

The WIRED

An award-winning
JTF journal

Living the dream

**Black & White Gala
commemorates black
women in history**

**Also:
Commissions report
Journey 2 reviewed
Taxes, parte deux
Seeking mental
health services**

COMMAND CORNER

BRIG. GEN. JAMES LETTKO

DEPUTY COMMANDER, JTF GUANTANAMO

Great job, Joint Task Force Guantanamo! This past week has been one of the busiest and most complex weeks in the past several months. Our team executed all events flawlessly, and once again we have raised the bar on performance and professionalism.

This week we executed one of our missions in supporting the military commissions. On Wednesday, Majid Khan was arraigned and pled guilty to a variety of charges. This was the first

We are in the national and international spotlight every day. Our preparation was the key to our success and the efforts of the entire team resulted in a flawlessly executed series of events. Job well done, JTF!

high value detainee to plead guilty. The entire JTF supported this historic event in many ways. Our Commissions Liaison Office developed and designed the support plan with the assistance of the entire JTF team. All of our Troopers, from our escorts, external security, support from Naval Station

Guantanamo Bay, the Coast Guard Maritime Safety and Security Team – San Diego, BEEF, Joint Detention Group, Joint Medical Group, Staff Judge Advocate, PAO, staffs and our partners came together to execute another flawless operation. As part of the proceedings, we had 18 media representatives, six observers; two victim/family members in attendance, observing our operation and the proceedings. The support our escorts provided to our visitors was invaluable.

As we executed our commissions support plan we continued to perform the other components of our mission: detainee operations and intelligence collection analysis and dissemination.

We were honored to have Command Sgt. Maj. Louis Espinal, the United States Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) CSM visit us and spend time with our senior enlisted leaders. We also had

visitors from the Army Office of the Judge Advocate General.

While here, their teams attended one of several scheduled “all hands calls” where JTF Guantanamo commander Rear Adm. David Woods spoke to us about a variety of issues, including the professionalism and performance he expects of us on and off duty, as well as refinements we can make to our operation that will enhance our effectiveness.

One of the comments Woods made during the all hands calls is that “Troopers are our most valuable asset.” We know we cannot execute our “no fail” mission without you. Not only is our training, knowledge and job performance vital to mission success, but maintaining the right balance between our professional duties and our personal activities is equally important.

The results we have achieved this past week did not happen by chance. Rather, we struck the right balance and stayed focused on our mission. We trained as individuals, then in small teams and finally in larger teams to ensure we all knew our positions on the playing field. We then conducted rehearsals to allow us to include our new team members and document and refine our standard operating procedures.

We are in the national and international spotlight every day, but this week more than usual because of our commissions support for the Khan case. Our preparation was the key to our success and the efforts of the entire team resulted in a flawlessly executed series of events. So once again, job well done JTF! Let’s maintain the focus on our mission and train for the next event.



JTF Guantanamo

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Cover: Keanna Peck, a high schooler at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, walked in the Black Heritage Organization’s Black & White Gala fashion show Saturday. The Afro-centric portion of the program featured ethnic styles of dress, including Peck’s ornate tunic. –photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kryn Westhoven

NEWS FROM THE BAY

FFSC: Anger management training

Visit the Fleet and Family Support Center in Building 2135 from 2 to 4 p.m. for Anger Management support. Learn to manage your emotions and stay healthy.

For more information, call 4153 or 4141.

Specialty care providers at USNH

Specialty care providers will be available at U.S. Naval Hospital Guantanamo:

GI – March
ENT – March/April
Audiology – April
Dermatology – April
Podiatry – April
Urology – April

For a referral, NAVSTA personnel can schedule an appointment with Primary Care Clinic at 72110. JTF personnel can call 3394.

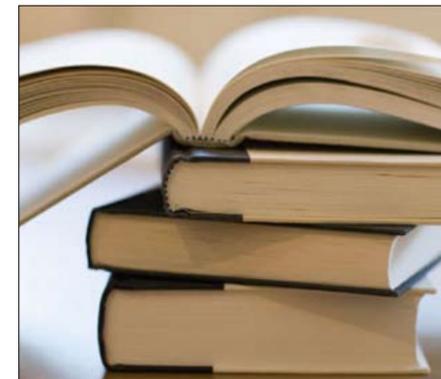
Tricare office relocated

The Tricare office has temporarily relocated to building H-11, behind the hospital barracks complex.

Library renovation

The MWR Community Library is closed for renovations. The children’s section will be available at the elementary school, room B9 on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to noon. Story time will also be held in room B9 on Fridays at 10 a.m.

Wi-Fi access, public computers, the scanner, fax and copier will be available at the Teen Center from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday to Wednesday.



Rhythm Extreme

Rhythm Extreme will put on a free show Saturday at 8 p.m. at Downtown Lyceum. Styled after the theatrical success “Stomp,” Rhythm Extreme takes the popular appeal of percussion performances one step further.

Cooper Field lot closed

The Cooper Field parking lot near the tennis courts will be closed until further notice. For more information, call 2113.

NLSO tax assistance

The Navy Legal Services Office is ready to help Guantanamo residents through tax season. The naval station location will be open 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., Mon-Fri., and the JTF Trooper One Stop office 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Appointments are now available.

For more information, call 4692.

Advancement Test exam schedule

The test dates are as follows:

E5 candidates: Mar. 8

E4 candidates: Mar. 15

The Windjammer Ballroom doors open at 7 a.m. and close at 7:30 a.m.

For more information, call 9541.

Day fishing

Join MWR Liberty for a free fishing trip tomorrow at 6:30 a.m. Bait will be provided. Bring your own fishing pole. This event is open to unaccompanied military members.

For more information, call 2010.



April Fools all-night softball tournament

MWR will host an April Fools, all night softball, one-pitch, softball tournament. The field is capped at 12 teams, so register your team of 11-15 players now. In the spirit of April Fools, you have to run the bases in reverse – third base is first base and first base is third base!

For more information, call 2113.

Kickball league

Get a group of friends together and relive some of your favorite childhood playground moments with the kickball league. Teams can be coed and participants must be 16 years and older. Each team will bat 11 and field 10 players at a time. The number of players on the roster is up to you. Registration ends March 7 at 7 p.m. A coaches meeting will be held on March 14 at 5:30 p.m.

For more information, call 2113.

Wood Shop hours

Due to customer demand, the Wood Shop has extended Sunday hours.

Sunday: 12 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Tuesday-Friday: 5 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Saturday: 2 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Command Fitness Leader cert course

Enroll in the Command Fitness Leader Certification Course. Register online by March 9 at the following address:

www.navyfitness.org/fitness/cfl_information

The course runs from March 26 to March 30. For more information, call 2157.

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Trooper to Trooper

diversity matters!

SENIOR CHIEF PETTY OFFICER ROBIN GUY

J2 SENIOR ENLISTED LEADER

In today's society, we often hear about diversity and the need to have a diverse work force. When we think of diversity we generally think of differences in gender, race, and national origins. However, a well-rounded workplace requires a more subtle variety of characteristics, such as a broad range of talents, skills, experience, and ideas.

At Joint Task Force Guantanamo, we have a diverse work force! Just look around: we see Troopers with varying skills and experiences working together to successfully complete our mission. We notice personnel from each of the armed services with common yet varying service cultures. We are from both the reserve and active components, have been on all kinds of previous deployments and home-state missions, and have anywhere from less than a year to more than 30 years of service.

These uniformed personnel can be seen working with civilian employees who bring new ideas and talents to the workplace. Male and female Troopers and Joint Task Force personnel work alongside one another. We hear different languages spoken on a daily basis. The JTF Guan-

tanamo work force comes from all over the world, and everyone brings with them cultural and religious differences. This diversity helps us to form a strong team.

By recognizing the diverse talents, skills, and experiences that each of us brings to the fight, and valuing those differences and listening to your fellow Troopers, we are able to incorporate the best of the best and enhance mission readiness. The whole team can benefit from the ideas and fresh perspective that younger Troopers can bring to the table, while those who are new to the military can learn from the experience of their seasoned leadership.

The diversity at JTF Guantanamo keeps the job interesting as we learn and develop new skills. By tapping into each person's individual talents, the JTF is poised to succeed! The more we embrace diversity, the better we will perform and the more we will achieve. This diversity and the joint environment makes Guantanamo Bay unique among deployments. When you leave here, ensure that your "leader toolkit" is full of new skills and lessons learned – including the benefits of diversity!



MONEY MATTERS

Tax assistance is just a phone call away

By Sgt. 1st Class Kryn Westhoven

Last year, several hundred U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay and Joint Task Force personnel received assistance in preparing their income taxes courtesy of the Naval Legal Service Office (NLSO) and their team of nine dedicated volunteers.

Whether you choose to meet an Internal Revenue Service (IRS) trained assistant at the NLSO or at the JTF Trooper One Stop, an appointment is only a phone call away.

The IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program provides free basic income tax return preparation to qualified individuals.

"The assistance is geared towards junior officers and enlisted," said Navy Lt. Courtney Gordon-Tennant, officer in charge of the le-

gal services detachment at Guantanamo Bay.

According to the IRS, the VITA program generally offers free tax help to people who make \$50,000 or less and need assistance in preparing their own tax returns. Certified volunteers can inform taxpayers about special tax credits for which they may qualify, such as Earned Income Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, and Credit for the Elderly or the Disabled.

What the VITA folks cannot do, Gordon-Tennant added, is assist with preparation of business tax returns, or personal returns that include rental or divide income.

Prior to making an appointment, Gordon-Tennant recommends that you get all your paperwork together. Download your military W-2 wage and earnings statement from MyPay. Reservists should have W-2s from civilian

Money really does matter, especially to the IRS in April: this is part two of a three-part series on how to file your taxes while at Joint Task Force Guantanamo.

employers. Homeowners need to have their 1099, showing what was paid out in interest and real estate taxes. These forms can be downloaded, or if they are back home, have them scanned and emailed or mailed to you via the postal service.

When you have all your documents ready, call 4692 or 4619. Sign and send to the IRS, and you are done.

Appointments last approximately 30-60 minutes and are available every weekday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., with options for evenings and one Saturday each month.

For married couples filing jointly, Gordon-Tennant recommends having an limited Power of Attorney, so your spouse can sign your name to the tax returns done back home. The other option would be to complete the forms here and then mail them home for your spouse's signature prior to filing.

For Troopers new to taxes entirely, the NLSO and the Guantanamo residents who volunteer to help service members can make filing the 1040EZ like it is supposed to be: easy! NLSO is located at building 760 next to Fleet and Family Services, with a satellite office at the JTF Trooper One Stop.

Next week, we look at preparing your income taxes online and how to e-file them.

Super Troopers

Congratulations to the Joint Task Force Troopers who recently received commander's coins!

AD3 Ferrell
MA2 Gallardo
SGT Hiza

SPC Michaud
SGT Morela

SPC Nixon
MA3 Sineath
PS2 Torio



Tell your family about OPSEC!

Have you talked to your family about OPSEC? Do they know how to protect their information, or what information should be protected? Tell them to check their online privacy settings and make sure they know that some information just shouldn't be posted online. Make sure they don't inadvertently give away information about you or your unit that the adversary could use. Keep your family and friends aware of operations security. Protect yourself, your family and the mission. Use OPSEC!

It's a leap year. What did you do with your extra day?



"I went snorkeling at the reef on Leap Day."

Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Daniel Hernandez



"Just another day at work. Sometimes you have to work more."

Information Systems Technician 2nd Class Vondou Turner



"I worked, but when I got home I went straight to sleep."

Staff Sgt. Jerry Sanchez



"I was working with the commissions."

Sgt. 1st Class John Bunkley

BOOTS ON THE GROUND

Making history

By Sgt. 1st Class Kryn Westhoven



The Windjammer Ballroom was filled Saturday night with civilians and service members from U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay and Joint Task Force. Together they enjoyed a meal, watched a fashion show and were inspired by the guest speaker as they sat at tables that featured a balloon centerpiece in the colors of the event's name: the Black and White Gala.

The Black Heritage Organization of Guantanamo Bay coordinated the annual event following the Black History Month theme of "Celebrating Black Women in American Culture and History" for this year's gala.

The theme, selected by the Association for the Study of African-American Life and History, encourages all Americans to reflect on the value of their contribution to the nation. Those thoughts were echoed when the Commander-in-Chief, President Barack Obama proclaimed, "Today, we stand on the shoulders of countless African-American women who shattered glass ceilings and advanced our common goals. In recognition of their legacy, let us honor their heroic and historic acts for years to come."

The keynote speaker, Cmd. Master Chief Betty Watson from U.S. Naval Hospital Guantanamo Bay did exactly that, highlighting several African-American women who have paved the way for others to succeed in the military.

But first she acknowledged the large audience for the style the guests brought to the gala.

"Look at how beautiful everyone looks," she said. "I am excited everyone got dressed up to celebrate Black Women in American Culture and History."

Watson recounted success stories, to include Navy Rear Adm. Lillian Fishburne, who became the first black woman promoted to flag

Left: Cmd. Master Chief Betty Watson of U.S. Naval Hospital Guantanamo Bay addressed the Black & White Gala Saturday, describing the struggles and triumphs of African-American women throughout history. —photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kryn Westhoven

officer in February 1998.

"All our military forces are leaders in promoting equal opportunity regardless of race or sex," Watson said. "She did not allow life's tragedies or bitter disappointments to oppress her, cause her to lose hope or rob her of her expectations," she said, describing the admiral's ascension.

"I can tell you: black women are still making history, changing the world, living the dream," added Watson. "Not being judged by the color of their skin but the content of their character," as she evoked Martin Luther King, Jr.

Since joining the Navy in 1985, Watson has learned from leaders like Cmd. Master Chief Laura Martinez, who went on to become the female African-American to serve as a Force Master Chief of the Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery.

The Texas native described how the five generations of her family have changed through the years.

"My grandmother and mother overcame past troubles through faith; my daughter and I are conquering struggles through determination, and my granddaughter is going into the future with hope," Watson explained.

The hospital's senior enlisted leader implored the crowd to "overcome obstacles with confidence; rise above trauma with triumph, know comfort in the midst of crisis, activate your power that has come from the pain of experience."

For one of the Troopers present, Watson's speech brought back



Right: The Black Heritage Organization's annual Black & White Gala included a two-part fashion show, consisting of both traditional Afro-centric and modern clothing. —photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kryn Westhoven

memories of his youth. "I remember the struggles my mom went through," said Staff Sgt. William Johnson, a member of the Joint Detention Group.

"It was an excellent presentation for Black History Month," added Staff Sgt. Elton Rush, JTF Guantanamo's J-3 training noncommissioned officer.

"Rise, as Maya Angelou would tell you," exclaimed Watson as she began to recite Angelou's poem "Still I Rise." The audience providing the chorus of voices joining in with "I rise" at the end of the verses.

On the last verse Watson took the liberty to change the last two lines:

*"Leaving behind nights of terror and fear, I rise
Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear, I rise
Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave, I rise
'You rise, we all rise.'"*

*Interested in joining the
GTMO History Club?*

Call Sgt. 1st Class Michael Shimer at 84048 or 79622.
The first meeting will be March 10 at 10 a.m.
at Starbucks (Caribbean Coffee and Cream)

ONLY AT GTMO by Mass Communication Spc. 1st Class Keith Simmons

Khan pleads guilty in deal

By Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

FORT MEADE, Md. – The only legal U.S. resident being held at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, today became the first high-value detainee to plead guilty Wednesday to charges of helping terrorists plot and carry out attacks.

Majid Shoukat Khan, 32, pleaded guilty to all charges against him as part of a plea deal that will give him a reduced sentence in exchange for cooperating with the U.S. government, including possibly testifying at other detainees' trials.

Khan is charged with conspiracy, murder in violation of the law of war, attempted murder in violation of the law of war, providing material support for terrorism and spying.

The charges come from Khan's role in delivering funds used to carry out the August 2003 bombing of the J.W. Marriott hotel in Jakarta, Indonesia, and his attempted assassination of former Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf.

In addition, he is accused of collaborating with self-proclaimed 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed on several domestic plots. These included plans to poison U.S. water reservoirs and blow up underground fuel storage tanks at U.S. gas stations.

Sentencing will be delayed for four years and will be based on Khan's compliance, Army Col. James L. Pohl, the judge, explained during Khan's arraignment.

Should Khan provide "thorough, truthful cooperation and assistance" in support of upcoming proceedings, his sentence will be reduced to a maximum of 25 years, and as little as 19 years, in accordance with the plea deal, Pohl explained. Sentencing guidelines for his offenses typically would be 25 to 40 years.

Time served beginning today will count toward fulfilling that sentence, Pohl said.

Khan responded "yes" when Pohl asked if he had entered into the plea agreement voluntarily and of his own free will as he waived his right to appear before a military jury.

"I understand the charges and specifications, and I am aware I have a legal and moral right to plead not guilty and to leave the government with the burden of proving my guilt beyond a reasonable doubt by legal and competent evidence," he noted in signing the pretrial agreement. However, based on the terms of the deal, he continued, "I offer to plead guilty to all charges and

specifications."

The plea deal also bars Khan from filing suit against the U.S. government or any of its agencies regarding his capture, detention or confinement conditions before his plea.

Pohl denied the defense team's request to seal details about the plea deal to protect the defendant and his family. The judge noted the need to keep the commission proceedings transparent and the fact that the plea arrangement is a public document.

Khan acknowledged during questioning by Pohl that the agreement does not guarantee his freedom, and that the convening authority has no power to change his status as an "alien unprivileged enemy belligerent." He recognized that after serving his time, he may have to file a habeas corpus petition to apply for release.

"I am making a leap of faith here, sir," he told the judge.

Born in Pakistan, Khan moved to the United States with his family in 1996 and lived there until 2002. He graduated from Owings Mills High School near Baltimore and worked at his family's gas station and in various office jobs.

Army Brig. Gen. Mark Martins, the chief prosecutor, said Khan admitted that he became radicalized after watching smoke rise from the Pentagon during the 9/11 attacks from the office building where he was working in northern Virginia.

He has been in U.S. custody since March 2003, when Pakistani forces raided his family's home in Karachi and turned him over to U.S. authorities. Khan was held at an undisclosed overseas facility before being transferred to Guantanamo Bay in 2006.

Wearing a dark suit, white shirt and tie during his arraignment, Khan told Pohl in fluent English that he understands the charges against him and acknowledges his guilt. He emphasized that although he was part of a conspiracy to commit terror attacks, he did not necessarily know details about the attacks.

Khan noted, for example, that he did not know the money he delivered to al-Qaida affiliates in Bangkok would be used to bomb the Jakarta Marriott, and that he already was in custody when the attack occurred. Under questioning by Pohl, he did, however, acknowledge that he was part of the broader conspiracy that ultimately led to the attack that killed 11 people and wounded 81 others.

Khan also acknowledged his direct role in an unsuccessful assassination attempt on Musharraf. He is charged with recording a

"martyr video" at Khalid Sheikh Mohammad's direction before donning an explosives-laden vest with the intent to use it to kill Musharraf. The former Pakistani president foiled Khan's plot by not arriving as expected at a mosque where the attack was to take place.

"I volunteered to do a lot of things" between January 2002 and March 2003, Khan acknowledged to Pohl. However, he said he never took any kind of formal oath vowing allegiance to al-Qaida or any other terrorist organization.

Army Lt. Col. Jon S. Jackson, Khan's military defense counsel, told reporters following the arraignment that Khan wishes he had never been involved with al-Qaida, had never been confined at Guantanamo Bay and had never been involved with the military commission system.

Khan's plea today demonstrates his remorse for what he has done, Jackson said, and his desire to accept responsibility for his actions and, ultimately, go on to live a productive life with his family.

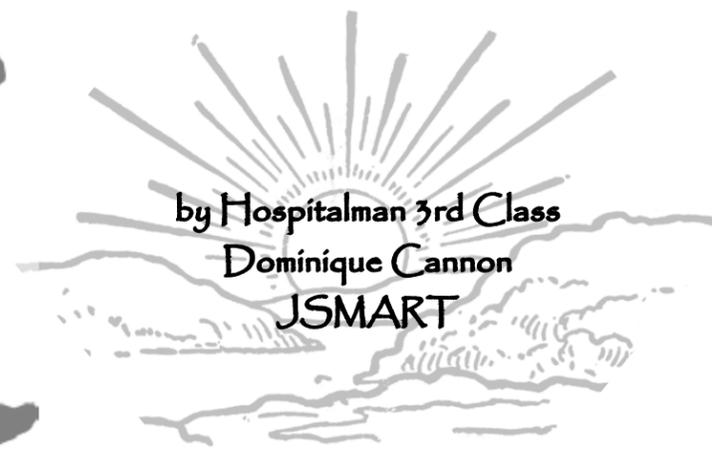
"This is a story of atonement," agreed Katya Jestin, one of Khan's civilian defense counsels. Khan "has taken a leap of faith," she said, that the military commission process will work as intended.

Army Brig. Gen. Mark Martins, the chief prosecutor, offered high praise for reforms incorporated into the 2009 Military Commissions Act that have reduced legal uncertainty and made outcomes more predictable.

"This system is fair, and it is not politically driven," Martins said. "We believe that these reformed military commissions are fair and that they serve an important role in the armed conflict against al-Qaida and associated forces."

The case against Khan was based on "irrefutable and lawfully obtained evidence" that Martins said validates the interagency efforts that enabled it to come together. This includes investigators from the Defense Department's Criminal Investigative Task Force, the FBI and other federal agencies, as well as the soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen of Joint Task Force Guantanamo, he said.

"We must reject the false choice presented by those who say that only law enforcement or only the military may be used to take down vicious organizations that attack out of the shadows and hide among civilians," he said. "Instead, we must use all of the lawful instruments of our national power and authority to do so."



A show of strength: Get help for mental health concerns

Many people have a certain amount of hesitation in seeking mental health. Popular culture and societal attitudes have given a negative stigma to psychiatry and those who seek its services. This is even more apparent among the armed forces. Fear of being labeled as crazy, weak, or unfit for service has caused many service members to turn away from seeking help with mental health issues. However, as with any other medical field, psychiatry and psychology are crucial in maintaining overall physical and mental wellness. By increasing awareness of mental health and removing the stereotypes, we seek to break the barriers which prevent people from utilizing available psychological services and care.

One of the chief concerns voiced by many who are considering seeking professional mental health treatment is the issue of confidentiality. Service members may be so worried about their private issues becoming known by their command, their friends, and others that they shy away from approaching mental health, even when they desperately need help. This couldn't be any further from the truth.

Seeking help for mental health, or any medical services for that matter, is protected by privacy laws and restrictions which strictly forbid those who work in the medical field from discussing matters related to your

treatment without authorization. Your privacy and comfort is always a concern whenever you seek any form of medical treatment, to include mental health care. There are, however, some limitations to confidentiality that you should be aware of. The threat of suicidal or homicidal behavior, suspicions of child or domestic abuse/neglect, or violations of the Uniform Code of Military Justice or federal laws will need to be reported to the appropriate medical and legal authorities as well as the chain of command to ensure your safety and the safety of others.

Service members considering mental health services may feel that their issues are either too great or too insignificant to warrant professional help. Again, this is not the case. The fear of being seen as weak in the eyes of friends and peers provides further motivation to "tough it out," even though the individual may be struggling. Seeking help is actually a sign of strength and maturity, and one of the best indicators for a good prognosis in the future. In addition, psychiatry and psychology have made significant strides over the years. Combining professionalism, medication, empathy, and new research in our understanding of how the mind works, your problems are never too big or too small to be addressed.

Furthermore, mental health is imperative in improving quality of life. Whether it

is stress management, substance abuse, marital counseling, sleep dysfunction, or even quitting smoking, mental health professionals work tirelessly to facilitate a positive change in people's lives. A diagnosis is not a prerequisite to utilize our services.

Psychiatry and psychology are often misunderstood within mainstream society. The main problem lies in the fact that mental health doesn't treat injuries that can be seen, touched, and fixed during a single visit with the doctor. Mental health treatment requires a deep understanding of an individual's personal issues, lifestyle, relationships, upbringing, and personality for us to assist them. Whereas some medications can assist those who are diagnosed with disorders that afflict the brain, much of psychology is dedicated to "talk therapy." A broken leg can be put into a cast, a cavity can be filled, and an infection can be treated with prescription medication. But someone who has any kind of "invisible injury" requires more than a single visit, or even a few visits, to the doctor.

It takes time to change one's lifestyle or behaviors. The sheer amount of work that goes into treating any mental disorder can often dissuade people from seeking help. But the benefits of leading a healthy and happy lifestyle always outweigh the amount of work and time needed to reach it.

The Joint Stress Mitigation and Restoration Team is the mental health asset available to Joint Task Force Guantanamo personnel. We are here to address any stressors you may be dealing with. Should you just need a quiet place to relax and decompress from work, our two massage chairs are available for use during our Monday through Friday working hours. We are open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and are closed on the weekends and federally recognized holidays. During regular hours, you can call the front desk at 2321.

The JSMART duty phone is manned 24 hours per day, 7 days a week at extension 3566.

JOURNEY 2 THE MYSTERIOUS ISLAND

By Mass Communication Spc. 1st Class Ty Bjornson



“Watch out!” says that bird. At least Michael Caine’s storied career can endure how lame this movie is.

Did you ever play in your backyard as a youngster, pretending you were in another time and place? I used to do it all the time before the end of my elementary school days. During that time, my backyard took me to the Cretaceous Period with dinosaurs galore and to outer space into the deepest recesses of the final frontier. This was a time of innocence where the sense of wonder and awe was all that was needed to propel you in a journey through the imagination. This was always a jovial experience and you happily went there without looking back.

As I watched “Journey 2: The Mysterious Island,” I channeled my playtime as a child. Here’s a movie that is so straightforward in its simplicity, it makes no apologies for not being anything else. In this case, “Journey 2” is a “paint by numbers” family film. So be it. “Journey 2” is loosely based on Jules Verne novels which have been, and continue to be, landmarks in fantasy literature for over a century. These books set the standard against which all other published fantasy works are measured. Not only is “The Mysterious Island” actually a title of one of Verne’s works, but this new film also borrows quite heavily from his books, in addition to other fantasy writers’ works, to getting through the adventure. Just when the characters are unsure of how to proceed in their quest, they literally bust out a Jules

Verne book to use as a road guide to achieve their goals. How’s that for faith crossed with a poor man’s GPS?

This loosely based “Journey to the Center of the Earth” sequel follows the anxious Sean Anderson (Josh Hutcherson) as he frantically tries to decipher a coded message from his missing grandfather Alexander (Michael Caine, “The Dark Knight”). The concerned teen’s actions catch the attention of his new stepfather Hank (Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson). Instead of interfering with the boy’s mission, he decides to support it. Hank has the know how and cash to be an asset to the quest.

Hank and Sean trace the origin of the coded message to a remote location in the southern Pacific Ocean, where they travel to find the fabled Mysterious Island of Verne’s book. Naturally, Sean believes all the works of Verne to be a trail to a real island while Hank is skeptical, yet wanting to be a supportive step-dad.

At the island of Palau, helicopter pilot Gabato (Luis Guzman, “Arthur”) is all too quick to grab Hank and Sean’s cash for transportation to “the most dangerous part of the ocean,” where the mysterious island is believed to be. The voice of reason against this venture is Gabato’s daughter Kailani (Vanessa Hudgens, “High School Musical”). Do you think anybody is going to listen to

her wisdom? Definitely not. Do you think she will tag along for the ride? Well, of course!

A series of events ultimately brings our weary travelers to “The Mysterious Island.” Here’s a place where everything we know as giant in size is small, such as elephants and Great White sharks. How much you want to bet everything we know as small is large, such as spiders and lizards? Are these spoilers to you?

To say this is a “paint by numbers” film would be a kind assessment. The characters exist to take the audience on what is suppose to be an amazing journey. Here we have a montage of fanciful elements that include the lost island of Atlantis, the location of Captain Nemo’s submarine, the Nautilus and the Lilliputian elements of “Gulliver’s Travels.” The only thing missing from this assortment would be a chocolate river from “Willy Wonka.” Somebody must not have been able to secure the rights from Roald Dahl’s estate to do that.

Do you think our travelers find Grandpa? Oh, the suspense! Do you think the cute Kailani will initially not like Sean, only to come to love him by the end? Gee, I wonder. Will Sean save Kailani’s life? Whoa, I hope so! Do you think Luis Guzman’s role exists only to go “ooh” and “aaaah” and provide

see REVIEW next page

Review continued

comic relief? The mystery deepens. A film like this features a barrage of grand vistas, chiefly of the mysterious island. Strangely, the CGI looks to be a step above what can be achieved with a budget of a television show. The visuals are definitely not on par with the island that was presented in the 2005 incarnation of “King Kong.” In the plus column, the visuals are vibrant with vast arrays of color. Everyone in “Journey 2” is so chipper and the level of tension in the scenes of characters

in peril is so completely minor, I’m a little surprised at the film’s “PG” rating. Had this film been released 15 years ago, it likely would have been a “G” rated film. How times have changed. “Journey 2: The Mysterious Island” is the epitome of “bubble-gum” cinema. This movie is rather witless with subpar special effects used in abundance trying to awe its viewers. This is not a good movie by any means. To its credit, it is pure escapism and the good

naturedness of the adventurers is in abundance. That’s something “Journey 2” got right. If you put your feet up and just let the movie be that light-hearted romp it wants to be, maybe, just maybe, you’ll be that kid you once were in your backyard riding high on the innocence of it all. How can you lose on those terms? Traditionally, the months of January and February are not good movie months at the box office. That’s when film studios put out whatever they can just to make a buck. I don’t know about you, but I’m ready to move on and finally see a film that’s worth seeing. “Journey 2” may be good for a little childhood nostalgia, but that’s about all. Enough with these appetizers and let’s have the main course.

NAVSTA Main Chapel

Daily Catholic Mass
Tues.-Fri. 5:30 p.m.

Vigil Mass
Saturday 5 p.m.

Mass
Sunday 9 a.m.

General Protestant
Sunday 11 a.m.

Gospel Service
Sunday 1 p.m.

Christian Fellowship
Sunday 6 p.m.

Islamic Service
Friday 1 p.m.
Room C

Pentecostal Gospel
Sunday 8 a.m. & 5 p.m.
Room D

LDS Service
Sunday 10 a.m.
Room A

Protestant Communion
Sunday 10 a.m.
Room B

For other services, contact the NAVSTA
Chaplain’s Office at 2323.

GTMO Religious Services

JTF Trooper
Chapel

Protestant Worship
Sunday 9 a.m.
Bible Study
Wednesday 6 p.m.

Intense Spiritual
Fitness Power Lunch!
Study the Book of
Romans with
Chaplain Chouest
Thursday 11-11:30 a.m.
JTF Chaplain’s Office

For more information, contact the JTF
Chaplain’s Office at 2305

	2 FRI	3 SAT	4 SUN	5 MON	6 TUE	7 WED	8 THU
Downtown Lyceum	NO MOVIE Stage prep for musical performance by Rhythm Extreme	NO MOVIE Enjoy musical performance by Rhythm Extreme 8 p.m.	Contraband (NEW) (R) 7 p.m.	Act of Valor (NEW) (R) 7 p.m.	Safe House (R) 7 p.m.	Journey 2 (PG) 7 p.m.	Haywire (NEW) (R) 7 p.m.
Camp Bulkeley	We Bought a Zoo (PG) 8 p.m. Contraband (NEW) (R) 10 p.m.	Journey 2 (PG) 8 p.m. Haywire (NEW) (R) 10 p.m.	Act of Valor (NEW) (R) 8 p.m.	Adventures of Tintin (last showing) (PG) 8 p.m.	Mission: Impossible (last showing) (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Safe House (R) 8 p.m.	Darkest Hour (PG-13) 8 p.m.

Call the movie hotline at 4880 or see <https://intranet/movies.html> for more information.



The Bart Walker Band played a special show at Marine Hill Saturday for U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay families and personnel and Joint Task Force Troopers. The country-blues group regularly shares the stage with country stars, playing their weekly set at B.B. King's Club in Nashville.
-photo by Army Sgt. Saul Rosa

The **JTF** at Shutter Speed