

# The WIRE

An award-winning  
JTF journal

## Challenge accepted

Swimming 50 miles in 50 days

**Thor vs. the island**

How the God of Thunder  
stormed - literally - into theaters

**On the Green**

The GTMO Open tees off

# Trooper to Trooper

featuring

## Senior Chief Petty Officer Wendell Burnette

Senior enlisted leader, MSST Miami

In my last article, I addressed our responsibility to fulfill our contractual obligations and commitments to our country, branches of service, unit and fellow servicemembers. This week I wish to point out a different responsibility, or duty if you prefer. We not only need to improve our units and services, we need to also expend that same energy and drive on ourselves and families. It is not good enough to just settle for the minimum in our personal lives. Utilize the opportunities around you. Strive to improve your life and the lives of those who depend on you. Use some of your free time taking CLEP tests, college courses, or seeking technical certifications. Give yourself options in life, plan ahead and aggressively seek out information on the benefits you have earned. Don't wait until after you leave the service to use your GI bill – get your degree using tuition assistance and give yourself the option for higher degrees, or shift those benefits to family members later. Tomorrow comes much quicker than most of us realize. Just as we need to strive to learn and improve on the job, we also need to grow and excel in our personal lives. The more well-rounded we are, the better we are at all we do, at home and at work.



### JTF Guantanamo

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**Command Master Chief**  
Command Sgt. Maj.  
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**COVER:** Aviation Electronics Technician 2nd Class Ryan Anthony swims at Marine Hill pool to log laps for the Marine 50/50 challenge. Ryan is a Joint Task Force member who is using his off time to train for a triathlon.

Staff Sgt. Salvatore Giunta, Medal of Honor recipient, lights the Olympic cauldron Monday, during the opening ceremonies at the Olympic training center in Colorado Springs, Colo.



## Warrior Games commence with opening ceremony

Cpl. Derek Meitzer  
Wounded Warrior Regiment

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — The U.S. Paralympics and Department of Defense held its opening ceremony Wednesday for the 2011 Warrior Games at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo.

More than 200 wounded, ill or injured service members from the Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and Special Operations Command are scheduled to compete in the Paralympic-style competition May 16-21.

A horse-mounted color guard led the way for service members who have illnesses or injuries ranging from cancer to combat wounds.

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Salvatore Giunta, Medal of Honor recipient, was selected as the torchbearer for the Games. Giunta is the first living recipient of the Medal of Honor since the Vietnam War.

Veteran Marine Cpl. Travis Greene from Boise, Idaho, was selected as the torchbearer for the All-Marine Warrior Games team. Greene, a graduate of Twin Falls High School in Twin Falls, Idaho, was on his third tour to Iraq when an improvised explosive device explosion cost him his legs in Al Ramadi, Iraq, in December 2005. He earned two gold medals during the 2010 Warrior Games as a member of both the wheelchair basketball and sitting volleyball

teams. He also won a silver medal in shot put and a bronze in hand cycling. Greene will participate in wheelchair basketball, volleyball, sitting discus and sitting shot put this year.

Greene was assisted down the pathway by Marine veteran Cpl. Angel Gomez from Farmersville, Calif., Gomez, who sustained traumatic injuries from an improvised explosive device while serving in Iraq, will participate in the shooting prone and standing competition and cycling at the Games.

"The whole time I was going down the aisle with the torch in my hand, I kept saying to myself, 'don't drop the torch,'" Greene said. "I'm very honored that my teammates picked me to carry the torch. It means a lot. It's a once-in-a-lifetime kind of thing and I'm very blessed to be here."

Ken Fisher, the chairman of the Fisher House Foundation and guest speaker, applauded the athletes' determination to overcome the hurdles that could have challenged them.

"Perseverance is defined as a continued effort to do or keep something, despite difficult failure or opposition," Fisher said. "Each of you looked into the future and saw yourself serving your country, and you saw that vision come true. Then once injured, you looked to the future again and saw yourself recovering and competing in sports. Here you are seeing that vision come true."

## Gates stresses U.S. support role in Libya

Donna Miles  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, — The United States has no intention of putting boots on the ground in Libya and should not become militarily involved in unrest shaking Syria, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said in portions of an interview aired on "The CBS Evening News" Monday night.

CBS anchorwoman Katie Couric spoke with the secretary over the last several weeks, and portions of those interviews aired on the "60 Minutes" program Monday night.

Asked if the United States is at war with Libya, Gates said that from the U.S. standpoint, "we are involved in a limited, kinetic action."

"If I were in [Libyan strongman Moammar] Gadhafi's shoes, I would think I was at war," he added.

Gates said "war" connotes what has taken place in Iraq and Afghanistan over the last several years. "Our goal right now [in Libya] is actually very limited," he added. "It is basically a support role."

NATO has taken responsibility for enforcing the no-fly zone against Gadhafi's forces, and some European nations are providing military advisors to the Libyan rebels. Gates emphasized that President Barack Obama "has been very, very clear" that he has no plans to deploy U.S. troops there.

# News from the Bay

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

## Safety campaign kicks off at Windjammer

The annual 101 Critical Safety Days of Summer Campaign kicks off Tuesday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Windjammer Club.

The theme this year is "Live to Play, Play to Live" and is open to all Navy and Department of Defense personnel as well as family members.

The campaign helps provide a reminder to all personnel to stop and think before they act.

"Look out for yourself and others whether at work, home or while having some recreational fun," said James Dillon, an employee at Guantanamo Bay's Safety Office.

Topics such as sports, work and water safety will be addressed at the event. Dillon said there are some common mishaps here on Guantanamo Bay residents should be aware of.

"Keep yourself hydrated," he said. "Know and follow the regulations or guidelines and when in doubt, ask or find a supervisor."

Dillon also noted the reason for most accidents is due to people taking short cuts.

"They don't take the time to do it right," said Dillon. "They may feel or say that it is an inconvenience or hassle for them."

For more information on the safety stand

down, call x4655.

## GTMO Red Cross seeks volunteers, support

The American Red Cross Guantanamo Bay is requesting volunteers to lend their support for upcoming events. A meeting is scheduled Saturday at Center Bargo building 1208 at 5 p.m.

Sharon Coganow, Guantanamo Bay's Red Cross Station Manager, will be discussing upcoming events along with dates and times members can sign up for.

"Our first mission here is to do emergency communications with the military and their families in the event of emergencies," said Coganow. "The second is to raise funds for various causes such as the Wounded Warrior program."

In order to help the Red Cross raise money Coganow encourages Joint Task Force and Naval Station Guantanamo Bay members to come out and give back to the community.

"We are a small world here in GTMO," said Coganow. "It's nice to get together to show our support for the community."

For more information contact Coganow at x2511 or x2512.

## College appreciates military students

To honor active duty and veteran students, Columbia College is hosting military appreciation day May 26, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Navy Exchange Atrium.

With 35 campuses around the United States, Columbia College recognizes its military students every year on the Thursday before Memorial Day weekend.

Guantanamo Bay's Campus Director Mike Matleny said he and his staff will be giving out free school supplies and answering education related questions for all military members stationed here.

"It's about honoring those who not only choose to go to college, but, those who serve their country and attend college at the same time," said Matleny.

Columbia College has partnered with the military for decades to bring college education to members deployed and stationed abroad. They also accept military credits.

"We understand being away from loved ones is challenging and at times members may feel alone," said Matleny. "We want members stationed here weather on the NAVSTA or JTF side to feel connected to something."

For more information stop by the NEX Thursday or call x75555.

## If you could have any super power, what would it be?



"I would give everyone health and peace - for the whole world actually!"

Spc. Migdalia Torres



"I would change people's bad attitudes."

Spc. Anya Genoval



"Teleportation, because I would go home, see my family and come back without anyone knowing about it."

Machinist Mate 1st Class Christopher Coleman



"To read minds and know what my wife and kids are thinking."

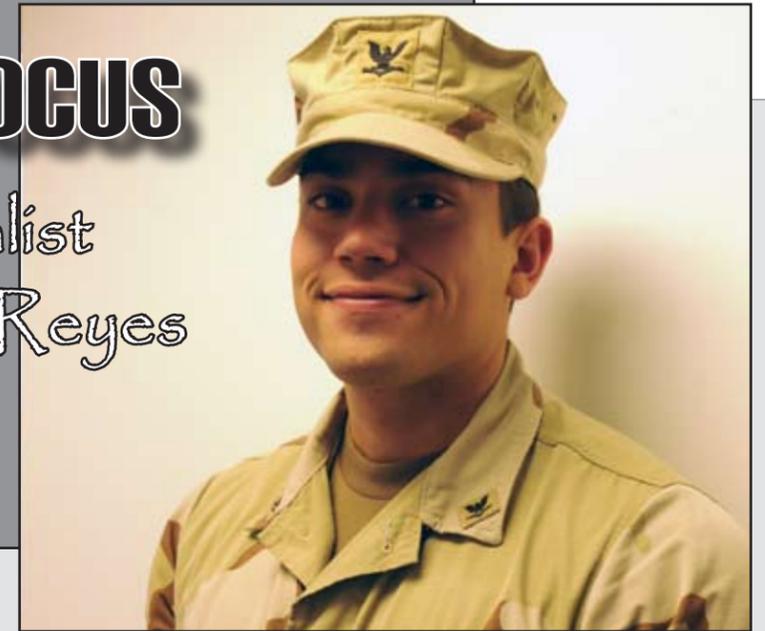
Army Staff Sgt. Jason Himel

## Boots on the Ground

# TROOPER FOCUS

## Intelligence Specialist 3rd Class Erik Reyes

Spc. Kelly Gary



Intelligence Specialist 3rd Class Erik Reyes was already set up for success when he enlisted in the Navy. With a mother who always inspired him and a grandfather who instilled in him a strong work ethic, he already had the backbone and determination needed for the military.

"My mom has always expected a lot of me and pushed me to do my best," said Reyes. "I think that has carried on into my professional career."

This has proven to be a great foundation for the beginning of Reyes's career. His leadership said he has proven to be a true asset.

"Petty Officer Reyes is a remarkably gifted Sailor," said Intelligence Specialist 1st Class Leon Persaud. "He quickly adapted to the required skill set and was able to grasp the key concepts of the work at hand in a very short time period."

When the Warning and Fusion Cell experienced a manning shortage Reyes's initiative and can-do attitude led to him being hand-selected to fill in the position of watch supervisor, a position usually filled by an E5. In that position, Reyes helped mentor and train three analysts to become more efficient at the job.

As an assistant command fitness leader, Senior Chief Petty Officer Ben Williams said Reyes has taken it upon himself to get people into a good physical training regiment as well. Reyes leads PT on Tuesdays, motivating fellow Troopers to get and stay in shape. Recently he helped two of his peers meet body weight standards for the cycle.

In addition to physical fitness, Reyes encourages others to pursue their education. Working on his own bachelor's degree in political science, he pushes others to take advantage of the college level examination program tests.

"I advise my fellow peers to try to better their careers early on," said Reyes.

Reyes dedicated countless off-duty hours developing training materials for Sailors in preparation for the Navy-wide advancement exam.

While working on his colleagues' training for the mission, physical readiness and career opportunities, he also helps build morale. He hosts multiple beach barbecues to promote good accord within the section.

"It is good to do something fun outside the office," said Reyes. "It helps to build teamwork and unity."

Reyes gives credit for his drive and success not only to his family but to his leadership and the Navy itself.

"The Navy has taught me that I can do anything if I put my mind to it," he said. "The most rewarding part is definitely the "I can do it" attitude I have developed."

Persaud believes Reyes will without a doubt make E5 at his next duty station

## Bullet Bio

**Time in service:** 2 years

**Hobbies:** working out, writing & reading

**Pet peeves:** people who aren't willing to be team players

**Next goal:** to pass next CLEP test

**Advice to junior Troopers:** "Remember what you do is important, sometimes you just have to look at the bigger picture."

and Williams agrees the young Sailor's positive attitude and drive allows him to excel here on Guantanamo Bay and will continue to do so throughout his career.

"Reyes is a good Sailor with a bright future," said Williams.



## Would you recognize critical information?

Some things are obviously sensitive - our social security numbers, bank account information and credit card numbers. We protect these so we don't fall victim to fraud and identity thieves. But what else is critical information? Remember COPP - Capabilities, Operations, Personnel, Personal data. We protect our facilities and operational plans, schedules and rosters, procedures, people and work related information. If you're not sure if something is sensitive, treat it like it is until you find out for sure. Don't post things online, or talk about work in non-work places. Once information has been released, you can't ever get it back.

## Troopers take SouthCom Enlisted Person of the Year honors

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin Cossel

Miami might be a short flight from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, but for a handful of Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers with eyes toward U.S. Southern Command's Senior and Junior Enlisted Person of the Year award it might as well be a million miles away. That is, except for two Troopers who successfully navigated a series of boards, taking top honors along the way, and found themselves at an award ceremony in Miami, April 28.

Standing before Air Force General and SouthCom Commander Douglas Fraser, Master-at-Arms 1<sup>st</sup> Class John Lukosus and Master-at-Arms 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Dwain Pemberton, both with the Naval Expeditionary Guard Battalion, were recognized as the Senior and Junior Enlisted Person of the Year.

"I really didn't know what to expect heading into this," Lukosus said of the ceremony and selection process. "I really thought I was a long shot."

On his way to the recognition, Lukosus said he spent nearly 75 hours studying and prepping. In addition, he said, working in the multi-service JTF Guantanamo helped him when it came time to be reviewed by SouthCom.

"Like the JTF, SouthCom is made up of all different branches," Lukosus explained. "So having the experience of working in a joint environment really helped I feel."

Pemberton attributed much of his success to advice given to him years ago by a salty senior chief.

"An MACS, who I've looked up to for years, once told me to never get comfortable with where you are," Pemberton said. "When you get comfortable, you get complacent."

In addition, Pemberton credited the work of his administration section with putting together his package.

"I was fortunate enough to have an outstanding package done for me by our administration department," he said.

As part of the review process, a board of command master chiefs, chief master sergeants and sergeants major scrutinized previous duties, awards, physical fitness test scores, evaluations and other items in the package.

Both Sailors were overwhelmed when they realized the award ceremony would take place at the world renowned Doral Golf Resort and Spa and would include several congressmen.

"I initially thought it was going to just be a luncheon," Pemberton said. "But it was an actual presentation to over 200 personnel that work in support of U.S. Southern Command, ranging from congressmen to Admirals."

"I must have walked away from that ceremony with something like 20 different coins from the people who were there,"



Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Dwain Pemberton (above) and Master-At-Arms 1st Class John Lukosus accept awards for SouthCom's Junior and Senior Enlisted Person of the Year, respectively, from U.S. Southern Command Commander Air Force Gen. Douglas Fraser.

said Lukosus. "And we had an opportunity to speak with the SouthCom general and sergeant major – both of them were really down to earth and very nice."

Presenting a bit of a speed bump to both Sailors was the lack of a dress uniform. As Pemberton explained, when assigned to JTF Guantanamo, the uniform is not part of the packing list. Both were able to get dress uniforms in time to include their official portrait in the package and wear during the ceremony.

Lukosus and Pemberton both agreed just getting the nod from their command was an

achievement in its own right.

"I was honored my command thought that highly of me," said Pemberton. "To be nominated and recognized for my efforts was reward itself."

For Troopers looking for advice from these two outstanding Sailors, Lukosus stressed going above and beyond the duty day.

"Get out there, be a part of your community in addition to doing your job well," the proud first class petty officer said. "And always be a leader, in and out of work."

## The Battle of the Barge: Supplying the island

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

On Guantanamo Bay, when McDonald's runs out of french fries and the Navy Exchange shelves are bare, any Trooper here will tell you, "It's on the barge!"

Although catchy and funny, this phrase is also true. Often, items are on a barge or plane that may have been delayed from leaving its home station.

When the barge does get here, the items still have to be unloaded, sorted and reloaded several times until - finally - McDonald's is back in business.

The Army Logistics Unit attached to Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay is responsible for ensuring JTF has what it needs to complete the mission. This includes anything from toilet paper to video games requested by a detainee.

This unit works behind the scenes to get supplies to JTF sections as soon as possible.

"We can't control the barge," said Army Sgt. Daniel Kirk. "But we do our best to expedite our part of the job, which is the process of unloading, tracking and sorting all the JTF supplies."

Kirk said items are off-loaded from the barge, hauled to a t-shed or temporary holding facility, then sorted and split for the Naval Station and JTF sides.

"Once that initial sorting is done we will start receiving pallets," said Kirk. "Anywhere from two to seven pallets in a day. It depends, some weeks the barge has to cancel so on the next delivery we will get double the load."

Kirk is also in charge of ordering all expendable supplies for JTF. Items such as paper towels, toilet paper and some basic office supplies line the shelves of the warehouse where members pick up their orders.

Expendable items can be picked up anytime on a need basis, but for special items unit leaders must first fill out a purchase request. This is where Army Sgt. Roy Vassel comes in.

"The biggest thing is making sure the camps get their stuff in a timely manner," said Vassel. "When they don't, it causes stress - there's a lot of pressure to have their stuff. When the barge schedule changes or a plane doesn't come in, we have to wait and that can raise the stress for them. We don't want that."

The only items Kirk and Vassel do not



Army Sgt. Daniel Kirk operates a fork lift to haul a pallet loaded with bottled water into the J4 warehouse, May 11. The JTF Army logistics unit is responsible for all JTF supplies directly supporting the mission here on Guantanamo Bay.

handle are those valued at more than \$300. These items are handled, tracked and ordered by the property book office, also located in the warehouse.

PBO works alongside Kirk and Vassel to ensure proper accountability for the most expensive products such as printers, monitors and computers.

"We are in control and responsible for more than 30 million dollars of equipment," said Army Sgt. Quang Nguyen. "I want to ensure minimal loss to the government,

that's a big responsibility."

With that responsibility comes a dedication to their customers. One thing Troopers must understand is, although they are unable to control when items get to the island, the crew does their best to speed up the process when pallets arrive.

"Customers are our number one priority," said Kirk with a chuckle. "But I do like to ask people, 'You want that when?' You gotta have a little fun with the customers too!"

# Lateral Hazard Golf Course hosts GTMO Open Golf Tournament

Story by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jason Tross

Golfers from around Guantanamo Bay gathered just before morning colors at the Lateral Hazard Golf Course May 14 and 15 to compete in Naval Station Guantanamo Bay Morale Welfare and Recreation's annual GTMO Open.

Twenty-five contestants played Saturday and Sunday for more than \$1,300 in Nike and Callaway prizes from the Navy Exchange. The players swung their best to win in men's and women's divisions.

Jamal Youkhanna, better known as Baldy, won the overall men's division under the unique Callaway handicap scoring system. Widely considered the

resident GTMO golf expert, Baldy has placed top-three or won every GTMO Open since 2003.

"He shot the best and still won," said Naval Station Guantanamo Bay MWR Outdoor Recreation Director Cory Geiger. "In most handicap systems, the person who goes out and shoots the best is not usually the person who wins. So it was really refreshing to have the person who actually shot the best take first place."

Baldy is a long-time golf enthusiast who doesn't miss an opportunity for a round of golf anywhere – including Guantanamo Bay for nearly a decade.

"I told myself I'm going to play my best," he said. "Then I played just like I would any other course."

While Youkhanna dominated the men's group, Christy Turturice worked her way up to take the overall women's group.

"I'm on duty this weekend so I was a little tired both days, but I really had a good time," said Turturice, who has only played golf for three years. "I'm surprised I did this well. But I'm the champion now!"

The 2011 GTMO Open is the first Guantanamo Bay MWR golf tournament to use the Callaway System for scoring.

Scoring systems like the Callaway use each individual player's own handicap to level the close competition between players of differing abilities.

The two-event Callaway scoring handicap system worked great this weekend," said Geiger. "It brought everyone's scores together and kept everyone in the running right into the second day, which is what you're looking for in a tournament like this."

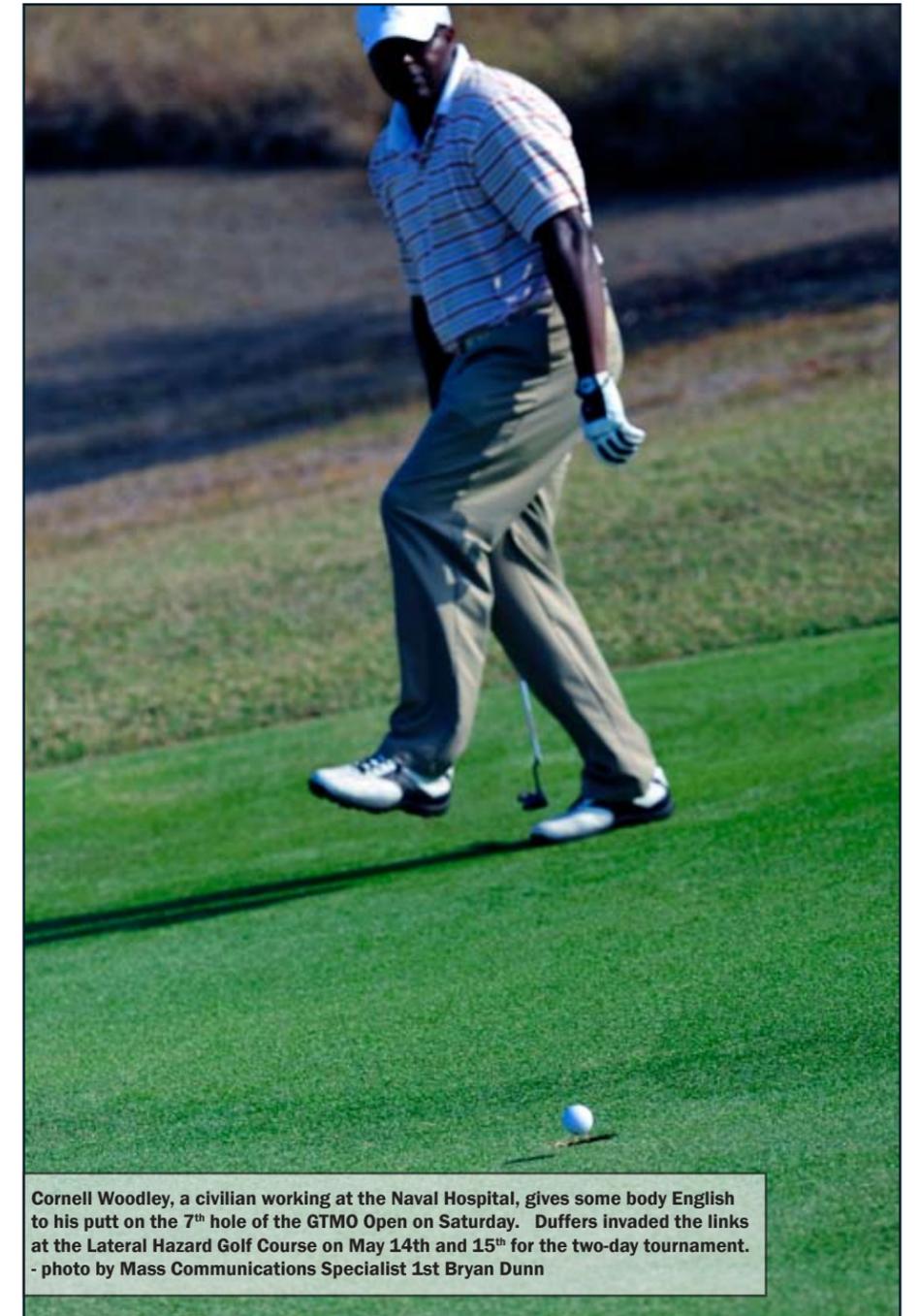
see GOLF, page 19



Loretta Marino watches as her putt nears the hole during this weekend's GTMO Open. Marino placed third in the women's division. -photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Bryan Dunn



Juan Perez, assigned to Joint Task Force Guantanamo, winces with his club after barely missing a putt on the 7th hole at the Lateral Hazard Golf Course, Saturday. - photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jason Tross



Cornell Woodley, a civilian working at the Naval Hospital, gives some body English to his putt on the 7th hole of the GTMO Open on Saturday. Duffers invaded the links at the Lateral Hazard Golf Course on May 14th and 15th for the two-day tournament. - photo by Mass Communications Specialist 1st Class Bryan Dunn

# TAKING the **PLUNGE** a Trooper rediscovers the water

Story and photos by MC2 Maddelin Angebrand

A hot mid-day sun reflects off the still water at Marine Hill pool and the crisp smell of chlorine fills the air. Eager to log in some laps, Aviation Electronics Technician 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Anthony Ryan does a side flip into the 10-foot deep end.



Slender yet muscular he twirls under the first row of lines separating the six swim lanes, rises and breaks the now rippling surface of the 80-degree water. With one hand clenching the edge of the pool, he adjusts his pair of blue Speedo goggles. He is refreshed, motivated and ready to get to work.

"You have to feel the water," said Ryan. "It's hard to describe, but it's like music - you have to feel the rhythm."

Today is Ryan's day off. Tomorrow it's back to 12-hour shifts three days in a row. Making the most of his free time, Ryan is logging laps for the Marine 50/50 challenge.

The challenge is sponsored by MWR and held at the Marine Hill pool. It requires participants to log 50 swim miles in 50 days in order to receive a free t-shirt.

"I've been a pool rat all my life," Ryan said. "It (the pool) was the babysitter for my parents. They'd drop me off and I'd come back tanner and a lot more wore out."

Ryan had no professional training until high school, when he started out in the slowest lane of the pool and worked his way up from the bottom.

"I swam like Tarzan with my head above water," Ryan laughed. "Eventually, I picked it up and built endurance. My buddy once described me as 'Anthony will kill himself to stay with the best even though he's about to drown.'"

Although it is challenging to maintain his competitive edge for swimming while working full-time in the Navy, being on Guantanamo Bay has given him a renewed motivation.

"I swim because I want to get back in shape," he shared. "I have a whole year here and by the time I get back home, I want to be ready for the triathlon that happens every summer."



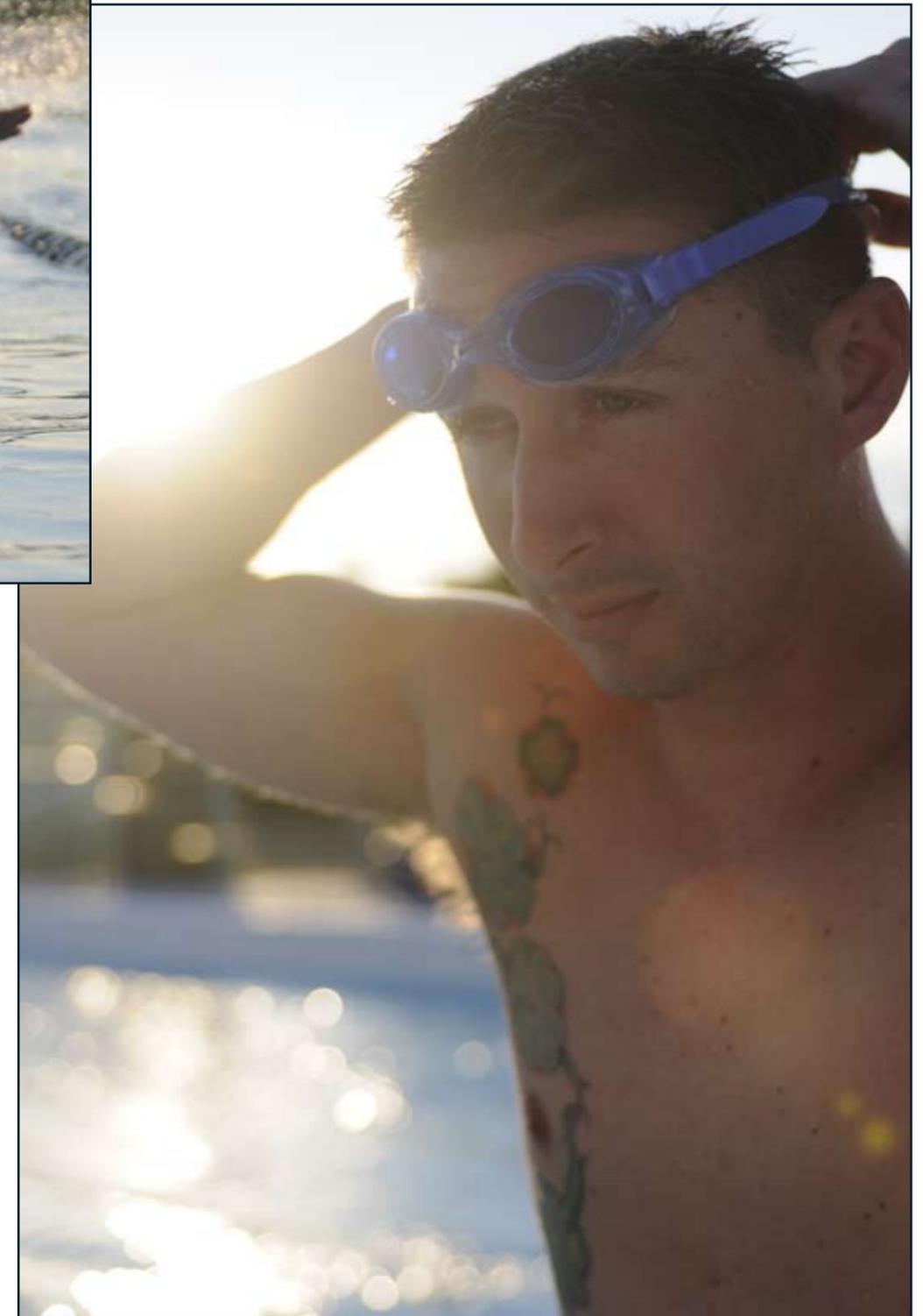
Ryan's tenacious drive to swim as a kid spiraled him into lifeguarding. Eventually, he became a qualified swim coach for young children.

"The kids were awesome," said Ryan. "They called me 'lifeguard Mr. Anthony.'"

The best part about swimming for Ryan is being able to share his passion with others, even though teaching a sport such as swimming may not be so easy.

"For somebody who doesn't know how to swim I emphasize feeling the water," said Ryan. "Meaning, if you feel like you are going slower you are. And, if you can turn your body in a way that makes you feel like you're going faster, then you probably are. It's all about the different pressures you feel as you are moving through the water."

Ryan has his share of pressures outside the pool, but is determined



to stay motivated while on deployment.

"My job here requires long hours and can be demanding at times and certainly stressful," said Ryan. "You have to be awake at 4 a.m. So, it becomes a cycle that can beat you down - if you let it."

So far, Ryan has logged 10 miles for the 50/50 challenge. Determined to reach his goal, he said giving up is not an option.

"I'm passionate about swimming," he admits. "I love it, it's fun and I encourage others to do the same by getting back to their passion and taking advantage of their time here in GTMO. What better place to focus on you?"

# Female Soldier proves dominant in combatives

Spc. Jarrett Branch  
5th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment.

JOINT BASE LEWIS-McCHORD, Wash. – Domination knows no gender. The sheer force of a shin kick or the devastating power behind double hammer fists whaling down upon a fallen opponent is enough to make any smart coach know when to throw in the towel.

Pfc. Jennifer Jones, a Soldier with 2nd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division is one of those competitors who doesn't let gender stop her from remaining a force to be reckoned with.

Jones became the first-ever female fighter in the history of combatives competitions on Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., to advance to the final round of an event May 5, when she took top honors for her weight class during the second annual JBLM Combatives Tournament.

Jones overcame all odds and brought home the Bantamweight class championship belt, but she's not letting her victory erase the memory of what it took to get her to that point.

"After I completed level-one combatives training, I continued to train for about four months," Jones reflected. "Before the tournament I found out there were not many competitors in my weight class. So, I decided to come out here and give it a shot."

"My game plan during my (final) fight was to conserve my energy," she said. "It was going to be a long match."

"I think, in a way, females cause male competitors to get a little scared because they are not sure of what the female is going to do," Jones added. "I feel females are more flexible and some are more aggressive during their matches. I don't take what happens during my



**Pfc. Jennifer Jones, 2nd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, takes the upper hand and delivers a match-ending arm bar in one of her Bantamweight class rounds during the second annual Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., Combatives Tournament, held May 2-5, 2011, at Soldiers Field House.**

match personally. I'm just here to compete."

Jones did more than just give the tournament a shot. Now, she has the opportunity to fight for the All-Army Combatives Team - something many competitors train for but few are given the opportunity to carry out.

Still, Jones believes it's not all about the competition or about choking out opponents. To her, it's about learning the skills she might need to defend herself in any type of situation.

"I feel it's a good idea (learning combatives), because females need to learn self defense," she said. "Combatives gives you the tools needed to prevent yourself from being attacked. That is why learning different types of takedowns has been my favorite aspect of the combatives program. If someone were to attack me I would be able to defend myself and bring them down to the ground."

After the bout, Jones recapped the day's

events and assessed her performance during the championship match. By the size of the championship belt she sported around her waist it was hard not to doubt the cast-iron skills she demonstrated.

"It feels awesome. I'm setting a trend, and now other females are going to be doing it (winning championships)," Jones added. "I wanted a knockout, but I didn't get one. My opponent hit me a few good times and was a lot stronger than I thought he would be. When I started with my double hammer fist, I knew the match was going in my favor."

"There's no reason a female Soldier cannot be able to hold her own in the ring," she added.

Soldiers like Jones are not only earning the respect of their peers when they prove themselves successful in combatives, they're also showing future generations of Soldiers what it takes to be first-rate combatants.

## 1st Armored Division cases its colors before moving to Fort Bliss

Karl Weisel, USAG Wiesbaden

WIESBADEN, Germany - When Maj. Gen. George W. Casey Jr. passed command of the 1st Armored Division to Maj. Gen. Ricardo S. Sanchez in July 2001, it was on a brand new parade field on Wiesbaden Army Airfield, Germany, after the division's relocation from Bad Kreuznach.

A decade later that field is long gone to make way for the incoming U.S. Army Europe Command and Battle Center, as 1st Armored Division, or AD,

moves on to Fort Bliss, Texas.

"I'm feeling both honored and melancholic to be speaking at this historic color casing today," said Lt. Gen. Mark P. Hertling, USAREUR's senior leader and a former 1st AD commander. "Like others, I have so many memories associated with this division and this place and the 40 years of relations between the German people and our Soldiers wearing the Old Ironsides patch."

German and American leaders gathered in a hangar on the airfield Friday, to mark the

casing of the division's colors in anticipation of the move to Texas.

The unit was the first U.S. Army armored division to see battle during World War II. 1st AD members have had a long relationship with the people of Europe. After fighting their way from Algeria into Italy, the division eventually settled in Schwabisch Gmuend after the war, pulling occupation duty.

After a period of inactivation starting in 1946 and being reactivated in Fort Hood, Texas,

five years later, 1st AD was ordered to return to Germany in 1971 to Ansbach.

Moves to Bad Kreuznach in 1992 and eventually Wiesbaden in 2001 were accompanied by decades of major support operations including service during Operations Deserts Shield and Storm in Kuwait, in the Balkans - leading the way across the Sava River into Bosnia in 1995, peacekeeping in Kosovo and three deployments to Iraq as part of Operations Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn.



### USNS John Ericsson rescues five lost at sea

Edward Baxter  
Military Sealift Command Far East

USNS JOHN ERICSSON, At Sea – Civil service mariners aboard Military Sealift Command fleet replenishment oiler USNS John Ericsson rescued five people lost at sea in a small boat near the Solomon Islands yesterday.

While conducting routine operations in the Solomon Sea Tuesday, Ericsson received notification from the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centers in Australia and Papua New Guinea at about 11 p.m., to be on the lookout for a missing commercial vessel.

At approximately 8 a.m. local time the following morning, Ordinary Seaman Tyrone Mouzon spotted a small commercial vessel with five individuals aboard waving frantically. Mouzon notified the watch officer, Third Mate Timothy Gervais, who alerted Ericsson's civil service master Capt. Richard Kirk, who immediately ordered the ship to head toward the small craft and render assistance.

"Visibility at the time was very limited by rain squalls, so it was very fortunate that the mate on watch spotted these commercial sailors," said Kirk.

Ericsson carefully inched close to the boat and the ship's crew secured lines to the small craft. Safely secured alongside, Ericsson brought the commercial sailors on board where they received medical examinations as well as food and water.

"The sailors were tired and dehydrated but they appeared to be in good condition," said Kirk.

According to Kirk, the five Solomon natives said they were transiting between the Solomons' Nissian and Bougainville islands when they became disoriented by bad weather and heavy seas, spending two nights and three days lost more than 35 miles out to sea.

"They had no food and water remaining," said Kirk.

Ericsson's crew was also able to salvage the small boat by placing a large net underneath the vessel, lifting it out of the water using the ship's crane, and securing the boat to the side of the ship for transport. Ericsson then made the short transit to nearby Bougainville Island where the five commercial sailors, along with their vessel, were repatriated ashore.



**The U.S. Navy variant of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, the F-35C, conducts a test flight over the Chesapeake Bay. Lt. Cmdr. Eric "Magic" Buus flew the F-35C for two hours, checking instruments that will measure structural loads on the airframe during flight maneuvers.**

## F-35C test aircraft completes 36 test flights, exceeds expectations

From F-35C Integrated Test Force, Naval Air Systems Command Public Affairs

PATUXENT RIVER, Md. – Naval Air Systems Command announced Tuesday that the test aircraft for the carrier variant of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter have exceeded test and evaluation program goals so far this year.

According to the announcement, the F-35C test aircraft, 'CF-1,' currently at Naval Air Station Patuxent River has completed 36 test flights as of May 11, nearly half the program's goal for the year of 85.

"CF-1's been flying well, even with a number of planned and unplanned maintenance periods," said U.S. Marine Corps Col. Roger Cordell, military site director. "It's a great sign for the fleet that the aircraft is doing well so early in the test program."

In April, CF-1 completed 13 flights, tying a record for the number of test flights for any aircraft at Naval Air Station Patuxent River. Additionally, the integrated test team has completed seven CF-1 test flights this month.

"The team has been doing a great job

staying on top of maintenance requirements," said Jim McClendon, Lockheed Martin site director vice president. "Just last week, CF-1 flew six flights in six days, which is a great accomplishment in any test program, let alone test and evaluation for a brand new aircraft."

Coupled with this week's arrival of the second carrier variant, CF-2, and arrival of CF-3 later this year, the F-35C test program is making rapid progress toward initial carrier suitability testing this year at Joint Base Lakehurst-McGuire-Dix in New Jersey.

First carrier suitability testing this summer is scheduled to include the first catapult launches, and the F-35C is scheduled to commence shipboard testing in 2013.

The F-35C is the carrier variant of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, with larger wing control surfaces and reinforced landing gear to operate in the maritime environment. The F-35C is undergoing test and evaluation to evaluate flutter, loads and mission systems at NAS Patuxent River prior to eventual delivery to the fleet.



Marine veteran and Wildomar, Calif., native Chuck Sketch participates in the All-Marine Warrior Games swim camp. The Marines Corps Wounded Warrior Regiment held the two week training camp to prepare the athletes for the second annual Games that will be held in Colorado Springs, Colo. at the Olympic Training Center May 16-21. -photo by Pat Cubel

## Blind, bilateral amputee Marine competes in Warrior Games

Aquita Brown  
Wounded Warrior Battalion East

The Warrior Games is an annual athletic competition that allows the Wounded Warrior Regiment's wounded, ill and injured Marines to strengthen their mind, body and spirit.

Athletes from all branches of service have an opportunity to compete, fine tune their skills and build camaraderie. However, for Marine veteran Chuck Sketch it means much more than that. Chuck has the opportunity to share this experience with his fellow Marines and his father, Roger Sketch.

In February 1991, Chuck joined the United States Marine Corps because, "they are the best," said Chuck. He was an 0311 infantryman during Operation Desert Storm.

In 1997, Chuck received devastating news that would change his life forever. He was diagnosed with cancer and his sight was the first thing to go as a result of a brain tumor.

"I cried when I heard the news," said Roger. "I remember Chuck placing his hand on my arm and he signaled for a pen." On the piece of paper Chuck wrote, "I can handle this. However, you can do one thing for me; read the bible to me every day."

Several months later doctors informed the Sketch family that due to an infection, Chuck would have to lose his legs or his life.

Chuck believed that the recovery process was going to be difficult, but with the help of his family he would fight through this life

changing event.

"When you get disabled you think that you are worthless," said Chuck. "You want things to go back to how they were. I don't have any regrets and I honestly do not want things to change. I have more fun and more opportunities than I did before. I am doing more things than most of my friends that I served with have never done."

Chuck is referring to several athletic programs in which he has competed. He has traveled across the world to compete and participate in the Wounded Warrior Regiment's Warrior Athlete Reconditioning program, Ride to Recovery and the Warrior Games.

Last year, Chuck was selected as the team captain and torch bearer at the Warrior Games Opening Ceremony. This year, Chuck will compete in cycling, 50m and 10m freestyle, and 50m backstroke. Chuck's ultimate goal at this year's Games is to increase the awareness of the program to athletes within his selective category (blind and bilateral amputee) and just improve his athletic abilities overall.

"I love the Games. Being here just gets me fired up," said Chuck on why he continues to participate. "I just wish that there were more service members here to participate in my category."

Not afraid of the competition, Chuck continues to recruit for the Games.

"Chuck tells all of his friends about the Games and how they can get involved. He

looks for more participants in his category so that he can have more competition," said Roger. "This is the main event that he trains for year-round."

Enthusiasm and good spirits is what keeps this Marine motivated.

"Chuck does not need any outside motivation," said Roger. "He is the motivator. After the Games he has a high that goes on for months."

Chuck wants all of his fellow wounded, ill and injured Marines to know that, "You are not limited to your wheelchair. There are programs out there. The Warrior Games is a fabulous opportunity to train with top notch coaches. You can become faster after just one or two weeks of training. My goal is to be faster than Ray Hennagir (teammate) next year," said Chuck jokingly.

According to the U.S. Paralympic Committee, the Warrior Games are designed to elevate abilities through athletic competition for wounded, ill and injured service members by providing a focal event to empower the incorporation of athletics into Military Service Wounded Warrior Programs. The Warrior Games will be an annual event to celebrate the achievement and abilities of wounded, ill and injured service members, while building camaraderie and raising awareness for adaptive sports. This year's Games will be held at the Olympic Training Center Colorado Springs, Colo., May 16-21.

## Keeping Watch



A U.S. Marine HC-130 King refuels a 920th Rescue Wing HH-60G Pave Hawk to ensure it's fueled up in case it must respond to an emergency prior to Space Shuttle Endeavor's 25th launch into space May 16, 2011. - photo by Staff Sgt. Anna-Marie Wyant

## AF celebrates 50 years of US spaceflight, supports last launch of Shuttle Endeavor

PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. -- Cape Canaveral Air Force Station hosted a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the first American in space here May 4.

The event honored Alan B. Shepard Jr., who piloted the 15-minute, 23-second suborbital flight at 303 statute miles in the Freedom 7 spacecraft May 5, 1961.

Mercury astronaut Scott Carpenter and members of the Shepard family joined more than 150 Project Mercury workers, former astronauts, military and NASA leaders at the original launch pad on which the Freedom 7 rocket stood.

The success of the launch made Mr. Shepard the first American to travel into space.

That achievement was made possible by the combined efforts of the U.S. military and NASA, said Lt. Gen. Susan Helms, the 14th Air Force commander and former astronaut.

"The military has played an important part in our human space flight program from the beginning," General Helms said. "Of the seven original astronauts, all had a military background."

Besides astronauts, the military helped drive the space program in other ways, the general said. First, the rocket was a product of the Army Ballistic Missile Agency that merged with NASA. Second, the Navy helped train Mr. Shepard and was responsible for recovering him when he splashed down. Third, Air Force was responsible for the operation of the range and the safety of millions of people as the rocket flew downrange.

The Air Force continues to take part in all of NASA's shuttle missions.

Officials from the Continental U.S. North American Aerospace Defense Command Region and Air Forces Northern provided airspace control and shuttle support during the launch of Space Shuttle Endeavour May 16 at Kennedy Space Center, Fla.

CONR officials enforced the Federal Aviation Administration's temporary flight restriction area established around Kennedy Space Center. Pilots performed this Operation Noble Eagle mission using F-15E Strike Eagles.

CONR also supported launch operations by deploying members of the Joint Based Expeditionary Connectivity Center team to Cape Canaveral.

The JBECC, assigned to the 601st Air & Space Operations Center at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., is a highly mobile, rapidly deployable communications system that networks multiple sensors and correlates their data into an improved air picture.

Members of the 114th Range Operations Squadron from Patrick AFB provide range safety and tracking support for shuttle launches occurring on the Eastern Range.

"There is a lot of coordination that has to occur before a shuttle can launch. Much of that coordination is among CONR, the joint task force, our air assets located at Patrick (AFB, Fla.), and range operations here at the Cape," said Col. Scott Barberides, the JTF-STC commander. "Our involvement with NASA's shuttle program truly is a total team effort."

## Hiring controls to reduce growth of civilian force

Air Force leaders announced that hiring controls were instituted May 12 to reduce projected growth of the civilian workforce.

The Air Force-wide efforts to stem the civilian personnel growth are a result of Secretary of Defense Robert Gate's efficiency initiatives to maintain civilian manning at fiscal 2010 levels.

Hiring controls will allow Air Force officials to take a targeted approach to meet the mandated manning levels.

Effective immediately, one person will be hired for every two new vacancies in areas affected by hiring controls. This doesn't apply to current hiring actions where a selection has already been made. New vacancies, however, may only be filled at the 1:2 ratio.

"As our nation and the Air Force face significant budgetary challenges, tools such as hiring controls help us manage hiring and posture ourselves for the future," said Paige Hinkle-Bowles, the deputy director of force management policy.

Hiring controls will enable a more focused approach to hiring, giving higher priority to strategic mission areas such as the nuclear enterprise, the acquisition workforce, and test and evaluation.

"Civilian hiring controls will be used as a bridging mechanism as the Air Force develops strategic plans for the future to ensure civilian authorizations are in the right place to meet mission priorities," said Lt. Gen. Darrell Jones, the deputy chief of staff of Air Force manpower, personnel and services.

Air Force officials will continue to monitor and assess hiring controls throughout the summer and will provide additional hiring guidance and prioritization details as the overall plan develops.

"The Air Force recognizes the invaluable contributions of our civilian workforce, but also recognizes the fiscal constraints under which all the services are operating. We will do our best to balance mission needs while taking care to minimize the effect on the civilian workforce," General Jones said.

For more information about hiring controls, individuals may contact their base civilian personnel office or visit the restricted-access Air Force personnel services website at <https://gum-crm.csd.disa.mil/app/home>.

For information about other personnel issues, call the Total Force Service Center at 800-525-0102.



### Coast Guard reopens portion of Mississippi River

NEW ORLEANS – The Coast Guard Captain of the Port for Sector Lower Mississippi River has reopened the section of the river, Tuesday, which had been closed as a measure to prevent damage to flood protection structures.

After close coordination with all stakeholders, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Mayor of Vidalia, Coast Guard Captain of the Port for Sector Lower Mississippi River, Capt. Michael Gardiner, has reopened the river from mile marker 350 to 365 with tight traffic control, allowing only one tow vessel at a time to transit the area to ensure the integrity of the flood protection structures in place.

“I’m very pleased with the cooperation of the involved stakeholders, especially the Mayor and local officials of Vidalia, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and representatives of the towing industry,” said Gardiner.

That section of the river was closed to river traffic, Sunday night, after reports of

sand erosion near flood protection structures were originally thought to have been caused by vessel wakes, but are now believed to have been caused by an underground pipe that runs underneath the structures.

“We have been able to allow to safely pass several test tows through the safety zone we have established in the Vidalia-Natchez area. We will continue to closely monitor transits through the area to ensure the safety of the communities, as well as the towing vessels and their crews,” said Gardiner.

This segment of waterway is likely to close again if the Natchez, Miss., gauge reaches 62.5 feet due to concerns related to the height of water on the levees immediately south of the towns of Vidalia and Natchez.

Coast Guard Captains of the Port are continually reviewing the need for, and implementing, safety zones, river restrictions and marine safety information bulletins to ensure the safe navigation of maritime traffic.

### Alaska Coast Guard crews search for missing Cook Inlet clam diggers

ANCHORAGE, Alaska – Coast Guard rescue crews responding to a report of four missing clam diggers southwest of Kalgin Island in Cook Inlet discovered two men deceased more than 1,700 yards from the beach at Polly Creek Tuesday.

The 17th District Command Center received a call at 3:46

p.m. from the Pacific Alaska Shellfish plant manager who reported that a company owned 20-foot aluminum skiff with five employees aboard went missing while transiting the area near Polly Creek where the men had been digging for clams.

An initial search conducted by Pacific Alaska Shellfish employees

resulted in the discovery of one deceased male with four still unaccounted for.

A Coast Guard Air Station Kodiak-based MH-60 Jayhawk helicopter crew found two of the missing men at 6:05 p.m., 20 minutes after arriving on scene, and marked the position with flares to help a surface vessel

locate and recover the remains.

The Jayhawk crew and an HC-130 Hercules aircraft crew, also from Kodiak, have conducted several searches of the area. The Jayhawk crew will continue searching after is refuels in Kenai, the Hercules crew has completed their searches and is returning to Kodiak.

### U.S., Canada practice response with mock cruise ship grounding

BAR HARBOR, Maine – The United States and Canadian governments are partnering to practice readiness response during this year’s Canadian/United States Atlantic 2011 exercise (CANUSLANT) in Bar Harbor May 18 and 19.

CANUSLANT2011 is designed to establish a learning environment for players to exercise emergency response plans, policies, and procedures as they pertain to a grounded cruise ship that is significant enough to justify activation of a coordinated joint US/Canada response under the Atlantic Geographic Annex.

The CANUSLANT 2011 Exercise will evolve around the grounding of a large cruise ship in the vicinity of GRAND MANAN ISLAND near the U.S. Canadian Border with a simulated Mass Rescue Exercise occurring on May 18th within the Port area of Bar Harbor and the CANUSLANT Exercise occurring in the Atlantic Oceanside Hotel, Bar Harbor Maine.

The United States and Canada recognized the need for an international marine pollution contingency plan for their adjacent contiguous waters more than 30 years ago. The first such plan was the Joint Marine Pollution Contingency Plan for the Great Lakes, promulgated in 1974 under the Canada-United States Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement of 1972.

Recommendations arising from CANUSLANT2011 will be included in the Atlantic Geographic Annex to the Joint Contingency Plan.

### Mind, Body & Soul

## The key to wanting more? Live in abundance

Chaplain, Lt Col Marvin Williams, USAF JTF-GTMO COMMAND CHAPLAIN

If you were asked to participate in a gallop poll and had to answer the question: what would you like to have more of to make your life better? What would you say? During our current global economic crisis, I would not be surprised if the number one answer is money. Moving beyond finances, you may say, I need more emotional support from friends or family members. Or, perhaps, after thinking through the question a bit more you may answer, love. No matter how you answer the question, what immediately comes to mind is the need for more of something that would improve the quality of living. It seems we live in a world that is focused on having more. The more we have, the more we want. But, is there really anything wrong with wanting more, if it will improve our state of living? Does having more equate to happiness, peace, and fulfillment in life? Let’s hold off answering those questions until later.

Instead of focusing on wanting more, I would like to think in terms of living in abundance. To live in abundance means going beyond the desire for more and moving into a place of secure living. Isn’t that what people really mean when they say, they want more of this or that? Wanting more leaves me with the sense that I will eventually run out, and I will need more to replenish what I lack. I am certainly familiar with wanting more.

As a child growing up in New York City, I wanted more clothes to wear to school; playing sports in High School, I wanted more attention; as a struggling college student, I wanted more financial aid to cover the costs of tuition and living expenses; as an adult, I wanted more friends to care about me; and



even now I constantly find myself wanting more time, as if I don’t have the same amount of time as everyone else, twenty-four hours per day. However, the desire for more seems to get old very quickly, and I find myself driven by wanting more without any level of satisfaction. So I decided to focus less on wanting more and turning my attention to living in abundance.

My fascination with abundance emerged from reading several intriguing biblical stories about people who found themselves in dire situations but managed to move from wanting more to achieving abundance. In these stories, I realized there is a secret to living life to its fullest. I can either spend my time on wanting more or I can redirect my attention to focus on living in abundance. Abundance has nothing to do with where we are from, who our parents are, the schools or universities we attended, or the amount of degrees we earned. It has nothing to do with rank, privilege, social-economic status, religious persuasion, or any other social factors.

So, what is abundance? Abundance is the state of realizing life is not governed by what we have or don’t have. It is governed by the quality of our lives. Living in abundance is about the way we treat each other; how we make a difference where we work or live; and the level of influence we have in bringing about change in peoples lives. Living in abundance is adopting a lifestyle of change and transformation that empowers others to fulfill that sense of purpose in life.

No, there’s nothing wrong with wanting more. But why settle for wanting more when we can have

more than we will ever need? A key lesson in life teaches us that having more does not necessarily equate to success or fulfillment. Living in abundance guarantees success and fulfillment in everything we do. Does this mean we don’t fail? No, it means that we transform failure into triumph.

Before closing, there are seven key ingredients I would like to share with you about living abundance. Build on these keys and find the means of not living for more but rather living in abundance.

#### SEVEN KEYS FOR LIVING IN ABUNDANCE:

1. Maximize your potential
2. Be consistent in your daily practices
3. Tap into your talents and gifts4. Strengthen your capabilities
5. Know your limits—but don’t be inhibited by them
6. Develop a system of continual learning
7. Determine your sense of purpose and its impact on others

### 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 Christo**  
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

# THOR

Spc. Meredith Vincent

Thanks to Christopher Nolan's 2008 masterpiece "The Dark Knight," superhero movies now have a slightly higher curve on which to be judged. Some manage to rise to the occasion, creating exciting new franchises and reviving careers long thought dead ("Iron Man"), while others, falling flat and lifeless, are discarded into a wasteland of superhero films that didn't make the cut (either of the "Hulk" attempts.) What has become clear in the last decade or so of adapting comic books to the screen is you need two essential ingredients: an outstanding leading man to carry the weight of the franchise on his well-built shoulders, and a big dose of funny.

Thankfully, director Kenneth Branagh's "Thor" manages to bring both. Aussie newcomer Chris Hemsworth plays the title character, a spoiled, egotistical god banished from his world by his father and sent to learn humility and compassion from the mortals down in New Mexico.

Casting a relative unknown as the God of Thunder was a huge gamble on the part of the filmmakers. Luckily, someone's Spidey sense was working and Hemsworth does a fantastic job, imbuing the mighty Thor with equal parts boyish recklessness and genuine cluelessness. There are some deep, dark family matters mucking up his home, but Thor's story is classic fish-out-



of-water as he must adjust from living - quite literally - like a god to understanding how to ask politely for a second cup of coffee.

Helping him in that journey is Natalie Portman, all adorable and plucky as research scientist Jane Foster who hits our hero - twice - with her cool-looking van-type thing. (The guy sitting behind me muttered, "That's why women shouldn't drive." So wrong ... yet funny.) Don't get me wrong, I adore Portman, but she was wrong for this role. A full-fledged, Oscar-winning movie star, Portman wields impressive power in Hollywood and is

capable of headlining her own films - she should not be playing second banana to any macho man, no matter how impressive his bare torso is (and trust me, it is VERY impressive.) The supporting role doesn't fit her anymore, and because of it she almost outshines Hemsworth, which is a bad idea. Nobody should be more super than your superhero.

The second essential layer to any successful comic book adaptation is humor. Movie-goers are jaded creatures,

PG-13  
114 min.



MOVIE cont.

making us almost impervious to special effects. The fantastical world of Asgard, Thor's home planet, is incredible - from the shimmering Rainbow Bridge to the red-eyed ice monsters, it's nothing short of spectacular. However, when you've seen Middle Earth come alive and the White House explode, it's easy to become underwhelmed by such extravagance. What keeps an audience hooked isn't outlandish digital wizardry - it's how engaged they are with the characters. And holy hilarious, Batman, do we have some winners here!

Aside from the two leads, there is a wealth of outstanding supporting players, first and foremost being Jane's young assistant, played with dry, enviable wit by Kat Dennings. If you missed Dennings in

"Nick and Nora's Infinite Playlist," here is your opportunity to fall madly in love with her. With only a few lines peppered here and there, she spices up any scene she's in until you're really just waiting to hear her next retort. Portman may be stunning, but Dennings will leave you with a sting - the good kind.

Sir Anthony Hopkins shows up as Odin, Thor's conflicted father, and does a solid job at being blustering and royal and all. There's a Shakespearean undertow to all the family drama, and who better to bare that heavy burden than a man who's been in no less than three Shakespeare movies?

Driving all that twisted familial darkness is Tom Hiddleston as Thor's overlooked

brother, Loki. Another relative unknown, this guy oozes darkness. It's pretty awesome.

"Thor" is really two movies in one - a bleak and emotional drama while on Asgard and a quirky, light-hearted boy-meets-girl in New Mexico. Surprisingly, with Hemsworth binding them together, it works rather well. Easily a four banana rat film, I'm going to up it to four and a half for three very important reasons: 1) a wicked cool special guest with a bird's eye view of Thor while he attempts to retrieve his big hammer, 2) stay after the closing credits. Just do it. And 3) I watched a movie about the God of Thunder while getting soaking wet in a rainstorm. Irony at it's finest.

GOLF cont.

Many contestants planned around erratic work schedules and commitments. Geiger was more than pleased with this year's GTMO Open turnout and what he could provide for each player.

Contestants paid a \$30 entrance fee for the tournament, Geiger said, making the GTMO Open the highest buy-in of any MWR event this year. Between \$1,300 worth of clubs for winners and more free gear for every player, Geiger puts that \$30 to good use.

"The reason for that [entry fee] is so we can give away a lot of stuff," said Geiger. "We try to make it where there's an entry fee, you at least walk away with what you put into it - even if you don't win."

With nearly 20 years of history, GTMO Open planners and players alike feel this year's tournament carries on a tradition of being an important fixture on the GTMO annual to-do list.

"I think it's very important to have golf here," said Baldy. "Just like the gym or any other sports here, we need the golf. To me, golf is joy. It's the most frustrating sport in the world. I encourage everyone to get out on the golf course and play."



see MOVIES page 19

	13 FRI.	14 SAT.	15 SUN.	16 MON.	17 TUES.	18 WED.	19 THURS.
Downtown Lyceum	Sucker Punch (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Diary of a Wimpy Kid (PG) 8 p.m.	Mars Needs Moms (PG) 8 p.m.	Rango (PG) 8 p.m. *last showing*	Paul (R) 8 p.m.	Limitless (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Thor (PG-13) 8 p.m.
	Fast Five (PG-13) 10 p.m.	The Lincoln Lawyer (PG-13) 10 p.m.					
Camp Buckeley	The sound system at Camp Buckeley is currently down. The MWR is doing their best to resolve the issue and apologizes for any inconvenience. Please keep posted for any new developments.						

Call MWR at ext. 2010 for more information.

Movie Hotline - call 4880.

# The JTF

# At Shutter Speed

## GOTCHA!

As a parting gift to Master Sgt. Willie Oden, who thought he could escape the island without ever having been in The Wire, our staff would like to say, "Still winning!" Safe travels, Master Sgt., we will miss you. - photo by Spc. Meredith Vincent.



## ON A RUN, LITTLE RUN

Members of the 525th Military Battalion participate in a battalion run, Saturday as the command element leads the way. - photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Joe Ebaló



## SING A SONG

Singer/Songwriter Shauna Sweeney performs at the Bayview, Sunday, as part of the Morale Welfare and Recreation's coffee series. - photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Brian Dunn.



## SERVICE UP!

Tennis season gets underway with players of varying degree of ability taking to the courts, tuning up for the season. - photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Joe Ebaló

