the Montgomery G.I. bill or the Post/911 G.I. bill, the cost of the LSP is absolutely free.

“As long as you are approved through your chain of command, its instant access to a university,” said Keith. “After I was done with my interview, I was literally signing up for classes within two days. It’s just amazing ... I love it.”

For more information, contact the LSP at: 760-429-4124 or go to their Web site for detailed information and a contact request form at: <http://www.leadershipscholarprogram.com>.



Air Force eliminates exception to short tour policy

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNS) -- Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz approved rescinding a temporary policy established in 2003 that allowed Airmen to receive short-tour credit for overseas TDYs of at least 181 consecutive days. The effective date of the new policy will be announced later.

Although the policy change primarily affects Airmen who deploy to a hostile fire or imminent danger pay area, it also affects a small number of Airmen serving TDY in certain remote areas.

Officials announced in September a change in the air and space expeditionary force rotational baseline from 120 to 179 days for most active component Airmen in various career fields. Longer AEF tours have become the norm--part of the reason for the policy change.

Former Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper in June 2003 approved a temporary exception to policy, awarding short-tour credit to Airmen who deployed to hostile environments for at least 181 consecutive days after Sept. 11, 2001. A similar exception was made in the 1990s for Airmen deploying in support of Desert Storm.

Officials decided to eliminate the temporary exception to short-tour credit policy in fairness to those deploying for longer periods of time. Additionally, transportation delays and mandatory overlap time with successors often cause Airmen deployed for 179 days to remain in place long enough to trigger the 181-day threshold.

"With Airmen deploying for longer periods of time, particularly for 365 days, it is no longer equitable to grant short-tour credit based on a 181-day minimum," said Col. David Slade, director of assignments

at the Air Force Personnel Center. "Additionally, service in hostile environments and longer periods of family separation are inevitable since the standard deployment is now 179 days."

Under the new policy, the following guidelines apply and will be effective the date the guidance memorandum is signed at Headquarters Air Force Manpower, Personnel and Services:

- Airmen previously awarded short-tour credit under the temporary 181-day policy will keep their short-tour credit

- Airmen who arrive in the area of responsibility TDY prior to guidance implementation and serve at least 181 days consecutively in a hostile fire or imminent danger pay area will receive short-tour credit under the previous criteria

- Airmen who arrive in the AOR TDY on or after the date of guidance implementation will only receive short-tour credit based on TDY service stipulated in AFI 36-2110, Assignments:

- 300-plus days overseas in a consecutive 18 month period
- 548-plus days overseas in a consecutive 3 year period

Since the exception to policy went into effect in 2003, 16,795 Airmen have deployed more than once on 179-day taskings. More than 52,000 Airmen have deployed for 181 to 200 days since Sept. 11, 2001. The number of 179-day taskings also has grown significantly since 2006, from about 6,500 to about 16,600 taskings.

For more information, go to the Air Force personnel services website at <https://gum-crm.csd.disa.mil>, or call the Total Force Service Center at 800-525-0102 or DSN 665-5000.

Armed Predators begin ops in Libya

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- President Barack Obama approved strikes in Libya by armed Predators, a remotely piloted aircraft, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said April 22.

Armed Predators have been used in Libya "purely as (intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance systems) until today," said Marine Gen. James E. Cartwright, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs.

The character of the fight in Libya has changed, the general said, pointing out that Gadhafi's loyalists are digging in or "nestling up against crowded areas" to avoid being targeted by NATO aircraft.

The more-precise Predators bring "their ability to get down lower and therefore, to be able to get better visibility, particularly on targets that have started to dig themselves into defensive positions," General Cartwright said, adding the aircraft are uniquely suited for urban areas where traditional bombing can cause collateral damage.

"This is a very limited capability," Secretary Gates said. "Of all our friends and allies, we are the most-stretched military. The primary strike role has been turned over to our allies and our friends, and if we can make a modest contribution with these armed Predators, we'll do it."

The president agreed to join the international effort against the Libyan government, Secretary Gates said, because "of the worry that Gadhafi could destabilize the fledgling revolutions in both Tunisia and Egypt ... and second to prevent a humanitarian disaster."

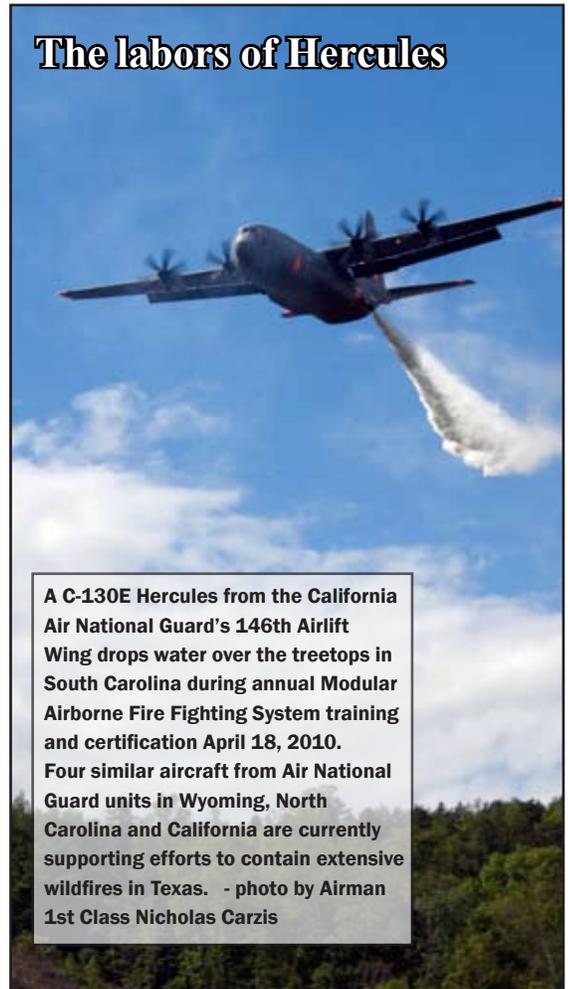
Professional Development Guide updated

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNS) -- Air Education and Training Command officials have announced the release of the new AFPAM36-2241, Professional Development Guide. The effective date of the new PDG is Oct. 1 and will be available at www.e-publishing.af.mil beginning May 2.

Master sergeants testing this December will be the first to use this study guide to prepare for promotion testing.

To assist Airmen studying for promotion testing, Mp3 audio files and interactive online exercises will be available at www.pdg.af.edu by May 2. For additional information, please read Frequently Asked Questions at www.omsq.af.mil.

The labors of Hercules



A C-130E Hercules from the California Air National Guard's 146th Airlift Wing drops water over the treetops in South Carolina during annual Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System training and certification April 18, 2010. Four similar aircraft from Air National Guard units in Wyoming, North Carolina and California are currently supporting efforts to contain extensive wildfires in Texas. - photo by Airman 1st Class Nicholas Carzis



Coast Guard repatriates 13 Cuban migrants

MIAMI – The crew of the Coast Guard Cutter Key Biscayne repatriated 13 Cuban migrants to Bahia de Cabañas, Cuba Sunday.

On April 20, a good Samaritan notified Coast Guard watchstanders in Miami that he was on scene with a rustic vessel with migrants aboard off Baker's Haulover Inlet in Miami, Fla. Coast Guard Cutter Drummond was diverted. Once on scene, the crew of the Coast Guard Cutter Drummond embarked the six migrants, who were later determined to be Cuban.

That same day, the crew of the Coast Guard Cutter Sawfish embarked seven migrants after they were spotted by a good Samaritan off Marquesas Key, Fla. The migrants were later determined to be Cuban.

Once aboard a Coast Guard cutter, all migrants are provided with food, water, shelter and basic medical attention.

Coast Guard participates in multi-agency strike force operation in Saint Croix

Christiansted, U.S. Virgin Islands – Coast Guard Sector San Juan container inspectors alongside partner agency teams participated in 'Operation Caribbean Transit 2011,' a multi-agency strike force operation (MASFO) Wednesday and Thursday at the Port of Christiansted in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands.

During the two-day evolution MASFO teams inspected a total of 119 containers of which 10 were detained by Coast Guard inspectors for safety violations.

The primary objective of the MASFO was to ensure compliance with federal, state and local regulations pertaining to the safe shipment of cargo and the shipment of undeclared hazardous goods or illegal contraband.

The MASFO was comprised of two teams strategically located throughout the port. Leveraging the jurisdictional authorities of each agency, the inter-agency teams thoroughly inspected containers, bulk liquid tanks, tractor trailers, trucks and truck drivers before their shipments left the port. "The MASFO was a great example of the interagency cooperation, and a first of its kind for St. Croix's port community," said Cmdr. David Berliner, Coast Guard Sector San chief of prevention. "The timely and comprehensive inspections were aligned with the shared mutual objective of facilitating the safe and timely flow of commerce through the maritime, rail and highway modes of transportation."



Shipmates – The heart of the Coast Guard

Shipmate, in the Coast Guard, is a term that goes beyond endearment. It embodies the bond forged by sailors who serve on isolated ships in the vast expansions of the world's seas. Shipmates are born out of arduous duty and live forever in the shared memories of their fellow Coast Guardsmen.

The title shipmate is a neither taken in vain nor spoken haphazardly, and it is the service's highest compliment to be called a good one. The yeoman instructors at Coast Guard Training Center Petaluma work to instill the newest members of the service with the spirit of the great shipmates who have gone before them. It is in that tradition the instructors established the Seaman Apprentice William R. Flores award for outstanding leadership to be presented six times a year for each class convening.

This award was formally known as the Outstanding Shipmate award, and was renamed in honor of 19-year-old William Ray "Billy" Flores, a Coast Guard hero who sacrificed his life saving his shipmates during a collision that became the worst peacetime disaster in Coast Guard history. He embodied the spirit of being a true shipmate.

It was only a few months after graduating from boot camp that Flores would heed the call to duty aboard the Cutter Blackthorn. The 180-foot cutter collided with the 605-foot tanker Capricorn near the entrance of Tampa Bay, Fla. Jan. 28, 1980. As the cutter was sinking, Flores and fellow crewmembers threw lifejackets to their shipmates who had jumped into the water. While others were abandoning ship, Flores remained aboard the cutter to help trapped crewmembers and comfort those who were injured and disoriented.

Eventually, the Blackthorn capsized, and tragically, Flores was one of 23 Coast Guardsmen who died. He was posthumously awarded The Coast Guard Medal on Sept. 16, 2000, for his selfless courage and heroic actions.

"The renaming of the Outstanding Shipmate award to the Seaman Apprentice William Flores award in the yeoman schoolhouse was done to bring a little more significance to what we believe the term 'shipmate' is all about," said Master Chief Petty Officer Richard Wolfe, the yeoman school chief. "The term shipmate embodies honor, respect, devotion to duty, commitment, and excellence, traits that Seaman Apprentice William R. Flores showed that tragic night in 1980."

Fireman Kyle E. Vrable, a Whitehall, Penn., native, was presented with the first Seaman Apprentice William R. Flores award in a ceremony presided by Adm. Joseph "Pepe" Castillo, the 11th Coast Guard District commander, April 20, 2011.

Vrable was nominated to receive the award by the students he serves with.

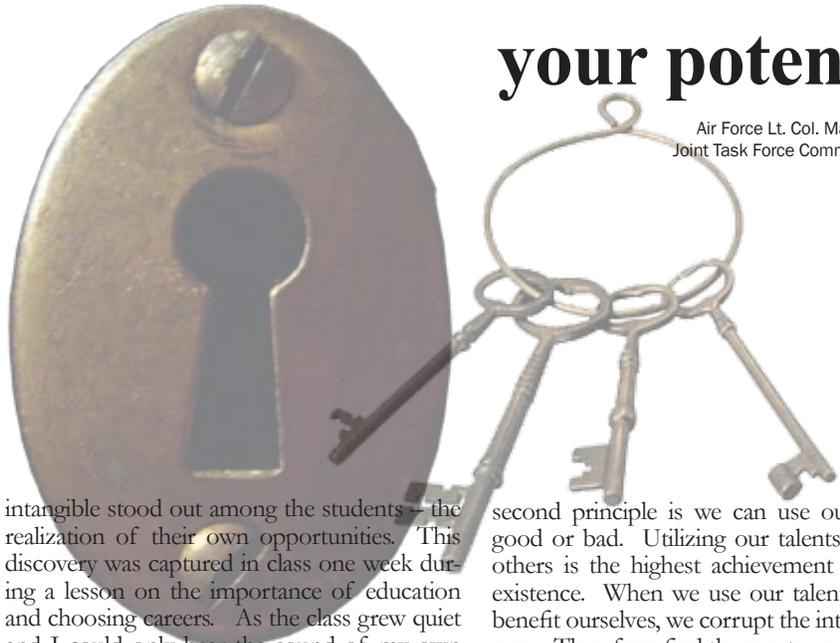
"Vrable never leaves anyone behind," said Seaman Sally Smith, a yeoman student at Petaluma. "He always has a smile on his face and is an outstanding shipmate."

"He will drop anything to be there for someone else," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Emily Mears, another classmate of Vrable.

"We wanted to do something to help keep the memory of Flores alive, and the yeoman school staff wanted this award to have a deeper meaning and something the student would carry with pride," said Wolfe. "The characteristics that Fireman Vrable displayed are the same type of traits we are looking for in all of our Guardians."

Unlocking your potential

Air Force Lt. Col. Marvin Williams,
Joint Task Force Command Chaplain



One of the most intriguing concepts in life deals with the prospect of human potential. Nowhere is this more evident than in my experience as a chaplain, college professor and community leader. Every aspect of my professional career seems to involve the mechanics of enabling military personnel, students or civilians to reach their full potential, in one form or another. Now, I certainly don't think of myself as a "potential-fulfillment" guru, but I do believe people can be inspired to accomplish things in life. In fact, social and psychological research indicates that "inspiration" directly contributes to people reaching beyond their capacity. As the saying goes, "a little inspiration goes a long way."

For example, some of the most memorable speeches in history are known for the power to inspire. From President John F. Kennedy's "Ask Not What Your Country Can Do For You" to Nelson Mandela's "An Idea for Which I Am Prepared To Die," inspiration is the catalyst for reaching the potential that lies deep within the human spirit.

Thinking more deeply on the concept of potential, I am reminded of my experience at St. Mary's Children and Family Services in Syosset, New York. Several years ago I was invited to teach a weekly spiritual enrichment class for the students. At that time I was unaware how my weekly encounters with the dedicated staff and emotionally-troubled students would change my perspective on human potential forever. The students at St. Mary's were different. Not because of race, religious preference, gender or any of the other descriptors used to define difference. No, these students stood out because they had a common bond – human suffering.

Daily existence at St. Mary's meant living through the pain of uncertainty and the knowledge of being dealt a rotten hand before puberty. It meant nothing was taken for granted. By working with the students at St. Mary's, I engaged with a fraction of the estimated 18 million young people between 10 and 18 years old at risk of not living up to their potential. However, beyond the pain and hurt something

intangible stood out among the students – the realization of their own opportunities. This discovery was captured in class one week during a lesson on the importance of education and choosing careers. As the class grew quiet and I could only hear the sound of my own voice, I realized I had struck a chord. I finally had their attention.

I want to outline at least three ways I think potential can be unlocked. These three ways emerge from a series I taught at the NAVSTA Chapel on "The Principles of Talents and Abilities."

Principle #1

The first principle is the acknowledgment we all have talents and abilities. Those talents and abilities are connected to a sense of purpose. As human beings, we are designed to achieve and fulfill that particular purpose. Whatever it is, we have a responsibility to pursue it. In order to fulfill our potential, it is important to understand the connection between our given talents and acquired abilities. No one person's talents or abilities can exhaust the totality of human experiences, which points to the fact that we need each other to achieve success. Models of success are naturally team-oriented. This is why nothing is more admirable than a smooth operating team. Unlocking human potential means developing a mechanism of healthy and prosperous relationships.

Principle #2

Closely aligned with the first principle, the

second principle is we can use our gifts for good or bad. Utilizing our talents to benefit others is the highest achievement of human existence. When we use our talents solely to benefit ourselves, we corrupt the intended purpose. Therefore, find the most productive way of benefiting others. Whether through mentoring or advocating for a cause, we unlock our potential by choosing to benefit others.

Principle #3

The last principle deals with growth. Unlocking human potential requires that we embrace a system or strategy for growth. As human beings we are made to grow and develop. Stagnation works against what it means to be human. This is why I always advocate pursuing higher education. Learning is for a lifetime, not just an event. The more we learn and apply the lessons to our lives, the more successful we will be in unlocking the potential that lies within us.

Finally, social scientists suggest only 10 percent of people will actually reach their full potential. I believe we all can reach our potential if we are willing to put forth the effort and do the necessary things to fulfill our purpose. Take the time to be intentional about life. Don't be afraid of failure. Through failure we learn our sense of direction and gain a better understanding of relationships. Reaching full potential does not mean opportunities will wait on us – it means we have to put ourselves in the best position to make a difference in life.

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
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

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
Seventh Day Adventist
Saturday 11 a.m.
Room B

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

TAKE ME HOME TONIGHT



Sp. Meredith Vincent

The 80s is a peculiar decade. Colorful and gloriously tacky, these years seem to be looked back on with regret and disdain. However, they did provide us with some of the best cinematic gems in movie history, particularly in the teen comedy genre. When looking back on films like “Say Anything...,” “Sixteen Candles” and “Porky’s,” there is always a bittersweet longing for the gleeful, joyous and nonchalant innocence that is glaringly absent in the 21st century.

“Take Me Home Tonight” aims to recapture that nostalgia and it comes pretty darn close. Topher Grace is Matt, an aimless MIT grad who is wasting his genius as a video-store clerk while figuring out what he wants out of life. Helping him along the way are his plump side-kick Jack Black, Dan Fogler (if you are a Star Wars fan and haven’t seen Fogler in “Fanboys” I suggest you go watch it. Right meow.) and twin sister, Anna Faris. Faris is a consistently funny and delightful actress, but there was something weird going on with her lips that was highly distracting. Shame.

The movie takes place over the course of one raunchy, raucous night, as the three friends venture to a house party in hopes of Matt confessing his affections to high school crush, Tori Frederking. In addition to remnants of every John Hughes film ever made, it also has almost the exact same plot as 1998’s “Can’t Hardly Wait,” which had almost the exact same plot as



Hughes’ “Sixteen Candles.” Note to future screenwriters: the loser-pining-over-most-popular-jock/cheerleader-and-eventually-winning-them-over-by-being-super-smart-and-sweet plot has been done. A few times. Find something else.

After years on TV sitcom “That 70s Show,” Grace as become an expert at making geeky chic adorable, not to mention fitting seamlessly into the look and clothes of a completely different generation. However, the charm usually lacing his nerd shtick is gone, and he spends a good deal of the movie coming off as desperate and whiny. In order for these movies to work, the audience must relate with their protagonist – we need

to want him to win the girl. Matt eventually does win her heart – and ours as well – but it takes much longer than it should.

About that girl... The object of Matt’s desire, “The Frederking,” is played by Teresa Palmer, a dead-ringer for “Twilight’s” Kristen Stewart but without all the angst. She’s blond, sunny and not much else, but in a movie like this, she doesn’t need to be.

Grace and Palmer try their best, but the only real chemistry is between twins Matt and Wendy. Even with strange duck lips, it’s difficult for anyone to not have chemistry

see MOVIES page 19

	22 FRI.	23 SAT.	24 SUN.	25 MON.	26 TUES.	27 WED.	28 THURS.
Downtown Lyceum	Gnome & Juliet (G) 8 p.m. *last showing*	Mars Needs Moms (PG) 8 p.m.	Unknown (PG-13) 8 p.m. *last showing*	Hall Pass (R) 8 p.m.	I Am Number Four (PG-13) 8 p.m. *last showing*	Rango (PG) 8 p.m.	Take Me Home Tonight (R) 8 p.m.
	Beastly (PG-13) 10 p.m.	The Adjustment Bureau (PG-13) 10 p.m.					
Camp Bulkeley	Mars Needs Moms (PG) 8 p.m.	Rango (PG) 8 p.m.	The Adjustment Bureau (PG-13) 8 p.m.	I Am Number Four (PG-13) 8 p.m. *last showing*	Hall Pass (R) 8 p.m.	Rio (G) 8 p.m.	Big Momma’s: Like Father, Like Son (PG-13) 8 p.m.
	Take Me Home Tonight (R) 10 p.m.	Beastly (PG-13) 10 p.m.					

Call MWR at ext. 2010 for more information.

Movie Hotline - call 4880.

MOVIES cont.

with Faris – she’s just that good.

In the absence of fully-realized main characters, it’s the small-time bits that stand out. Fogler does an outstanding job as crazed buffoonish best friend Barry. He manages to lose his job, steal a Mercedes, face off in a hilarious dance showdown and ends up bawling and snorting in the back of a police car, and he does it all with reckless abandon. I didn’t even mention the illegal substances and embarrassing sex scene, but that’s because I’m not sure I can say cocaine and boobs in my review... I guess we’ll see!

(Note: This review was approved by Spc. Vincent’s leadership, accompanied by a small warning.)

In even smaller – but no less show-

stopping – parts are Chris Pratt as Wendy’s toolbag boyfriend, Michael Ian Black as Tori’s sleazy boss and Angie Everhart as Barry’s “snow” bunny. But my personal favorite was Demetri Martin as Matt’s dry and uncensored handicapped former classmate. Welcome, wheelchair dude, into the land of hilarious crippled people, populated by Danny McBride’s wheelchair-bound veteran in “Due Date” and David Huddleston in “The Big Lebowski.” You are in good company.

However, there is one cameo even cooler than Martin’s deadpan delivery. In a blink-and-you’ll-miss-it nod to true 80s admirers everywhere, as Matt and Barry are walking down a driveway, one glimpses “Back to the

Future’s” prized Delorean. Whoever the prop master was on this movie, I want to kiss you.

“Take Me Home Tonight” aims to capture the retro spirit and timelessness of an era most people would rather forget. It also preaches to the current generation of stuck-in-neutral party-goers, urging us to live life for each and every moment, no matter what decade we’re stuck in. In my favorite quote of the movie, while pleading with his son to do something more with his life, Matt’s dad says to him, “Don’t credit yourself as a failure. You’re worse than that.” No matter the fashion, hairstyles or soundtrack you’ve grown up with, such advice stays true over time.

Three and half well-earned banana rats.

LINES cont.

“I expect a line leader to know that a shooter will commonly revert back to what they were taught in a challenging situation,” Cummings explained. “So I expect every line coach to understand the training they are giving.”

Master-at-Arms 3rd Class Jason Starcher, attached to Joint Task Force Guantanamo security, sees the training as an integral part of learning to lead another shooter to confidently ‘put them in the black.’

“As a line leader you want to

deliver safe and accurate instruction so the trainee understands proper weapons handling and safety procedures,” said Starcher. “Also, keep them motivated along with you by being confident and accurate with your direction.”

While focused on leading their junior shooters, line coaches also got a chance to experience the range from a bystander perspective when the most senior leader of the master-at-arms community, Capt. Tito Arandela, Navy Expeditionary Combat Command’s force security and anti-terrorism officer, made

an appearance at the range and proved how fundamentals are key to being a successful shooter.

For Cummings, Arandela’s visit was the best example he could give his Troopers at the range.

“I was humbled by his participation and extremely impressed at his ability,” expressed Cummings. “He went through the same intense process I put the line leaders through, and he out shot them all!”

The line coach is an extension of the Range Safety Officer, Range Master and Range Officer in

Charge, Cummings added. They evaluate the shooter for safety, competence, comfort ability and handling ability.

In the master-at-arms community, the weapon is the very last resource to use.

“It could unfortunately one day be the difference between who makes it home in one piece – the Sailor or the bad guy,” acknowledged Cummings.

It is vital all Sailors handling weapons in the performance of their duties are prepared to use it if necessary.

TROOPER cont.

the problems or development of his younger Marines. He enforced rules when it suited him, his orders were often contradictory and he made sure everyone knew what an outstanding job HE was doing. In the field he was completely lost and, unfortunately, his anger and frustration with himself manifested into a living hell for those below him.

This sergeant and I were often at odds with each other and I, rightfully, found myself on the wrong side of a corrective action. More than any other person, this sergeant taught me about what kind of leader I DID NOT want to be and for that I will always be grateful.

So to all the Troopers out there, while we are here at Joint Task Force Guantanamo without the normal rat-race distractions, take the time to pull your life’s battle book down from the shelf, dust it off and make sure you’re still on course. Make the changes that need made and start setting yourself up for the next milestone. Follow your plan and you will succeed. Along the way, look around you – find those leaders you respect and can learn from. Spend as much time pulling from them as possible. Good leaders are hard to find, great leaders harder still.

Dad, thank you for always being an inspiration and a motivation; the guidance you’ve provided has proven itself time and time again. I’m one of the lucky ones - I had a great leader as a father.

MA cont.

what we did is set up a standardized Navy Security Force Personal Qualification Standard.”

Arandela said his main intent was to thank Guantanamo Bay Troopers for what they do and give them an idea of what lays ahead for the community.

“It was wonderful to have Capt. Arandela here,” said Master-at-arms 1st Class Michael Moseley, a Joint Task Force Guantanamo security member. “He’s a great example of what we, as MAs should aspire to be. Being a prior

enlisted MA also makes it easy for him to relate to my junior guys.”

As a captain, Arandela says he is at the top of his career path and hopes he can help his community become healthier with an assured future as a force in the Navy.

“I’ve worked hard and I’ve reached a point where I’m able to influence officers in my pay grade to help us with these decisions,” said Arandela. “I’ve always been a training person, and I want to make sure the new breed of MAs does not make the same mistakes we made growing up.”



The JTF

At Shutter Speed



HERE COMES THE EASTER BUNNY

The Easter Bunny visited Guantanamo Bay, Saturday during the Morale Welfare and Recreation sponsored Easter Egg Hunt at the Lateral Hazard Golf Course. - photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Sally Hendricks

LIFE, LIMB OR EYE SIGHT

Spec. Heather Blackwell acts as a casualty while Soldiers with the 525th Military Police Battalion perform first aid during a combat casualty drill, Friday at the paintball range. - photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jason Tross.



RUNNING THE FENCE LINE

Residents of Guantanamo Bay participated in the Marines' Moonlight Fence Line Run, Friday. The popular run is used by the Marines to help raise funds for the annual Marine Corps Ball in November. - photo by Mass Communication Specialist Chief Mike Heckman.



SUNRISE BAPTISM

Navy Lt. Chaplain Douglas Holmes performed baptisms at Windmill Beach, Sunday as part of the Easter Sunrise Service. - photo by Mass Communication Specialist Chief Mike Heckman.