

The WIRE

An award-winning
JTF journal

Beyond the gate

Tour offers
rare glimpse
of Cuba proper

Meanwhile, on the American side...

Celebrating Women's History Month with the BEEF
USS San Diego makes its first port call



COMMAND CORNER

CMD. MASTER CHIEF REYNALDO TIONG

COMMAND MASTER CHIEF, JTF GUANTANAMO

There are good ways and not-so-good ways to help your fellow Trooper. The different choices have little to no effect – or you can make a positive impact.

For instance, you and a friend see a Trooper carrying several bulky, seemingly heavy boxes and approaching a set of doors that he or she will obviously not be able to open without putting the boxes down. How do you help?

Do you ignore the situation you see developing and turn away?

Do you see the problem developing but not participate?

You: “Wow! That Trooper looks like he’s having a rough time of it. I hope he can manage all those boxes.”

Friend: “Yeah, they look heavy and clumsy, but he’ll probably manage.”

You: “You’re right, it’ll work out.”

Do you discuss with your friend the poor choice the Trooper made in not using a hand-truck?

You: “What an idiot! That would be so much easier if she had used a hand-truck or cart, jeez!”

Friend: “She did the same thing yesterday! Hope she gets it!”

Do you take some of the boxes from the Trooper to lighten the load? No, or you’ll both be standing there with no way to get in the door without still having one or both of you needing to put down the boxes.

You open the door so the loaded-down Trooper can get to the area he or she needs to go in order to get rid of their burden. Or, if the weight of the boxes seems to be too much for the Trooper who’s been lugging them around, you offer to take the boxes and have him or her open the doors.

Elementary as the illustration above may seem, people often do that very thing when they see their fellow Troopers struggling in other ways.

Maybe you notice someone has been acting out of character. Maybe someone who is typically upbeat is walking around sullen, or maybe someone who is typically patient is short-tempered. Maybe someone who normally doesn’t drink or drinks occasionally is drinking heavily or more frequently, even binge drinking.

Although it is clear that there is a burden or struggle, rather than approach the Trooper and ask what’s going on, people will do nothing more than discuss it with others. It becomes the same as the first or second scenario; no one says anything to or does anything for the struggling Trooper, hoping the situation will fix itself.

Or worse, it becomes the third situation where you and others notice the struggle, but rather than engage you ridicule or belittle and talk about them but not to them. This can only build up critical attitudes toward the struggling Trooper rather than getting him or her the necessary help.

So I encourage you: if you see your fellow Troopers struggling with something, open a door for them to put their burdens down. Maybe they simply need an opportunity to vent some frustration.

If the burden seems more than you can handle or you think it would be better handled by someone with experience in counseling, offer to accompany them to JSMART or to the Chaplain’s office to get the help they need.

Whatever you do, DO something! The resources are here.

Maybe you notice someone has been acting out of character. DO something!



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Cover: The North East Gate tour, led monthly by members of the Marine Corps Security Forces Company, offers a unique view of U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay to Troopers and Naval Station personnel. –photo by Mass Communication Spc. 2nd Class Kilho Park

JOINT TASK FORCE GUANTANAMO

SAFE • HUMANE • LEGAL • TRANSPARENT

NEWS FROM THE BAY

Ping pong tournament

Take a trip to the Liberty Centers at Deer Point, Camp America and Marine Hill to be a part of the ping pong tournament on March 26 at 6 p.m. Great MWR prizes will be given out. For more information, call 2010.

Sunset cruise

See Guantanamo Bay like you’ve never seen it before: on a sunset cruise. Join Liberty MWR March 30 at 5:30 p.m. as they take you on a cruise through all points of the bay while watching the sunset over tropical waters. Appetizers and refreshments will be provided. Make sure you bring a camera and get to the Marina early. You must reserve a spot by March 29. To register, or for more information, call 2010.

Take a hike

See Guantanamo Bay from new heights by joining the MWR Outdoor Recreation staff on a Saturday morning hike through the base’s beautiful trails. Sign up for the hike by March 30 at 5 p.m. For more information, or to register, call 2345.

‘Sex Signals’

Hundreds of military installations and college campuses around the world have hosted ‘Sex Signals,’ one of the most popular programs currently available on sexual assault awareness. Seating is limited at the three showings:
April 1, 2:30 p.m.
Bulkeley Hall Auditorium
April 2, 10 a.m. or 6:30 p.m.
Windjammer Ballroom



Dart tournament

Looking for some recreation after your night shift? Check out the dart tournament at the T.K. Liberty Center on March 27 starting at noon. Whether you want to win cool prizes or get together with friends, this tournament is the place for you.

For more information, call 2010.

Discount recreation in March

Golf cart rentals will be half price every Thursday in the month of March. \$5 covers one person and \$7.50 pays for two riders.

Boat rentals will be 50 percent off every Monday this month. Prices vary based on the boat. For more information, call 2345.

CPO Birthday Triathlon

All base residents are invited to take part in the Birthday Triathlon on Apr. 7 at 6 a.m. hosted by Guantanamo Bay’s Chief Petty Officers. The events will be a 500 meter swim, 10 mile bike ride and a 3.1 mile run. Sign up in a three-person team or individual. Registration fee for teams is \$30 and \$20 for an individual.

Signup will be at the NEX Atrium every Saturday in March from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

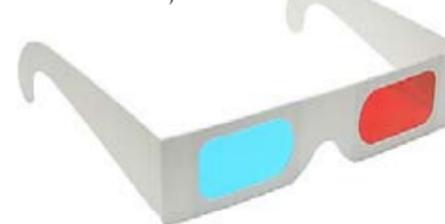
Legal office moved

Troopers needing legal assistance should now go to the Naval Station Legal Office. For more information, call 4692.

Want 3D movies?

MWR needs to know what you want from the movie program at Guantanamo Bay. Help out by logging onto: www.surveymonkey.com/GTMOMovieSurvey

Answer a few questions that will help determine the future of movies on base. And, by the way, MWR is pushing to get 3D movies at the Windjammer Ballroom.



Free sailboat rentals

Take advantage of the free sailboat rentals all day at the Marina on March 28. Call 2345 to reserve your rental. You must have the proper documentation to take out a sailboat. You can also call the Marina to set up an appointment to get your captain’s license.

Flag football league

Time is running out to register your team in the flag football leagues. The men’s league will play 9-on-9 and the women’s league will be 7-on-7. Registration ends March 28 at 7 p.m. For more information, call 2113.

Red Cross Hike

Show your support for Red Cross Month by taking part in a Red Cross hike up the Ridgeline tomorrow. Meet at Christmas Tree Hill at 7:30 a.m. This is a free community event. There will be face painting and other activities. For more information, call Sharon Coganow at 2511 or 2512.

Specialty care providers at USNH

Specialty care providers will be available for appointments at U.S. Naval Hospital Guantanamo in the upcoming months:

- 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.

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Trooper to Trooper

fitness for service, fitness for life!

SGT. MAJ. CALLIE LEAVER

JDG OPERATIONS SERGEANT MAJOR

Each service branch represented here at Joint Task Force Guantanamo has a physical fitness test. More often than not, Troopers speak of the assessments with dread and anxiety.

In my younger years, I played basketball, softball and ran track. However, my fitness regimen revolved around making a team or maintaining scholarship eligibility. Rarely did I set off for a run or to the weight room unless directed to do so by a coach or athletic trainer.

Each season, I loathed returning to the basketball court after the summer break. Prior to the break, coaches dutifully laid out a training schedule in an attempt to keep us on track and in hopes of minimizing injuries during preseason training. However, the coaches, rightfully so, anticipated most of us would not follow the training protocol. Therefore, during our first few practices, the coaches placed trash cans in each corner of the gym expecting dramatic physical responses to the intense conditioning sessions.

After college, I joined the Army and was introduced to the Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT). On active duty, we trained for the APFT during organized PT sessions at 5 a.m., three to five days a week. Most platoon members grumbled about the mandatory sessions.

I was stationed in northern Germany where organized sports were minimal due to the installation's small size and mission requirements. Community teams were hastily organized for tournaments hosted by other installations located in central and southern



From left to right: Army Sgt. Ronald Stern, Sgt. Maj. Callie Leaver, Sgt. 1st Class Undrey Bostic, Army Staff Sgt. James Kleinheinz, Sgt. 1st Class David Maynor, and Army Sgt. Larissa Pillay participated in one of Guantanamo Bay's many fitness activities: a run up John Paul Jones Hill. Representing the noncommissioned officer corps of the 170th Military Police Battalion, Georgia Army National Guard, according to Leaver, "Spartan NCOs lead the way!" —photo courtesy Petty Officer 2nd Class Efrén Alano

Germany. Therefore, actual training and practices were basically nonexistent.

I experienced a void with the absence of organized athletics. In an effort to fill the void, I started running on my own, first shorter distances and then longer distances. I started going to the gym and lifting weights. I became aware of what I was eating and what I was drinking.

At that time, I experienced a personal paradigm shift as it pertained to fitness. I wasn't doing these things for the Army or in preparation for the APFT. I wasn't trying to

make a team or running because a coach blew a whistle. I was doing these things for myself. I started reaping personal benefits as a result. I lost 20 pounds. I felt more confident. I had more energy. I recognized my heart disease risk factors were drastically reduced, which was extremely important since heart disease runs in my family.

Ultimately, I adopted an active lifestyle, which I continue to enjoy today. My paradigm shift didn't erase all of my APFT

see TROOPER next page

On Iraq anniversary, President proclaims 'National Day of Honor'

From American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – On the ninth anniversary of U.S. forces moving into Iraq, President Barack Obama has proclaimed today to be "A National Day of Honor."

Here is the text of the president's proclamation:

"Nine years ago, members of the United States Armed Forces crossed the sands of the Iraq-Kuwait border and began one of the most challenging missions our military

has ever known. They left the comforts of home and family, volunteering in service to a cause greater than themselves. They braved insurgency and sectarian strife, knowing too well the danger of combat and the cost of conflict. Yet, through the dust and din and the fog of war, they never lost their resolve. Demonstrating unshakable fortitude and unwavering commitment to duty, our men and women in uniform served tour after tour, fighting block by block to help the Iraqi people seize the chance for a better future.

And on Dec. 18, 2011, their mission came to an end.

"Today, we honor their success, their service, and their sacrifice. In one of our Nation's longest wars, veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn wrote one of the most extraordinary chapters in American military history. When highways became mine fields and uncertainty waited behind every corner, service members rose to meet the task at hand with unmatched courage and determination. They learned languages and cultures, taking on new roles as diplomats and development experts to improve the communities where they served. Their strength toppled a tyrant, and their valor helped build opportunity in oppression's place. Across nearly nine years of conflict, the glory of their service – as well as the contributions of other members of the U.S. Government and our coalition partners – always shone through.

"The war left wounds not always seen, but forever felt. The burden of distance and the pain of loss weighed heavily on the hearts of millions at home and overseas. Behind every member of our military stood a parent, a spouse, or a son or daughter who proudly served their community and prayed for their loved one's safe return. For wounded warriors, coming home marked the end of one battle and the beginning of another – to stand, to walk, to recover, and to serve again. And, in war's most profound cost, there were those who never came home. Separated by time and space but united by their love of country, nearly 4,500 men and women are eternally bound; though we have laid them to rest, they will live on in the soul of our Nation now and forever. To them, to their

see HONOR next page

Hail and Farewell JTF CoS moves on

Joint Task Force Guantanamo Chief of Staff, Capt. Patrick Rabun finishes his tour today. He arrived at the JTF in June 2011 for a nine-month rotation.

Rabun is bound for duty as Chief of Staff of Surface Combatant Readiness, working directly for the commander of Naval Surface Forces Pacific.

"He's been the connective tissue of the JTF, a perfect blend of effective leadership, personality and humor and has done a difficult job without missing a beat," said JTF Guantanamo commander Rear Adm. David Woods.

"He has a great sense of humor and is one of the smartest officers I've ever worked for," added Lt. Col. Elizabeth Golden.

Rabun's relief, Capt. William Docherty, arrived earlier this month from the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, where he also served as Chief of Staff.

"Capt. Docherty will carry on the great work Capt. Rabun has done during his tenure," Golden said.

Rabun praised the diversity and work ethic of all Troopers, with credit to the joint environment.

"Working with people who are professional enough to handle a job this tough is what impresses me the most," Rabun said.

Look for Capt. Docherty's profile in an upcoming issue of The Wire!



Keep work at the workplace

Do you have a notebook in your pocket that has information about work? Things like watch rotations, important phone numbers or people to notify in the event of an emergency? How about a copy of our standard operating procedures? This information is important to know and studying it can help you to remember. This information is sensitive so it's better to read at work and commit it to memory rather than write it down or take a copy with you. The less information you take from the workplace, the less likely it could end up in a trash can, dumpster or be disclosed to people without the need to know. Use OPSEC and keep sensitive work documents at the workplace.



did you know...

The Joint Task Force Intranet has classified ads! Click through the new SharePoint page with the Intranet tab. Scroll down to "classifieds" under "useful JTF links" and see what your buddies have for sale! (hint: there are lots of hand-me-down SCSI modems)

TROOPER cont.

anxiety. However, it has had a tremendous affect on my ability to perform well on the test and enjoy a higher quality of life than my parents and many of my friends.

Guantanamo Bay reminds me a lot of the small northern Germany military installation so long ago. However, this island offers more fitness opportunities and better weather. I encourage you to take advantage of the available activities, not because you have a physical fitness assessment scheduled, but because you and your family deserve to reap the positive effects of an active lifestyle.

By Sgt. 1st Class Jerome Grant

The Wire recently stopped by Camp America to see Spc. William Barnett, Joint Detention Group S4 Property Book Officer.

“Spc. Barnett was specifically selected for the 170th Military Police Battalion deployment in support of Joint Detention Group S4,” said Sgt. Maj. Callie Leaver. “Prior to the deployment, the Georgia Army National Guard sent him to 92Y Supply Specialist training.”

Barnett’s work environment here at Joint Task Force Guantanamo looks similar to home station.

“My job here is pretty much the same as it is in Georgia,” said Barnett. “I receive and issue supplies and equipment, maintain the supporting paperwork, and maintain tracking of inventories and distribution.”

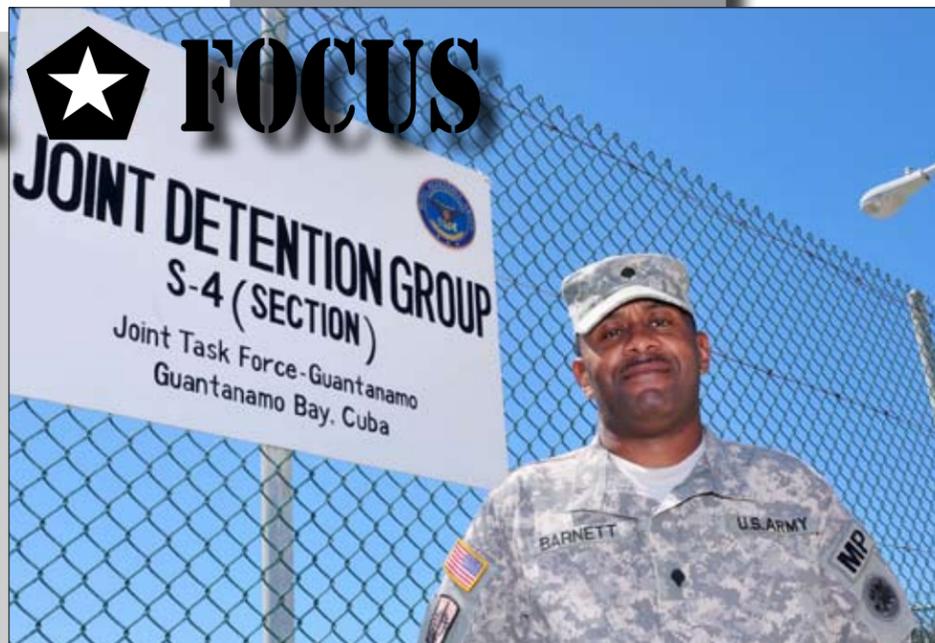
“I like that I can do inventories,” explained Barnett. “I also get to see what other Troopers here do in their jobs and how they use the different equipment pieces I issue them.”

With all that materiel, Barnett always has something to keep busy.

“Spc. Barnett doesn’t sit idle,” said Sgt. 1st Class Roberto Barnes, JGD S4 noncommissioned officer in charge. “When he finishes everything that needs to be done around here, he’s out looking for the next thing to do.”

“And once everything in our section is caught up,” added Barnes, “he goes out to help other units too.”

According to Leaver, Barnett steps up



for all kinds of duties, including commissions support, training exercises, and volunteer activities such as the Trail Blazers.

“I like a break once in a while from normal duties,” Barnett explained. “When it’s time for commissions I like that I get to do OPSEC on the photos and talk with the media a little bit during escorts.”

But even the hardest-working Troopers have to take a break now and then.

“After a hard day I might go back to my room, put on my headphones, and just chill,” said Barnett. “Or I’ll put my sneakers on and go for a run on the track near the football field.”

BULLET BIO: SPC. WILLIAM BARNETT

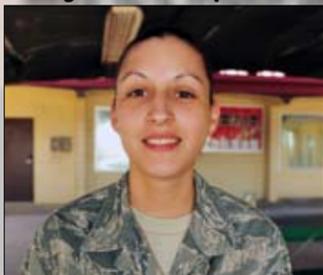
Time in service: 6 years in the Marine Corps, 5 in the Georgia Army National Guard

Hobbies: Listening to jazz, writing poetry, bowling, running, digital photography, and watching sports

The boss says: “He’s hard working and I love his attitude.”

Advice to junior Troopers: “Always maintain a high level of professionalism. Act as if you already hold your next pay grade.”

Why is it important for women to serve in the military?



“I think it is important because we are equals and citizens of this country and we should be able to defend it as well.”

Staff Sgt.
Chinon Thome



“Because we make it happen.”

Sgt.
Linda Baez



“Because it’s only fair.”

Petty Officer 3rd Class
Tiera Austin



“I think it is important because we bring a different perspective.”

Master Sgt.
Deborah Davis

BOOTS ON THE GROUND

Creditwise = creditworthy

By Sgt. 1st Class Kryn Westhoven

For many young people, getting a credit card is rite of passage. That piece of plastic gives you the ability to purchase items you may have not specifically saved for, but that freedom comes at a price if you do not manage your credit wisely.

“We need to educate ourselves,” said Walter Barrett, financial advisor at the Fleet and Family Services Center at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay.

According to Barrett, the credit education process starts with reviewing your credit report.

“Everything today is based on credit,” he said.

A credit report not only affects qualifying for additional credit or better rates, but this information is used by insurance companies and employers.

For service members with a security clearance, credit history can be a major factor in maintaining or receiving a specific clearance.

“It is snapshot of your risk, your vulnerability,” Barrett said.

Since 2004, getting a credit report

can be free. It was the year Federal Trade Commission finalized rules which required the three consumer credit agencies to provide consumers with a no-cost yearly copy of their credit report upon request. The three major credit reporting agencies, Equifax, Experian, and Trans Union established a centralized source for accepting consumer requests, www.annualcreditreport.com or calling (877) 322-8228.

Barrett recommends the free reports as a way to monitor your credit year-round. You can request a single report from one agency, and four months later, make a request with another credit reporting agency. That way you can see your credit with three unique pictures in time. He added the three reports, spread out over one year, can help monitor incidents of identify theft. This is the main reason Congress authorized the free credit reports as part of the Fair and Accurate Credit Transaction Act of 2003.

Consumer advocates have long encouraged individuals to self-monitor their credit reports as a way to detect identity theft. The credit reports are a tool to make sure personal identifying information, like your name, Social Security number, or credit card number, are

not being used without your permission to commit fraud or other crimes.

The credit report website asks a few questions, such as an old address or when you got a car loan. Once you answer the security questions, the report can be printed or saved for future reference.

Toward the bottom of the screen, there are instructions on how to dispute an item that appears on the credit report. In order to dispute an item it is important to have paperwork to back up any claim that is settled or paid off.

“Paper is powerful,” noted Barrett, saying that a canceled check, settlement papers, or a set of military orders showing where you were, can help in proving your case in a disputed item.

The participating credit reporting agencies that control www.annualcreditreport.com do not provide a free credit score. That is the number that most lenders look at first, to determine how credit worthy you are. For around \$5, that trio of agencies will provide the credit score, a bargain as compared to credit monitoring services that cost upwards of four times that much that every month.

The average credit score was in the 620 to 680 range before the economic downturn in 2008. Now, it takes a credit score of above 700 to get the best interest rates.

“You don’t have to go into big debt to develop credit,” Barrett said, as 35% of your score is based on paying bills on time. This task can sometimes be hard for military members to accomplish with deployments, TDY and other duties.

A good rule of thumb, according to Barrett, is one major credit per adult in a household. If you carry a balance, make it no

see CREDIT next page

HONOR cont.

families, and to all who served, we owe a debt that can never be fully repaid.

When we returned the colors of United States Forces-Iraq and the last of our troops set foot on American soil, we reflected on the extraordinary service and sacrifice of those who answered our country’s call. Their example embodied that fundamental American faith that tells us no mission is too hard, no challenge is too great, and

that through tests and through trials, we will always emerge stronger than before. Now, our Nation reaffirms our commitment to serve veterans of Iraq as well as they served us – to uphold the sacred trust we share with all who have worn the uniform. Our future is brighter for their service, and today, we express our gratitude by saying once more: Welcome home.



We use passwords every day.

Whether you are checking your email, logging onto your bank, or shopping on Amazon, you are using some type of password. If your passwords are easy to decipher, your personal information and data can be easily compromised.

- Never tell anyone your password!
- Make your password hard to guess – do not use the name of your pet, child, city, etc.
- Avoid using words found in a dictionary.
- Never write down your password. A sticky note is NOT secure!
- The more random your password is the better.
- Try not to use only one password for everything.

Boarding party

Troopers greet brand-new ship



USS San Diego (LPD-22) made its first port visit to U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay this week, and will travel to its namesake city for commissioning by May. Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers toured the shiny new ship Wednesday. —photo by Mass Communication Spc. 1st Class Ty Bjornson

By Mass Communication Spc. 1st Class Ty Bjornson

The San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock USS San Diego (LPD-22) completed an overnight visit to U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay this week. The ship had been conducting navigation training and will soon arrive to its future homeport of San Diego in April.

This port visit allowed the USS San Diego's crew the chance to spend some time enjoying the various recreational facilities available at Guantanamo.

"As USS San Diego sails to her home port and namesake city, we were privileged to visit Guantanamo Bay for a brief liberty stop," said Cmdr. Kevin Meyers, Commanding

Officer. "The crew enjoyed visiting this living piece of our naval history, as well as providing tours for the Joint Task Force and tenant commands. The hospitality we received was outstanding!"

The San Diego is the fourth United States Navy ship to bear the California city's name. San Diego is the Navy's largest base for operating in the Pacific Ocean. The ship is very new to the fleet. The construction was completed in December 2011 at the Huntington Ingalls Shipyard in Pascagoula, Miss. The crew moved onboard in January and the ship left its Mississippi shipyard on Mar. 15.

This new amphibious ship is crewed by 360 Sailors with three Marines. By its design,

the ship can support and deliver an equipped Marine battalion of 699 officers and enlisted members for amphibious landing missions. The ship is designed with ballast tanks to allow the flooding of the large well deck and to launch and recover landing craft air cushions and landing craft units.

At its new homeport, the San Diego will continue to install equipment and conduct crew training and certifications. The San Diego will be formally commissioned in May, making the ship officially active in the U.S. Navy fleet.

"It was a great tour," said Master Sgt. Gary Hayner, Base Emergency Engineer Force (BEEF). "I felt really honored to be in one of the first groups to be able to tour this new ship."

The JTF Troopers who visited the USS San Diego were impressed with the condition of the vessel. Many Troopers gave the San Diego's crew high praise on the efficiency and purposefulness of the ship's work spaces. The professionalism and courtesies of the San Diego Sailors did not go unnoticed either.

"It was very nice," said Master Sgt. Ed Hudecek, also of the BEEF. "I've never been on a ship before. I was very impressed. The crew was very friendly and highly knowledgeable. They gave a good description of what they do."

CREDIT cont.

more than 30% of the limit. Even better if you can pay off the credit card balance each month, use a credit card like a charge card.

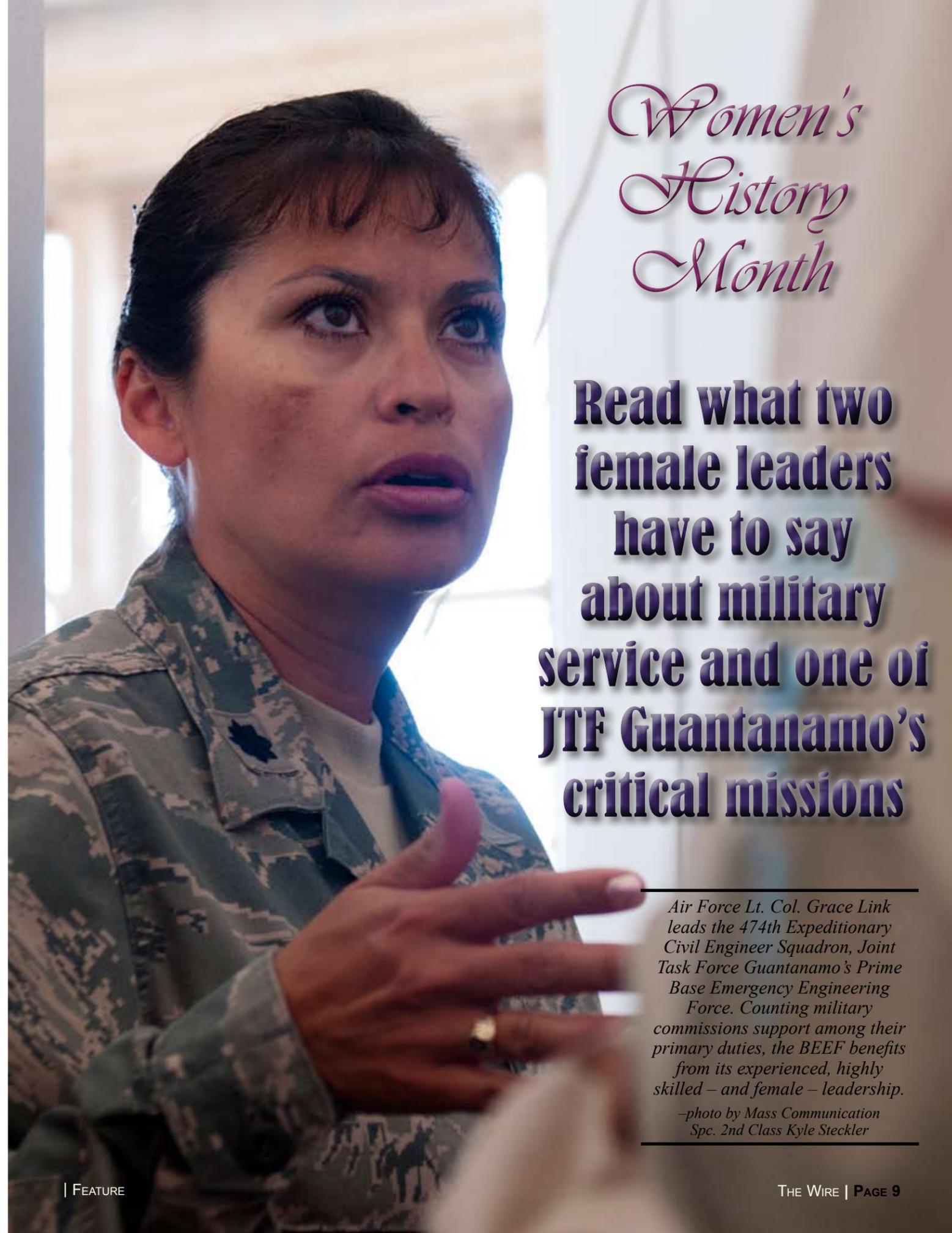
"Otherwise you are just going to stay in perpetual debt," he said.

Credit card companies make their money on the interest charged on balances. For example on a \$1,000 debt at 18 percent annual percentage rate (APR), it would take nine years to pay off with minimum monthly payment of \$20, since \$15 each month is going to interest and only \$5 to balance.

"Debt is biggest obstacle to anybody acquiring net worth," added Barrett. He believes that the goal is to acquire assets that hold or go up in value, unlike a car, which is more of a liability.

Like any potential indulgence, you need to use moderation in the use of credit, said Barrett. "It is a behavior thing."

The Fleet and Family Services Center offers credit management classes, as well as one-on-one financial counseling. Call 4050 to make an appointment.



Women's History Month

Read what two female leaders have to say about military service and one of JTF Guantanamo's critical missions

Air Force Lt. Col. Grace Link leads the 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, Joint Task Force Guantanamo's Prime Base Emergency Engineering Force. Counting military commissions support among their primary duties, the BEEF benefits from its experienced, highly skilled – and female – leadership.

—photo by Mass Communication Spc. 2nd Class Kyle Steckler

Celebrating women's empowerment

By Mass Communication Spc. 1st Class Erica Gardner

Joint Task Force Guantanamo honors educated and empowered female leadership of the Prime Base Engineering Emergency Force, (Prime BEEF), 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron (474th ECES), Missouri Air Guard by highlighting the achievements, contributions and sacrifices each of them make to educate the world while deployed.

The theme for Women's History Month 2012 is Women's Education—Women's Empowerment. Although women now outnumber men in American colleges nationwide, the reversal of the gender gap is a very recent phenomenon. In our country, the fight to learn and be empowered in their positions was a valiant struggle waged by many tenacious women across years and cultures.

United States Air Force Lt. Col. Grace Link, Prime BEEF commanding officer and base Civil Engineer spoke about being in the military and a role model for women of all ages.

"My heritage is Mexican. My parents came to the United States when I was a year old," said Link. "We moved to Chicago and I went

to school and joined the Illinois Air National Guard in 1987."

Shortly after enlisting, Link attended a supply enlisted tech school at Lowry Air Force Base where she met her husband, Scott Link, who was also in the Air Guard.

Link was enlisted for six years before she graduated from Oklahoma State University, earning a Master of Science in Civil Engineering. She received her commission in 1994, furthering her desire to make a difference. Diversity acceptance in the military and the civil engineering career field has allowed Link and her command to focus on the mission and less on the gender of the leader.

"One of my most challenging times as a leader involved getting more than 100 people in the squadron all working together towards a common goal. Establishing teamwork is not always easy to do," said Link. "It is always extremely rewarding to watch our Airmen succeed and become the best that they can be!"

Link and a team of 38 deployed to JTF Guantanamo in January 2012 and were assigned

to the Prime BEEF.

"Our primary mission at the Prime BEEF is all of the facilities maintenance repair and construction associated with the Expeditionary Legal Complex (ELC) and Camp Justice," said Link. "We are here to take care of any facility issues that are going to go on during court sessions for commissions or anything going on with the Camp Justice side of the house."

JTF Guantanamo supports many aspects of ongoing military commissions, such as lodging tents for media members, observer organizations, defense and prosecution members as well as transient personnel.

Link has been a Civil Engineer in the Air Guard for 25 years. Her experiences in many areas all over the world have allowed her to design, construct and maintain the physical and naturally built environment of each area visited.

"Our command usually plans and prepares for natural disasters," said Link. "We are able to construct roads, bridges, buildings and other structures necessary to sustain an airfield and/or Wing."

In the summer of 2011, Link and members of 474th ECES, and 139th Airlift Wing prepared the town of St. Joseph, Mo. and surrounding communities for a planned flooding by United States Army Corps of Engineers. As a full-time federal employee, one of the advantages of a civil engineering command is the ability for a Guard officer to serve as a dual-status commander; maintaining command over both Air Guard personnel and federal military units that may also respond to an emergency or disaster situation occurring within the state.

The level of expertise present with the Prime BEEF team can be broken down into several sub-disciplines, such as structural engineering, water resources engineering, construction engineering and municipal or urban engineering.

"Prior to our arrival to Guantanamo, we were planning for the town evacuation," Link said about the planned flooding

and level of training she and her team have on large projects. "Setting the standards for members not being okay with being average and striving to be outstanding is my job as their commander to help them get there."

The projects currently in the queue for the Prime BEEF include maintenance and new construction of existing facility structures, electrical and plumbing needs. Previous Prime BEEF teams have started projects, and incoming Prime BEEF teams are able to complete the work seamlessly.

see WOMEN page 16

MISSION FOCUSED

The Prime BEEF team members all have extensive experience in civil engineering which supports their missions for Joint Task Force Guantanamo. The team is made up of very highly motivated, dedicated, knowledgeable professionals of which commander Air Force Lt. Col. Grace Link is proud to be a part of.

"Emergency response personnel from 474th ECES were called upon to assist during the floods in the Missouri area," said Link. "Emergency response and the fire departments fall under us; this also supports our ability to provide as much service to a disaster area as possible."

This area of civil engineering is intimately related to the design of pipelines, water supply network, drainage facilities (including bridges, dams, channels, culverts, levees, storm sewers), and canals.

"The role the Air Guard is playing today is much different than it was many years ago," said Link. "It's amazing what you do and the level of experienced personnel performing these missions."



CAMP JUSTICE

474th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron
Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
"Engineers Lead the Way"

Female engineers lead the way at Joint Task Force Guantanamo's Camp Justice. The 474th ECES, presently composed of members of the Missouri Air National Guard, are led by Lt. Col. Grace Link (previous page) and Senior Master Sgt. Debra Rush (left) —photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jerome Grant

I can see Cuba from my house!

By Mass Communication Spc. 2nd Class Kilho Park

From a historical military perspective, when you think about gates or borders the demilitarized zone separating the two Koreas or the Berlin Wall's Brandenburg gate come to mind. Here in Guantanamo Bay we too have a border, still scattered with mines from a bygone era and a gate (though not as grandiose as Brandenburg).

The North East Gate is the northern entry point separating Naval Station Guantanamo Bay (NAVSTA GTMO) from the rest of Cuba. Closely guarded by the Marine Corps Security Forces Company (MCSFCO) with a heavily fortified fence line and strategically placed observation towers, the gate has seen its fair share of history which makes NAVSTA GTMO what it is today.

Access to the North East Gate is rare and strictly prohibited unless personnel are escorted by a member of MCSFCO. Tours are offered for all those stationed and working on island, every third Thursday of every month at 11 a.m. Sign up at the MCSFCO headquarters building during regular business hours.

When the United States leased the land that is NAVSTA GTMO from the Cuban government in 1903, the North East Gate was established as the checkpoint for up to 3,000 Cuban commuters who would move in and out of the base on a daily basis. In 1958, when vehicle traffic was prohibited, the number of commuters dropped to 300. Of those 300, only two continue the trek today.

In 1964, Commander in Chief of Cuba's military and Prime Minister, Fidel Castro cut off the fresh water supply to the base to protest the U.S. arresting 17 Cuban fishermen for violating territorial waters off the Florida coast. When Castro accused the Americans of stealing water, then-Base Commander Rear Adm. John D. Bulkeley invited media to watch as the cast iron water pipe was cut at the North East Gate as proof to the contrary. The cut pipe is prominently displayed today by the gate's main observation tower.

The competition of national pride between the Cubans and American Marines grew at the North East Gate after Castro took control over Cuba.

At the barracks on top of the hill where Marines would sleep during off hours, Cuban personnel would throw rocks on the tin roofs to

keep them awake. So the Marines built a 40-foot high fence to prevent the rocks from making it over.

Then the Cubans used to climb the fence and hang metal objects from hangers to make noise in the wind. So the Marines fortified the fence line with barbed wire.

Cubans used a spotlight on the barracks to keep the Marines awake at night for a month. Bulkeley erected a tent on the hill where the barracks was located and had laborers work on a "secret project."

At the end of the month, when the Cubans used the spotlight on the barracks once more, the tent came down and the spotlight would hit a hill-sized globe, eagle and anchor, the insignia of the United States Marine Corps. The spotlighting stopped immediately.

North East Gate tour guide Marine Staff Sgt. Jonathan Whatley honors and respects the rich history of his beloved Marine Corps and their history here in Guantanamo Bay.

"Here we are stationed in a communist country in the oldest naval station outside the U.S.," said Whatley. "It's an awesome amount of pride knowing that Marines were here since 1898 during the Spanish-American War and the work we've done since."

For others, getting access to such a restricted area of the base and receiving some historical perspective was enough to warrant time for a look-see and to take the tour.

"I wanted to see what the gate was all about," said Chief Petty Officer Edwin Schulze, of the Coast Guard's Maritime Safety and Security Team San Diego. "Seeing the entrance and getting a glimpse of the history of Guantanamo Bay is very cool."

For Marine Capt. Kristy Milton, it was her last day on island and her one and only chance to tour the Northeast Gate and see it up close.

"The Northeast Gate tour was very informative, giving us the background and history of this place and of Cuba as well," she said. "When you think of Guantanamo, you don't just think about the JTF (Joint Task Force) side, you think of the Marines guarding the fence line, the towers, and movies like 'A Few Good Men.' You see it up close, it's something everyone who comes to Guantanamo Bay should come and see."



REPUBLICA DE CUBA
TERRITORIO LIBRE DE AMERICA.

Marine Corps Security Forces Company tours of the North East Gate occur once per month and are open to U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay and Joint Task Force personnel. Here, Troopers can get a rare view of the Cold War-era physical barrier between the communist and American naval station sides of Cuba.

Background: Marine Staff Sgt. Jonathan Whatley led the March 16 tour, which delved into Marine pride and the naval station's tense history.

—photo by Mass Communication Spc. 2nd Class Kilho Park

By Army Sgt. Jesse Houk
 Illinois National Guard

RINGFIELD, Ill. – Deployments can change a soldier's life, but the prospect of a deployment may have saved the life of one central Illinois soldier.

For Army Sgt. Kristina R. Melton, a member of the Illinois National Guard's 1344th Transportation Company in East St. Louis, no field manual could have prepared her for what

she learned during a health examination as she prepared for a mobilization with the 1644th Transportation Company in Rock Falls. She had cervical pre-cancer cells.

"When the doctor told me I was going to miss the deployment, I was hurt," Melton said. "I was upset. I thought, 'Great, my husband is going to deploy without me again, and I am going to be stuck at home.' So it was really sad, and I was bawling."

Melton's husband, Army Sgt. Chris Melton,

also with the 1344th Transportation Company, planned to deploy with her by joining the 1644th, but decided against it in light of the diagnosis.

"It was a blessing in disguise," he said. "If Kristina wouldn't have been set to deploy, it would have been months before she would have had her checkup, and her medical condition could have gotten worse."

Although the condition is serious, the Meltons said, they have not allowed it to control their future.

"We are planning on having another child, so once we do that, she plans on having the hysterectomy and then the cervical cancer issue won't be an issue anymore," Chris said.

In addition to having another child, Kristina said, she expects to retire from the Illinois Army National Guard. She noted that treating her condition and having a hysterectomy have quick recovery periods and would not affect her career as some other health issues might.

"I think it speaks a lot to her character and the kind of person she is," said Army Capt. Matthew P. Wood, the 1344th's company commander. "She knows that she has some things going on in her life that are outside the Army, but she knows that she can overcome those and that they are only temporary. The pride that she has and the things that she wants to do for the military are going to last a lot longer than that."

Melton said her goal is to get the word out about cervical cancer awareness and women's health issues.

"It happens, and I prefer for most women to understand that it can happen to them no matter what age they are," Kristina said.

With the number of women in the military increasing over the past half century, women's health has become increasingly relevant. Although soldiers learn occupational safety and mission safety at a high level, she said, she would like to be a reminder of how much health safety should be stressed.

"There are women out there that don't get their Pap smears done when they should, and they're missing out on stuff like this," Kristina said. "If this isn't caught, then there's not a lot the doctors can do. It is life-threatening. It can kill you if you go untreated."

Melton said she hoped other military women can look to her as someone who has benefitted from preventive health tests and find the courage to do the same.

"The dangers of not being checked out are much worse than the discomforts of having the examinations," she said.

Coast Guard women find balance

From 11th District Coast Guard Public Affairs

Strength. This word coupled with such words as bravery, hard working, mentor, and role model have been used to describe women who not only serve their country, but their families and loved ones as well. From Joan of Arc to Eleanor Roosevelt, women have been effectively changing the way the world views them and the roles they play. This is why in 1987 Woman's History Month was introduced by the United States Congress as a month-long dedication of recognition to women, young and old, not only throughout history, but also to those who live their day-to-day lives as wives, mothers, and co-workers. The women of the United States Coast Guard are no exception to this.

Dating all the way back to the 1770s, women began as lighthouse keepers, often awarded the position full time after their husbands who operated them became ill or died, but they didn't stop there.

In 1881, Ida Lewis became the first woman ever to be awarded a Gold Lifesaving Medal. In February of 1976 the Coast Guard Academy became the first service academy to offer entrance to women. In 1974, mixed-gender basic training began which made possible the first mixed-gender crew in October 1977 when 24 women reported aboard the Coast Guard Cutters Gallatin and Morgenthau. More recently, in March of 2011, Chief Petty Officer Kristin Werner became the first female to make Chief Gunner's Mate ever in the Coast Guard.

Remarkable women live, serve, and breathe all around us. In recognition of this, a story will be released during each week of March honoring the Coast Guard women of San Diego that we serve and come in contact with every day.

For the women of the Coast Guard who have families and lives outside of their career, trying to balance everything can become a juggling act.

Seaman Alyssia Veiga, like many others, did not join the Coast Guard right out of school.

"Because I'm 22, I'm still young," she said. "I'm not fresh out of high school, but at the same time, I have experience in (the world). I was away from home and I didn't join the Coast Guard right away."

Veiga said that she chose the Coast Guard because she wanted to help people and the Coast Guard seemed the most humanitarian out of all the services. Her face lit up as she talked about the possibilities and opportunities that the service has to offer her and laughed as she spoke about how she'd learned secrets of the trade that she can apply to her own life.

"There has to be a balance," she went on to explain. "There are some people who don't know how to juggle at all. Basically, it's a giant juggling act and I have to delegate time for my personal life and draw boundaries."

Trying not to allow the lines to blend between life and work has been long struggle seen throughout the Coast Guard and other military services alike, but for women, it comes with its own set of unique pressures.

"You can't just be one of the guys," she said, "You can't just be another worker."

She explains that often times all it took was for one female to show up to quarters with scuffed boots or a wrinkly uniform for all the females to be lumped in as slackers. She said that sometimes you have to put in that extra effort to move past the ideas that people may have of you and how you work.

Although, sometimes things were rougher than others, overall she doesn't seem to allow it to affect her or hinder her ability to advance forward. Instead, she moves toward a more positive outlook: setting as example as those before have. She said that often when people mention their boss out in the civilian world, people just assume that it is a man. This is precisely the reason why she loves the fact that at her job in the Coast Guard her shop supervisor is a woman.

"For me, I like having my chief be a female," she said.

It was the first female supervisor she had since joining the Coast Guard and she said it makes her feel so good to know that one day she was going to be in a position of leadership like that.

She explained that the biggest thing she wants people to understand is that even though at times work can be hard, it's always worth doing if you are willing to push on through.

IN THE FIGHT Females lead the way

By Cpl. Walter Marino II
 2nd Marine Division

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP LEJEUNE N.C. – For hundreds of years across the globe, women have been fighting for equal rights. Today, women in the armed forces continue in their footsteps, fighting to defend the nation's freedom.

During Women's History Month, it seems fitting that numerous women recently returned to Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune from a deployment to Afghanistan. There are many female service members, from Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, who fight every day with no complaint, in a predominately male work environment.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Sinthia M. Gomez, a hospital corpsman with Headquarters Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, is the first in her family to join the military, which paved the way for her younger brother to join the Army.

"If you look back and see how women have progressed, especially me being here in a male unit. It's nice to be recognized and be held to that same standard – and break that glass ceiling," said Gomez. "My brother joined the Army because of me. I definitely feel proud."

In Afghanistan, Gomez worked at an aid station helping the sick, giving over the counter medications and even helped organize a pizza party for wounded warriors.

"It was Father's Day and we wanted to do something for the wounded warriors," said Gomez, with a smile.

Gomez is not the only female in her unit. Petty Officer First Class Jennifer R. Avila, leading petty officer, followed in her father's footsteps, when she joined the Navy as a

single mother who could not afford college.

"It was the best option for me," said Avila, who has deployed three times to Iraq and recently returned from Afghanistan with Gomez.

In Fallujah, Iraq in 2005, Avila assisted Marines at security check points by searching women before they entered the city.

"We were out there working 12-hour days in flak (jackets) and Kevlars carrying a rifle, just like the guys, doing patrols," said Avila.

Avila explained, throughout her career, she has witnessed some good changes including the increased amount of opportunities for women.

"It's absolutely changed since I came in (the Navy). They, now, allow women on submarines, they allow female corpsmen more so in combat – so I see a change in that. I think it's great that we honor women."

Both Gomez and Avila are happy with women's roles in the military and have words of wisdom for young women thinking about enlisting.

"I would say that they have to come in with an open mind, be strong and proud of being a woman and accept any challenges and know their limits," said Gomez.

"I believe as females we need to show people that we're strong, that we can do the job just as well as a man. Never allow the excuse, 'I'm a female' to stop you from doing your job. Yes we have limitations but we're just as strong as a man and can do a job just as good as any man. That's why I have high expectations of females in the military," said Avila.



[STUDENT OF THE GAME]

Peyton in, Payton out



D'aww, he's all frowny faced. Saints head coach Sean Payton will not be a part of an NFL team for the first time since 1996 because of a one-year suspension. —NFL photo

By Army Sgt. Landis Andrews

The National Football League has, once again, proved that it is the king of American sports. Even with the NBA, NHL, MLB and the MLS (yes, they are still around) playing actual games, the NFL still rules the headlines.

Not so Sainly in New Orleans

Katrina brought the levies down in 2005. On Wednesday, NFL commissioner Roger Goodell took the breath out of the city once more when he levied heavy punishments against the New Orleans Saints football team and its management in the wake of an investigation into a program that offered payment for the injury of key opposing players.

Head coach Sean Payton is suspended, without pay, for the entire 2012 season. Gregg Williams, former Saints defensive coordinator who recently signed on to do the same job for the St. Louis Rams, received the

harshest sentence with an indefinite suspension from the league. General manager Mickey Loomis was suspended for the first eight regular season games. As an organization, the Saints were fined \$500,000 and stripped of a second round draft pick in this year's and next year's draft (because they don't have a first round selection this year).

People that grew up watching the NFL of yore may think "What's the big deal? This has been happening on every team for as far back as there has been an NFL."

That may be true, but the league is currently facing a lawsuit because of a less-than-stellar head trauma system that left lots of ex-players with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) more widely known as Lou Gehrig's disease. The last thing Goodell needs is to look like he advocates teams and players acting like The Punisher in order to get wins. These suspensions are a warning shot to the rest of the league. The next time someone gets caught, the commissioner won't be as nice.

Tebow co-pilots Jets

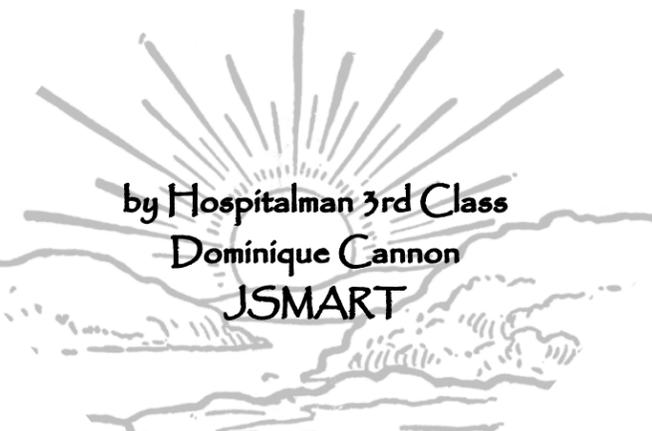
Quarterback Peyton Manning signed a 5-year, \$96 million contract with the Denver Broncos to try to walk in the footsteps of legendary quarterback John Elway (check last week's column. I called it). Because of the uncertainty of his injury, there is no guaranteed money written into his contract.

Tim Tebow, however, was written out of Broncos history with a trade to the New York Jets. The former first round pick was sent to the biggest media market in the country along with a seventh round pick and \$2.5 million in return for a fourth and sixth round pick.

Timmy has not proven his doubters wrong – he still has the mechanics of a Gitmo special – but he has proven that he deserves more respect than he is being given. He took a team from the slums of the AFC West to division champions. He tacked on a playoff victory against a quarterback that has as many Super Bowl rings as Tebow has vested years in the league. He deserves to be packaged in a better deal than with three other draft picks that probably won't make an impact on either team.

It was reported that the Broncos, being wooed by the Jets and the Jacksonville Jaguars, gave Tebow the freedom to pick his team and he chose to take a bite out of the Big Apple. Hopefully, that won't turn out to be a mortal sin. Maybe he decided to be a Jet because Mark Sanchez hasn't established himself as the quarterback everyone thought he was. Maybe it was because offensive coordinator Tony Sparano introduced the Wildcat offense to the NFL and Tebow seems like the perfect person to run that system.

But one thing is for sure: New York fans are no where near as nice as the ones he's used to. They can chant your name one week and call for your job the next. As long as he wins, he's in the good graces of the city, but that all stops when the victories stop. After all, look how long Linsanity lasted.



Taking a breather, by yourself

Being a member of the United States military requires all of us to work closely with our peers on both a professional and personal level. However, the camaraderie we develop amongst each other is not restricted specifically to military life

As humans, we depend upon one another for companionship, intimacy, and protection. The complex relationships we build with our fellow man and woman not only enhance the overall experience of life, but provide the essential tools necessary for self-betterment. Nevertheless, in a world increasingly dominated by a maze of elaborate social obligations and norms, we often neglect to provide ourselves with a much needed "breather" of sorts. I'm talking about the elusive time spent alone.

Many people regard those who spend a great deal of time by themselves as loners. Choosing to seek solitude over socialization, such individuals may be viewed

Solitude can be highly beneficial to mental health. Self-reflection has been practiced actively across numerous cultures in pursuit of inner peace.

by society as eccentric or abnormal, and sometimes for good reason. Extreme isolation can be suggestive of a number of mental health disorders, including depression, anxiety disorders, developmental disorders, psychosis, and some personality disorders. It is important to remember, however, that although social withdrawal can be a symptom of many mental health disorders, a psychiatric diagnosis cannot be made solely based on an individual's desire to be alone.

In spite of the negative associations with social isolation, solitude can also be highly beneficial to mental health. By purposely removing ourselves from the noise and distractions of everyday life and social settings, we are allowed an essential

moment to self-reflect on our own thoughts and feelings, and evaluate ourselves. Self-reflection has been practiced actively across numerous cultures for many centuries in pursuit of inner peace, spirituality, and simple pleasure. Monks across the world seek spiritual enlightenment while in isolation. Various philosophers, writers, and artists have spent much of their days detached from public life in contentment.

You too, at some point, have likely practiced solitude as a means to achieve calm or relaxation. Ever go for a walk to clear your head after getting into an argument? Or simply had a day off where you stayed indoors to watch television or read a book alone? Social creatures we may all be, but sometimes, seclusion offers a much needed departure

from the stresses of everyday life to spend time with ourselves.

Achieving beneficial solitude while at Joint Task Force Guantanamo can seem impossible at times, especially for those who have roommates. But setting time aside each day to spend alone, without any commitments or work, is the first step in the right direction. Learning to enjoy moments to yourself can allow for personal reflection, serenity, and better self-understanding. So use your time wisely and devote at least some of it just to you.

Should you find yourself having difficulty in achieving solitude, the staff at the Joint Stress Mitigation and Restoration Team (JSMART) offers a wide range of mental health services to all service members attached to Joint Task Force Guantanamo. We are now located in a new building across from the JTF Trooper Chapel and next to the Camp America Post Office.

WOMEN cont.

Senior Master Sgt. Debra Rush manages areas of Prime BEEF in supply, structures, engineering, work control and pavements/heavy equipment.

"I bring a diversity of experiences to Civil Engineering," said Rush. "I have been in this field since 2006, but I have knowledge from prior career fields of personnel, maintenance, and contracting. I believe this diversity helps with my leadership."

In order to move up the career ladder, Rush explained that sometimes you may have to be willing to change career paths.

Rush is a full time production controller for the Missouri Air National Guard.

Because of her education and experience, she was able to move into a new career field and full-time job.

"This has been a challenging deployment for me," said Rush. "I feel very fortunate to have my husband in my life. It would be very hard to deploy without his support. I know my family is very proud of what I do."

Rush commented that nobody in her immediate family is in the military; she joined for the patriotism and for the travel experience. She has been in the Missouri Air Guard for almost 19 years and 12 of those she has been on active status.

"My goals for this deployment is to

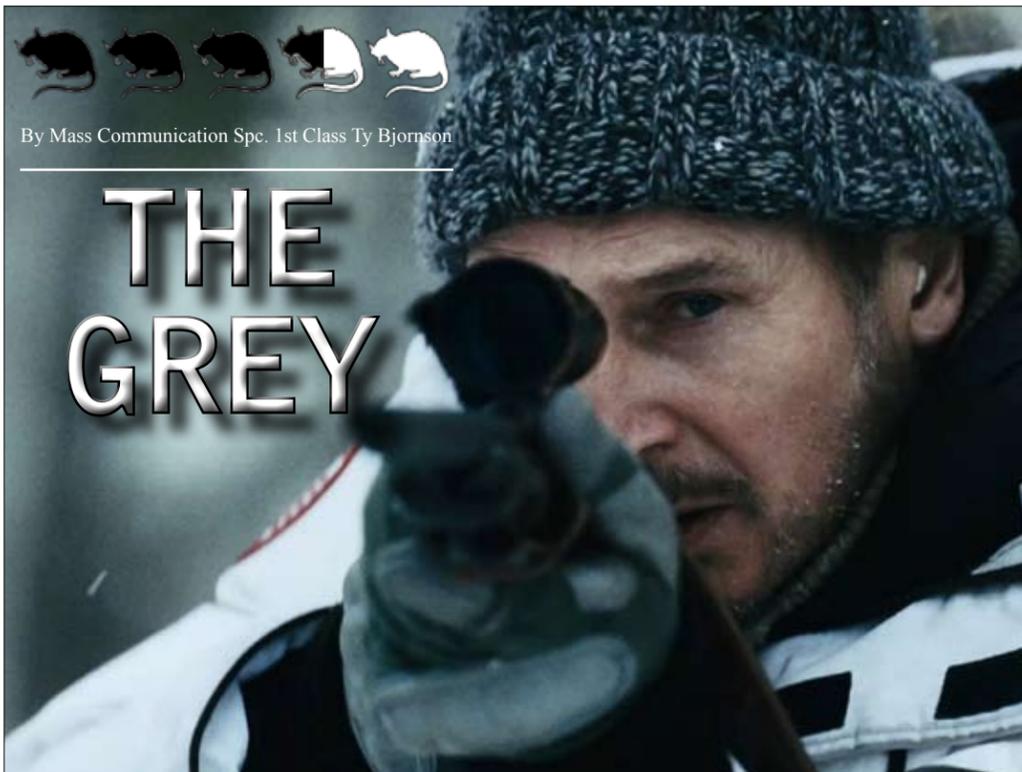
improve my leadership role, become more physically fit, and have a closer relationship with God," she said.

Since 1987, the United States has recognized women's history in March, honoring the achievements of American women during the celebration coordinated by the National Women's History Project.

For too long women's history and achievements have been forgotten, overlooked, erased and devalued. The celebration of women's achievements and sacrifices helps educate and empower women of all ages through their experiences.

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





By Mass Communication Spc. 1st Class Ty Bjornson

There are certain jobs people look at and say “How do they do it? I could never do what they do.” I am referring to thankless jobs that involve high skills working in extreme conditions. These workers have limited to no contact with their families. What motivates people to endure these positions to provide for themselves and their families?

These are the questions that formulated in my mind as I viewed “The Grey,” the latest Liam Neeson thriller. The film serves as a metaphor to the pitfalls of life, the obstacles people endure and how their faith is tested. True, “The Grey” is designed as a taut nail-biter with good scares, decent pacing and good drama. But I think there’s more going on with “The Grey” than what you initially see on the silver screen. For now, let’s hold that thought.

The movie focuses on John Ottway (Neeson), a man who specializes in killing wolves to help keep the Alaskan oil-drilling teams safe. After he completes his work, he faces much uncertainty about what to do next. The loss of his wife even has him contemplate suicide before he decides that he will fly back home. Unfortunately, a freak blizzard brings his airliner down into the barren Alaskan wasteland.

Ottway is stranded with other oil-drill team members who survived the plane crash. They have no heat, no food and supplies are minimal to aid them in surviving the harsh arctic-like elements. They are hundreds of miles from any other human contact. Matters are worse when the group realizes they are deep within the territory of predatory gray wolves. One of the most eerie scenes is when a handheld torch reveals several pairs of wolves’ eyes reflecting in the darkness.

After losing team members to the wolves, Ottway leads the survivors away from the plane’s

wreckage. It’s a pilgrimage fraught with strife through the stark wilderness. The elements, group tensions and the pursuing wolves continue to take their toll on the small band trudging through the snow. Desperation is combated by stories and humor, but the severity of the group’s predicament is always looming overhead.

The group is pursued by the wolves lead by an alpha male. Indeed, a formidable omega wolf tests the group openly around the evening campfire while the alpha watches from out of sight. The outcome of this incident sets the pendulum in motion for the group to do whatever it takes to make it through each minute.

“The Grey” depends heavily on dynamic visuals to make its impact on viewers. It should be no surprise the film is produced by the highly prolific brothers Ridley Scott and Tony Scott. The movies they have directed and now the ones they produce are known for the strong visual sense in telling their stories. Consequently, the Scott brothers’ films are not known for having any strong human sentiments. This time, “The Grey” is separated from the rest of the pack with a story about

fear, faith and, on some level, redemption.

Director Joe Carnahan wanted to show Ottway as a man experiencing deep pain over the loss of his wife. In reality, it was only three years ago that actor Liam Neeson lost his own wife to a freak skiing accident. Neeson openly admitted he suffered from a lapse in his own personal faith and he was able to channel that into his role in “The Grey.” When we see Ottway cursing at God and demanding a response from him, are we watching the character grapple with his dilemma or is it about Neeson’s real-life pain?

There are moments in the movie containing personal visions, flashbacks, poems and childhood reminders that aid in the acceptance of death and making a stand in face of adversity. The film was screened even by Christian groups with media materials highlighting the spiritual value of the film.

Whatever the message, “The Grey” is a highly crafted film. The scenes with the wolves are incredibly tense and the characters are as real as they get. If I had to complain about anything, it would be the ending. I do feel the build-up throughout

Ottway’s odyssey demanded a more concrete resolution. If the audience makes it through the film’s credits, there is a “cookie” at the very end expanding on the film’s conclusion. How you choose to interpret the cookie is up to you. I suppose that’s where the faith aspect of the film can enter. This is what this movie is ultimately about.

I think people can enjoy “The Grey” as an engaging thriller that happens to ask its viewers “what do you believe in to help get you through?” It’s a rhetorical question from the Scott brothers. Goodness knows everyone has metaphorical wolves in their lives that pursue them. Where a person gets the strength to cope with their personal wolves is something best left to people to answer for themselves. Looking at “The Grey” from this perspective is like seeing the tip of an iceberg, with so much unseen below the surface. Whoever thought audiences would get a feature like this from the minds that brought us movies about replicants (“Blade Runner”), unicorns (“Legend”), hot-shot fighter pilots (“Top Gun”) and feisty race car drivers (“Days of Thunder”)?

GTMO Quick Reference

Caribbean Coffee & Cream – 77859
Mon.-Sat. 6 a.m.-10 p.m.
Sun. 1-10 p.m.

Jerk House – 2535
Sun.-Th. 5-9 p.m.
Fri. & Sat. 5-10 p.m.

Bowling Center – 2118
Mon.-Fri. 6-11 p.m.
Fri. 6 p.m.-12 a.m.
Sat. 1 p.m.-12 a.m.
Sun. & Holidays 1-11 p.m.

KFC and A&W Express – 75653
Daily 11 a.m.-10 p.m.

MWR Liberty Centers – 2010
Deer Point: Mon.-Fri. 4 p.m.-12 a.m.
Sat. & Sun. 9 a.m.-12 a.m.

Marine Hill: Mon.-Th. 11-12 a.m.
Fri. 11-2 a.m., Sun. 9-12 a.m.

Tierra Kay: Sun-Th. 7-12 a.m.
Fri. & Sat. 7-2 a.m.

Camp America - open 24 hours
Pirate’s Cove
Th.-Sat. 7 p.m.-12 a.m.

Cuban Club – 75962 (call ahead!)
Mon.-Sat. 11 a.m.-9 p.m.

McDonald’s – 3797
Mon.-Th. 5 a.m.-11 p.m.
Fri-Sat. 5 a.m.-2 a.m.
Sun. 6 a.m.-11 p.m.

Pizza Hut – 77995
Mon.-Th. 11 a.m.-9 p.m.
Fri. 11 a.m.-11 p.m.
Sat. & Sun. 12-9 p.m.

Windjammer – 77252
Fri. & Sat. 5 p.m. - 2 a.m.

Windjammer Cafe
Mon.-Th. 11 a.m.-9 p.m.
Fri. 11 a.m.-10 p.m.
Sat. 5-10 p.m.
Sun. 5-9 p.m.

O’Kelly’s Irish Pub
Mon.-Th. 5-9 p.m.
Fri. & Sat. 5 p.m.-2 a.m.
Sun. 5-9 p.m.

Safe Ride - 84781

NAVSTA Main Chapel Lent, Holy Week, and Easter

Palm Sunday, April 1
9 a.m. – Catholic Mass
11 a.m. – Protestant worship

1 p.m. - Gospel worship
6 p.m. GTMO Bay Christian Fellowship

Holy Thursday, April 5
5:30 p.m. – Catholic Mass
7 p.m. – Protestant worship

Good Friday, April 6
5 p.m. – Catholic Good Friday Passion
6:30 – Protestant worship

Saturday, April 7
7:30 p.m. – Easter Vigil Mass

Easter Sunday special services, April 8
6:30 a.m. – Easter Sunrise Service at Windmill Beach, with breakfast

12:45 p.m. – Protestant Easter Egg Hunt (chapel annex courtyard)

GTMO Religious Services

JTF Trooper Chapel

Protestant Worship
Sunday 9 a.m.

Bible Study
Wednesday 6 p.m.

Intense Spiritual Fitness Power Lunch!
Thursday 11-11:30 a.m.
JTF Chaplain’s Office

For more information, call 2305.

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

	23 FRI	24 SAT	25 SUN	26 MON	27 TUE	28 WED	29 THU
Downtown Lyceum	Joyful Noise (last showing) (PG-13) 8 p.m. Woman in Black (NEW) (PG-13) 10 p.m.	Big Miracle (NEW) (PG) 8 p.m. Chronicle (New) (PG-13) 10 p.m.	Act of Valor (R) 8 p.m.	Haywire (last showing) (R) 8 p.m.	Contraband (last showing) (R) 8 p.m.	Underworld: Awakening (R) 8 p.m.	One for the Money (PG-13) 8 p.m.
Camp Bulkeley	Big Miracle (NEW) (PG) 8 p.m. Chronicle (NEW) (PG-13) 10 p.m.	Underworld: Awakening (R) 8 p.m. Woman in Black (NEW) (PG-13) 10 p.m.	Man on a Ledge (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Contraband (last showing) (R) 8 p.m.	Haywire (last showing) (R) 8 p.m.	Joyful Noise (last showing) (PG-13) 8 p.m.	The Grey (R) 8 p.m.

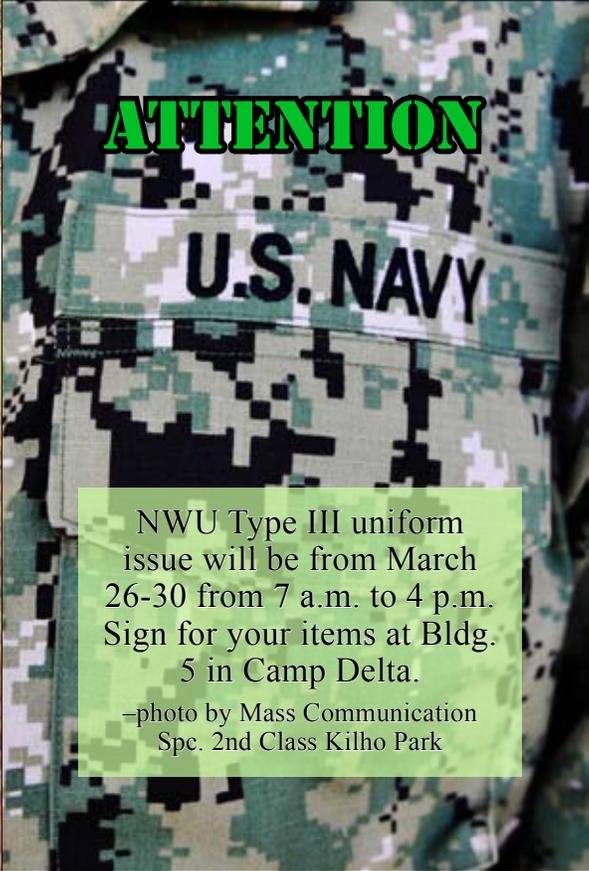
Call the movie hotline at 4880 or see <https://intranet/movies.html> for more information.



A Pot o' Gold At Shutter Speed

Above: Do you see the double rainbow? The leprechauns must have missed it – no sightings were reported in or around bachelor housing.
–photo by Mass Communication
Spc. 1st Class Erica Gardner

Background: Stick that in your pipe and... nevermind. The Cold War-era water pipeline from Cuba, ordered cut by then-commanding officer of U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Rear Adm. John Bulkeley, can be seen on the monthly North East Gate tour. The tour is available to Joint Task Force and Naval Station personnel.
–photo by Mass Communication
Spc. 2nd Class Kilho Park



ATTENTION

NWU Type III uniform issue will be from March 26-30 from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sign for your items at Bldg. 5 in Camp Delta.

–photo by Mass Communication
Spc. 2nd Class Kilho Park