

The WIRE

An award-winning
JTF journal

Keeping Marines On The Road

Boston Uncommons
New MSST settles in

Game, Set, Match
Tennis Season Gets Underway

Trooper to Trooper

featuring

Sergeant Major Steven Townsend

Senior enlisted leader, 525th MP Battalion, Operations

Six hundred million dollars. That's a lot of money and a lot of zeros. An Abrams tank cost the U.S. military \$6.21 million dollars. Do the easy math, that's enough to buy just fewer than 100 tanks. What does that \$600 million get us? According to a Department of Defense report, that's how much the military spends every year counteracting the effects of alcohol abuse.

By the same DoD study, it is estimated that 21 percent of servicemembers fall into the category of heavy-drinker with those in the 18 to 25 year-old bracket abusing alcohol at much higher numbers than their civilian peers.

And then there are the Troopers of Joint Task Force Guantanamo. I recently asked several Troopers around the JTF footprint what their plans were for the weekend. Most of them responded with "lots of drinking," and different ways of telling me they were getting drunk. This is unacceptable, especially with all of the different, non-drinking, activities there are available to each of us.

Whether its joining one of the many Morale, Welfare and Recreation sports teams or getting involved with diving or hiking one of the many available trails, Guantanamo Bay affords us a wealth of opportunities to not only avoid falling into the heavy-drinking category, but improve



our overall fitness and reduce stress – a reason cited by many as why they begin drinking in the first place.

It goes without saying, working for the task force can be an extremely stressful situation and we all need to find ways to mitigate that stress -- the bottom of a bottle is not the answer. It is in fact the exact opposite; it only makes your problems worse. You get drunk, you get rowdy, you go to bed – the things that caused you to feel stressed are still there waiting for you to deal with them. And that's assuming you didn't go out and do something stupid like get a DUI while you were blasted.

In a report released by the Mayo Clinic, one of the best ways to reduce stress is through exercise. As noted – exercise

pumps up your endorphins (the brains feel-good neurotransmitters), it improves your overall mood and it is meditation in motion; after a good game of hoops you'll find you have often forgotten the day's irritations or that your mindset is adjusted enough that you can deal with stressors.

Let me be clear, I'm not advocating that you should never drink – use is not the problem, abuse is. And with so many resources available, no one should ever feel they need to drink to deal with their problems. All of us need to take account for ourselves and those around us.

Do you have a Trooper just barely hanging on or talking about drinking all the time? Take charge, get them help and get them involved in one of the many things our community has to offer.

JTF Guantanamo

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COVER: Marine Sgt. Max Hauge, attached to the Marine Corps Security Forces Company on Naval Station Guantanamo Bay checks a wheel shaft for proper function during routine humvee maintenance, May 18. Hauge is responsible for the maintenance and repair of 14 tactical vehicles used for security patrols. The MCSFCO uses the humvees to provide 24-hour perimeter security for the entire fence line on Guantanamo Bay. - photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Maddelin Angebrand

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A United States flag tied to a tree branch waves in the wind over a business building destroyed by a tornado in Joplin, Missouri. Search teams accompanied by cadaver dogs on Tuesday picked their way through the rubble of thousands of homes and businesses laid to waste by the massive tornado, May 24, 2011.

At least 13 dead in latest U.S. tornadoes

Voice of America News

Severe storms and tornadoes have claimed at least 13 lives in the central United States, just two days after scores of people were killed in nearby Missouri, in the deadliest tornado to hit the nation in more than 60 years.

Emergency officials reported the latest deaths in the states of Oklahoma, Kansas and Arkansas as at least three dozen more tornadoes ripped through the region Tuesday and into the early hours of Wednesday. The storms, accompanied by baseball-sized hail, toppled trees, crushed cars and tore apart a rural fire station.

The latest tornadoes bypassed the devastated city of Joplin, Missouri that was struck Sunday by the single deadliest tornado to hit the U.S. since 1947. The death toll in the city of 50,000 residents has hit 123 and is expected to climb further. Local authorities said about 1,500 people are unaccounted for, but cautioned that

the number likely includes many people who have not been able to reach friends and family because of spotty cell phone service.

The death toll from the tornadoes this week, along with more than 300 killed by other tornadoes in recent weeks in the southern U.S., has pushed the year's total to more than 500, the highest number of U.S. tornado deaths since 1953, when 519 were recorded.

President Barack Obama says he will travel to Joplin on Sunday. Speaking during a visit to London Tuesday, Obama pledged that the federal government will use all available resources to help the victims recover and rebuild.

Rescue workers in the Missouri city continued to search through the devastation on Wednesday in hopes of finding more trapped survivors. Cheers erupted Tuesday when volunteers heard that another person had been found alive.

Lawmakers to grill VA over suicides among troops, vets

Stars and Stripes

The Veterans Administration is taking heat for what Congress sees as the agency's inadequate response to the problem of suicides among active-duty and military veterans after a court ruling cited the VA's "unchecked incompetence" in treating mental health issues among vets.

But the ruling is just the latest indication of a mental health system that has a longtime reputation for failing military veterans — a fact that almost any veteran who deals with the system can confirm.

"I won't trust the VA," said Sgt. 1st Class John Kyte, a decorated Iraq War veteran who is in treatment for a serious disorder that has caused him to black out more than 40 times.

Kyte's assessment of the VA: "They are overwhelmed."

Afghan forces retake eastern district From Taliban

Voice of America News

Afghan officials say security forces have retaken control of a district in eastern Nuristan province, after pushing Taliban militants back.

Nuristan's governor, Jamaludin Badar, told reporters that the western part of Duab district has been recaptured by Afghan troops, after insurgents briefly overran the area.

Afghan forces and Taliban militants had been battling for control in Duab for several hours on Wednesday, with at least three police officers and eight insurgents killed in the fighting.

Earlier in the day, a NATO spokesman confirmed the coalition was providing support to local forces.

Nuristan is a highly volatile area of eastern Afghanistan, with militants regularly crossing from neighboring Pakistan to carry out attacks inside Afghanistan. The province is one of several areas in the northeast that is secured mainly by local police as opposed to Afghan or foreign troops.

The Taliban recently stepped up attacks against NATO and Afghan troops, civilians and government officials, as part of its spring offensive.

Near the capital, Taliban gunmen killed the headmaster of a Kabul school in an attack late Tuesday in Logar province.

And NATO says separate bomb attacks killed two of its service members. One soldier was killed Wednesday in northern Afghanistan, the other died Tuesday in the south.

Need an official photo?

Contact the Joint Task Force Guantanamo
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Open Tuesday and Thursday 1300 - 1500
Call Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class
Joe Ebaló at 8140



News from the Bay

Stories by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class
Maddelin Angebrand

It's Memorial Day weekend, have some fun

Angry Birds Flock to Marina

Morale Welfare and Recreation's liberty program will host Angry Birds at 1000 Saturday, after the Boat Regatta event at the Marina. In Angry Birds, players take control of a flock of multi-colored birds that are attempting to retrieve eggs that have been stolen by a group of evil green pigs. On each level, the pigs are sheltered by structures made of various materials such as wood, ice and stone.

The objective of the game is to eliminate all the pigs in the level. Using a slingshot, players launch the birds with the intent of either hitting the pigs directly or damaging the structures, which would cause them to collapse and kill the pigs.

In various stages of the game, additional objects such as explosive crates and rocks are found in the levels, and may be used in conjunction with the birds to destroy hard-to-reach pigs.

MWR's liberty manager Jill Lynch is organizing the event and encouraged Troopers, families and their kids to come out and participate. "We will have lots of slingshots and water balloons," she said. "It will be a fun-filled day for everyone."

For more information, contact MWR at x2010.

Memorial Day sports tournaments kick off

Come out and support your fellow Troopers this weekend at the Denich gym and Cooper Field where multiple sports tournaments are taking place in honor of Memorial Day.

The softball tournament will be held at field two and starts at 7 p.m., Friday. The basketball tournament will start at 5 p.m., Saturday and the sand volleyball tournament starts at 6 p.m., Sunday.

"All of our teams are primarily military members," said Alana Morrison, MWR representative. "It's a great way to see our members out and about being active. It's going to be a relaxing weekend so come on out."

Although registration for these tournaments ended on May 23, your support is what completes these events. Having fans in the stands is all part of the fun.

For more information contact Alana at x2113.

Natalie Stovall, Young Joc, The Frontmen live in concert

Get your groove on this weekend with Natalie Stovall, Young Joc and The Frontmen in concert at O'Kelly's Irish Pub and the Windjammer.

First up is Natalie Stovall starting at 7 p.m., Saturday, on the Windjammer Patio. This show is open to all ages. Next up, will be Young Joc starting at 10 p.m. which will be open to the 18 years and up crowd.

Sunday Stovall will do a second performance from 8-10 p.m. at O'Kelly's Irish Pub. The Frontmen will perform their show at 9 p.m. outside on the Windjammer Patio.

Volunteer tea luncheon

Enjoy an afternoon of cake, tea and punch with community volunteers June 2, in the WT Sampson multipurpose room at 3 p.m.

The event is being held for anyone who has been volunteering at WT Sampson and also to those interested in becoming a volunteer. Upcoming volunteer opportunities will be discussed. For more information, contact Taylor Edwards at x2207.

What would your first concern be in the case of a zombie apocalypse?



"My family and my kids."

HT2 Demarcus
Thurman



"A safe shelter or barricade."

Pvt. Eric
Confer



"My family and a couple of shot guns."

E01 Heather
Clouser



"My girlfriend's safety."

Spc. Joel
Rodriquez

Reporting by Sgt. Mathieu Perry

TROOPER FOCUS

Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class

Carlos Cepeda



Mass Communication Specialist
2nd Class Maddelin Angebrand

Meet Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Carlos Cepeda a member of Combat Camera here on Joint Task Force Guantanamo.

Originally from the Dominican Republic and raised in New York, this Trooper said he joined the Navy to see the world. What better place to be than here, right?

“Before the Navy, I worked in a uniform factory counting boxes and went to college at night,” said Cepeda. “I needed some sort of adventure.”

Aside from working night hours in support of documenting detainee operations, Cepeda enjoys boating, fishing and throwing discs at the Lateral Hazard Disc Golf Course. He and his friends refer to the game as “frolfing” a nickname they repeat while on the course for a laugh.

During the work day, Cepeda travels with a camera in hand as he also provides photography coverage for events around the JTF to supplement *The Wire* and “Gazette” news sources.

“I enjoy my work because I get to experience other jobs in the military,” said Cepeda, “and see the Navy in a different perspective than most people do.”

For his first tour, Cepeda was stationed on the USS Tarawa (LHA1) for three years, and said being on a ship is a rewarding part of his career.

“It shows you what it means to be a Sailor,” he said. “You go cranking, do fire parties and underway replenishments, but

at the same time you have to do your actual job.”

Cepeda also earned his surface and air warfare pins while stationed on the ship, and said his motivation came from wanting to know his peers.

“On a ship there are so many things to learn, and getting your pins is that challenge - to learn everything you can about your ship and the Sailors who make it function.”

For Cepeda, the best part of his job as a mass communication specialist is seeing that he has reached an audience whether it be through words in a story or through the faces in his photographs.

“Getting a young Sailor’s story out there and seeing them get excited when their family sees what they’re doing is what makes this worthwhile to me,” he shared.

Chief Mass Communication Specialist Michael Heckman, Combat Camera’s operations chief noted the importance of having Cepeda in their shop.

“He’s the only active duty member in our group and he’s been deployed,” said Heckman. “So he brings great ideas and insight to what we do.”

When it comes to Cepeda’s work ethic, Heckman added his approach is admirable.

Bullet Bio

Time in Service: 7 years

Hobbies: Fishing, boating, snorkeling and frolfing (disc golf)

Pet peeves: punctuality and unreasonable people

Next goal: Bachelor’s degree in communications and marketing

Advice to junior Troopers: “Don’t worry about the things you can’t control, it will all come together in the end.”

“He doesn’t question challenges,” said Heckman. “He confronts them, and that makes him a great asset to combat camera and the Navy!”



Don't give information to an adversary. Be safe, use OPSEC

OPSEC ALERT

What is an adversary?

People or groups who mean to do us harm are called a “threat,” but to be an adversary they have to have two things, capability and intent. Have you ever heard someone give a threat? Unless they can actually act on it, it’s just that, a threat. But if someone can act, then that makes them an “adversary.” There are many threats to our information, so we must always use OPSEC and common sense to protect it before someone can act. If an adversary doesn’t know the plan, then they can’t try to stop it. Knowing what information a potential adversary knows, or wants to know, helps to keep them from acting against us. Don’t give information to an adversary. Be safe, use OPSEC!



Jeffery Porter drills a line drive into deep center Sunday during tryouts for the All Guantanamo Military Softball Team.

For the love of the game – GTMO softball

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

The All Guantanamo Military Softball Team held tryouts, prior to going to the Naval Base Mayport, Fla. Tri-Base Annual Softball Tournament, at Cooper field May 21-22.

This is the first time Joint Task Force and Naval Station Guantanamo troops have put together a team for the event.

“We have some great athletes and team players here,” said, Alana Morrison, Guantanamo Moral Welfare and Recreation Sports Coordinator. “This is a good opportunity for our players to represent the

GTMO military community in competition against some of the other softball teams at nearby bases.

Morrison coordinated the GTMO Spring MWR Softball League and is involved with all the sports leagues on the island. She came up with the idea to join the tournament and worked with Mayport MWR to get an invitation.

“As soon as we got approval to go, we have been working hard to make it happen,” said Morrison. “Luckily, we had a really good response at the tryouts and the local commands have been supportive of their troops.”

More than 25 team Guantanamo hopefuls from all branches of the military attended the grueling two-day try out practice sessions and competed for 14 positions on the traveling team. On both days, the players came out early to warm-up and stretch. Then, they participated in intense hitting and fielding drills and ended the day with full-on scrimmages against each other under the scorching sun.

“It was hot! And there was definitely some good competition out there,” said Daisy Estevez, the only female athlete to try out for the team, and a previous All Navy Women’s Softball Team player. “I’m working nights, so I should be resting right now, but I know all of us have to adjust around our work times to play. Plus, I love the game and I want to make the team.”

Morrison said all the players are making sacrifices to play and they are committed to representing the base.

“We understand the mission comes first,” said Morrison. “But if the players make the team and their commands sign-off on them participating and traveling to the tournament, the best thing we can do is practice hard and bring our best game to Mayport.”

The players that make the team will be notified before Memorial Day Weekend and will begin a month of three to four mandatory practices week in preparation for the tournament.

“If I make the team, I know it going to be hard work not just for softball, but also making sure I’m taking care of everything I need to do at my job,” said Troy Clark, another team Guantanamo hopeful. “But its worth it, I think it would be an awesome experience and I would be honored to represent all the great people at GTMO.”

Players swing into spring tournament

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

Spring is here and that means warmer weather and more sun. For many athletes in the Joint Task Force and Naval Station Guantanamo military community, that also means more time to exercise and play sports outside. So, in addition to the local runners, bike riders and softball players, there are some new competitors taking their games to the court. You may have heard their shoes squeaking from running around followed by some loud grunting when hitting the neon green balls.

Morale Welfare and Recreation kicked off their annual Spring Tennis League earlier this week with a full draw of matches for more than 25 Guantanamo singles and doubles players at the

Deerfield Point Tennis Courts for the month-long event.

“Tennis is a great sport and we are excited for all the players participating,” said Alana Morrison, MWR GTMO Sports Coordinator. “Compared to some of the other athletic events, tennis is a little bit more independent and individual. And we setup the scheduling and officiating of matches to work for our players.”

Participants received a schedule of matches and a contact roster of all the other players and are tasked with scheduling their own match days and times. With no umpires for the league, players abide by the honor code and officiate their own games

“I really like being able to make my own match times,”



Miguel Simonet, a participant in Guantanamo MWR’s Spring Tennis League, runs to the net to hit a volley winner during his first round match at the Deerfield Tennis Courts, May 16.

said Chad Webster, a participant in the tennis league. “My work schedule is really busy, but I love tennis and I want to play as much as I can. This scheduling system lets me do that.”

Chad’s doubles partner agrees

and said the league is a good way to meet other people on the island who share a love for the sport.

“Before the league started, I

MEDOPS: At the Forefront of Transparency

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

The Freedom of Information Act states a democracy requires accountability. Accountability requires transparency. Ensuring an open, transparent government to the American people, the FOIA is implemented at commands across all military branches and department of defense offices to give agencies such as the media access to information.

At the heart of that commitment here on Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay is the Joint Medical Group Operations Department.

This department is responsible for more than 3,200 detainee record volumes, which are potentially open to the public according to the FOIA. In order for these records to be accessed by outside agencies, detainees must sign a release form and MEDOPS will then screen, or redact, every page of that record.

By screening the records, MEDOPS is also protecting the individually identifiable health information of the detainee allowing the flow of health information needed to provide and promote high quality health care and transparency.

First, the record is scanned, making every page digital. Next, the names and signatures of doctors, corpsman and any medical personal in the record must be removed to protect their privacy. Detainees are protected by a number corresponding with their name, which replaces their name throughout the record.

"I process 1,000 pages a day," said Hospitalman Nicholas Maxwell, attached to MEDOPS. "When we get a request, that equals another 3,000 pages of a

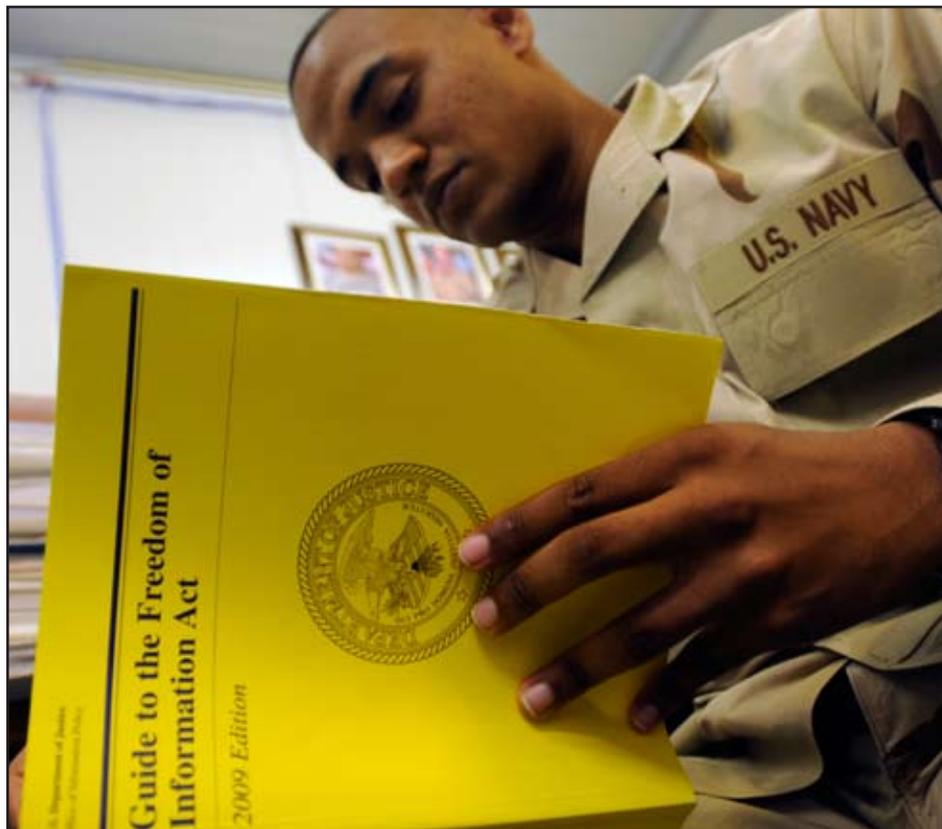
record to go through before we can fulfill that request."

With more than 30 requests made by lawyers and media organizations in the past two months, MEDOPS is working overtime to uphold their duty and commitment to transparency by way of the FOIA.

"A lot of people want to know what kind of care the detainees get and that information is here," said Maxwell.

to detainees. They initiate requests for the medical specialists, coordinate travel arrangements and track the replacements from the next wave of the JMG.

"We are really the first impression certain people get when they come here," said Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Dustin LeRoux. "I like setting the bar high and letting them know we're here for them during their stay."



A Hospitalman with the Joint Medical Group reviews Freedom of Information Act guidelines. Troopers of the JMG are responsible for maintaining health records for both Troopers and detainees.

Cardiologists and audiologists are a few of the specialists brought in every three to four months to meet medical needs of the detainees.

"In between visits of the other specialists, patients who require specialized services will be combined in a list," said Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Matthew Gustafson, MEDOPS leading petty officer. "Once the specialist arrives, appointments will be arranged to ensure each detainee receives the requested services."

The department's role is a large task critical to the success of the JMG and

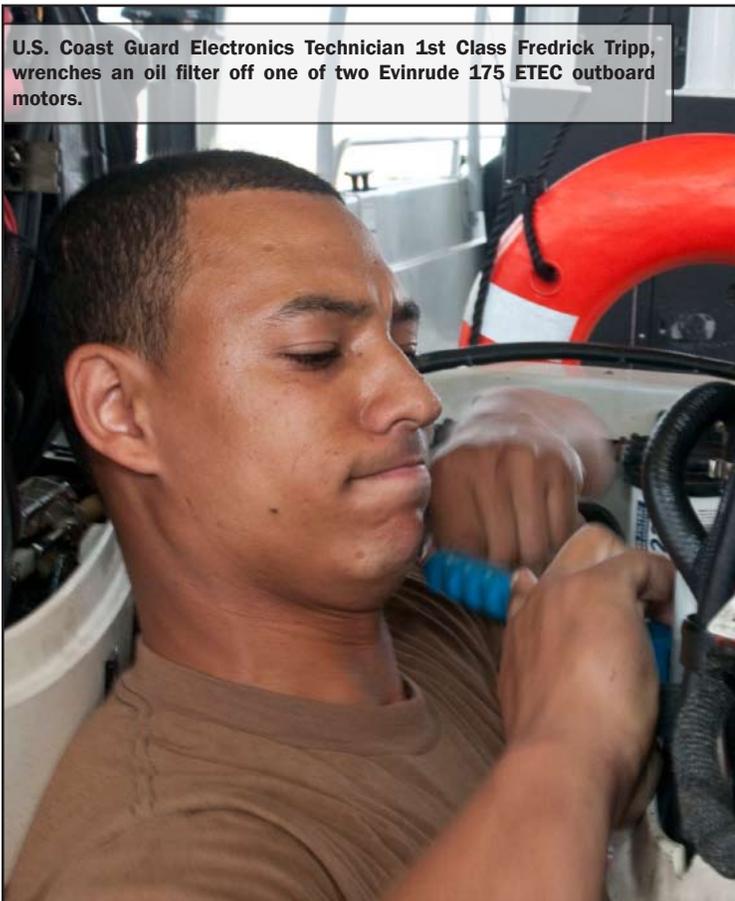
ultimately the JTF. By supporting the FOIA office of the United States and ensuring the detainees receive specialized care, these dedicated Troopers have exceeded the expectations of their leaders.

MEDOPS has completed the digitization of more than 3,200 medical records - totaling 195,000 pages - reducing the record redaction time from one week to less than a day.

"This is a result of the hard work these guys do," said Gustafson. "My guys know the importance of their jobs and I can see they take pride in their work although they aren't in the spotlight. What more can I ask of them?"



U.S. Coast Guard Electronics Technician 1st Class Fredrick Tripp, wrenches an oil filter off one of two Evinrude 175 ETEC outboard motors.



Beantown Coast

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

Maritime Safety Security Team 91110, from Boston, assumed anti-terrorism duties earlier this month at Camp Justice and the waters surrounding Naval Station Guantanamo Bay as part of Joint Task Force Guantanamo.

The nearly 100-strong group assumed watches from MSST 91113 Miami and is now getting comfortable in their new jobs and homes for the coming months of their deployment.

“Things are going excellent,” said Maritime Enforcement Specialist 3rd Class Desirae Villa, who works security at Camp Justice in support of military commissions. “We’re getting a lot of work done already and settling in to GTMO just great.”

MSST Boston boat crews and maintainers made quick work of turnover, something Boatswain’s Mate 1st Class Tom Pease, a tactical coxswain on the 25-foot Transportable Port Security Boats, attributes to his experienced Boston crews and excellent pass down from the departing Miami MSST.

“So far we’ve relieved the Miami crew and we’re finished getting settled into our rooms,” said Pease. “Now it’s just getting used to our day-to-day functions and making some fine tweaks on the watches to suit our specific people.”

Although MSST Boston may still be settling in, many of them are very familiar with their jobs at JTF Guantanamo. Villa, who



U.S. Coast Guard Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class Fredrick Tripp, assigned to Boston-based Maritime Safety Security Team 91110, applies a fresh coat of protective wax to a 25-foot Transportable Small Boat.

ies back in town

completed a six-month deployment back in 2009 with MSST Seattle, is one of them. She enjoyed her previous assignment and feels this visit will be equally rewarding.

The young Coast Guardsman with just three years of service, chose this deployment after responding to a Coast Guard-wide solicitation for reservists.

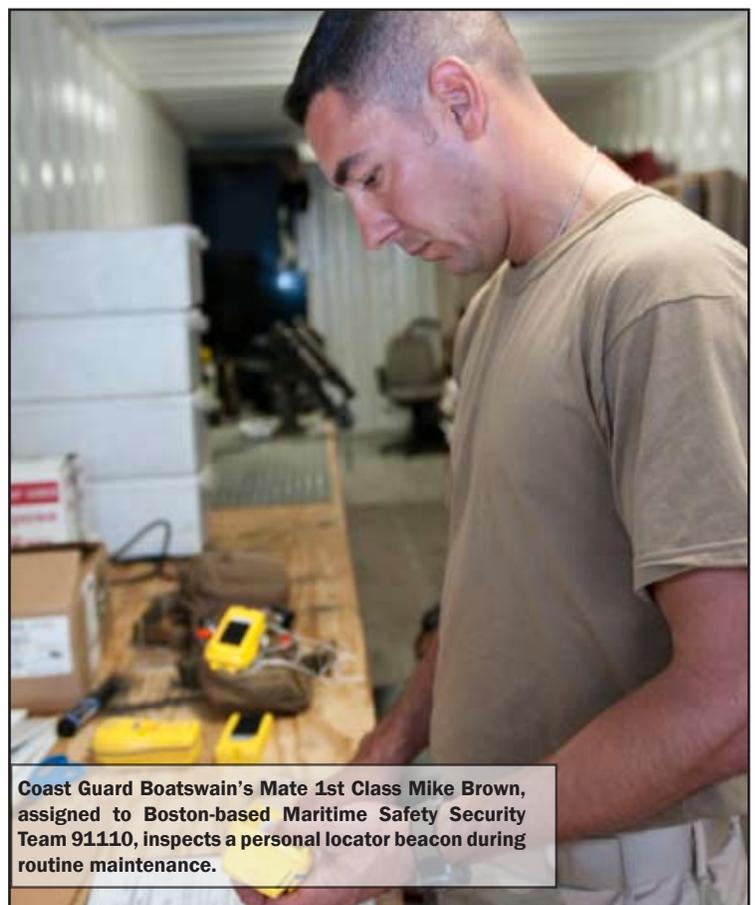
"I volunteered to come down here again because I really had a blast last time," said Villa. "It is definitely what you make of it. We have a really good crew and we stick together, which makes for such a great time."

Unity is a big part of how MSST Boston works. The unit already put together a softball team for the next tournament and is playing ultimate Frisbee and kickball – something that was not available during their previous visits.

Pease is quite comfortable being called a Trooper, having been deployment to JTF Guantanamo in 2003 and 2004.

"A lot of things have changed here since then," said Pease. "And they've changed for the better. Accommodations are a lot better with the Cuzco Barracks. My last time here we stayed over in Windward Loop – it was six people to a house. The privacy here at the Cuzco's is a fantastic improvement."

see Boston page 19



Coast Guard Boatswain's Mate 1st Class Mike Brown, assigned to Boston-based Maritime Safety Security Team 91110, inspects a personal locator beacon during routine maintenance.

Born to turn wrench

Marine Corps mechanic brings his passion to work every day to the benefit of GTMO's Marine Corps Security Forces.

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

Their hands are never entirely clean and the smell of engine oil lingers in their presence. Crevices on each finger are lined with dirt, oil and sweat. This resin seems to stay put even after the most vigorous wash. Cuts, scrapes and burns are also part of the job when working as a mechanic under the hood of a humvee.

For Marine Sgt. Max Hauge, a Marine Corps Security Force Company member stationed on Guantanamo Bay, being a mechanic is not just a job - it is his passion.

Since he was 15-years-old, Hauge remembers turning wrenches and was fueled by the satisfaction of troubleshooting and solving engine problems.

"It clicked with me when I was young and just stuck," said Hauge. "I've been getting paid as a mechanic ever since."

Hauge joined the Marines in 2007 and attended mechanic school after boot camp where nuts, bolts and engines are part of the daily agenda.

"Day one they start with 'this is a screwdriver' and then we get into what kind of screwdriver it is," he said. "They start out basic, but by the end, you can pull an entire engine out of a humvee and replace it, so you start from the ground up it's a really good program."

Hauge's formal training is backed by two combat tours, one to Iraq and the other to Afghanistan where he worked on 7-ton trucks and humvees.

Hauge is responsible for the maintenance and repair of 14 humvees which patrol the fence line here on Guantanamo Bay around the clock.

According to his supervisor Gunnery Sgt. Brian Salois, MCSFCO's Maintenance Chief, the usual vehicle to mechanic ratio is seven vehicles to one mechanic making Hauge's skills a valuable asset to both the Joint Task Force and Naval Station.

"When he got here he dove right in, rolled his sleeves up and I didn't see him until a truck was finished," said Salois. "He knows how to troubleshoot any issues with the vehicles and that's what we need here."

The MCSFCO provides overall security for the entire fence line of Guantanamo Bay to include the Joint Task Force, which has additional security inside the fence line.

"The humvees are a time efficient protective form of transportation along the fence line rather than having them do a foot patrol the whole time," said Hauge. "That way they keep moving all the time and that's my job - to keep those humvees moving."

Hauge said the satisfaction comes with knowing he is his own reward system.

"You might have to push or pull it into the shop, but then you're going to drive it out," he shared. "You get that sense of accomplishment like you did something and there's something to



show for it."

He added there are some challenges when it comes to having the right tools for the trade.

"With the Army next door and the Seabees we all work together to get parts and tools," said Hauge. "The Army will have something I need or vice versa so, the whole Joint Task Force thing works out well."

Hauge said there are weeks where nothing will go wrong and weeks where everything that can go wrong will go wrong, but luckily for Hauge if engines never broke he would be out of work.

"Working with my hands is what I love to do," he said. "That sense of accomplishment when I figure out something that's really tough and really rack my brain on it makes me feel like I'm a part of this mission!"

(Above) Marine Sgt. Max Hauge, attached to the Marine Corps Security Forces Company on Naval Station Guantanamo Bay performs regular maintenance on a humvee, May 18. (Right) Hauge adjusts a timing belt during the same maintenance check of the vehicle. Hauge is responsible for the maintenance and repair of 14 tactical vehicles used for security patrols. The MCSFCO uses the humvees to provide 24-hour perimeter security for the entire fence line on Guantanamo Bay.

renches



“

You might have
**to push
or pull it**
into the shop, but
then you're going to
drive it out.

Sgt. Max Hauge

”

Guard completes largest-ever exercise

Tech Sgt. John Orrell
National Guard Bureau

WASHINGTON – About 40,000 National Guard members working with active duty servicemembers and federal and state emergency personnel completed “National Level Exercise 11” on May 20, 2011, signaling the successful execution of the largest interagency exercise ever, Guard officials said.

The exercise, based around the New Madrid Seismic Zone and with an earthquake of disastrous magnitude as the scenario, tested the response capabilities of the Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, Tennessee and Wisconsin National Guards.

“National Level Exercise 11”, or NLE 11, incorporated several other exercises, to include the Joint Chiefs of Staff Positive Response 2011, U.S. Northern Command’s Ardent Sentry 2011, the Department of Health and Human Services Noble Life Saver 2011, the National Guard’s Vigilant Guard and U.S. Transportation Command’s Turbo Challenge 2011/Ultimate Caduceus 2011.

Each state worked with their current emergency response plan to find strengths and weakness, said Army Maj. Gen. David Harris, the National Guard Bureau’s director of domestic operations and force development.

Harris said issues brought to light by exercises like NLE 11 -- such as organization and staffing -- can be solved quickly, but others - such as communication package and hardware issues - take a little more planning and budgeting to fix.

“That’s why exercises like this are important, to show those potential shortfalls,” Harris said.

Alabama Guard members provided aerial support for infrastructure assessments, basic first aid and medical triage and security support in several counties.

Like several states, they activated their chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high yield explosives, or CBRNE, enhanced response force package, also known as CERFP, for search and rescue and mass casualty support.

The Arkansas Guard had engineering teams providing damage assessment and repairing damaged airport runways.

They also filled about 50,000 sand bags for potential flooding, provided enough shelters for about 4,500 displaced citizens and delivered cots, blankets and relief goods.

In Illinois, Guard members assisted local law enforcement with public safety and welfare



Members of the 434th Chemical Company, Minnesota National Guard CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High Explosives) Emergency Response Force Package (CERFP), assist a role-player posing as a victim during a Vigilant Guard exercise. - photo by Spc. Alyson Swanke

checks in rural areas.

They had several civil support teams, or CSTs, responding to a simulated biohazard emergency where about 15,000 gallons of soybean oil leaked into the Ohio River.

Indiana made the NLE 11 an opportunity to practice with their 53rd CST and worked with first responders from various Indiana Department of Homeland Security districts on emergency response procedures.

As part of their full-time mission set, the 53rd CST responds to chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear incidents and works with local first-responders to determine the type of attack or incident.

Kentucky took the opportunity to bring past experiences to the table for the purposes of updating and rewriting their Commonwealth Earthquake Response plan.

“We learn something with each event or disaster, such as the historic flooding Kentucky just experienced,” said John Heltzel, director for Kentucky Emergency Management. “The trick is to take lessons learned and turn them into lessons applied.”

The Kentucky Joint Air Operations Center, or JOAC, also worked to prioritize and allocate air assets for missions across the Commonwealth.

They transported personnel and equipment, and provided aeromedical evacuation and search-and-rescue capabilities when needed, said Air Force Brig. Gen. Mark Kraus, who commands the JAOC and is Kentucky’s Joint Forces Air Component commander.

Missouri Guard members provided CBRNE agent monitoring and mitigation and decontamination, emergency medical services and extraction at collapsed structures.

“The Missouri National Guard is a key component of disaster response,” said John Campbell, of the State Emergency Management

Agency, who is also a retired Missouri National Guard master sergeant.

“The Guard brings capabilities that don’t exist in everyday situations,” he said. “They bring disciplined citizen Soldiers and Airmen to check the well being of folks who are suffering from the effects of a disaster or to provide warnings.”

The Mississippi Guard’s 4th CST worked with Florida, Georgia and Texas CERFPs providing search and extraction and mass casualty support in a simulated hazardous environment.

Tennessee had Guard members establishing communication lines at the county level, providing security and shelters for citizens, and provided aviation support for damage assessments.

The Wisconsin National Guards 54th CST supported local and state authorities at domestic emergency incident sites. They worked to identify substances and assess current and projected consequences.

“The CST provided safety of the scene, data modeling, communications and liaison between the incident commander and public health authorities,” said Lt. Col. Timothy Covington, commander. “This was a great opportunity to introduce our capabilities to local agencies and to show how those resources might be used in the event of a large-scale disaster.”

NLE 11 also allowed Guard members and NORTHCOM to practice their developed Contingency Dual Status Command initiative.

During a natural or man-made disaster, the initiative allows a commissioned officer of the regular Army or regular Air Force or state Army National Guard or Air National Guard to command and control state and federal military assets in a Defense Support of Civil Authorities environment, NORTHCOM officials said.



Chief Master-at-Arms James Blagg, from New Port Richey, Fla., and Boatswain's Mate 1st Class Richard Grier, from Afton, N.Y., command drug and alcohol prevention advisors at Naval Air Station Key West, hang a banner next to a vehicle that crashed near Key West while the driver was under the influence of alcohol. - photo by Trice Denny

Navy emphasizes summer safety

By April Phillips
Naval Safety Center Public Affairs

NORFOLK, Va. – The Naval Safety Center’s (NAVSAFECEN) annual summer safety campaign officially begins Memorial Day weekend, and materials are available now to help Sailors and Marines prepare for their upcoming off-duty and recreational activities.

The last few years have shown that it’s possible to have fun while managing risk.

“Last summer, Sailors and Marines set the bar high and statistically achieved the safest summer on record,” said Rear Adm. Arthur J. Johnson, commander, Naval Safety Center. “I firmly believe we have all the components in place to continue that positive trend and do even better this year.”

While last summer was a successful one for most, 14 Sailors and 14 Marines lost their lives in motor vehicle and recreation mishaps. That was a tragedy for their families, for their units, and for the fleet as a whole. Sailors and Marines do a great job of managing risk on duty, and that’s a mindset NAVSAFECEN’s command master chief said must carry over outside the gates of the installation.

“Just like in an operational environment, we are faced with obstacles that, unless we plan ahead, could result in negative consequences,” said CMDCM(AW/SW)

Dominick Torchia. “Off duty recreation is really no different. It requires planning, from something as seemingly minor as wearing sun block, to ensuring vehicles are running properly and your trip is well planned out. These details could mean the difference between mitigating risk and suffering the consequences.”

To help manage risk, NAVSAFECEN’s summer campaign known as “Live to Play, Play to Live,” reinforces positive things Sailors, Marines, and their families can do to have fun this summer. While most activities carry a certain amount of risk, that danger is usually easy to plan for and manage.

“Managing risk not only reduces mishaps, but it allows us to thoroughly enjoy the activities we participate in,” Johnson said. “A little advance planning goes a long way.”

NAVSAFECEN has presentations, booklets, videos, and other materials to help service members and their families plan for summer fun. These tools can be downloaded at www.public.navy.mil/navsafecen.

Johnson said he hopes everyone will take advantage of these materials so the fleet can build on the positive trends of the past several years and have a great summer at the same time.

“Don’t let a preventable mishap constrain your summer fun and enjoyment,” he said.

WORTH Pampers Bataan’s Female Sailors

By Mass Communication Specialist Seaman
Tamekia Perdue, USS Bataan Public Affairs

USS BATAAN, Mediterranean Sea (NNS) – The Women’s Organization to Reach Teach and Help (WORTH) aboard the multipurpose amphibious assault ship USS Bataan (LHD 5) held a beauty shop day for female Sailors and Marines in the ship’s barber shop May 22.

Beauty shop day was organized to provide female service members aboard time to spend with one another in an atmosphere not typically found aboard Navy ships.

“Sometimes you just need an outlet,” said Information Systems Technician 1st Class (SW) Connie Blevins, one of the many active members of WORTH. “Sometimes you just want to talk to another female that might understand what you’re going through. I can hang with the guys for 12, 16, or even 18 hours a day, but at the end of the day, I want to be a female. I am a female. I want to go somewhere and just be a girl.”

WORTH is an organization started by senior enlisted female Sailors aboard Bataan as a way to give junior female Sailors guidance and an outlet to discover themselves.

Beauty shop day is the first of many WORTH-organized activities for female service members aboard Bataan.

“We decided to come up with the beauty day, so we could go over the regulations of how we can wear our hair, what’s acceptable, and what isn’t, as well as boost morale for the junior personnel aboard,” said Information Systems Technician 1st Class (SW/AW) Trinika Savage.

WORTH members opened the beauty shop doors to all females aboard Bataan, providing hair, nail, and eyebrow care.

“It is a free event, and all of the services were donated by the talents [of female Sailors] aboard Bataan,” said Blevins.

A day at the beauty shop gave Bataan’s females an opportunity to relax and feel pampered.

“I got my nails and eyebrows done, and it made me feel quite elated,” said Aviation Boatswain’s Mate Fueling 3rd Class Ananasa Dobson. “There is never a day for females to take a break and get something done for themselves without it being after taps in the berthing.”

According to Blevins, the members of WORTH are trying to coordinate beauty shop day at least once a month. The goal is to boost the morale aboard the ship and continue to give females the beauty outlet they normally would not obtain on a warship.

There are a number of planned events for Bataan’s current deployment. Movie night, bingo, and fitness challenges are just a few of the upcoming events in the works.



Law enforcement members honored

by Staff Sgt. Chad Thompson
51st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

OSAN AIR BASE, South Korea -- Security forces members, the Air Force Office of Special Investigations and the South Korean air force honored two law enforcement Airmen by ceremonially retiring them and removing them from duty here May 19.

The ceremony was part of National Police Week, which ran from May 15 to 21 and honored law enforcement members who died in the line of duty.

“Over the past year, both the Office of Special Investigations and security forces have suffered tragic losses of outstanding Airmen,” said Maj. Traci Wallace, from the 5th Field Investigations Squadron. “We are gathered here today to honor the service and mourn the loss of Master Sgt. Tarra Jacobs Brown from the Office of Special Investigations and Senior Airman Nicholas Alden from security forces.”

“Today, we join together to comfort each other, grieve our lost colleagues and publically declare that each one has brought honor to our Air Force and our nation,” said Lt. Col. Shan Nuckols, the 5th FIS commander. “They demonstrated the true meaning of heroism, and together, we respectfully pledge that their courage and service will not be forgotten.”

“We celebrate the sacrifice and professionalism of you every day, and your civilian counterparts in the U.S.,” said Lt. Col. James Damato, the 51st Security Forces Squadron commander. “But, tragically, we have to have events like this to memorialize the dead and wounded, which unfortunately are too numerous over the years.”



Members of the 18th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron Det. 1 and 13th Air Force surgeon general's office transport a critically ill patient out of the rear of a C-17 Globemaster III May 22, 2011, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. The patient was aeromedically evacuated from Lyndon B. Johnson Tropical Medical Center in Pago Pago, American Samoa, after he aspirated following a seizure that left him completely reliant on a ventilator to breathe. After arriving in Hawaii, the patient was transferred to Tripler Army Medical Center, Hawaii. - photo by Senior Airman Lauren Main

Air Force executes life-saving mission

by Senior Airman Lauren Main
15th Wing Public Affairs

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii (AFNS) -- In the early hours of the morning on May 22, a group of Airmen here departed with a moment's notice for Pago Pago, American Samoa, to save the life of a critically ill child.

Medical personnel from the 13th Air Force surgeon general's office and the 18th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron Det. 1, along with a C-17 Globemaster III aircrew from the 535th Airlift Squadron, were called upon to medically evacuate the five-year-old dependent of a retired Army member.

The child, who suffers from a congenital seizure disorder, was hospitalized for more than two weeks due to his inability to breathe independently. Following a prolonged seizure, his family rushed him to Lyndon B. Johnson Tropical Medical Center in Pago Pago, where doctors attempted to intubate him. During the effort to insert a breathing tube, the child vomited and inhaled the

matter into his lungs, which is also known as aspirating. While doctors at the medical center were able to medicate and treat him for his seizures, he was now entirely reliant on a ventilator to breathe.

LBJ Medical Center officials recommended the patient be moved to the nearest military medical facility with the resources to treat him. With his condition listed as critical and the transport urgent, the hospital called upon the 535th AS and a team of medical professionals from the 13th AF and 18th AES.

“I received the call Friday night about 8 p.m. to fly to American Samoa and medically evacuate the patient to Tripler (Army Medical Center, Hawaii),” said Maj. Aaron Fields, a critical care air transportation doctor with the 13th AF surgeon general's office. “I initially felt the child was too sick to move, but the transport was critical.”

Less than 36 hours after the initial phone call from LBJ Medical Center, a C-17 touched

down in American Samoa and made preparations to transfer the child to Hawaii.

“Once we had the child (and guardian) in the back of the plane, we took off in less than 45 minutes,” said 1st Lt. Audrey McCabe, a C-17 pilot with the 535th AS. “(The crew) all took turns going down to check on him. We were all a little worried, but the flight docs were on top of it and kept updating us on his status.”

Upon the child's arrival to Hickam Field here, an ambulance transported him and his legal guardian to Tripler, where he continues to receive treatment.

“They will gradually wean him off the ventilator and give him trial periods each day until he is able to breathe on his own,” Major Fields said. “His condition is still critical, but listed as stable and improving.”

According to Major Fields, the family members of the child said they were grateful for everything the Air Force has done to ensure the health and wellness of their son.



Marines accomplish goals while on deployment with Bataan Sailors

by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class
Michael J. Scott
USS Bataan Public Affairs

USS BATAAN, Atlantic Ocean – Sailors and Marines aboard multipurpose amphibious assault ship USS Bataan (LHD 5) are working toward accomplishing objectives with either a personal or professional significance during their current deployment, April 19.

While the spectrum varies for each individual, the most popular milestones are expected to be qualifications, education, advancement and physical fitness.

“There’s time for a little bit of everything,” said USS Bataan Command Master Chief (SW/AW) Brian Collier. “Start early, and make progress every single day. When that happens, the goals become reality.”

Deployments allow Sailors to experience the full range of shipboard operations, which provides them with unique first-hand knowledge that can be applied to achieving warfare qualifications.

“My main focus is to earn my ESWS and EAWS pins,” said Boatswain’s Mate 2nd Class Bakar Washington, from Los Angeles. “I want to put myself in the best position for advancement. That’s the reason why I came to Bataan.”

The crew will also have the opportunity to start or further their education by taking Navy College Program for Afloat College Education (NCPACE) courses. More than 190 Bataan personnel have signed up to take classes in business, history, philosophy, speech, psychology and sociology. NCPACE instructors are expected to join the crew while Bataan is in the Mediterranean Sea.

Many Sailors will work to increase their options in the Navy’s perform-to-serve program by increasing their Armed Service Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) scores, which will allow them to choose from a greater pool of Navy ratings when cross-rating becomes the only option. ASVAB classes on board began April 18.

A long deployment also provides plenty of time to hit the gym, work the ramps or run the flight deck.

Staff Sgt. Jacky Brun, 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) commodities chief from Plantation, Fla., said he is working to get his six-pack abs back and will also try to



Marines and Sailors man the rails in preparation to depart on a deployment. - photo by U.S. Navy

reach brown belt status in the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program.

“I plan on being in much better shape when this (deployment) is over,” said Brun.

Crew members who are looking to improve their health by quitting smoking during the deployment will have to look no further than Bataan’s Medical Department. Medical will offer smoking cessation classes throughout the cruise.

In addition to reaching goals and completing the command’s mission during the deployment, the crew will also have the opportunity to relax while exploring and experiencing different cultures. During port visits, Morale, Welfare and Recreation

Department will offer tours, and the Religious Ministries Department will sponsor community relations projects that will give Sailors and Marines a chance to make a positive influence on local communities.

“One of the reasons I like going on deployments is seeing the world,” said Staff Sgt. Clinton Hackney, 22nd MEU engineering chief from Maribel, N.C. “I enjoy learning about other people and their culture. It helps me understand how we all relate to each other.”

“Deployments can be long and stressful,” said Collier. “Setting and meeting goals can help pass the time, provide the crew with stress relievers and a sense of accomplishment.”

For more news from USS Bataan (LHD 5), visit www.navy.mil/local/lhd5/.



Coast Guard stresses importance of wearing life jackets while boating

CLEVELAND – In conjunction with National Safe Boating Week, which began Saturday, the Ninth Coast Guard District is urging all Great Lakes boaters to not only have life jackets for every person aboard their vessels as required by law, but to go one step further and ensure everyone aboard is wearing a life jacket at all times while underway.

This weekend alone, Coast Guard boatcrews ended the voyages of 10 vessels on the Great Lakes because there weren't enough life jackets on the boats for everyone aboard, along with other infractions. Click here to read an earlier news release regarding voyage terminations on the Great Lakes.

"If you don't have the lifesaving gear that is required by law to be on board, the Coast Guard will send you back to the pier," said Rear Adm. Michael Parks, commander of the Ninth Coast Guard District. "We don't want to ruin anyone's day - we do this for your own safety. It's far better to terminate your voyage than to have to make a next-of-kin notification to your family members."

To meet U.S. Coast Guard requirements, a boat must have a Coast Guard-approved type I, II, III, or V (wearable) life jacket for each person aboard. Boats 16 feet and longer (except canoes and kayaks) must have at least one Type IV (throwable) device as well.

Owners/operators of vessels found to be in violation of 33 CFR 175, the portion of the Code of Federal Regulations that pertains to recreational boating safety, may be assessed a civil penalty up to \$8,000 per violation.

"A life jacket is the single-most important piece of survival equipment a boater can wear, is the first line of survival for unexpected falls overboard, and buys time necessary for rescue," said Frank Jennings, Jr., recreational boating safety program manager for the Ninth Coast Guard District. "Boating on the Great Lakes is a popular pastime we encourage people to partake in, but they should do so safely."

"There is an old stigma that life jackets are ugly, bulky and uncomfortable, but that's just not true anymore," said Jennings.

Coast Guard investigators examine parasail accident

HONOLULU – Coast Guard investigators are examining the cause of a reported parasailing accident that occurred offshore South Oahu at approximately 8:30 a.m. Saturday.

Honolulu Fire Department officials who responded to the incident initially notified Sector Honolulu watchstanders at 8:43 a.m. It was reported that three individuals aloft entered the water when the towline connecting the parasail harness to the vessel parted. The commercial passenger vessel involved in the incident successfully recovered the individuals. The three passengers involved in the incident were brought to shore and received medical treatment from emergency medical service with one 30 year-old female transported to Queen's Medical Center for follow on care. A casualty investigation is underway at this time.

"Many modern life jackets are made to be comfortable, lightweight and even inflatable, and consumers now have an incredibly wide range of style and color options."

The goal of National Safe Boating Week, held annually during the week leading up to Memorial Day weekend, is to heighten awareness among recreational boaters of the importance of boating responsibly and wearing a life jacket at all times.

In 2009, three-fourths of all fatal boating accidents in the United States resulted from the victims drowning, and 84 percent of those who drowned were not wearing life jackets.

Of the 7,000 boaters who died during the past 10 years, 5,000 of them drowned. Drowning is the third leading cause of accidental death in the U.S. and the second leading cause of accidental death for people 5 to 44 years old.

Most boating accidents occur quickly and unexpectedly, and it is extremely difficult to locate and don a life jacket at the moment an accident occurs.

Coast Guard and Navy Salvage crews medically evacuate diver

HONOLULU - A Coast Guard rescue boatcrew partnered with Navy Salvage units to medically evacuate a diver Tuesday, two miles offshore of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Firing Range at approximately 2:30 p.m.

Coast Guard Sector command center personnel received a distress call via VHF-FM channel 16 from the dive vessel Wailoa concerning

an unresponsive 41-year-old male who had been conducting commercial dive operations for Hukilau Foods Inc.

The USNS Salvor and Mobile Diving Salvage Unit One also responded to the distress call and were on scene in approximately five minutes. Navy personnel immediately transferred the diver aboard the Salvor and into a

hyperbaric chamber. Coast Guard Station Honolulu rescue crews launched a 45-foot Response Boat-Medium to assist.

Once the RB-M arrived on scene, a Navy medical officer determined the diver needed to be medically evacuated to emergency medical services. The diver was transported aboard the RB-M while the Navy medical officer

continued to administer medical services.

The diver was transferred to EMS personnel at the pier and transported to Pali Momi Medical Center in Aiea where he was subsequently declared deceased.

Coast Guard Sector investigators are conducting an investigation into the incident.

Overcoming Separation

Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Shane Sexton



Separating from our loved ones and deploying to a new environment can be very stressful. Long stretches apart, frequent moves and financial insecurities are all things that can test our resilience. The stress from being deployed can cause our emotions to affect the way we perform and how we interact with others. There is something, however, that we can do!

Often we forget to show appreciation or give praise, and we forget how much it means to simply say “I appreciate you.” These words can go a long way. Verbal support during a deployment can make a world of difference and reduce the amount of pressure we endure while away.

The ability to trust in one another, to accept new roles and responsibilities is challenging, especially with limited resources and communication. Trust is the basis for a relationship; it is a solid belief that leads individuals to count on one another to be sensitive and faithful. Furthermore, it allows you to express your needs and share responsibilities from a distance.

Our values and beliefs are based on our experiences pertaining to what we have learned throughout life. They help us to make decisions that are often trying. Share and express your values and beliefs with your loved ones and remember to honor what is expected. Try to avoid doing anything you

wouldn't do in their presence.

Equal partnership and working together is beneficial to reaching goals. It is important to tackle conflict as a team effort. Spouses share a responsibility to achieve common goals, it is not an individual effort. Accomplishments together help strengthen a relationship and build a solid foundation.

Financial stress is one of the major causes of marital discord. Budgeting expenses and having a plan can prevent unneeded stress. Discuss your budget and reach benchmarks together, this will help relieve stress, reward you equally, and create a bond for working together.

Open communication and understanding can prevent conflicts before they arise. Work on talking about your feelings, hopes, fears, failures, successes and needs. Be able to give constructive criticism as well as receive it. Listen effectively and avoid aggression as this can shut down communication and act as a barrier in the future. Showing that you care can ease stress and keep communication open.

Deployments can be stressful, but preventative techniques can help decrease the effects of stress and worry during this tough time. Maintain connection through letters, video chat, e-mail, pictures, tapes, pictures and phone calls. Do activities together for long-distance couples such as reading a book together and discussing it, or having a date night with video chat. These small activities help to keep the connection light-hearted and carefree. Encourage each other to stay busy and develop interests and hobbies. These things will help ease the length of separation and draw you closer through common interests and unique differences. Remember, it is the little things that count, good or bad, it can make a difference and build cohesion in your relationship.

GTMO Religious Services

Daily Catholic Mass
Mon. - Fri. 5:30 p.m.
Main Chapel
Vigil Mass
Saturday 5 p.m.
Main Chapel
Mass
Sunday 9 a.m.
Main Chapel
Catholic Mass
Saturday 7:30 p.m.
Troopers' Chapel
Sunday 7:30 a.m.
Troopers' Chapel

Protestant Worship
Sunday 9 a.m.
Troopers' Chapel
Islamic Service
Friday 1:15 p.m.
Room C
Jewish Service
Friday 7 p.m.
Chapel Annex
LORIMI Gospel
Sunday 8 a.m.
Room D
LDS Service
Sunday 10 a.m.
Room A

Church of Christ
Sunday 10 a.m.
Chapel Annex
Room 17
Seventh Day Adventist
Saturday 11 a.m.
Room B
Iglesia Ni Cristo
Sunday 5:30 a.m.
Room A
Pentecostal Gospel
Sunday 8 a.m.
Room D

Liturgical Service
Sunday 10 a.m.
Room B
General Protestant
Sunday 11 a.m.
Main Chapel
United Jamaican Fellowship
Sunday 11 a.m.
Building 1036
Gospel Service
Sunday 1 p.m.
Main Chapel

GTMO Bay Christian Fellowship
Sunday 6 p.m.
Main Chapel
Bible Study
Wednesday 7 p.m.
Troopers' Chapel
The Truth Project Bible Study
Sunday 6 p.m.
Troopers' Chapel

Sucker Punch



Sp. Meredith Vincent

It is difficult to explain the plot to Zack Snyder's humorless, over-stylized "Sucker Punch." Not because it's confounding or intricate, like Christopher Nolan's "Inception," but because it's so ludicrous and over-the-top that, by retelling even a small, vague summery, it brings back the horror of having to sit through it.

Emily Browning is Babydoll, a used and abused little hottie with a penchant for pigtails. After her mother's death, she is sent to an insane asylum by her father after she rebuffs his advances with a clean scratch to the face. This first twenty minutes of plot setup is completely void of any dialogue, only a thumping soundtrack and slow motion photography. Because who needs storytelling when you have the Eurythmic's "Sweet Dreams (Are Made of This)" to do it for you?

At the crazy house, Babydoll meets a host of characters: Blue, the sneering, conniving orderly; Madam Gorski, a therapist/mother figure (Carla Gugino, with a whole lotta eye makeup); and a ragtag group of mishandled, mistreated, misdiagnosed girls with their own issues (Vanessa Huggens of "High School Musical" fame, Abby Cornish and Jena Malone. The latter two obviously lost a bet of some kind - they are far above this sort of material).

Here's where things get weird. Presumably, to escape her hellish



surroundings, Babydoll re-imagines the mental ward as a glamorous Moulin Rouge-type brothel, with Blue as the club manager, Madam G as the dance instructor and all her newfound friends served up as tasty morsels for the clientele. Soon we learn that Babydoll has special dancing powers that turn her audience into drooling goons, which makes a perfect excuse to hatch up an escape plan.

Here's where things get really weird. When she dances, Babydoll is transported into a third reality, where she and her clan of bondage-clad babes make like

superheroes and kick the snot out of Nazi zombies, robots and dragons. Snyder is actually a skillful director; he did a better-than-alright job remaking George Romaro's "Dawn of the Dead" (one of my all-time favorite horror movies) in 2004, then catapulted Gerald Butler into fame with the dazzling "300." "Sucker Punch," however, is nothing more than an excitable boy playing with his brand new toys. The effects that made "300" gripping are now used in sickening excess.

Snyder claims to be exploring the roles of feminine power by lifting his meek

see MOVIES page 19

	27 FRI.	28 SAT.	29 SUN.	30 MON.	31 TUES.	01 WED.	02 THURS.
Downtown Lyceum	Sucker Punch (PG-13) 8 p.m. Source Code (PG-13) 10 p.m.	Pirates of the Caribbean On Stranger Tides (PG-13) 8 p.m. Hannah (PG-13) 10 p.m.	Thor (PG) 8 p.m.	Diary of a Wimpy Kid (PG) 8 p.m.	Battle L.A. (R) 8 p.m. *last showing*	Lincoln Lawyer (R) 8 p.m.	Thor (PG-13) 8 p.m.
	Hannah (PG-13) 8 p.m. Pirates of the Caribbean On Stranger Tides (PG-13) 10 p.m.	Source Code (PG-13) 8 p.m. Lincoln Lawyer (R) 10 p.m.	Battle L.A. (R) 8p.m. *last showing*	Thor (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Sucker Punch (PG-13) 8p.m.	Limitless (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Paul (PG-13) 8 p.m.

Call MWR at ext. 2010 for more information.

Movie Hotline - call 4880.

MOVIES

helpless heroines up, strapping them with machine guns and grenades and letting them blow the crap out of robots. But all that is lifting these girls up are stilettos and Wonder Bras.

The movie does the most disservice to Browning. All bee-stung lips and rouge-stained cheeks, she doesn't really act so much as pout and glare. Some may remember a young Browning as the high-strung Violet Baudelaire in "Lemony

Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events," in which she showed much promise. Unfortunately, in "Sucker Punch," she is reduced to a body in a mini-skirt, filling Snyder's own fantasies of young girls, violence and indiscernible movie titles.

Last week, someone told me I need to "know my audience" while reviewing. It will come as no surprise to me that many readers will react strongly to this review - most of you are male, after all, and this

movie is an unabashed celebration of everything dudes are supposed to want in life. Having said that, I'm not going to apologize for my banana rats, or lack thereof. If you want a quality story about girl power that mixes gore, rad fight scenes and a compelling plot, I suggest Quentin Tarantino's "Kill Bill" saga. But there's no dragon in that. So if you have to have the dragon, go ahead and waste two hours of your life on "Sucker Punch."

TENNIS

everyone at GTMO who played tennis," said Miguel Simonet. "But after attending the league meeting and playing the first few matches, I was surprised to meet even more people to play and practice with, so I'm glad I joined."

Whether players are trying to improve their tennis skills or just meet other fans and learn more about the sport, Morrison said knowing who the other players are is key.

"Our goal is to generate interest in different sports teams and events for the community," said Morrison. "And I think we are doing pretty good with all the local tennis players. Game on!"

For more information on the spring tennis league or any MWR sports teams or tournaments contact the G.J. Denich Gym at x77262.

BOSTON

"The sports fields are the other major improvement since my last visit. It's a huge morale booster. You can't go anywhere but base, so being able to run on the track and use the fields is just awesome."

Whether at work or on the fields, expect to find MSST Boston together. It is something they say is key to how their unit and the Coast Guard function.

"We stick together," said Villa. "Everyone and everything benefits from it. I don't think the mission will be as successful if people are unhappy and don't get along. We stay open-minded and understand each individual in this team. We know our differences and that helps us keep his unity. We also apply that to working with the other services too since we're here in a joint environment."

While unity helps these Coasties take care of their mission, which they consider top priority, it also helps them as individuals. The rigors of any deployment introduce unique stresses not felt anywhere else. Their family-like approach to work carries over to their personal lives too - helping make them even stronger.

"We can't always email home everyday or call home everyday," said Pease. "We're looking out for each other and we're not going to let people get into trouble or fall down. We're with friends and really count on each other here. It's especially nice when all of us are away from friends and loved ones. We have our own here. We all care about each other - that's just how we work."





The JTF

At Shutter Speed

BATTER UP!
Manny Sanchez, a softball player for the Naval Expeditionary Guard Battalion team, takes a big swing during the All Guantanamo Military Softball Team tryouts at Cooper Field, May 22. - photo by MC2 Joe Ebaló



CARE PACKAGES!
Operations Specialist 1st Class Antonio Herring (left) smiles after receiving some cookies from the Naval Expeditionary Guard Battalion Chaplain at Camp Delta, May 23. The Joint Task Force-Guantanamo Chaplains conduct daily outreach programs with the troops to offer guidance and counseling, promote the chapel services and sometime give away snacks and goodies to improve morale. - photo by MC2 Jason Tross



WAY TO GO!
Master Sgt. Crystal Davis-Vails (left), Superintendent for JTF GTMO SJA, congratulates Capt. Scott Shinn for receiving the Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal during a ceremony near Camp America, May 23. -photo by MC2 Joe Ebaló



CROSSING THE BORDER!
Troopers take a tour of the Northeast Gate during the monthly trip hosted by the Marine Corps Security Forces Company, May 20. - photo by MC2 Maddelin Angebrand