

# The WIRE

An award-winning  
JTF journal



More Photos

# Season of CHANGE

NEGB | 525<sup>th</sup> MP Bn. | BEEF

CAPT. WILLIAM DOCHERTY  
CHIEF OF STAFF, JTF GUANTANAMO

“What could possibly go wrong?” That’s a question we should all be asking ourselves every day as we perform our mission, engage in recreational activities, and go about our daily routine. Without taking the time to think through the possible things that could go wrong, there’s no way to thoughtfully consider the second- and third-order effects of those things. There’s no way to take specific actions to avoid those things. There’s also no way to make an accurate evaluation whether the things that could go wrong are really so bad after all, and whether the benefits from the action you’re planning are worth the chance that something will actually go wrong.

For most of us, this thought process was instilled in us when we were children. We learned to evaluate the “pros and cons” of various activities and courses of action as we learned to ask ourselves questions like “Will I get hurt?” or “Will I get in trouble?” or “Will I make my family look bad?” As adults, we have learned a more refined decision-making tool to help identify risks and benefits and determine the best courses of action. This is called Operational Risk Management, or ORM.

Everyone should be familiar with the five steps of ORM: identify the hazards, assess the hazards, make risk decisions, implement controls, and supervise. While all the steps are of equal importance, it is Step 1: “What could possibly go wrong?” that we need to revisit most frequently. Remember that hazards aren’t just physical dangers like “I might

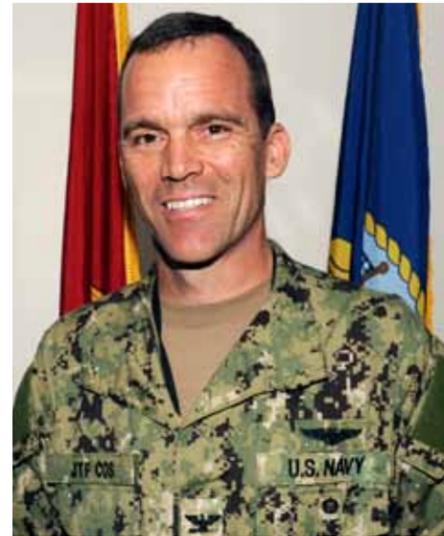
sprain my ankle if I slide into second base” or “I could damage my vehicle and injure/kill myself or others by driving while distracted.” They include the risks to mission accomplishment, unit morale, and the reputation of the United States and Department of Defense. If you don’t take the time to think through everything that could possibly go wrong, then there is no way you can properly evaluate the potential negative consequences (hazards) associated with an activity or action.

In addition to the five steps of ORM, it is important to also understand the tool’s four basic principles, as these will help you take appropriate action to manage risks once all possible hazards have been thought through: accept risk when benefits outweigh the cost, accept no unnecessary risk, anticipate and manage risk by planning, and make risk decisions at the right

level. Many of the risk decisions to increase safety and ensure mission accomplishment have been codified in Standard Operating Procedures, policies, instructions, and regulations; however, each of us is still faced with a huge number of potential hazards every day. These potential hazards need to be identified first before action can be taken to prevent them from causing injury or damage to ourselves, our fellow Troopers, our unit, or our family.

Be smart out there, continue to ask “what could possibly go wrong?” and use the tools of ORM to help keep us all safe while executing our mission every day.

*Without taking the time to think through the possible things that could go wrong, there’s no way to thoughtfully consider the second- and third-order effects of those things.*



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## Navy advancement exams

JTF Sailors: exams are coming up. If you are an individual augmentee to Guantanamo, contact NCCS Stanford at 9541 or email PS1 O’Hara at christina.ohara@usnbgtno.navy.mil as soon as possible to get your name on the exam list. It’s your career!

## Paperclips closed

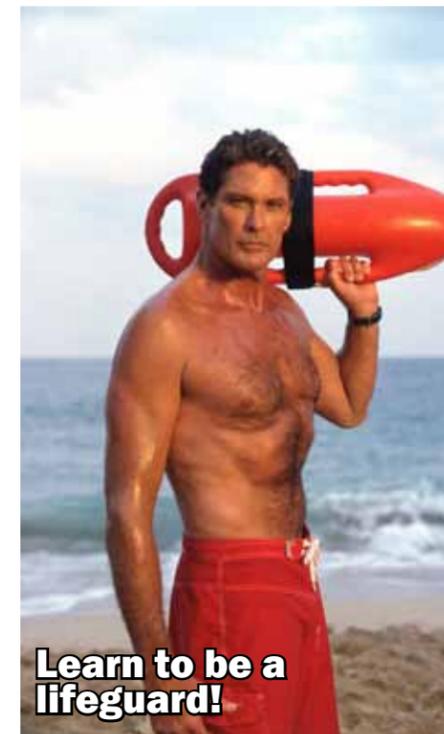
If you need office supplies next week, get them by Wednesday or you’ll get bent out of shape! Paperclips Etc. will be closed July 19 and 20 for annual inventory. The store will resume normal hours June 23.

For more information, call 74603.

## Learn to lifeguard

You guard lives every day while you’re in the military, but how’d you like to learn to be a lifeguard? Starting July 21, the Red Cross offers a class that will teach you just that! For \$80, you get all the instruction you need to be a Red Cross-certified lifeguard. Sign up at the Denich Gym as soon as possible, as space is limited.

For more information, call Tony at 84968.



Learn to be a lifeguard!

## Cloudy skies for Air Sunshine

Until further notice, recreational flights will only be available through IBC Travel. Only service members returning from R&R leave are authorized a reserved seat on the rotator. **Personnel on pass will not have seats reserved.**

For further information, call Air Sunshine’s customer service desk at 1-800-327-8900.

For more information on your pass, ask your chain of command or call the Joint Personnel Center at 9763.

## Use travel insurance!

If you have friends or family visiting over the summer, U.S. Naval Hospital Guantanamo recommends you get travel insurance if your visitor is not active duty or an active duty dependent.

The average price of an urgent medevac is \$30,000. The rotator and C-12 flights are not an option for those who have to be medically evacuated off-station.

## NAVSTA Security car wash

They may see you rollin’, but they’re not hatin’. This Saturday, let the MAs catch you ridin’ dirty, and they’ll wash your car for a donation.

The car wash will be held at the Downtown Lyceum from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

## North East Gate Tour

Want to learn about the history and lineage of the North East Gate and the United States Marines at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay? Meet at the Marine Hill Parade Deck at 11 a.m. on the third Friday of every month for the North East Gate Tour.

For more information, call 2344.

## Jewish religious support available

Jewish chaplain support will be available July 10-24.

For more information, call the NAVSTA Religious Ministry Department at 2323.

## Selling your vehicle?

Need to sell or transfer ownership of a vehicle?

If you buy a vehicle on island, you will need a bill of sale to properly register the vehicle. Current owner has to complete the bill of sale. Vehicle must be registered to current owner (seller). To obtain the bill of sale you are required to show your current registration as proof of ownership.

Contact Naval Legal Service Office Southeast at 4692.

## Call Safe Ride!

Out drinking? Thinking about driving? Put the keys down! Save your life, the lives of others, and your career.

Call 84913/84781.

## JSMART extended hours

The Joint Stress Mitigation and Restoration Team now has extended hours! Stop by JSMART, located by the Trooper Chapel and Camp America Post Office before work and grab a little relaxation time. Operating hours are now 6 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

## Help the Red Cross

The Red Cross is requesting volunteer instructors to lend support to the community. If you are a Red Cross-certified instructor, please call the station manager at 2511.

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# Trooper to Trooper

## What Independence Means To Me

MASTER SGT. JUSTIN SMITH

CAMP V CSB, 525TH MP BN

July is a month that most Americans look forward to for a couple of different reasons. One is that it is the half way point for the year, and people are starting to focus on the summer weather and on having fun during this time. Let us not forget the real reason that July is such a memorable month. This month, during the American Revolution, marked the legal separation of the Thirteen Colonies from Great Britain. The date most people remember is that of July 4, 1776 but in fact the initial separation from Great Britain was voted on and approved by the Continental Congress on July 2, 1776. A declaration was written in one day by five members of the committee and voted on and approved by Congress July 4, 1776.

Regardless of our branch of service we all took an oath to defend the Constitution of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic. As we may not be downrange capturing the world's most dangerous criminals, we stand here in Guantanamo Bay guarding some of the most dangerous criminals in the world 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year without any complaining. Why do we do this? It is because we have a love for our country and will do whatever it takes to keep it safe. We look back on our forefathers who fought and won our independence and continue the esprit de corps, honor and commitment that are needed to defend our country no matter where it takes us in this world or what is asked of us to ensure its safety.



Thinking back on our July Fourth barbeques, fireworks, and events, let us remember what we really celebrate: our independence! We have fought on many different battlefields over the years, but the one remaining constant has been our loyalty to our country and the freedom that we protect. My family has fought in almost every war that the United States has been in, and I hope that we continue this tradition in our family. I think about my grandfather and his time in the Navy during World War II and

my great uncle during the Vietnam Conflict and how much pride they took in wearing the uniform and what they were fighting for. So I ask you to take time out of your day and think of those who came before you. Think of those who will come after you and the sacrifices that we have all made to ensure that we remain a free country. These rights, which have been defended since 1776 and which are still defended today, are what July

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### Commissions OPSEC

Commissions are a time of increased focus on both NAVSTA and JTF-GTMO. It is important to remember that we will have an increase in media and other visitors to the base in support of this very important operation. Here are some OPSEC reminders: Always use the "need to know" principle. Do not talk about work-related material outside the realm of your work environment. Practice 100% shred with paper materials. Remember to stay clear of commission activities and obey all posted restricted area and no photography signs. Do not engage in personal photography of military vehicles, facilities or operations. Protect our personnel, visitors and base while ensuring safe, secure operations. Use OPSEC!

# Auto show is 'smash' hit!

By Army Pvt. Loren Cook



The Navy Ball Committee charged for a chance to swing at an old Chevy Suburban with a sledgehammer to raise money for the Navy's 237th birthday ball. -photo by Pvt. Loren Cook

A line of cars was parked at the Downtown Lyceum—a Datsun 240Z, a Mercedes-Benz E350, an Infiniti G35S, a Toyota Celica, a Mazda RX-8, and several of the ever-present Ford Mustangs—all clean and gleaming in the bright sunlight. Such a scene wouldn't bear comment in Los Angeles, but here at Guantanamo Bay, it's a bit more uncommon.

Last Saturday, the Navy Ball Committee's Car Show Plus made this unusual sight possible, while providing many other attractions for the GTMO community to enjoy. Guantanamo Bay residents could enjoy a good meal, test their might in a Humvee pulling contest, or take out their frustrations by smashing an old junked vehicle with a sledgehammer.

All proceeds generated from the event went toward the Navy's upcoming 237th birthday ball.

"I've been to a number of car shows in other places, but I haven't seen one in the year and a half I've been here, so I thought this would be a good way for us to raise some money and for people to show off their rides," said Master-at-Arms Chief Petty Officer Eduardo Perez, the operations chief petty officer with Naval Station Security.

The Navy Ball Committee charged registration fees to enter a car into the show and for entry into the Humvee-pull contest. Additionally, they sold barbecue and the chance to take a swing at an old Chevy Suburban with a sledgehammer.

"The Suburban was abandoned here, so the Department of Public Works donated it to us for people to smash it to bits," Perez said. "It's cathartic, and how often do you get to smash a vehicle while the police are watching and have them thank you?"

In the auto show itself, the Infiniti G35S was judged to be infinitely better than the other entries and won Best in Show, but another category was also awarded at the show: Island Beater. That prize went to Hospitalman Josh Earhart and his 1974 Ford Mustang.

"I was the only entry in the category, so I can't say I'm surprised, but it's still a great honor to win," Earhart said. "I've been working on getting this prize for some time now, and it's nice to finally get some recognition for keeping this old thing running."

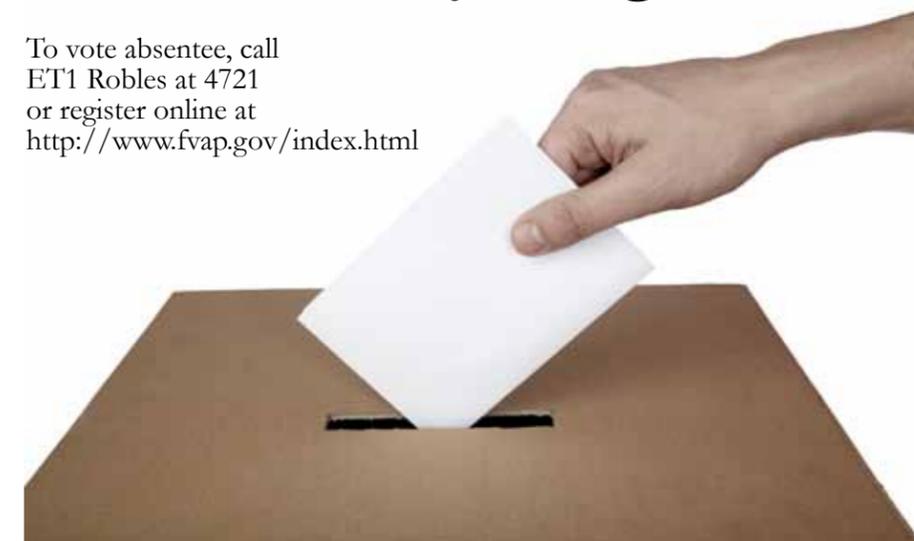
### T2T from page 4

Fourth truly stands for.

I leave you with a quote from Samuel Adams about the Constitution of the United States: "The liberties of our country, the freedoms of our civil Constitution are worth defending at all hazards; it is our duty to defend them against all attacks. We have received them as a fair inheritance from our worthy ancestors. They purchased them for us with toil and danger and expense of treasure and blood. It will bring a mark of everlasting infamy on the present generation – enlightened as it is – if we should suffer them to be wrested from us by violence without a struggle, or to be cheated out of them by the artifices of designing men."

## Remember, it's your right to vote

To vote absentee, call  
ET1 Robles at 4721  
or register online at  
<http://www.fvap.gov/index.html>



# Trooper Focus

Sgt. Dora L. Brock



By Spc. Vanessa Davila

**B**eing deployed at Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay is no easy job. The hours are often long, leaving Troopers little time to themselves. It is quite a feat then that Sgt. Dora L. Brock, detainee library non-commissioned officer, found time to complete her bachelor's degree in the year she was deployed to Guantanamo.

"While here, because of my grades, I made the honor roll," Brock said about her studies. "I took advantage of all the activities that went on here at [GTMO] but my main focus was my studies."

Brock earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice, an area of study she is familiar with being an investigator with her local sheriff's office. Her degree is even more of an achievement when you consider that she's 53 years old.

"The main reason was to show my kids that it's never too late," Brock said about why she never gave up on her goal of finishing

college. "I've always wanted to finish my degree but because of finances and circumstances of life I was not able to but I never stopped. Whether it was one class here and there I never stopped."

At 21 credits shy of her bachelor's degree, Brock enrolled in her university's accelerated track which allowed her to complete classes in five weeks, thus allowing her to enroll in new classes every five weeks as well. Although the online path allowed her greater flexibility when it came to her schedule, she still faced some challenges.

"The downside is, for a person my age, it was a little bit harder to get used to the computer work and meeting deadlines and the essays," said Brock. "But once I got into it and I learned the school had a lot of



resources to help me I just [did it]."

Brock is set to leave the island this weekend as her tour comes to an end. She has no plans to stop though as it is her goal now to complete a master's degree in education.

"The master's is like my gift to me," said Brock. "It's going to be my ultimate accomplishment."

## Bullet Bio

**Hometown:** "I'm a Georgianican"

**Time in Service:** about 13 years

**Favorite College Course:** Forensics

**Advice to junior Troopers:** "Never give up on your goals and achievements, because as long as you put your mind to it anything is possible."

## BOOTS ON THE GROUND

If you could hang out with anyone in history, who would it be?



"Jesus. He'd give us definite answers to so many questions."

Pfc.  
Hector Gutierrez



"Martin Luther King Jr. He did so much for civil rights without compromising his principles of nonviolence."

Spc.  
Brandon Daniels



"Manny Pacquiao. He could teach me how to fight."

Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class  
Mikey Noceda



"Marilyn Monroe. She came from nothing and worked her way up to the top."

Tech. Sgt.  
Korrin Trumpeter

# Safe riding: a way of life that preserves life

By Sgt. 1st Class Kryn Westhoven

**N**ot many Joint Task Force Troopers have their motorcycle here at Guantanamo. That mode of transportation is sitting, waiting for them back home.

Before you throw your leg over the seat, you need to think about the riding skills you learned in the Motorcycle Safety Foundation's (MSF) Basic Rider Course (BRC) or a similar program. These are required courses in order to ride while serving in uniform.

Recently, the American Motorcyclist Association published a list of safe riding tips. These timeless pieces of advice are from a motorcycle crash study completed three decades ago, showing that not much has changed to stay safe on two wheels.

Don't drink and drive, and don't speed. These seem like no-brainers, but both remain leading causes in crashes.

Speaking of brains, a helmet tops the list of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). This is not where you want to go cheap; at a minimum the helmet needs a DOT approved sticker. Experienced riders go with the added "Snell approved" designation for maximum protection.

While many states are helmet optional, wearing that brain bucket in a crash reduces brain injuries by 67 percent and you are one third less likely to die as compared to riders without a helmet.

On military bases, gloves and a long-sleeved garment complete the minimum PPE for the upper body. A riding jacket is optional

but offers the best abrasion protection. Some jackets have insets to save your back, shoulders or elbows in the event you fall.

When it comes to your lower half, how many times have you seen someone riding with shorts and sandals, thinking to yourself that they are just looking for a skin graft? Thirty percent of all motorcycle injuries involve the leg and foot, and these are not all from crashes, but include injuries from hot exhaust pipes and bikes just falling over.

Military riders need to wear long pants and over the ankle footwear. For the best protection, riding pants and boots are the way to go according to the experts.

To see the importance of the right riding apparel, the MSF "Fool's Gear, Cool Gear" video at [www.msf-usa.org](http://www.msf-usa.org) gives you a guided tour from head to toe, comparing and contrasting the benefits of wearing a full complement of safety gear to the risks of riding with inadequate protection, showing you can be safe in style.

The allure of open rural roads with the scenery and turns are some of the best blacktop to travel on. But those roads present unique hazards like slow moving farm equipment and animals. Many a rider tells of hitting a deer or other large animal. The same goes for military installations, whether in cantonment or out near the ranges. Just ask me about the large groundhog on Fort Dix, N.J. that put me in a cast for two months; luckily the bike was not hurt.

Intersections are where you face the greatest danger. The most common motorcycle

accident is when a driver of a car makes a left turn in front of an approaching motorcycle. Slowing down at intersections and wearing bright clothing, reflective belts and added running lights on your bike, all add to keeping you safe.

There is always a mental judgment to be made when you see a problem ahead: brake or swerve? If a car is tailgating, then braking is probably not a good option. If it is a two-lane road and there is oncoming traffic, then swerve could be a head-on accident. The rule of thumb at speeds less than 30 miles per hour: it's better to swerve.

One last fact from the study was that riders who have rider education are less involved in accidents. Besides refreshing your BRC every three years, military owners of sport bikes need to attend the MSF's Military Sport Bike Rider Course (MSRC). Servicemembers coming off deployment greater than 180 days are required to attend Motorcycle Refresher Training (MRT), and all motorcyclists are encouraged to take the Experienced Rider Course (ERC).

Information on the classes is available at safety offices or online. The Army Motorcycle Mentorship Program website is <https://safety.army.mil/mmp/default.aspx>. Or, check out [www.navymotorcyclider.com](http://www.navymotorcyclider.com) or the MSF website.

To ride safe back home, remember all your training and you will enjoy the freedom of motorcycling, without becoming what some medical folks like to call riders: organ donors.



“Servicemembers coming off deployment greater than 180 days are required to attend Motorcycle Refresher Training (MRT), and all motorcyclists are encouraged to take the Experienced Rider Course (ERC).”

*Spc. Jason McGoran, a Trooper assigned to the 193rd Military Police Company, demonstrates proper protective equipment as he dons his helmet in preparation for the Marine Corps Motorcycle Ride June 22.*

—photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kryn Westhoven

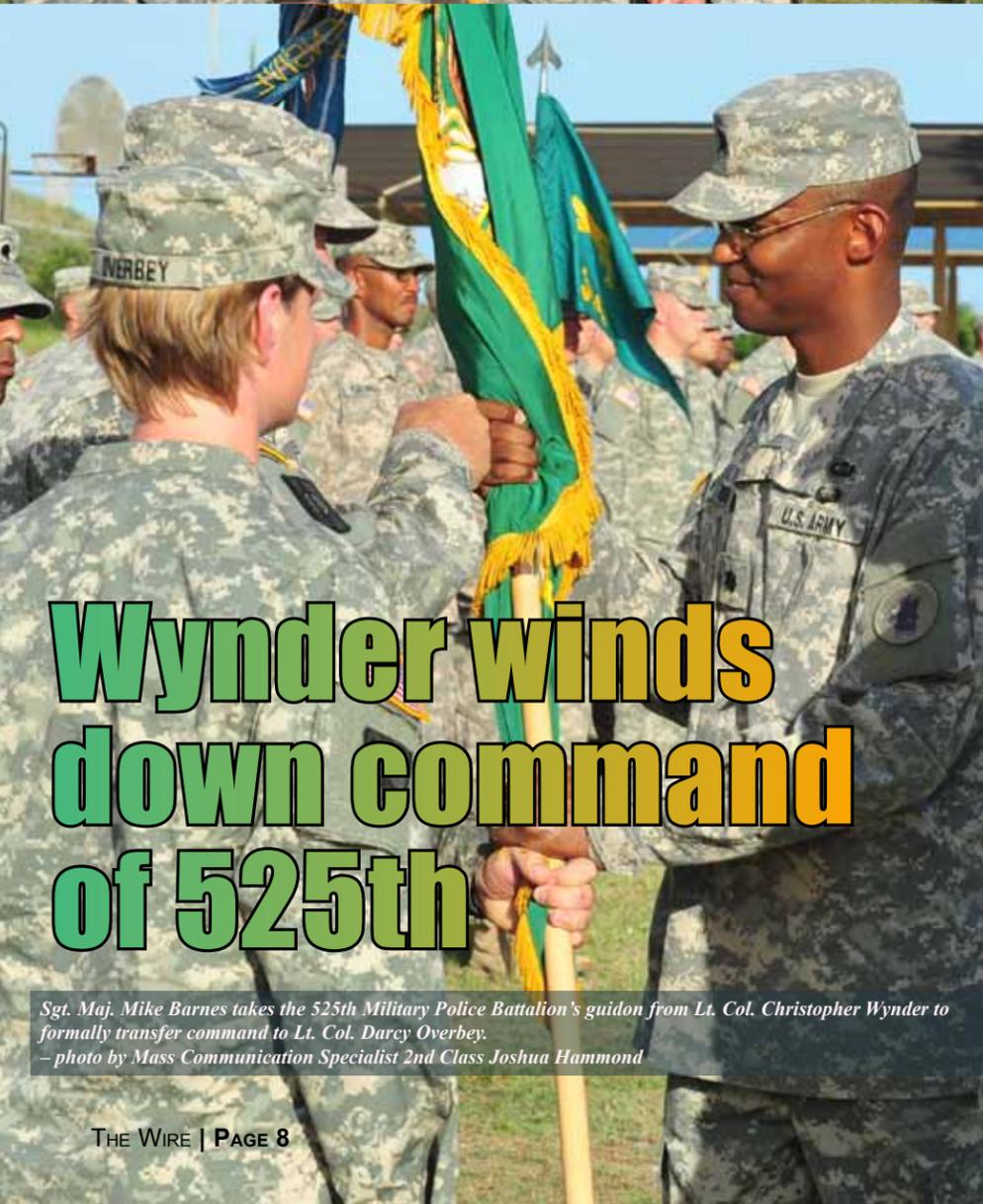
## Super Troopers

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

MAJ Handy  
SSG Baker  
SGT Baker  
SPC Potter



Soldiers of the 525th Military Police Battalion hold the guidon at the battalion's change of command ceremony. —photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Joshua Hammond



Sgt. Maj. Mike Barnes takes the 525th Military Police Battalion's guidon from Lt. Col. Christopher Wynder to formally transfer command to Lt. Col. Darcy Overbey. —photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Joshua Hammond

# Wynder winds down command of 525th

By Army Staff Sgt. Lewis Hilburn

On a blustery early evening, the Soldiers stood in formation awaiting the inevitable. The sun was slowly sinking over the horizon; it not only marked the end of a day but an end of an era for them. The tides of change were upon them and they stood ready to answer the call.

On July 5, the 525th Military Police Battalion bid a fond farewell to Lt. Col. Christopher Wynder and embraced their new commander, Lt. Col. Darcy Overbey, with open arms.

During his tenure as the commander of the 525th, Wynder has seen more than 2,000 Soldiers pass through his battalion. They included four external security companies and three iterations of battalion staff, all comprised of active duty, Reserve, and National Guard troops.

Wynder stood in front of his troops one last time and delivered a heartfelt speech.

“We could not conduct our detention operations mission efforts without the collective efforts of each and every one of you,” he expressed to his troops.

He stated that regardless of their military occupational skill, their work inside and out of the camps was important, and he appreciated all their hard work and effort.

Since taking command, the 525th has produced two United States Army South Noncommissioned Officers of the Year as well as this year's Joint Task Force senior and junior Trooper of the year. After a proverbial laundry list of accomplishments, Wynder summed up how he saw the Soldiers of his beloved command.

“There are many more accomplishments, but the 525th Soldiers do not seek out fame or glory,” said Wynder. “You just do your job every single day with pride and professionalism. I saw it in your eyes daily that you cared about the mission.”

Upon finishing his speech, Wynder asked the Soldiers to do two things: “take pride in your work and strive for excellence every day.”

Overbey kept her speech short and to the point. She promised the Soldiers that she would be completely dedicated to the mission and to them. She thanked Wynder for all the valuable information he bestowed upon her.

“Chris, there is no doubt that you have made a lasting impression on this unit and all of the Soldiers that have been part of this battalion over the past two years,” she said.

Easing the minds of her Troopers she finished her remarks: “All policies and procedures remain in effect.”



# Pulling anchor, setting sail



By Army 1st Lt. Amelia Thatcher

Several Joint Task Force Guantanamo Elements bid farewell to Cuba Thursday, taking with them up to a year's worth of shared knowledge, experience, and good times.

“I met a lot of special people,” said outgoing Joint Visitor Bureau deputy director Army Capt. Eddie RosaRamos. “I'm going to miss you all.”

Members of the Army Reserve's 641st Regional Support Group, the Georgia Army National Guard's 170th Military Police Company, and the Missouri Air National Guard's Base Emergency Engineer Force (Prime BEEF) boarded the ferry, and several remaining Troopers participated in the traditional jump off the Ferry Landing pier to say goodbye to their friends. While the rotational force guarantees frequent personnel changes, the friendships forged here will certainly last a long time.

Meanwhile, elements of the Puerto Rico Army National Guard have assumed their new roles.

“The mission doesn't change,” said Brig. Gen. James Lettko, JTF Guantanamo Deputy Commander. “We rely on the new folks to compare the Standard Operating Procedures and make corrections. The new team asks the questions and improves the SOPs. It's a positive thing.”

Pick up a future edition of The Wire for full coverage of the Puerto Rico Army National Guard!



# Soft and Gentle: The art of jiu-jitsu

Troopers at the Marine Hill Gym's jiu-jitsu class practice the proper technique for choking an opponent. The class meets three times a week to practice the "Gentle Art." —photo by Sgt. Brett Perkins

By Army Sgt. Brett Perkins

It's a typical Friday evening on Guantanamo Bay. The sun has just set and a wind gently whispers across the top of Marine Hill. I step to the door of the Marine Hill Fitness Center and try to pull open the double doors. It's stuck. Another quick tug and it opens to a dimly lit cardio area. Am I in the right place? I head towards another set of doors through which I can see a lighted room beyond. I enter the next room; it's a large open gym with mats set on the floor. A small Filipino man stands at the front of a mixed formation of eleven service members. The man wears a set of robes that end just above the floor. To one side another man stands in a gi with a yellow sash belted around his waist. The man calls the group to attention and they bow.

Jiu-jitsu has been called the "Gentle Art;" the instructor calls it "soft and gentle." This seems apt as the students are taught to roll left, right, and forward. The instructor then clears the mats of everyone and has his assistant get on the ground on his arms and thighs. The students then take turns rolling over the top of the man. Soft: that is the operative word here. From a soft roll off of your toes, to the barest touch of sleeve to back as the roll is executed, to the final landing which should leave students standing in their fighting stance. This is not always successful; some land on their

backs, some on their knees, and one even simply skips over the top of the assistant instructor instead of rolling. Amid the laughs I find myself wondering, "could this really be the same jiu-jitsu that spawned Brazilian jiu-jitsu?"

Next, the instructor pairs everyone up and begins teaching them the basics of using pressure points. Students begin by choking their opponent who is taught to break the hold and take their opponent to the ground where they are instructed to apply pressure until the other student taps. Suddenly the words soft and gentle seem slightly less appropriate. The class concludes with the same exercise as before, only at a slightly higher elevation this time; the assistant instructor on the palm of his hands and the balls of his feet, the students rolling over his back.

This class is about the basics of jiu-jitsu, almost anyone could join this class and participate. Motivations bringing people into this class vary. The instructor is a lifelong martial artist who got started at age five by learning boxing. A Marine tells me that he would like to improve at his job. A Soldier is here because he is already familiar with the art and is looking to keep his skills current. No matter the reason, this looks to be good physical training. Meeting three times a week at 8:00 pm, it still makes me wonder, who was the man that named this discipline? To me it looks as though jiu-jitsu is anything but "soft and gentle."



# GTMO'S BOWLING LEAGUE: No Gray Hairs Required

By Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Kyle Steckler

I can honestly say I'm not a great bowler. In fact, it's not even a question: I'm average at best. Did the ball roll down the lane and knock over some white things? Then mission accomplished.

Personally, I've always thought of bowling as a social sport. It's a way to meet new people, get to know people better, and have a couple of drinks, all the while praying I'm not the worst one playing that night.

According to Cliff Exley, Public Works Facilities Manager for Naval Station Guantanamo Bay (GTMO) and the GTMO bowling league president, that is exactly what it's all about.

"One of the best things about the league is the fun you have playing," said Exley. "The people participating, the competitiveness and the fun are all the best things about it."

This particular incarnation of the league started a little more than a month ago and is running for 12 weeks.

"Due to the constant transfer of personnel at GTMO, we try to have more short leagues as opposed to long ones," said Exley. "This allows for maximum participation for anyone who wants to join."

As a member of the league, and because this is my first experience with a bowling league, the learning curve has been steep. Figuring out the handicaps and averages, points for games won and most pins scored; it's all a new world to me, but so far it's been a fun experience. Spc. Davon Gaines, a Joint Task Force

Guantanamo Trooper bowling for the team "Keepin' It Real," said the same thing.

"I've only been bowling for about six months, but the league has challenged me to get better every week," said Gaines. "I'm glad my friends asked me to join."

Typically, the league meets on Mondays at GTMO's own bowling alley, Marblehead Lanes, at 6:30 p.m. Two teams will then play three games against each other, using averages, handicaps and total downed pins to calculate the score.

"We have several key people that make this league happen, as well as a lot of help from MWR," said Exley. "But ultimately, it's the people that make this fun. The more people that show up, the more fun I have."

Exley also added that GTMO's leagues are not sanctioned by any professional or non-professional bowling organizations. Typically, bowlers register with a particular organization and can then go anywhere in the country and retain their average; not so at GTMO. The average one establishes here won't be able to be carried anywhere else, and vice versa.

So far, I'm enjoying the bowling league. You don't need a ball or, to be honest, any skill whatsoever. I'm still not the best bowler, and am still happy when, by some miracle, I hear the sound the ball makes when it crashes into the pins. I'm always given a quick high five by my teammates regardless of how I do, because it's not about the bowling; it's about the fun.

# The Battle of Raspberry Creek

## Fifty Marines against a brigade

By Cpl. Jonathan Wright  
31st Marine Expeditionary Unit

SHOALWATER BAY TRAINING AREA, Queensland, Australia – As dawn approached the quiet town, a harsh voice cut through the silence. “Stand to!” is called. “Enemy sighted at 200 meters!”

After two weeks of preparing defenses inside the fortified town of Raspberry Creek, elements of Company G, Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, were assaulted by the Australian Army’s 1st Brigade during Exercise Hamel 2012.

0550- Light armored vehicles were spotted approaching the town while the sounds of tank tracks rattled in the distant treeline. Minutes later, the Marines in the immediate area received “near impact” readings on their multiple integrated laser engagement system (MILES) gear, signaling indirect fire artillery strikes.

2nd Lt. Cory Moyer, platoon commander of 2nd platoon, Co. G, and officer-in-charge of the Marine forces in Raspberry Creek, was at an eyes-on position watching enemy movement, radioing in fires-for-effect while the Marines prepared their fields of fire.

“The atmosphere is mostly excitement and anticipation of engagement after waiting in the defense,” said Moyer. “We’re going to give 1st Brigade the best we have to offer.”

0712- Multiple M1A1 Abrams tanks made themselves visible from the treeline as three armored personnel carriers approached the town. The advance halted, however, as the Marine FGM-148 Javelin missile system team kept them at bay, destroying two APCs.

As the battle continued, the Javelin team was deemed killed by the exercise umpires.

0901- Under the cover of smoke, the Australian forces pushed through simulated artillery and stopped behind buildings situated across the road from the town. Three fire teams of Marines kept the dismounted soldiers pinned down as they exited their APCs, but were eventually cleared by the superior firepower from following LAVs.

Freed to move by vehicle support, the dismounted Australian soldiers push their way into the buildings, exchanging fire with the Marines across the road in their own fortified buildings.

“The Australians just moved in to those buildings after dismounting, probably about 40 or so holed up now,” said Cpl. Justin Wilson, team

leader with Co. G. “They haven’t pushed across yet, but with the suppression they’re providing from those buildings they’ll be coming over soon.”

1010- With the Australians being held to the buildings across the road, the rest of the mounted forces began to move towards the town. Three more APCs and LAVs unloaded their 12-troop passengers - into the waiting maw of a M240-G machine gun fire team.

“So far we’ve killed more than a platoon’s worth of troops with a loss of eight Marines,” said Staff Sgt. Bryan Robbins, platoon sergeant for 3rd Plt., Co. G. “They haven’t made it into buildings we occupy yet, just ones on the outskirts of the town. We’re only four hours in, though, and morale is high.”

For the next two hours, the battlefield became quiet, save for sporadic pop-shots from each side. The Australians were stalled by the Marines’ aggressive defense, and took some time to figure out how to push from the outer buildings to the inner core. The Marines, keeping a watchful eye on the enemy locations, used the time to conduct ammo counts and take in some food and water. 1220- Shortly after noon, the APCs and LAVs that dispatched Australian soldiers fell back after discovering the nearby minefields. The armored element swung around to the opposite side of the town to provide covering fire for their advancing soldiers.

The Marines kept that advance at a standstill, further fortifying their individual buildings against the imminent infiltration while keeping egress routes open.

“We’ve been fighting for nearly seven hours now, and we’ve been doing a good job keeping them back as the smaller force,” said Lance Cpl. Erik Brasile, fire team leader with 3rd Plt., Co. G. “We’ve accomplished our overall mission by holding them off until the third, which was two days ago, and now we’re going to delay their taking the town as long as possible.”

To do this, the Marines fortified each building by lining the alleyways with concertina wire, barring the insides of the doors, wiring and duct-taping the windows, and running c-wire inside the lower floors of the buildings. They also used guerrilla-style defenses such as trip-wire smoke grenade traps.

1324- Overcoming the minefields that surrounded the town, the Australians maneuvered a tank to provide a continual overwatch of the

roofs. Marines sustained several casualties, but the majority took cover inside the buildings. The danger of civilian casualties forced the tank to cease fire after the Marines moved inside.

Confined to the indoors, Moyer was unable to call in further artillery strikes but continued to coordinate egress routes and where to focus fire.

“From here on out we have to be reactive to the Australian soldiers,” he said as fire came through the open windows. “It’s the Raspberry Creek Alamo now.”

1424- Impatience coursed through the enemy ranks. After more than six hours of fighting and two hours of stalemate, the remaining Marines itched for more action.

“They think fighting 50 Marines during the day was bad,” said Robbins. “Wait until they have to fight 18 during the night.”

Over the next few hours, intermittent fire-fights and minor Australian advances wore away at the Marines’ numbers, but the Australians continued to suffer a much higher casualty rate. At the 11-hour mark, 12 Marines remained, prepared to fight to the very end.

1700- With an average of one kill every five minutes, Moyer, Robbins and four other Marines suppressed the Australians on the roofs and second stories of the surrounding buildings. Two additional fire teams remained in the town; one moving around to draw fire away from Moyer’s team, while the other set up defenses in a building adjacent to Moyer’s.

With the sun now set, darkness was descending upon the town. The Australian soldiers donned night vision and made their advances, using the retreating light as concealment. However, the Marine fire team cloaked by darkness proved much deadlier than estimated.

1737- A team of soldiers broke through the first-floor barricades of the reinforced building. Standing between those soldiers and the building’s capture was Moyer, the three-war veteran Robbins, three Marines, and two machine guns trained on the staircase. With exceptional suppression and avoidance of simulated grenades, the Marines held their position for an additional 20 minutes, eventually being overrun and killed. Two of the Marines were deemed wounded in action and taken as prisoners of war.

“We fought to the last and held them off as long as possible,” said Cpl. Fritz Waechter,

See **MARINES** Page 15

SERVICE NEWS

# Thrive, don’t just survive, while in Guantanamo Bay

By Staff Sgt. Gregory Laffrey  
JSMART

There are many inspiring, dynamic, selfless Troopers who model fulfilling tours on the island. The tours may have been six months, others nine, while some a year or even two. The following observations are examples of how fun people of exceptional character lived out their island assignments.

Volunteering gives satisfaction, builds esprit de corps, and creates friendships. For example, in October of last year the rainy period caused damage to trails, brought heavy growth of brush, and overtook anything that resembled a trail. A group took on the gargantuan task of locating the trails and cutting back the brush. That group was disciplined and dedicated and kept a terrific sense of humor throughout the task. They opened up miles and miles of trails which weave through this base and offer splendid vistas and places of tranquility. Their trails got used. That team, consisting primarily of the 170th National Guard unit, left a footprint, opened trails, built beautiful benches for all to enjoy and enhanced the deployment experience of everyone who ventures on them. Get out and see their work for yourself.

Spiritual resiliency training, or SRT, may sound like military speak but translates to worship, fellowship or study groups. Air Force engineers of the Base Emergency Engineer Force (Prime BEEF), practiced SRT training on a weekly basis. A large and consistent number of them attended Trooper Chapel, and midweek they went to Bible study in the Chaplain’s office led by members of the group. Together they shared spiritual

growth, engaging conversation, and a lot of fun. Members of that group also participated in the major Morale Welfare and Recreation events and leagues. They’ll leave with drawers full of t-shirts and carry home stories of their fulfilling time on the island. They grew deeper together and gained friendship while contributing to the JTF mission. What the BEEF modeled is carried out every day of the week by those who get involved in SRT. In those groups and experiences, Troopers gain inspiration, friendships and personal strength.

Talk with a helping professional. A month ago a Trooper was checking out and simply started unloading stories and challenges he faced during his work here. Then he said, “Chaplain, that felt really good. I should’ve done this months ago.” Another shared a painful experience regarding his situation but it was hours before he left. In both situations they simply entered the office and unloaded accumulated stress carried through much of their deployment. Certainly GTMO can be a stressful place, and some positions carry more challenges than others. Caring conversations may prevent stress overload and inappropriate behavior. Simply conversing with your Chaplains, JSMART or representatives from Fleet and Family Support Center can reduce anxiety and anger, address grief and sorrow, or prevent engaging in risky behavior.

Finally, get involved! As you’ve been told many times, MWR has a ton of activities for deployed Troopers and Naval Station family members. Their activities run the gamut from athletic events to arts and crafts. You can engage in ambitious, adrenaline driven

events to placid kayaking on the bay. If you don’t care to participate, then volunteer as mentioned above. MWR is always looking for people to assist with their events. For instance, one E-5 volunteers at seemingly every MWR event offered. She was a terrific motivator for all who participated. She made things happen.

Make your time fly here. Volunteer, practice SRT, chat with a helping professional, and get involved. There is so much to be engaged in and so many friendships to make. Don’t just survive here but THRIVE and come alive! You’ll leave GTMO a very satisfied person and a much better service-member. *Viviendo la vida dulce en Guantanamo!*



Troopers take advantage of the activities at Guantanamo Bay, for instance, by participating in the April Red Cross Run. -photo by Mass Communication Spc. 1st Class Ty Bjornson

**ONLY AT GTMO** by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Keith Simmons





By Pvt. Loren Cook

I'm very fond of Pixar. I still remember seeing their first feature-length production, "Toy Story," way back in 1995. At the time, my only exposure to computer animation had been from watching the TV show "ReBoot." "ReBoot" was the first completely computer-animated TV series, and was a great show, but its early episodes suffered from very primitive animation.

"Toy Story," on the other hand, looked leagues better. I was completely blown away by the visuals I was seeing, but even my 10-year-old self instinctively knew that CG was nothing more than a tool for telling a story, and that "Toy Story" had a good one. For that reason, it still holds up well today.

Pixar has remained true to their original formula since then, putting out a string of movies that blended first-rate visuals and very good storytelling. My expectations, based on the trailers I had seen and Pixar's record, were that "Brave" would be another excellent movie.

Our story begins with the tomboyish Princess Merida (voiced by Kelly MacDonal, TV's "Boardwalk Empire") enjoying a day to herself, free from her mother, Queen Elinor (voiced by Emma Thompson, "Men in Black 3"). Our heroine spends most of her days learning to be a proper lady under her mother's tutelage, but yearns to be free—to feel the wind in her flowing red hair, to ride her horse through the Scottish countryside practicing her archery, and to climb sheer rock faces with her bare hands like she's in a Marine Corps recruiting commercial.

Her comfortable world is shattered when suitors from three other clans show up at the castle to win her hand. The suitors, each the firstborn prince of their respective clan, are set to engage in feats of strength or tests

of skill in order to prove themselves worthy of her royal hand. Merida hatches a plot, and suggests they have an archery contest.

After a lackluster showing by her three suitors, Merida launches her plan, announcing that since she's the firstborn of her clan, she'll win her own hand! She easily bests each suitor in archery, humiliating the clans and earning the ire of her mother.

Merida and her mother have a vicious argument that ends with Merida running away into the forest, where she stumbles upon a quaint little hut, occupied by a witch (voiced by Julie Walters, "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows"). Merida implores her to cast a spell to change her mother. Unfortunately, things go horribly wrong and she has to scramble to undo the damage she has wrought before she ruins her mother's life.

This is what anyone could tell about the movie just from watching the trailer, and it's all from the first third of the movie. I have to give kudos to Pixar for being able to draw viewers in with a trailer that only shows scenes from the beginning of the movie, instead of giving away plot points. I can't help but compare it to one of the most flagrant examples of marketing done wrong, "Terminator 2: Judgment Day." In T2, we were supposed to be surprised when Arnold Schwarzenegger turned out to be the good guy this time, but the marketing for the film actively ruined the surprise by making it a selling point of the movie. The marketing for "Brave," on the other hand, kept us guessing, and I applaud it for that.

It's par for the course for Pixar to make visually-stunning movies, but the visuals in this movie still stunned me with their beauty and atmosphere. It all takes place in a fantasy version of Scotland, and it looks absolutely breathtaking.

The voice performances in this movie

were very good. Scottish characters were played predominantly by Scottish actors, and the authenticity shines through. In fact, the Scottish accents were so good that I actually had a wee bit o' trouble understanding them at times. When I buy the movie, I'll definitely be watching it with subtitles turned on.

The fantastic settings and funny accents are just window-dressing, however, for the underlying plot of a daughter and mother in a strained relationship who "mend the bond, broken by pride." It's a simple plot, but a compelling one.

On that note, I recently read a guide to writing movies by a Pixar writer. In it, she revealed Pixar's secret to writing effective plots. The key, she said, was to show your characters in a happy, contented state, and then to bring them out of their comfort zone. The rest of the movie is the actions of the characters trying to return to the status quo, usually learning a lesson about themselves along the way.

This movie definitely follows that formula. With that knowledge, I now see the movie as a companion to "Finding Nemo." In "Finding Nemo," a father is questing to save his son. In "Brave," a daughter is questing to save her mother. The locales and details may be different, but the underlying plot is almost the same.

"Brave" could be called a movie that plays it safe. It doesn't try to do anything earth-shatteringly original. It is, however, content to tell a simple story very well. I don't think there's anything wrong with that.

There have been Pixar movies I didn't see, but there has never been a Pixar movie that I saw and didn't enjoy, and this movie didn't break that streak for me. It's well worth a watch.

You stay classy, Guantanamo.

**MARINES from page 12**

machine gun team leader with Weapons Plt., Co. G.

1833- The Aussies eventually made their way to the building where the final three Marines remained. With a SAW and two rifles, the last of Co. G. cut down a number of soldiers before being eliminated.

Later, coming up on 2000 hours, the Marine "casualties" assembled in one location as the Australians cleared all remaining areas, swept for additional mines and searched for

improvised explosive devices. The battle was over for the Marines, the last of their rifles had been silenced.

While Exercise Hamel tests the operational capabilities of the Australian 1st Brigade, the Marines gained valuable lessons from the battle and honed their proficiency in urban combat.

"There was a lot of exceptional small-unit leadership, from the top right down to the fire team leaders," said Moyer. "Every training opportunity is treated as a real scenario. Overall, they've done an outstanding job."

"I've been in for nine years and all I know

is Iraq and Afghanistan," said Robbins. "To be attached to the 31st MEU and train with new foreign militaries is a great experience. We've definitely learned a lot from this deployment to Australia."

Exercise Hamel 2012 is a multi-national training evolution between the U.S. Marine Corps, Australian Army and New Zealand Army, aimed at certifying the Australian 1st Brigade for operational deployment.

The 31st MEU is the only continuously forward-deployed MEU and is the nation's force in readiness in the Asia-Pacific region.

**SAFE RIDE  
84781**

**Guantanamo Bay Bus Schedule**  
All buses run on the hour, 7 days/week from 5 a.m. – 1 a.m.

**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.

**Protestant Communion**  
Sunday 9:30 a.m.

**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

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

**GTMO Religious  
Services**

**JTF Trooper  
Chapel**

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

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

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

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

- Camp America :00 :20 :40
- Gazebo :02 :22 :42
- NEX Trailer :03 :23 :43
- Camp Delta 2 :06 :26 :46
- KB 373 :10 :30 :50
- TK 4 :12 :32 :52
- JAS :13 :33 :53
- TK 3 :14 :34 :54
- TK 2 :15 :35 :55
- TK 1 :16 :36 :56
- West Iguana :18 :38 :58
- Windjammer / Gym :21 :41 :01
- Gold Hill Galley :24 :44 :04
- NEX :26 :46 :16
- 96 Man Camp :31 :51 :11
- NEX :33 :53 :13
- Gold Hill Galley :37 :57 :17
- Windjammer / Gym :36 :56 :16
- West Iguana :39 :59 :19
- TK 1 :40 :00 :20
- TK 2 :43 :03 :23
- TK 3 :45 :05 :25
- TK 4 :47 :07 :27
- KB 373 :50 :10 :30
- Camp Delta 1 :54 :14 :32
- IOF :54 :14 :34
- NEX Trailer :57 :17 :37
- Gazebo :58 :18 :38
- Camp America :00 :20 :40

	13 FRI	14 SAT	15 SUN	16 MON	17 TUE	18 WED	19 THU
<b>Downtown Lyceum</b>	Brave (PG) 8 p.m. Battleship (PG-13) 10 p.m.	What to Expect When You're Expecting (NEW) (PG-13) 8 p.m. The Dictator (NEW) (R) 10 p.m.	The Raven (R) 8 p.m.	The Avengers (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Think Like a Man (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Dark Shadows (PG-13) 8 p.m.	The Dictator (NEW) (R) 8 p.m.
<b>Camp Buikeley</b>	What to Expect When You're Expecting (NEW) (PG-13) 8 p.m. The Dictator (NEW) (R) 10 p.m.	Brave (PG) 10 p.m. The Avengers (PG-13) 10 p.m.	Battleship (PG-13) 8 p.m.	The Raven (R) 8 p.m.	Think Like a Man (PG-13) 8 p.m.	The Dictator (NEW) (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Dark Shadows (PG-13) 8 p.m.

Call the movie hotline at 4880 or visit the MWR Facebook page for more information.

