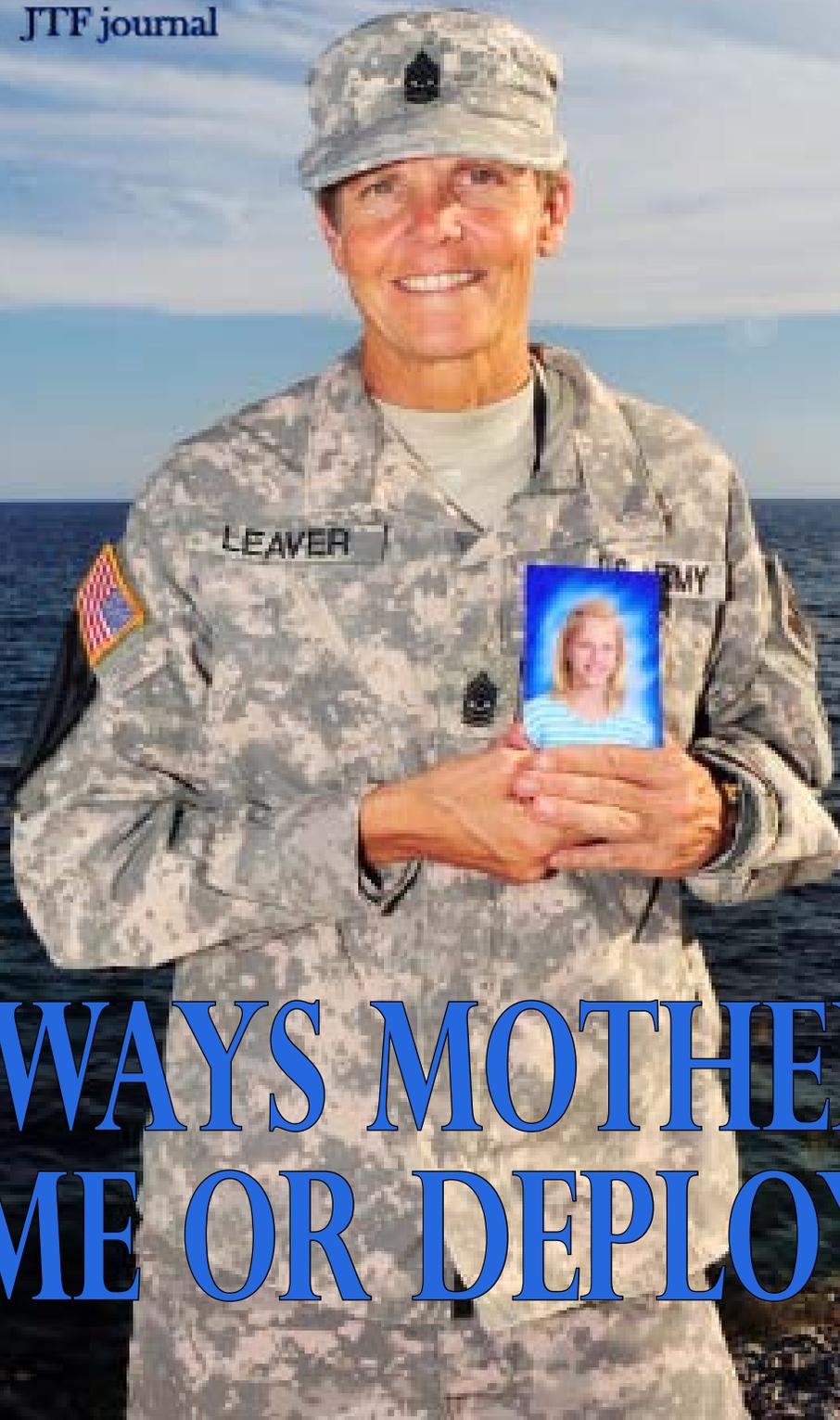


# The WIRE

An award-winning  
JTF journal



# ALWAYS MOTHERS: HOME OR DEPLOYED

# COMMAND CORNER

REAR ADM. DAVID WOODS

COMMANDER, JTF GUANTANAMO

There has been a lot going on at Joint Task Force Guantanamo. Last week we hosted Gen. Douglas Fraser, Commander, U.S. Southern Command. He brought along Rear Adm. Vincent Atkins, the new J-3 SOUTHCOM Operation Officer. We had the opportunity to showcase all of the preparations, rehearsals and planning we had done in anticipation of the "9/11 five" arraignment.

Capt. John Kall, Commissions Liaison Office expeditionary (CLOE) Director, Capt. Michael Barg, J2 Director, and Capt. Robert Durand, JTF GTMO public affairs officer, briefed our Four Star Boss on all of the hard work and dedication our Troopers put into preparing for this major event. He was extremely impressed and confident that we had left no stone unturned. We had the

chance to take Gen. Fraser around for a JTF GTMO update. This tour included all of the changes and projects JDG, J2 and JTF Engineers have completed across the Joint Task Force. Also highlighted were the significant contributions of our Missouri United States Air Force Base Emergency Engineering Force team and the Navy Seabees. Again, he indicated his pleasure with all of the forethought that had gone into the conditions-based change undertaken in our operations.

The much-publicized arraignment for the "9/11 Five" was next on our plate. CLOE, OMC Forward, J-3 and PAO all prepared to host and escort the visitors coming to the island for the event. Among the visitors were Col. James Pohl, judge, and his staff, Col. J. P. Colwell, OMC Defense Team, Brig. Gen. Mark Martins, OMC prosecution Team, 10 invited observers, six victim family members and 58 national and international media. In total, we had a surge of

over 200 people who arrived at various times during the week and departed after the event on Sunday.

Waterside security and courtroom security were flawlessly executed by the San Diego Maritime Safety Security Team who was augmented by the New Orleans MSST who was on ground for their "right seat - left seat". (Note: the MSST Transfer of Authority was conducted on Thursday 10 May in a unique ceremony held at the GTMO Lighthouse and Museum, which San Diego MSST had renovated during their deployment). The 107th Military Police Company along with Naval Station Guantanamo Security provided the external security. All of the security surrounding this event was vigilant and professionally executed.

Detainee movement, security and escort were expertly provided by our Navy Guard Force, who with 13 hours of courtroom proceedings ended up working a 21-hour day. They maintained unwavering professionalism as the arraignment was broadcast via close circuit television to the media operations center at Camp Justice and six other sites in Maryland, New Jersey and New York. Also supporting the arraignment were members of our staff judge advocate, JMG and NS GTMO Hospital.

All of these activities were conducted like a fine-tuned world-class orchestra playing every integrated part to perfection! BRAVO ZULU to all who supported this event and made it a success. Truly a job well done!

Of course we accomplished all of this while the rest of the JTF GTMO team continued normal operations for the other 164 detainees and prisoners. Again without fanfare or incident, I am blessed to be a part of this professional team that does it all day-in-and-day-out! HONOR BOUND!

OBTW: Sunday is Mother's Day! Don't forget

*I am blessed to be a part of this professional team that does it all day-in-and-day-out!*  
**HONOR BOUND!**



## JTF Guantanamo

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# JOINT TASK FORCE GUANTANAMO

SAFE • HUMANE • LEGAL • TRANSPARENT

# NEWS FROM THE BAY

## Soggy Bottom Regatta

Are you a man or woman of constant sorrow? Have you seen trouble all your days? Fight those blues away and register for the Soggy Bottom cardboard boat regatta!

To compete in the regatta, you must build a person-powered cardboard boat that can survive two trips around a 100 yard course. Each team will also race their boats for 100 yards. Prizes will be awarded to the fastest, most GTMO, best Titanic, and best in show boats.

The event is scheduled for May 26 at Ferry Landing Beach from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Register your boat at the marina by May 23.

For more information, call 2345.

## Memorial Day 10k

Can't get enough running? Celebrate Memorial Day by running a free 10k! The race is scheduled for 6:45 a.m. May 26 at Christmas Tree Hill. Register at Denich Gym by May 23. The first 100 to register receive a free T-shirt!

For more information, call 2113.

## Philippine Cuisine

On your way out of the NEX, stop at the fund-raising event for the 114th Philippine Independence Day Celebration.

The food sale is scheduled for May 13 and 27 and June 10 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Traditional Philippine dishes will be served including lumpia, pancit and adobo. Filipino cookbooks are also available for \$15.

For more information, call Menchie at 74914.



Cardboard boat regatta - May 26

## Enrich Yourself!

Navy Child and Youth Programs are offering 14 new community classes for all ages. Many classes are free, and cover topics ranging from basic small engine theory to computer programming to improv comedy.

For more information, email [Chris.Dickson@usnbgmto.navy.mil](mailto:Chris.Dickson@usnbgmto.navy.mil) or call 84616.

## Summer Sports Galore

Are you eager to get out of your quarters and be active this summer? Why not play soccer, softball, basketball, tennis, or sand volleyball this summer?

The men's and women's soccer and coed softball seasons start May 29. Register to play by May 18.

Coed basketball season begins June 4. Register to play by May 24.

Men's and women's sand volleyball season begins June 20. Register to play by June 6.

Tennis season begins June 24. Register to play by June 14.

To register for any of these events, go to Denich Gym. All registrations are free.

For more information, call 2113.

## Vacation Bible School

The NAVSTA chapel's annual Vacation Bible School is scheduled to be held June 18-22 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Chapel Annex. This year's theme is "Sky: Everything is possible with God."

For more information or to register, contact Kathy Clark-Dickens at 2128 (office) or 7769 (home), or go online to [www.groupvb-spro.com/vbs/ez/navstagtmochapel](http://www.groupvb-spro.com/vbs/ez/navstagtmochapel).

## Memorial Day sports!

All hands are invited to participate in free sports tournaments over Memorial Day weekend, May 26-28.

The schedule includes softball, indoor basketball, and sand volleyball. The events are open to anyone 16 or older. Register by May 18 at Denich Gym.

For more information, call Alana at 2113.

## Armed Forces Day 5k

Celebrate Armed Forces Day by running a free 5k! The run is scheduled for May 19 at 6:45 a.m. at Cooper Field. Register at Denich Gym by May 16. There are free T-shirts for the first 100 to register.

Follow up the 5K with a run for the kids, aged 4-16. Beginning at 9 a.m., kids can run a 1/2 mile, 1 mile, or 2 mile race. All participants receive a free T-shirt. Register by May 18 at the Youth Center.

For more information, call Alana at 2113.

## North East Gate Tour

Cubans used to shine a spotlight at the Marine barracks at the North East Gate until a large eagle, globe, and anchor was built. Learn more about the history and lineage of the North East Gate and the United States Marines at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay.

Meet at Marine Hill Parade Deck every third Friday of the month at 11 a.m.

## 6th Street Closed

6th Street in the Villamar housing area will be closed until July 9th.

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# Trooper to Trooper

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## manager or leader

ARMY 1ST SGT. JASON M. SCHOFIELD  
HHC, 525TH MILITARY POLICE BATTALION

Many of us have heard the phrase “The early bird catches the worm!” or “Haste makes waste!” They are meant to inspire us to be successful and productive in our work and our lives. Many of us hear these age old adages and think to ourselves how true they are or aren’t based on our own perspective. Then we either forget about them amidst the hustle and bustle of our daily lives or embrace them in an attempt to guarantee our success.

In the military we may hear co-workers complain about still being at work at 4 p.m.; it’s messing up their plans for the evening. We often forget that we are a profession that is often called on at a moment’s notice to accomplish a seemingly impossible task under the most discouraging conditions with little assistance. We are asked to work extra hours without getting extra pay to accomplish the mission for the greater good. Sometimes we have to do things that are not within our daily job description to ensure that our units are successful as a whole. All persons who volunteered to join the Armed Forces, regardless of branch, made a choice to accept all the things that come with the profession.

A wise man once shared his insight with me when I was a young boy at my first job 22 years ago. I had been hired on as a janitor/custodian at an asphalt plant. I had asked why we had to be at work so early and he replied, “A man who needs a job can’t be

picky about when he works.” One morning, about an hour into the day, a truck arrived with about a dozen trees that needed to be planted. The manager told me that he was short a worker; it was now my job to get the trees into the ground and watered. It was scorching hot that day, and I complained all day long saying it wasn’t my job and asking why I had to do it? I kept mumbling to myself “I wish it was quitin’ time.” The man heard me mumbling and complaining and said, “Did the boss tell you to plant the trees?” I nodded. “It’s your job then. Besides, if the trees aren’t planted they will die in this heat,” the wise man said. Around 6 p.m. the man joined me, and we finished working about two hours later. He said, “Son, if I teach you only one thing in life then I want it to be this; He who lives by the hand will always be a hand!” The wise man was my stepfather. I still live by those words today, and it still helps me to be successful.

“He who lives by the hand will always be a hand” is simple to understand. He who lives by the hand means that you constantly watch the hands of the clock and perform your duties with the expectation of stopping or starting at a certain time. Will always be a hand refers to being hired help, just like the workers on a ranch/farm. If you want to be a leader you can’t base your days around the proverbial 9 to 5 job and expect to be successful.

There is a difference between being in charge and being a leader. Those that are in charge often tell you what and when



they want something done and leave you to finish it. Those that are leaders will assist you in being successful and will, without question, offer guidance and sometimes assistance to ensure completion of the task. Subordinates work for managers, however, subordinates work for, respect and try to emulate leaders.

The branches of service are changing and quality people will be let go. If you want to stay in the service and continue to succeed, you must outperform your peers and excel above the minimum standard. I challenge you to do some self reflection and ask yourself this question: Are you a manager or leader?



## Start planning now for next year’s tax return

### IRS recommends easy steps to take

By Sgt. 1st Class Kryn P. Westhoven

The deadline for filing your federal income tax return was less than a month ago, but it is not too early to start planning for next year’s taxes according to the Internal Revenue Service.

The IRS recently released a list of ideas that taxpayers can use this year to make next April 15 easier. Start with your pay stub or Leave and Earning Statement. Verify that your retirement account contributions, charitable payroll deductions and other items are being properly deducted. These payroll adjustments can make a big difference in your net pay. Fixing an error in your paycheck now gets you back on track before it becomes a huge hassle. If you owed the IRS or received a large refund, maybe it’s time to adjust your withholdings. By filing a new W-4 Employee’s Withholding Allowance Certificate, you can increase or reduce allowances based on your exemptions. Common exemptions include your spouse and any dependents. You can also claim yourself as an exemption. The more exemptions you claim, the less money that is withheld from your paycheck. While this could reduce your potential tax refund, it could also increase your net pay.

If you owed taxes in 2011, you might want to reduce your exemptions. Having an additional dollar amount withheld from your paycheck is another way of ensuring you don’t owe taxes at the end of the year. There is a withholding calculator at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov). The website also offers Publication

919, “How Do I Adjust My Tax Withholding?” as a guide.

If your deductible expenses are likely to exceed the itemizing threshold, you’ll probably be better off itemizing your taxes rather than taking the standard deduction. Identifying extra mortgage payments, pre-deadline property tax payments, planned donations or strategically paid medical bills early, could equal some tax savings. See the 1040 Schedule A instructions for expenses you can deduct if you’re itemizing, and then prepare an approach that works best for you.

The American Opportunity Tax Credit, which offsets higher education expenses up to \$2,500, will expire after 2012. It may be beneficial to pay 2013 tuition this year to take full advantage of this tax credit before it expires. Refer to IRS Publication 970, “Tax Benefits for Education,” to see if your education expenses qualify.

Organizing your charity receipts and other tax records can reduce stress during tax season. Whether it is a shoebox or a filing cabinet, establishing a central location where everyone in your household can put tax-related records all year long can help avoid a scramble for mileage logs or receipts come tax time.

Keep an organized and easily accessible record of your financial documents. That way if you receive an IRS notice and need to refer to your return, it is easy to find.

see IRS page 16

## Long fight predicted in Gitmo Sept. 11 case

By Ben Fox  
The Associated Press

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba — The U.S. has finally started the prosecution of five Guantanamo Bay prisoners charged in the Sept. 11 attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people, but the trial won’t be starting anytime soon, and both sides said Sunday that the case could continue for years.

Defense lawyer James Connell said a tentative trial date of May 2013 is a “placeholder” until a true date can be set for the trial of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the self-described mastermind of the attacks, and his co-defendants.

“It’s going to take time,” said the chief prosecutor, Army Brig. Gen. Mark Martins, who said he expects to battle a barrage of defense motions before the case goes to trial.

“I am getting ready for hundreds of motions because we want them to shoot everything they can shoot at us,” he said in the wake of Saturday’s arraignment, which dragged on for 13 hours due to stalling tactics by the defendants.

“Everyone is frustrated by the delay,” Martins said. He noted that the civilian trial of convicted Sept. 11 conspirator Zacarias Moussaoui took four years, and he pleaded guilty in 2006 before being sentenced to life in prison.

On Saturday, Mohammed and his co-defendants refused to respond to the judge or use the court’s translation system and one of the men demanded a lengthy reading of the charges. Connell called the tactics “peaceful resistance to an unjust system.”

The arraignment, Connell said, “demonstrates that this will be a long, hard-fought but peaceful struggle against secrecy, torture and the misguided institution of the military commissions.”

The defendants’ actions outraged relatives of the victims.

see GTMO page 16

### PROTECT YOUR INFO! PSEC ALERT

#### Cyber crime is real.

Cyber criminals are out there. In 2010 there were over 300,000 cases reported to the Internet Crime Complaint Center. Internet scams and identity theft were two of the top three crimes reported. California and Florida are the two states with the highest reports of cyber crime. Beware of websites offering “Free Samples” if you pay shipping costs, or people from foreign countries offering a reward if you wire them money. There are also scams involving “mystery shoppers” or “make money from home”. These scammers ask for your information or credit card numbers only to steal your identity or charge up your credit. Don’t fall for it! Be safe and protect yourself from cyber crime, USE OPSEC.

## Super Troopers

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

SGT Wilder	SGT McCumber
SFC Ruffing	SPC Reimer
1LT Berinstein	SPC Smith
SGT Ball	SFC Mower
SSG Phillips	

# Trooper Focus

—the boss says

“Staff Sgt. Purcell’s best trait, in my opinion, is his take charge and accomplish the mission attitude. He doesn’t wait to be given guidance and direction if it’s something he knows needs to be done. He just completes the task.”

## Staff. Sgt. Lewis Purcell

By Spc. Vanessa Davila

According to Merriam-Webster dictionary, a curmudgeon is a crusty, ill-tempered and usually old man. Staff Sgt. Lewis Purcell is all those things except old — at least when you first meet him.

“I’m a negative person, and I focus on the negative; that’s just me,” Purcell declares within the first 5 minutes of a long and eventful interview. “I haven’t changed ever. I’m the same as I was when I was 18. I’ve always been the same. Honestly I’m no different. I’m really good at being angry.”

On and on Purcell goes describing himself. You can’t help but like him, though. His in-your-face honesty is refreshing in a place where customs and courtesies rule. Some might consider it brazen, but those that do just don’t understand Lewis Purcell.

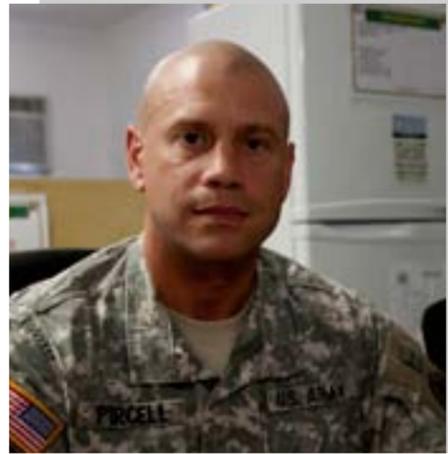
A self-described workaholic, he is the human resources non-commissioned officer for the 525th Military Police Battalion’s Headquarters and Headquarters Company. That wasn’t a typo — the curmudgeon has been a human resources

specialist, a profession that demands he help an array of individuals with “human” issues, for all 11 years of his Army career. That’s because Purcell isn’t all that cantankerous after all. His favorite part of the job is helping soldiers, especially the ones who are truly in a bind.

“If you’re an NCO you’ll spend most of your time dealing with one or two soldiers because the good ones don’t take up a lot of time,” says Purcell. “Every once in a while you’ll have a good soldier that runs into a rough spot... helping them through those times ... I like helping people.”

You’ll have a hard time finding a soldier, senior or junior, saying he isn’t great at his job, whether they like his persona or not. Don’t confuse Purcell’s many personality quirks for arrogance though; he is quite modest. Others say he is great at his job; Purcell only declares himself a workaholic.

“I don’t know where they get it from,” says Purcell about soldiers who praise him. “I care



and I try. I don’t think I’m a good NCO; I think I try.”

Purcell isn’t like many others. He can shock and captivate all at once. He hunts with a bow and arrow and not a rifle like hunters usually do. Without a rifle, he has to get dangerously close to the animal he’s pursuing, making him with his bow and arrow and the beast with his horns equal opportunists. But it’s not the adrenaline rush that compels him to use the bow and arrow.

“It’s about fairness. It’s not like you go out and just slaughter whatever is running around,” says Purcell.

You have to keep peeling away the layers when you talk to Purcell. No need to chip away because he will tell you just about everything — you just have to take a second to stop disliking him to realize you’re enjoying the conversation and you like him after all.

### Bullet Bio

**Hobbies:** Archery, do-it-yourself remodeling  
**Target or Wal-Mart:** Costco  
**About his mom:** “I think I got the craziness from her. Honestly, I think my mom’s a little touched.”

**Advice to junior troopers:** “Learn something from everybody. You’ve got good leaders, you’ve got bad leaders. You can learn just as much from a bad leader as you can from a good one.”

## BOOTS ON THE GROUND

### What’s your fondest memory of your mother?



THIS WE’LL DEFEND

# New Army focus on Pacific doesn’t mean abandoning Middle East



By C. Todd Lopez  
 Army News Service

WASHINGTON -- While the Army has a new emphasis on the Asia and Pacific region, it doesn’t mean the service will be unable to meet obligations in the Middle East -- if need be, said the Army’s chief of staff.

Earlier this year, Gen. Raymond T. Odierno said the Army will put an increased emphasis on the Asia and Pacific region and a renewed emphasis on its partnerships there with allies, including a “trilateral” partnership between the United States, Korea and Japan.

But that renewed emphasis doesn’t mean the Army will abandon its roles elsewhere, he said.

“I don’t see us necessarily rebalancing from the Middle East to Asia/Pacific,” Odierno told lawmakers March 8 during a hearing before the Senate Armed Services Committee. “Based on the priorities we’ve established, Asia/Pacific is first, closely followed behind by the Middle East. But I don’t think that is causing us to have less attention and capability available to use in the Middle East.”

The general said in other parts of the world the Army may be diminishing its “potential to influence” -- but that’s not true in the Middle East.

“I have confidence that we will be able to do what we need to do if necessary, in the Middle East, even though we have now provided some focus in the Pacific region,” he said.

### IRAQ

The Army recently pulled out of Iraq -- today, there are about 150 Soldiers in country there, who now work in support of the Department of State. But al-Qaeda continues to be active there, though Odierno said he has confidence the Iraqi security forces, originally trained by Americans, can defend themselves.

“There are reports that there has been some increase, especially in Anbar province, of al-Qaeda, and also in Baghdad,” Odierno said. “I am still confident that Iraqi security forces can handle the violence. The issue becomes that we need the people of Iraq to continue to reject al-Qaeda and not allow them to get back in and form groups.”

The general also said that unrest, in places like Syria, could be exploited by al-Qaeda.

But in the Middle East, the Army still has Soldiers who can react in Iraq, if called on to do so, Odierno told lawmakers.

“We have a brigade combat team that came out of Iraq and is now inside of Kuwait, we have some aviation elements that are also inside of Kuwait,” he said. “We have people in Kuwait that also support Afghanistan. The current number is somewhere between 12,000 and 15,000. It will come down over time, probably to something less than 10,000 in Kuwait.”

Those Soldiers, he said allow the Army to “react with ground forces if necessary, if it was in our best national interest.”

### DRAWDOWN

As part of budget cuts, the withdrawal from Iraq and the coming drawdown from Afghanistan -- the Army will cut about 80,000 Soldiers from the active force end strength. The service will go from about 570,000 to 490,000. The drawdown will last about six years, Odierno said, and will begin this year.

“We have developed this ramp, which we believe can be accomplished mostly through attrition,” Odierno said. “And with the rate that we’re reducing the ramp, we believe that we can continue to meet our commitments in Afghanistan and our other deployable commitments with rotational forces.”

Secretary of the Army John McHugh told lawmakers that nearly half of the Army budget goes to personnel. He told lawmakers that making cuts to the Army budget means balancing personnel needs against other needs, “the modernization, the equipping, the family programs, the things that, if you don’t support them, you’re on a quick path to a hollow Army.”

McHugh said the Army will try to make the cuts as “humanly as possible.”

“We’re working as hard as we can to try to manage both our discharges and our accessions in a way so that we don’t have to have forced outs,” McHugh said. “They’re not something anyone likes to go through, but the reality is, at the end of the day, we’re probably going to have to ask some Soldiers who have served honorably and who meet at least minimum criteria, to perhaps think about a next challenge in their lives.”

### SMART PHONES

## Information Assurance

Smart phones, or mobile phones with advanced capabilities like those of personal computers (PCs), are appearing in more people’s pockets, purses, and briefcases. Smart phones’ popularity and relatively lax security have made them attractive targets for attackers. Smart phones recently outsold PCs for the first time, and attackers have been exploiting this expanding market by using old techniques along with new ones. Technical security measures, such as firewalls, antivirus, and encryption, are uncommon on mobile phones, and mobile phone operating systems are not updated as frequently as those on personal computers. Many users fail to enable the security software that comes with their phones, and they believe that surfing the internet on their phones is as safe as or safer than surfing on their computers.

### Some of the vulnerabilities of smart phones

- Portability of mobile phones and PDAs make them easy to steal.
- Malicious apps and software.
- Phishing attacks.
- Vishing attacks (phishing voice calls).
- Smishing attacks (phishing SMS/MMS messages).

### Some tips for users

- Set a password
- Download the updates for your phone
- Use discretion when downloading apps
- Pay attention to the private data accessed by apps
- Exercise caution with links in SMS messages
- Download a “find your phone” app to help locate your phone if it is lost or stolen
- Enable the Wipe feature on your phone, so you can clear all the data if you can’t get your phone back.

# CENTER MASS

Interview by Army Staff Sgt. Lewis Hill, Jr.



## United States Marine Corps Sgt. Rose Coleman

**Hometown:** Slato, Texas

**Age:** 25

**Married:** Marine Sgt. James Coleman

**Time in Service:** 8 years

**Height:** 5'9

**Weight:** 150 pounds

**Question: Are you the only female Marine on GTMO?**

**Answer:** I do believe so, yes. Gunnery Sgt. Hurlburt, who just left, told me I was the only female Marine in the Joint Task Force.

**Question: How does that make you feel?**

**Answer:** It is definitely different. You know the female Marines train just as hard as the males do. Like [five] percent of Marines are females, so we are looked at that much harder. We are expected to do everything the male Marines do.

**Question: Being the only Marine female, do you get any weird looks?**

**Answer:** Every day I walk into a chow hall and everyone looks up. You just don't see to many female Marines. It kind of gets on my nerves a little bit, because I am an individual. It's a little nerve racking. There are only four Marines, including myself, on this side (JTF GTMO) so we already get weird looks. Being a female Marine, I stand out even more. I have learned to deal with it and move on.

**Question: Everyone has a story to tell. So, what is your story?**

**Answer:** My cousin Bobby joined the Marine Corps and I pretty much followed in his steps. I enlisted right out of high school.

**Question: Why was your cousin Bobby such an influential part in your decision to join the Marines?**

**Answer:** Bobby and I were about the same age, and I always looked up to him because he is family. He sold the Marine Corps to me. Whenever you get someone to join you get promoted. Funny thing was, he made it all the way through boot camp and did a switch in service and joined the Navy. I don't know, just growing up he was the one in my family always saying he would go somewhere and do something and I'm like 'I can do that, too.' It's more of a competitive type relationship I guess.

**Question: What was your life like before the Marines?**

**Answer:** I grew up on a farm doing a lot of heavy lifting and things like that. We had a bunch of different animals. I never really had any girls around growing up. It was just my cousin Bobby and my brother. It's all guys. I was always doing whatever the guys were doing. I found it to be more of a physical challenge; to push myself and see how far I could go.

**Question: Do you have any siblings?**

**Answer:** I have a brother but I really didn't get along with him.

**Question: You've been in for eight years. Has anything changed for you in that time?**

**Answer:** I have more rank and responsibilities I suppose.

**Question: Do you still have the same passion as before?**

**Answer:** I strive to learn something new everyday. This is actually my first joint billet, so I am constantly learning new things. I get to see how the other services operate and conduct business.

**Question: What have you learned from the other services?**

**Answer:** I've learned about the different traditions with each service. I've learned about their rank structure and the way they conduct daily operations.

**Question: Where do you see yourself in the future?**

**Answer:** I plan on doing 20 years and maybe more. I'm going to go as far as I can. I definitely do enjoy being a Marine.

**Question: Do you foresee any obstacles in your way?**

**Answer:** The Marine Corps, like all the other services, is downsizing. Before the downsizing, you had up to 13 years to make your E-6; now it's 10 years. The average Marine has been in five years by the time they pick up sergeant. The average time spent as a sergeant is about four to five years. Right there you are at that 10 year mark. I will possibly be looking at E-6 before my 10 year mark. It's competitive. I know they can extend you until you get looked at. However, if you get passed over you get kicked out. It's that competitive now.

**Question: How do you set yourself apart from everyone else?**

**Answer:** Being a sergeant for three years now, I've gotten that part down. Now it's growing as a leader. Everyone has different leadership styles. You just have to find yours and develop it. Use the tools that you get from your peers and superiors and try to be yourself. On top of that, I have to go to additional schools and take those tougher positions.

# A Filipino-American: CMC Tiong

By Army Sgt Saul Rosa

Nearly thirty years ago, Command Master Chief Reynaldo Tiong raised his right hand and swore to defend the people of the United States. To understand his dedication you must look at his past like looking at the foundation of a house, each brick solidifying his character and adding support to his future.

The first brick in his foundation was placed there by his mother. Tiong's father passed away when he was only four. To support her children, his mother traveled to America to establish a better life. Tiong and his siblings stayed behind and lived with family in the Philippines.

"She influenced me by showing me that if you sacrifice, if you pursue your goal and you're persistent and work hard towards that goal then you will achieve it," said Tiong. "My mother didn't want us to go through what she went through."

Tiong grew up immersed in his homeland's culture and religion. There, he gained morals and values that would act like the mortar in his foundation.

"Moral values are what I gained growing up in the Philippines," said Tiong. "I saw the hardship, but if you strive to be better, the best you can be, then you can accomplish your dream."

With the base of his foundation started, Tiong, now fifteen, and his siblings left the Philippines to live with their mother in America. Tiong faced new challenges that would add more than one brick to his walls as he attended high school and merged his Filipino background with American culture.

"Growing up during that time was difficult but beneficial," said Tiong. "I faced the backlash of the racial movements as an Asian-American, but I also reaped in the benefits of the new equal opportunities."

After high school, Tiong wanted to make a difference while not being a burden to his family. Inspired by the sacrifices that his mother made, he started a new layer in his life's foundation.

"I graduated and I didn't know what to do, but I wanted to make a difference for myself, my family and my mom," said Tiong.

Tiong's uncles had served in the United States Navy, so knowing the opportuni-

ties that the military offered, Tiong decided to serve. He was mentored by senior Filipino sailors during his first assignment as a young aviation boatswain's mate.

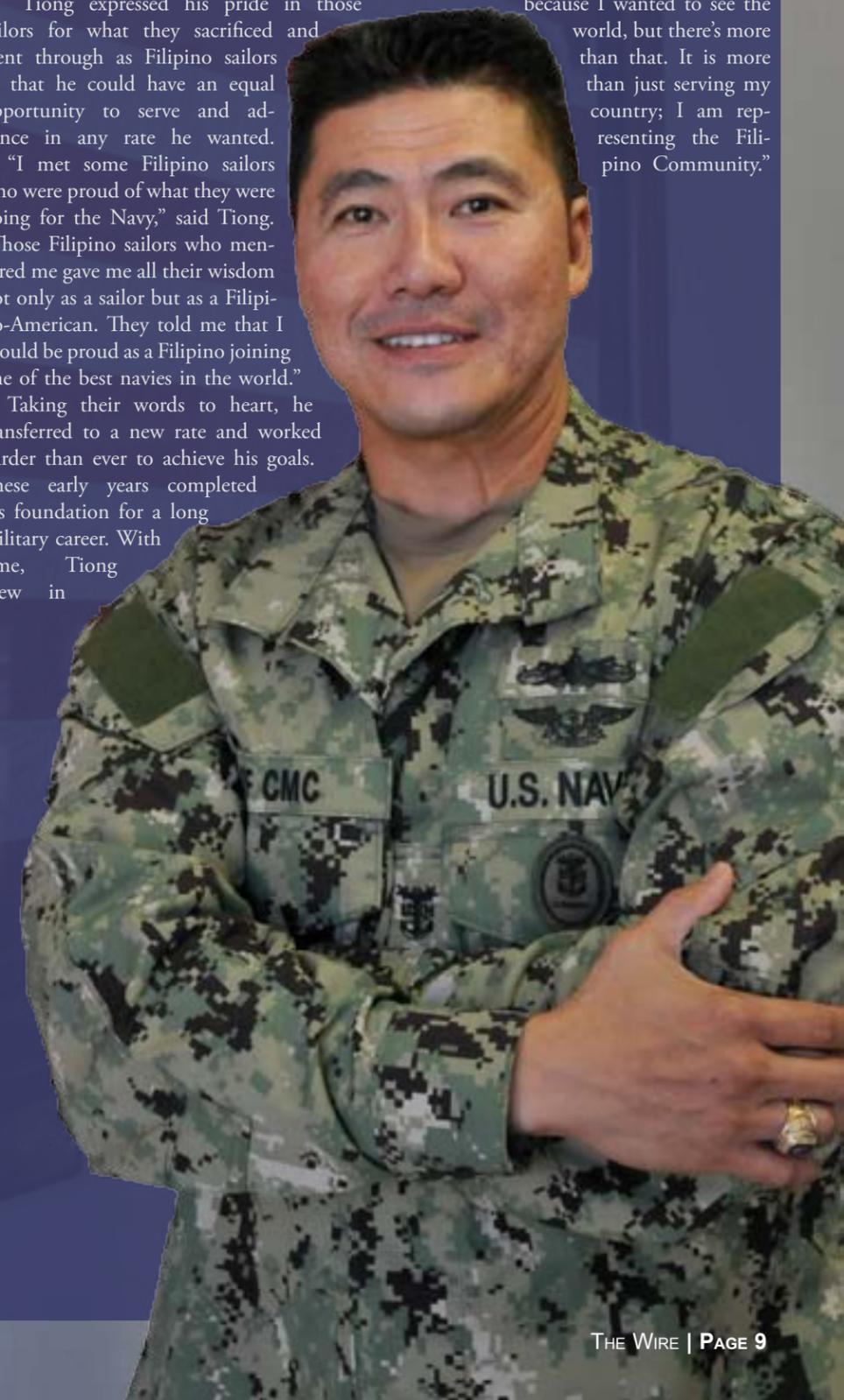
Tiong expressed his pride in those sailors for what they sacrificed and went through as Filipino sailors so that he could have an equal opportunity to serve and advance in any rate he wanted.

"I met some Filipino sailors who were proud of what they were doing for the Navy," said Tiong. "Those Filipino sailors who mentored me gave me all their wisdom not only as a sailor but as a Filipino-American. They told me that I should be proud as a Filipino joining one of the best navies in the world."

Taking their words to heart, he transferred to a new rate and worked harder than ever to achieve his goals. These early years completed his foundation for a long military career. With time, Tiong grew in

rank and responsibility, settling down and having children.

"I took their mentorship and made my life better," said Tiong. "I joined the Navy because I wanted to see the world, but there's more than that. It is more than just serving my country; I am representing the Filipino Community."



# SUPERMOMIS



By Pvt. Loren Cook

Mention Mother's Day to the average American, and chances are good he or she will think of family dinners, sending heartfelt cards, attending church services, and wearing red or white carnations—traditional ways to celebrate the holiday.

Mention Mother's Day to a deployed Trooper, and chances are good he or she will think instead about Facebook messages, Skype chats, cards mailed weeks in advance, 20 minute morale calls, and SCSI phone cards. These are just a few of the options Troopers can use to honor their mothers on Mother's Day.

What happens, however, when the kids are at home and their mothers are deployed? Servicemembers are used to making the extra effort to get in contact with their mothers, but what if mothers had to go the extra mile to contact their children instead? What if this wasn't just a problem on Mother's Day, but also on the other 364 days of the year? This is the reality faced by many women in the military; a reality that has become increasingly

more common in the past ten years due to the widespread mobilization and deployment of both active-duty and reserve component servicemembers.

"My daughter is worried. She thinks I missed my birthday in February, and now she thinks I'm going to miss Mother's Day too," said Tech. Sgt. Gina Mezzacasa, a resident of Kansas City, Mo., currently deployed as a pest manager with the 474<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron here.

Mezzacasa is the proud mother of a 5-year old daughter, Elliana. She thinks her daughter is at an age where she understands that her mother is gone, but can't understand why.

"If she were older, she'd be able to understand a little better why her mother is gone," said Mezzacasa. "She'd still miss me, but it would probably be easier."

Army Sgt. Maj. Callie Leaver, a resident of Auburn, Ala., an adoptive parent, and the command sergeant major of the Joint Detention Group, thinks age and experience have made a difference.

"My daughter is 11, and this isn't my first deployment away from her, so she's pretty

good at dealing with the separation," Leaver said.

Army Capt. Ana Schaus, a resident of Savannah, Ga., and the logistics officer for the JDG, thinks her two boys are young enough to make the separation easier.

"I have two boys: a 2-year-old and a 1-year-old. I've been gone more than I've been home," Schaus said. "They're with their wonderful, loving father. I don't think they miss me at all."

So how can mothers stay in touch with their children back home?

Leaver likes to draw pictures and send them to her daughter.

"I'm not gifted in the art department, so they'll just be stick figures, but I've drawn my living quarters for her," Leaver laughs.

Leaver also sends copies of the JDG's newsletter home.

"Reading the newsletter lets her see what I'm doing and I think that makes her feel closer to me," Leaver said.

As deployments separated more and more families during the last ten years, technology was improving, allowing for better and more efficient communication with family members

## Troopers balance motherhood with defending truth, justice, and the American way



back home.

All three of these mothers call home several times a week. Leaver maintains a routine for her phone calls.

"It's tempting to be selfish and call home whenever I feel like it, but I don't think that's the right answer. Before I do something, I need to ask myself 'Is this going to help my child,'" Leaver said. "By having a schedule for my calls home, I know my daughter isn't sitting around wondering when the next call is going to come."

"Texting also helps out a lot," Leaver said. "It doesn't need to be a long message, but a simple 'I love you' is enough to let my daughter know that I'm thinking about her."

Skype is a popular option for many servicemembers who are trying to stay in touch with loved ones. These mothers are no different.

"I try to Skype with my daughter when I can," said Mezzacasa. "Skype doesn't work as well as I'd like all the time, but I know my daughter likes the face-to-face contact."

"At five years old, there's only so much you can talk about on the phone. With Skype, she

likes to play, and she can show me when she gets new clothes. It's more like we're hanging out," Mezzacasa said.

"My boys draw pictures and make crafts for me. They'll show me on Skype, and then send them to me in the mail," Schaus said.

"I can use Skype to do things I just couldn't do with the phone," Leaver said. "I always end phone calls to my daughter by blowing her a kiss. When I do it on Skype, she catches the kiss and puts it in her pocket."

Technology has clearly made it easier for mothers to communicate with their children at home. Even so, it can't solve all the challenges deployed mothers face.

"When you deploy, you remember the kid you left behind. When you come home, you expect to come home to the same kid," Leaver said. "Deployment isn't a time warp, though. Your kid continues its life, and it's not necessarily going to be the same kid you remember, anymore than you'll be the exact same person you were when you left home."

"I'm a single mother, and I'm used to making all of the major decisions in my daughter's life," Mezzacasa said. "Her father

has been involved with her life, but now she's living with him. It's just very hard to let go of things back home and focus on the mission here. I had to learn to trust that he would take care of her."

"I think the greatest challenge I'll face from this deployment is the reintegration when I come home," Schaus said. "Since my kids are so young, and I've been gone so much, they'll have trouble adjusting to this strange woman. It's a challenge I'm happy to accept, though!"

"I think the greatest advice I can give to any deployed parent is to listen to your child," said Leaver. "Your child will tell you what's going to help. It might not be as obvious as saying 'Mommy, this is how you can help me,' but if you listen, they'll tell you somehow. It's like at the range, when you 'take all commands from the tower.' Now you take all commands from the child."

*Left: Tech. Sgt. Gina Mezzacasa proudly poses with a picture of her 5-year-old daughter, Elliana.*

*Right: Army Capt. Ana Schaus shows off her two boys, Leonardo and Sebastian.*

*-photos by Army Pvt. Loren Cook*

# 10 THINGS I KNOW...

By Spc. Vanessa Davila

*As Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers, we have all seen our fair share of cyclists around the island. In honor of National Bike Month, here are some facts about bicycles and their riders. The twists and turns you can make with the simple-looking contraption are indicative of its colorful tales.*

No study has quantified Davis, California's claim of "most bicycle friendly town in the world," but the evidence is pretty compelling. There are more bikes than cars in the town and 95 percent of Davis' major streets have bike lanes.

Americans are lagging behind Europeans, literally. Americans use their bikes for less than 1 percent of urban trips. Europeans on the other hand ride their bikes around cities about 30 times more.

The first bicycle with pedals hit the streets in the 1860s. Its inventor Pierre Michaux called it the velocipede, but it soon got the nickname boneshaker because of its uncomfortable, bone-shaking ride. The bike was made of wood and iron.

In a little known part of the world, Colombia's capital Bogota has a ciclovía every Sunday and national holiday. What is a ciclovía? Well literally translated it means bike path in Spanish, but as an event it means the capital closes down 75 miles of its city roads to motorized vehicles leaving cyclists free to roam.

The first bike helmets documented date back to around the 1880s but they wouldn't do much for riders today. They were made of a material called pith and usually came apart on impact. The next generation of helmets didn't improve much as they were made of leather and wool. It wasn't until the mid 1970s that helmets became good at their job.

Copenhagen, Denmark, is one of the most bike-friendly cities. It is no surprise then that Denmark's technical and environmental department says Nørrebrogade is the busiest bicycle street in the world.

As uncomfortable as the boneshaker was it might just be the earliest documented bike used for police patrols. Reports suggest an Illinois sheriff provided bikes to his deputies in 1869.

Yankees legend Babe Ruth is known for many baseball feats, but cyclists know him for one that has nothing to do with baseball. Before the Sultan of Swat signed with the Yankees in 1922, cyclists were the highest paid athletes.

The average cyclist will probably never exceed 100 mph. Dutch cyclist Fred Rompelberg is not your average cyclist though. He set the world speed record for cycling in 1995, clocking in at a whopping 167.044 mph. He was 50 years old.

Cars and cyclists often collide literally and figuratively. The New York Times found that cycling is still less deadly than the flu. The newspaper compiled data in 2007 showing that bike accidents accounted for 762 annual deaths while the flu accounted for 59,664 annual deaths.



## Battaglia: U.S. troops in Korea ready and resilient



By Walter T. Ham IV  
Eighth Army Public Affairs

YONGSAN GARRISON, South Korea - The U.S. military's top enlisted leader met with American service members here in South Korea May 1 - 5.

Marine Sgt. Maj. Bryan B. Battaglia visited with U.S. troops during his week-long visit to military posts across the Korean Peninsula.

He also met with senior military leaders, including U.S. Army Gen. James D. Thurman, commander of United Nations Command, Combined Forces Command and U.S. Forces Korea, and Eighth Army Commanding General Lt. Gen. John D. Johnson.

It was his first trip to South Korea since becoming the chairman's senior enlisted advisor. He previously deployed to Korea for an exercise in the early 1980s.

A combat veteran with more than 32 years in uniform, Battaglia assumed the duties as the senior enlisted advisor to Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Martin Dempsey on Oct. 1, 2011.

"It's been my honor and privilege to visit with Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and family members here on the Korean Peninsula," said Battaglia. "I am very, very proud of their courage and commitment and the relationship especially that the U.S. has with the ROK [Republic of Korea] forces."

Battaglia said the bilateral relationship enables the alliance to "deter and prevent the daily threat of possible conflict with North Korea."

Emphasizing the importance of the U.S.

presence in Korea, Battaglia said American troops on the Korean Peninsula have to maintain a very high level of readiness.

"We have potential threats that live very nearby," said Battaglia. "It's extremely important for us to maintain a footprint not only in the best interest of our national security but in the protection and best interest of this Korean Peninsula."

"There's a constant state of readiness here," said Battaglia, who served in al-Anbar Province during the Iraq War. "You really have to keep a game face on."

As the U.S. military reshapes and downsizes after a decade of war in Iraq and Afghanistan, Battaglia said the Department of Defense will strike a "balance" that maintains military readiness.

The senior enlisted leader also highlighted the importance of resiliency programs to readiness.

"They are intertwined," said Battaglia. "If I don't have the ability to overcome adversity, I'm not ready. That's simply what resiliency is -- the ability to overcome adversity. If a family doesn't practice resiliency and is not ready, that causes a service member to not be ready either."

Battaglia said that American troops continue to serve with distinction in Korea and around the world.

"We ask more from our troops now than ever before in our history of our armed forces and these troops continue to clearly answer the call," said Battaglia.

## ON THE DECK ONR outreach focuses on Pacific total force

By Katherine H. Crawford  
Office of Naval Research Public Affairs

ARLINGTON, Va. (NNS) -- The Office of Naval Research (ONR) will bring its technologically advanced fuel cell vehicle (FCV) and scientific expertise to the 2012 Pacific Operational Science & Technology (S&T) Conference in Honolulu, March 19-22.

"The Pacific Rim is a key strategic area for the Navy and Marine Corps," said Rear Adm. Matthew Klunder, chief of naval research. "Gathering worldwide leaders in S&T at this event to discuss defense, security and energy-related challenges will increase collaboration and help us find ways to accelerate delivery of new military capabilities."

Klunder speaks during the March 22 "Research and Development Community" panel, along with representatives from the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command; Air Force Research Laboratory; Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency; U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command; and Defense Threat Reduction Agency.

Approximately 400 senior Department of Defense leaders, both military and civilian, as well as leading members of industry and academia from around the world, are expected to attend. The event will focus on how S&T can solve challenges related to regional defense, cyber security, power and energy, communications and maritime security.

Representatives from ONR will showcase one of five Hawaii-based Navy FCVs and provide information about the organization and its initiatives in Booth 6 in the exhibit hall.

The hydrogen-based FCVs, sponsored by ONR, are designed and manufactured by General Motors for an FCV program at Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH). The vehicles are being tested for possible use at Department of the Navy (DoN) installations. At MCBH, plans call for more than 50 percent of the base vehicle fleet to use alternative fuels by the end of this year, increasing to 70 percent by 2015. FCV deployment ultimately could help achieve the secretary of the Navy's goal of reducing fossil fuel use in DoN's commercial vehicle fleet.

Additionally, fuel cell technology is being considered as a potential power source for unmanned undersea vehicles, auxiliary power units, pier-side generators and other applications.

## Official: Asia-Pacific strategy drives planned Marine move

By Karen Parrish  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON -- The agreement between the United States and Japan to relocate some 9,000 Marines from Okinawa is an example of how American troops will build a more flexible, deployable force structure in the Asia-Pacific region, a senior defense official said today.

"We need to look at it in the context of ... enhancing our posture and presence in the Western Pacific writ large," Robert Scher, deputy assistant secretary of defense for plans, told the Pentagon Channel and American Forces Press Service.

About 5,000 of the Marines leaving Okinawa will shift to Guam, up to 2,500 will fill rotational, deployed slots in Australia, and the rest will move elsewhere in the region, Scher said.

A Marine force spread across more area, made up of self-contained units able to deploy and perform a range of contingency missions, will increase the U.S. military's ability to quickly and effectively respond to con-

tingencies, he said.

He noted the joint statement the two nations' representatives announced April 26, which outlines the Okinawa realignment, also provides for a more "politically sustainable" arrangement for basing U.S. troops in Japan. The two nations have agreed that the roughly 10,000 Marines remaining on Okinawa after realignment will move from the highly populated central part of the island to more remote areas in the north, easing conditions for the island's people, Scher said.

"Based on our conversations with the government of Japan, this is something they would like to see done to help make sure that our posture is sustainable ... far into the future," he added.

Both nations feel it's important to accomplish the troop realignment "as expeditiously as possible," Scher said, though they have not yet agreed on a firm timeline.

"There are a lot of different moving pieces ... to any of these moves," he said. "But we're looking to figure out a way that we can very quickly try to move ... elements of Marines off of Okinawa and on to Guam in the

next couple of years."

Scher emphasized projecting a timeline is always difficult, adding, "I would hate to predict when that move would be finally finished."

Wherever Marines move from Okinawa, he added, the troop presence they establish will be a mix of permanently assigned and rotationally deployed elements, "to make sure that in each location, we have operationally relevant and capable units."

One thing troops and their families can count on, he said, is there is "no chance that we're going to [relocate] Marines permanently where they don't have the services they need to take care of themselves and their families."

Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta announced Scher's new position this week. Scher previously served as deputy assistant secretary of defense for south and Southeast Asia, within the office of the assistant secretary of defense for Asian and Pacific security affairs.

## Hogg engages leaders in Djibouti, Ethiopia

By Richard Bartell  
U.S. Army Africa

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia -- During a whirlwind trip to East Africa, Maj. Gen. David R. Hogg, commander, U.S. Army Africa, and a small group of advisers visited U.S. Army troops at Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa, or CJTF-HOA, in Djibouti and attended meetings with African Union mission leaders in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, April 24-27.

Initially, Hogg traveled to Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, where he, along with USARAF Command Sgt. Maj. Hu Rhodes, USARAF's Political Adviser Alan Latimer, and Security Cooperation Desk Officer Ron Stafford took part in a series of briefings with Air Force Brig. Gen. Eugene Haase, deputy commander of Combined Joint Task Force Horn of Africa. Following the CJTF-HOA briefings, Hogg met with Texas Army National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve troops currently working in and around Camp Lemonnier.

Hogg explained the significance and the purpose of the trip, known as a senior leader engagement.

"Senior leader engagements are important

tools to establish relationships and begin partnerships with our African Land Force partners," Hogg said. "It's critical for us to develop these relationships to open doors for further military-to-military training and solid partnerships for future operations as they occur."

Hogg said the trip to HOA and Ethiopia was unlike other SLEs he has taken.

"This trip was unique in that we traveled to Djibouti to meet with Army personnel. It falls under our Title 10 missions, [meaning we have administrative, legal, finance and logistical oversight]. We met with our soldiers to see how they were doing and discuss any needs we can support at the USARAF level. Though these Army units fall under Adm. [Michael] Franklin at CJTF-HOA, our role is to make sure that the Army supports him," Hogg said.

Hogg stopped by to meet with members of the U.S. Army 490th Civil Affairs Battalion who provided more than 5,000 backpacks for school children at 16 schools in the Ali Sabieh area. Additionally, Hogg accompanied the civil affairs personnel to a local library to deliver books and other reading material.

U.S. Army civil affairs soldiers have created a relationship with the local library staff, frequent-

ly arranging donations of English reading and study materials and creating an English language discussion group.

"I'm impressed by the accomplishments of the civil affairs team. They are doing some great things in Ali Sabieh," Hogg said.

The next stop on the SLE was Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

For Hogg, it was his first official engagement in the Ethiopian capital.

In Addis Ababa, Hogg and his team met with U.S. Defense Attaché officials as well as European and African Union representatives.

"It was an opportunity to get to know the African Union and meet with Ugandan Brig. Gen. Jack Bakasumba, the Eastern Africa Standby Brigade commander," Hogg said. The EASB is made up of personnel from Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda, Sudan, Rwanda, Mauritius, Madagascar, Eritrea, Djibouti, Seychelles, Somalia and Tanzania, "so we're looking at ways we can work with them in the future through the CJTF-HOA."

"In the near future, there may be partnership events with the EASB as observers for a USARAF exercise and perhaps a command post exercise, it's all very positive progress," Hogg said.

“They’re engaging in jihad in a courtroom,” said Debra Burlingame, whose brother, Charles, was the pilot of the plane that flew into the Pentagon. She watched the proceeding from Brooklyn on one of the closed-circuit video feeds around the United States.

A handful of those who lost family members in the attacks were selected by a lottery and flown to watch the proceedings at the U.S. naval base in Cuba, where Mohammed and his co-defendants put off their pleas until a later date.

They face 2,976 counts of murder and terrorism in the 2001 attacks that sent hijacked jetliners into New York’s World Trade Center and the Pentagon. The charges carry the death penalty.

The detainees’ lawyers spent hours questioning the judge, Army Col. James Pohl, about his qualifications to hear the case and suggested their clients were being mistreated at the hearing, in a strategy that could pave the way for future appeals. Mohammed was subjected to a strip search and “inflammatory and unnecessary” treatment before court, said his attorney, David Nevin.

It was the defendants’ first appearance in more than three years after stalled efforts to try them for the terror attacks.

The Obama administration renewed plans to try the men at Guantanamo Bay after a bid to try the men in New York City blocks from the trade center site hit political opposition. Officials adopted new rules with Congress that forbade testimony obtained through torture or cruel treatment, and they now say that defendants could be tried as fairly here as in a civilian court.

Nevin said it would be impossible to present testimony against his client that wasn’t corrupted by treatment that he says amounted to torture. “It’s not possible to un-

taint the evidence any more than it is to unring a bell.”

Eddie Bracken of Staten Island, New York, was one of the victims’ relatives allowed to attend the hearing, and said it was important to him to see the people accused of killing his sister, Lucy Fishman, a Brooklyn mother of two who worked in the World Trade Center.

He said he came away with impressed with the military justice system, with defense lawyers putting up an aggressive defense.

“If they had done this another country it would have been a different story,” Bracken said Sunday. “But this is America.”

Human rights groups and defense lawyers say the secrecy of Guantanamo and the military tribunals will make it impossible for the defense. They argued the U.S. kept the case out of civilian court to prevent disclosure of the treatment of prisoners like Mohammed, who was waterboarded 183 times.

Attorney General Eric Holder announced in 2009 that Mohammed and his co-defendants would be tried blocks from the site of the destroyed trade center in downtown Manhattan, but the plan was shelved after New York officials cited huge costs to secure the neighborhood and family opposition to trying the suspects in the U.S.

Congress then blocked the transfer of any prisoners from Guantanamo to the U.S., forcing the Obama administration to refile the charges under a reformed military commission system.

Mohammed, a Pakistani citizen who grew up in Kuwait and attended college in Greensboro, N.C., has admitted to military authorities that he was responsible for the Sept. 11 attacks “from A to Z,” as well as about 30 other plots, and that he personally killed Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl. Mohammed was captured in

2003 in Pakistan.

Ramzi Binalshibh was allegedly chosen to be a hijacker but couldn’t get a U.S. visa and ended up providing assistance such as finding flight schools. Walid bin Attash, also from Yemen, allegedly ran an al-Qaida training camp in Afghanistan and researched flight simulators and timetables. Mustafa Ahmad al-Hawsawi is a Saudi accused of helping the hijackers with money, Western clothing, traveler’s checks and credit cards. Ali Abd al-Aziz Ali, a Pakistani national and nephew of Mohammed, allegedly provided money to the hijackers.

During the failed first effort to prosecute the men at the base in Cuba, Mohammed mocked the tribunal and said he and his co-defendants would plead guilty and welcome execution. The lawyers’ statements indicate that plan has changed.

IRS cont.

You can also use it as a helpful guide for next year’s return.

Finally, keep up with changes in tax rules. The IRS offers an email service that will send you information on tax law changes and helpful tips all year. Subscribe to “IRS Tax Tips” through [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) or IRS2Go, the mobile application now offered.

The IRS emphasizes that each household’s financial circumstances are different, so it’s important to fully consider your specific situation and goals before making large financial decisions.

Correction: In last week’s article on the new Roth option, I stated that participants could make withdrawals when certain IRS requirements were met. However, I didn’t mention that contributors will face a substantial penalty if they withdrawal monies before five years have elapsed. The five years don’t begin on the date of your first Roth contribution, but instead they begin on January 1 of the year of your first contribution.

# Rights have their reason

By Capt. Garland D. Mason III

Are you ready for this? The “Encyclopedia of Genocide” reports that, “In total, during the first eighty-eight years of the twentieth century, almost 170 million men, women, and children were shot, beaten, tortured, knifed, burned, starved, frozen, crushed, or worked to death; buried alive, drowned, hanged, bombed, or killed in any other of the myriad other ways governments have inflicted deaths on unarmed, helpless citizens and foreigners ... The dead could conceivably be more than 360 million people. It is as though our species has been devastated by a modern Black Plague.”

This list of grotesque inhumanities could go on and on to include our own history of slavery. These acts are a violation of human rights and dignity. The question I want to consider is simply, but profoundly, “Why?” On what grounds do we not only feel but know these atrocities are a violation of human dignity? Is it because in most places these things are illegal? No, I think our moral outrage is rooted in something deeper than the question of legality. As Martin Luther King Jr. reminds us in “Letter from Birmingham Jail,” “We can never forget that everything Hitler did in Germany was ‘legal’ ...”

In what then do we ground our idea of human dignity and rights? Why should all people expect to be treated with dignity and respect? The influential philosopher Immanuel Kant believed human dignity was “capacities-based.” People have dignity if they possess certain “capacities,” and the highest capacity is the ability to reason. If you can do certain things like reason, create and communicate, you are due human dignity. Many philosophers have followed in Kant’s wake.

I believe this capacities-based idea is present in the way our culture honors the talented, the beautiful, the powerful and the wealthy. They are the people we are urged to emulate and pay our highest honors and respects to. If you are one of the talented, beautiful, powerful or rich you are “in.” If you are not, you are pushed to the fringes of society. This is the inevitable outcome of a capacities-based model, and I believe this is one of the dominant drum beats of our culture.

Do you see the problem with grounding human dignity in a capacities-based model? What if you lack one of these capacities? What about prematurely delivered babies or Alzheimer’s patients? What about the poor? What about the outsider? Are we prepared to say that because they lack certain capacities, they lack human dignity?

My family and I once attended a Women’s Day event, and afterwards I ask my 13 year-old daughter what she thought about the overall message. Her simple answer was, “Women matter because we have been astronauts and generals.” There it is! Women deserve dignity and respect because of their accomplishments, or should I say capacities. My daughter walked away feeling she must try with all her might to live up to what the culture thought praise worthy. She must be beautiful, make lots of money, become powerful and, above all else, look like that girl on the magazine cover. If she had these capacities, society would count her worthy and valuable.

My fear is that society will misconstrue different groups’ accomplishments as the overriding reason why they are due respect and dignity. There is a better reason for human dignity. I prefer Dr. King’s argument. He did not ground dignity in a capacities-based model. He did not give a list of African Americans’ accomplishments or contributions to humanity and, in virtue of these, demand dignity and respect. Why not? Because he knew the people who held the power determined the acceptable capacities. In other words, if a minority says he or she is due dignity and respect because he or she has accomplished “A,” the power-holding majority could say “A” isn’t good enough. See the problem? Hitler didn’t care what the Jews accomplished. He would have still denied them human dignity.

King argued that African Americans are



due dignity not because of their capacities but because all people are created in the image of God. He believed that human dignity was grounded in God, because if you ground it in man you are left with only man. If man is a rule unto himself, who is there to adjudicate between competing questions of right and wrong?

The late Arthur Leff of Yale Law School summed up the dilemma well in his article “Unspeakable Ethics” when he wrote, “Nevertheless: Napping babies is bad. Starving the poor is wicked. Buying and selling each other is depraved. Those who stood up to and died resisting Hitler [and] Stalin . . . have earned salvation. Those who acquiesced deserve to be damned. There is in the world such a thing as evil. All together now: Sez who?”

Rights do have their reason, and it seems to me Dr. King’s reason in God stands on much firmer footing than Kant’s capacities-based model. According to King, my daughter does not have to earn human dignity and rights; she is born with those rights. Do we really want a world where the people with the most power, money and weapons decide who is due

**ONLY AT GTMO** by Mass Communication Spc. 1st Class Ty Bjornson



# The Lucky One

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Ty Bjornson

Do you believe fate brought you to your circle of friends and family? Was it merely coincidence, luck or circumstance that put you there? Here's another question: does it matter how the people in your life came to be in your life? Perhaps it is more important that they are simply there. No whys, buts or ifs.

Well, for anyone who's ever read a Nicholas Sparks book, or seen a film based on one of his books, you would be well advised to suspend all your beliefs in reality. Instead, you would have to accept his whimsical notion that love is blind and it will find and envelope people when they least expect it. It is a constant in all his tales, which include "Dear John" (2010), "The Notebook" (2004) and "A Walk to Remember" (2002). Let's not beat around the bush here: the success of Sparks' books relies heavily on schmaltz. Not that there's anything wrong with that. It's a little like going into Chuck E. Cheese's and knowing what you're getting yourself into. Did I say cheese? Yes! His novels are quite cheesy. This latest Sparks' film adaptation, "The Lucky One," is another unapologetic staple in Sparks' highly improbable love stories.

"The Lucky One" focuses on young Marine sergeant Logan Thibault (Zac Efron), a troubled man who has completed three tours of duty in the Marine Corps. He has a photo in his possession of a beautiful woman that he found in the Middle-East during combat. For whatever reason, he believes that the photo is good luck and that it has saved his life on several occasions. He returns home to Colorado and realizes he won't find peace there. Looking for closure, he decides to walk to Louisiana in search of

the mystery woman. That's right; he's going to walk to Louisiana and bring his dog too.

Are you still following? This is where you check your brain at the door when watching anything based on a Nicholas Sparks book. How does Logan know the woman is in Louisiana? Let's just say, at the very least, he was able to deduce this astronomically. This fact could be construed as creepy, obsessive and stalker-esque, though these matters are relatively ignored. It is a Sparks absolute, and it must be accepted as such.

The woman in the photo is Beth (Taylor Schilling), a plucky single mom living at her grandmother Ellie's (Blythe Danner) large rural home with a dog kennel business. Logan wants to tell Ellie about the photo and why he's in Louisiana, but the words simply elude him. Through a misunderstanding, Logan agrees to take a job at the kennel. The job conveniently comes with a place to live right on the property.

Beth finds Logan odd and is cautious of him. Naturally in a story like this, the wise old grandmother knows the potential for young love when she sees it. She believes Logan to be a fine, noble young man. Let us forget he is a military drifter like Rambo. He looks like Zac Efron which clearly means he's trustworthy and meant to be with Beth right? Uh, huh.

Naturally, Beth's young son Ben (Thomas Riley Stewart, "How I Met Your Mother") is accepting of Logan. Yes, it's a given that Beth's ex-husband Keith (Jay R. Ferguson, "Mad Men") disapproves of the mysterious drifter having a passionate romance with Beth. It doesn't help the two lovebirds that Keith is a shady sheriff's deputy determined to learn what brought Logan to town.

"The Lucky One" is directed by Scott Hicks who is probably best known for his Oscar nominated bio-pic "Shine" (1996).

That film was a meticulous recreation of the life of driven pianist David Helfgott (played by Geoffrey Rush who won the Best Actor Oscar for the role). His next film was the heated racial period piece "Snow Falling on Cedars" (1999), which was also grand in scope. This time, instead of using an epic canvas to tell the fictitious "The Lucky One," Scott lets the story's whimsy carry the film. The story is treated as serious as it can be, given the premise, and Scott doesn't shy away from being playful with the material either. Unlike his earlier works, this film is intentionally light-hearted and breezy.

Though "The Lucky One" is a romance at heart, it also boasts some impressive visuals. The rural Louisianan vistas are lush and elaborate. Whether it is something as simple as a tree house overlooking a river or sail-boating on the open blue water, this movie is great to look at. Simple shots like sunlight beaming through the treetops are masterfully done. Grandma Ellie's home looks idyllic; like a place you would see in a Thomas Kincaid painting. I would be happy to live in Ellie's house. The cinematography in this movie is one of its charms.

Overall, "The Lucky One" is a charming, likeable movie. We know it's far-fetched, especially when we learn how Beth's photo ended up with Logan and the connection he has to the incident that brought it to him. But we don't care. Sure the movie has some clichés, but the good news is the film is honest in its sappiness. That's what saves it.

"The Lucky One" is nothing grand, but in the right context it is a satisfactory watch. True, there are better Nicholas Sparks movies out there. Nevertheless, this picture has earned the right to be among their ranks. How many of us watch the movies for reality anyway? If you're not expecting too much, "The Lucky One" is a cute little movie.

## GTMO Quick Reference

**Bayview Club – 75604**  
Wed.-Fri. 11 a.m.-8 p.m.  
Sun. & Holidays 8 a.m.-5 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.

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

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

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

**MWR Liberty Centers – 2010**  
Mon.-Th. 11 a.m.-12 a.m.  
Fri. 11 a.m.-1 a.m.  
Sun. 9 a.m.-12 a.m.

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

**Library – 4700**  
Mon.-Sat. 8 a.m.-9 p.m.  
Sun. & Holidays 12-9 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 Club – 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.

**Windjammer Sports Bar**  
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

**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.

**Iglesia Ni Cristo**  
Sunday 5:30 a.m.  
Room A

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

**LDS Service**  
Sunday 10 a.m.  
Room A

**Islamic Service**  
Friday 1 p.m.  
Room C

## GTMO Religious Services

### JTF Trooper Chapel

**Protestant Worship**  
Sunday 9 a.m.

**Bible Study**  
Wednesday 6 p.m.

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

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

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

	11 FRI	12 SAT	13 SUN	14 MON	15 TUE	16 WED	17 THU
<b>Downtown Lyceum</b>	The Avengers (NEW) (PG-13) 8 p.m. Gone (last showing) (PG-13) 10 p.m.	The Avengers (NEW) (PG-13) 8 p.m. John Carter (NEW) (PG-13) 9 p.m.	Act of Valor (last showing) (R) 8 p.m.	A Thousand Words (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Silent House (R) 8 p.m.	The Lucky One (PG-13) 8 p.m.	21 Jump Street (NEW) (R) 8 p.m.
<b>Camp Bulkeley</b>	John Carter (NEW) (PG-13) 8 p.m.	21 Jump Street (NEW) (R) 8 p.m.	The Avengers (NEW) (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Gone (last showing) (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Act of Vaor (last showing) (R) 8 p.m.	A Thousand Words (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Silent House (R) 8 p.m.

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



*Super perigee moons occur about once a year. During this time the moon is 31,000 miles closer to Earth than when it's on its apogee side. Although this year's super moon fell about 250 miles short of last year's super moon, it was still a sight to behold.  
– photos by Mass Communications Spc. 1st Class Kilho Park*