

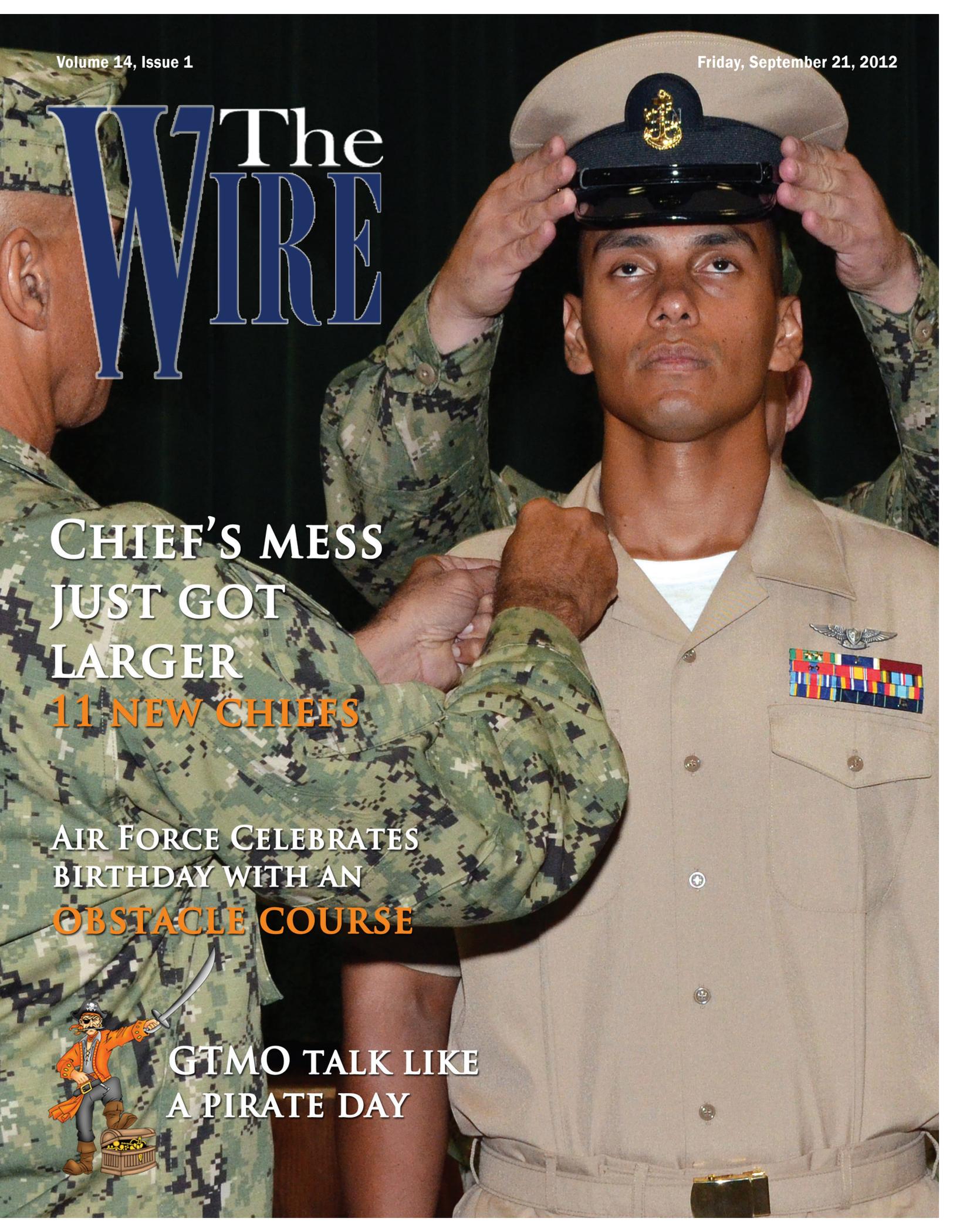
# The WIRE

CHIEF'S MESS  
JUST GOT  
LARGER  
11 NEW CHIEFS

AIR FORCE CELEBRATES  
BIRTHDAY WITH AN  
OBSTACLE COURSE



GTMO TALK LIKE  
A PIRATE DAY



REAR ADM. JOHN W. SMITH JR.

COMMANDER, JTF GUANTANAMO

In my last Wire article, I touched on the four words to describe our detention operation here at Joint Task Force Guantanamo: safe, humane, legal and transparent. I focused my remarks around the word transparent. In this issue I will discuss the word safe. Now those of you who are reading this issue are probably starting to say, "the Admiral is using the same format as his last article and just changing his focus word." True...but please read on!

Our mission demands that we conduct safe evolutions even while facing numerous risk and threats due to the nature of our mission. However, lately we have been facing a threat from within; a threat that prevents us from keeping our own service men and women safe. That threat is sexual assault!

Last week, the Chief of Staff, Command Sergeant Major and I attended the Navy's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response-Leadership (SAPR-L) training. SAPR training is a critical element of the Navy's campaign to stop sexual assault and promote a culture of respect and professionalism in our force. This training is being provided to senior leadership first who will then train all Sailors E-6 and below. It will be a critical tool in our tool box to help with the continuing effort to eliminate sexual assaults and promote positive change within the fleet. The other services have their own programs that are targeting this crime within their ranks.

Even though each service has its own programs, we are all unified with respect to completely eliminating this crime that has a disastrous effort on readiness and the safety of our personnel. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, along with all the service chiefs, has signed the Strategic Direction to

the Joint Force on Sexual Assault Prevention and Response.

They all agree that "Sexual assault crimes strike at the health, welfare and dignity of our service members and undermine the readiness of our force. As military professionals we must fully understand the destructive nature of these acts, lead our focused efforts to prevent them, and promote positive command climates and environments that reinforce mutual respect, trust and confidence. Sexual assault among service members is a problem we face together, one that can only be solved together. In doing so, we will keep faith with

### ***Sexual assault crimes strike at the health, welfare and dignity of our service members and undermine the readiness of our force.***

our military family; they should expect nothing less. And renew our commitment to the profession of arms; we should demand nothing less."

I have had the opportunity to address many of you during the newcomers' brief

and others during my daily engagements. My message is always the same: our work is important, and I rely on each and every one of you to conduct our operations with integrity, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. And in my message I also informed each and every one of you that I will not tolerate any form of sexual assault.

Committing sexual assault is a crime that violates professional culture and core values, erodes readiness and team cohesion, and endangers our own.

I need your assistance and commitment in ensuring that we eliminate sexual assaults. Remember the word "safe" is not just a part of our mission statement. It encompasses everything we do here in the JTF and our daily lives.



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## **NEX/MWR Customer Appreciation Weekend**

Next weekend will be a massive celebration of epic proportions as the Naval Exchange teams up with Morale Welfare and Recreation to show their appreciation for the best customers in the world!

The Kelly Bell Band will perform Thursday at the Tiki Bar from 8-10 p.m. and Sept. 28 from 9-11 p.m. They will perform Sept. 29 at the Windjammer from 9-11 p.m. The band will also sign autographs Sept. 29 at the NEX from 1:30-2:30 p.m.

New Balance will hold an athletic shoe clinic Sept. 28 and 29 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the NEX.

A 5K race will be held at the NEX parking lot Sept. 29, beginning at 7 a.m. Once the store opens at 9 a.m. the fun really starts, including door prizes, a Humvee pull competition, autograph sessions with celebrity chefs, good food, and prize drawings, including trips to Las Vegas and New York and a \$2000 NEX gift card.

The band Sideswipe will perform at the NEX Atrium from 12-1 p.m., followed by an autograph session until 1:30 p.m. The band will perform again at the Windjammer later that evening from 7-8 p.m.

Sept. 30 will kick off with the MWR fishing derby from 7 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Marina. Prizes will be awarded to the men and women who catch the largest snook, barracuda, and shark. Other attractions that day include a dance competition and multicultural performance at the NEX Atrium and celebrity chef tastings at the Bayview.



**Humvee pull and more at the NEX Customer Appreciation Weekend!**

## **Coming soon, JTF Command Morale Assessment!**

The Inspector General wants to hear from YOU! IG will post morale assessment surveys on the sharepoint next week

## **Don't get eaten alive!**

As the bites on my legs can attest, all the rain we've been having has created ideal mosquito breeding conditions.

If you'd like to see fewer mosquitoes, drain as much standing water as you can, turn over unused containers that can collect water, and do not disturb any mosquito trapping equipment that might be in use.

You can also avoid being outdoors at dawn and dusk, wear pants and long-sleeved shirts, and use insect repellent containing DEET.

Mosquitoes can leave more than itchiness. They are also vectors for West Nile virus. If you experience headaches, body aches, and have numerous bites, call 72944. Your health could depend on it!

## **Eat like a Mongol (a little earlier this week)**

In support of MWR/NEX Customer Appreciation Week, the Bayview Club will be closed on Thursday. Mongolian Night will instead be held Wednesday, Sept. 26, from 6-9 p.m.

For more information, call 75604.

## **The Craft (not starring Neve Campbell)**

Want to learn something new during your time at GTMO? Why not pottery? MWR offers a basic pottery class Oct. 11 for \$40, and an advanced class Oct. 25 for \$50. Both classes are at 7 p.m. at the ceramics shop and include clay, tools, and instruction. No registration is necessary.

After you've made something nice in pottery class, why not paint it? MWR has that covered too! Go to an airbrush class Oct. 6 at 2 p.m. or Oct. 9 at 7 p.m. and you'll have the skills you need to paint your pottery or even airbrush a rad design on your GTMO special! No registration is necessary, but the class costs \$20 and includes instruction, paint, tools, and one piece of pottery to paint.

For more information, call 74795.

## **Fisticuffs!**

Come out to O'Kelly's Irish Pub tomorrow at 10 p.m. and see Jon Jones fight Vitor Belfort for the light-heavyweight championship, followed by Joseph Benavidez and Demetrious Johnson squaring off in the World Flyweight Championship at UFC 152.

For more information, call 75503.

## **Safe Ride!**

Out drinking? Thinking about driving? Think again!

Put the keys down! Save your life, the lives of others, and your career.

Call 84913/84781.

## **INDEX THE WIRE SEPTEMBER 21, 2012**

<b>Happy birthday, Air Force!</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Don't get your signals crossed</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>POW/MIA: Never forgotten</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>New Chief Petty Officers</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Trooper Focus</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Arrr! Walk the plank!</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Movie: The Campaign</b>	<b>18</b>

The WIRE is the official news magazine of Joint Task Force Guantanamo. It is produced by the JTF Public Affairs Office to inform and educate the Troopers of JTF Guantanamo through news, features, command guidance, sports and entertainment. This DoD news magazine is an authorized publication for the members of the Department of Defense. Contents of The WIRE are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or Joint Task Force Guantanamo. It is printed by Defense Logistics Agency Document Services with a circulation of 1,200.

# Trooper to Trooper

## Generation Alphabet

SGT. 1ST CLASS RICK MCNAMARA

PUBLIC AFFAIRS CHIEF

When I first joined the military I'd hear stories of how it "used to be," and the phrase "back in my day" was thrown around quite often. In the past twelve years a lot has changed, but the gap between generations has remained the same. Generation X populates the majority of the senior ranks and Generation Y is moving up behind them ready to take over, while a few Baby Boomers are still holding on at the most senior ranks. Meanwhile, a new generation is populating the ranks of the junior enlisted and officers: Generation Z, also known as the Internet Generation or the Net Generation born in the 1990s.

Generation Z receives a lot of flak from Generation X and Y. Each generation received this same flak as they came in, and more so as their generation began to move into positions of leadership. Previous generations balk at some of the decisions the new generations make, and questions of their background and generational differences somehow answer why they make their decisions.

I fall right on the tail end of Generation X - I made it by a month - but consider myself more of an older Generation Y guy. I don't remember much about the Cold War other than what I've read, and the Berlin Wall was more of a Christmas gift I gave out one year

than a significant piece of my personal history. President Clinton is the first president I remember taking any interest in, and I was fortunate enough to always have a computer in my house.

I joined the military months before the events of Sept. 11, 2001 and had heard rumors of barbecues for field problems prior to joining. Then one day, while going through Short Range Air Defense training, the world fell apart. I remember one of my Drill Sergeants pulling us all together for a sort of pep talk and telling us - in a very loud voice - how our generation was going to know what it was like to go to war, like he had with Desert Storm and Bosnia. I came to find out we'd find and fight a totally different type of war.

Without getting too deep into this, I should probably start tying in where I'm trying to go with this.

Generation Z has fallen in on the wars that were fought by Generation X and Y, and they've done so willingly. They may not have the background we have, they may ask why, they may expect something in return, but they also bring new skills and ideas to the fight.

There is no generation more capable of handling the technology that lines almost every piece of equipment we use. They'll ask why, but will still complete the mission. Then in the after action review they'll propose new ideas and ways to conduct that same mission.



Generation Z has grown up with the internet at its fingertips and with that, a world of information a mouse click away.

In reality I don't see much difference between the young troops I joined with and the ones we have now. We all pledged to serve our nation; the reasons why hardly matter. The mistakes my generation made growing into leaders are the same mistakes their generation is making. One junior leader may be having a hard time separating themselves

See T2T on Page 5

## BOOTS ON THE GROUND

What's your weapon of choice for the zombie apocalypse?



"A flamethrower."

Lt.  
Stephanie Long



"A .50 caliber machine gun."

Army Staff Sgt.  
Yamil Davila



"My body. I would need to be able to get away and avoid being grabbed."

Logistics Specialist 2nd Class  
Javier Martinez



"The fastest firing gun I could find, preferably a machine gun."

Spc.  
Jessica Mejia

## AIR FORCE'S BIRTHDAY CHALLENGE

By Army Sgt. Dani White

This week the United States Air Force celebrated its 65th birthday. Instead of having the traditional military ball, the 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron Base Engineer Emergency Force made the celebration more laid back.

The afternoon gave the feeling of a family get together; eating barbeque ribs and burgers while sitting outside enjoying a warm afternoon in the BEEF's Stockyard.

Service members sat talking amongst themselves while an Airman pulled out his electric guitar and played classic rock tunes.

The highlight of the birthday party was the two-lane obstacle course that the BEEF members built.

Anyone who decided to take the BEEF's challenge faced scaling a HESCO wall, low crawling through a sand pit, jumping over water barriers, slithering through a high and low obstacle, moving through tires, and balancing on wooden beams. The obstacle course culminated with participants diving into a shallow pool and low crawling through the warm water.

The 474th ECES BEEF Commanding Officer, Lt. Col. Elmer Norvell, said that the idea for the course came from wanting to show everyone serving at Guantanamo Bay that the Air Force is fit to fight. He believes Airmen are as physically fit as the Marines, Soldiers and Sailors.

"We are turning over a new leaf, the Fit to Fight leaf," said Norvell. "So instead of having just a big birthday cake with everyone eating and going home, we decided to do this obstacle course. I think it is the perfect thing for our Fit to Fight program."

Airmen with the BEEF spent a few days building the course using materials they found around Camp Justice.

"We used two by fours, a bladder, some water barriers, a Hesco wall that we filled

with dirt, and tires we found lying around," said Staff Sgt. Adrian Baker with the BEEF. "We wanted to be able to build a course that wasn't too dangerous but could be challenging"

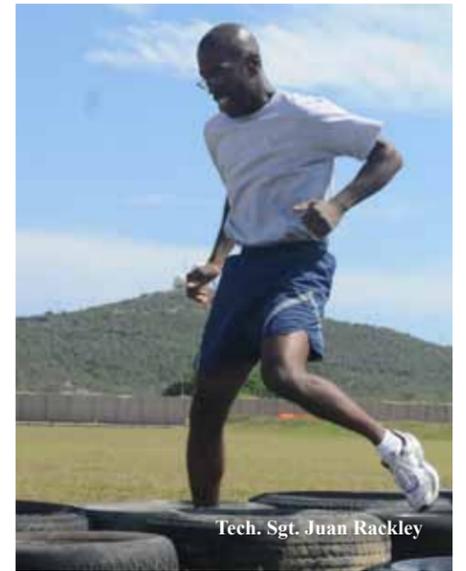
Spectators that came out to help the BEEF celebrate cheered on friends and coworkers as they raced each other.

Sgt. Maj. Scott Smith, Joint Task Force sergeant major and Rear Adm. John W. Smith Jr., JTF commander, came to watch the race.

"It's just good to see people doing something special," said Sgt. Maj. Smith. "If you don't do something like that it becomes just another day. It's important to remember where the Air Force came from."

Though the Air Force birthday passed; Staff Sgt. Baker says the BEEF plans to expand the obstacle course. And they plan to look into making it more difficult for future races.

This could mean a GTMO Fit to Fight obstacle course that shows just who is the best of the best.



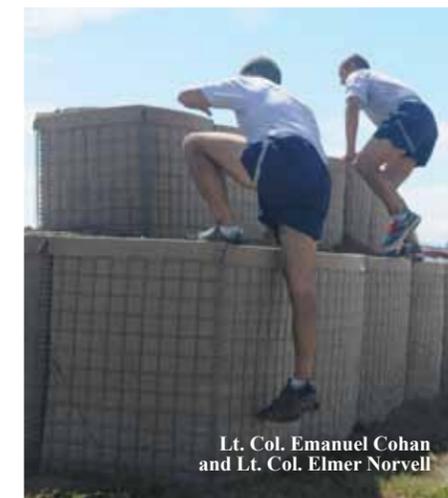
Tech. Sgt. Juan Rackley



1st Lt. Will Sanford



Staff Sgt. Adrian Baker



Lt. Col. Emanuel Cohan and Lt. Col. Elmer Norvell

### T2T from Page 4

from their old friends - that happened in the past. Another junior leader may be over compensating and bordering on toxic leadership - that happened in the past too.

What they do have that no other generation has had before, is a force of highly educated leaders. Those of us in the senior ranks are completing degrees as we come up, while many of the junior leaders earned it before joining. All we need to do is mentor them into the leaders of

the future and give them the passion and mentorship that drove us to excel. They'll surpass every expectation with the right motivation and often times surprise us as they do it.

The next time you look around and wonder why a generation isn't as good as yours, look instead at what they have to offer. Understandably, this is a two-way street for the senior and junior leaders. Bring your best to the table, and stop worrying about what is wrong with the other generations.



Tech. Sgt. Yolanda Stoves



## Sex Signals

The real life funny sort - of - improv show about sex and stuff

Story and Photos by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Brian Jeffries

Naval Station Guantanamo Bay hosted a Sexual Awareness improvisational show aimed at sexual assault prevention.

Sailors, Soldiers, Airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen alike, watched – and participated in – Catharsis Productions’ “Sex Signals,” an interactive play that uses humor and audience participation to empower service members with knowledge they can use to help prevent sexual assault, and sexual harassment.

The two-person show was shown three times at GTMO, so all service members split up the shifts evenly in order to leave manageable audiences, so attendees could participate.

“Sex Signals” featured Kristen Pickering and John Mallory. The duo acted out various scenarios for the audience to include situations that Troopers may be familiar with, for example, off-duty overseas at a bar or a get-together in the barracks on base. Pickering and Mallory portrayed gender stereotypes, acted out social pressures, discussed unrealistic fantasies, and participated with the audience in discussion about each scenario.

Army Sgt. 1st Class Tawana Young said she thought the show helped to clear up some confusion people have about situations that can lead to sexual assault because the Catharsis crew was in tune with the audience.

“It’s just the way they interacted with the audience,” Young said. “They really knew how to engage the public and keep everyone involved.”

The overarching theme of the show was consent, not coercion, to help prevent sexual assault. In addition to that message, the show stressed bystander intervention when a situation looks as if it may take a turn for the worse. The audience participated in those scenarios



by holding up stop signs during the skit when they felt the situation needed intervention.

The final scenario of the show prompted the most discussion amongst the audiences – an interview with a Sailor accused of rape. The scene, played as an interview between Pickering and the accused, a well-liked and

professional Sailor. The scenario challenged the audience to rethink what is considered seductive or coercive behavior and to recognize what is truly rape. It also challenged the audience to reconsider the cultures that many times hold victims responsible for sexual assault.

Using humor and improvisation to talk about a subject as serious as sexual assault may not seem like a typical day of training, which tends to involve lectures and slide shows, but Young responded positively to the production.

“It is a lot easier to explain something when everyone can see it first hand,” Young said. “I feel like especially the younger people paid more attention [to this type of training] than any training I ever had a slide show on.” Young said. “I thought the show was good and they put out a lot of good information that was much needed.”

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Rick West has spoken out about the awareness and prevention of sexual assault and prevention on several occasions.

“When referring to sexual assault think of the following powerful words; not in our Navy, live with honor, courage, and commitment,” said West.

# 11th Annual Guantanamo Bay, Cuba • 2012 NEX/MWR Customer Appreciation **FIVE K** WEEKEND ROAD RACE



**September 28 in front of Main NEX**

**5K Race starting at 7:00 a.m. (Race Day Entries will be accepted)**

**Pre-registration recommended at any MWR Gym by September 25**

**First 300 Registered Get A Race Tech Shirt - Guaranteed!**

**PRE-REGISTER BY SEPTEMBER 26**

**Awards for  
1st & 2nd Place in each age Group  
Awesome Overall Male & Overall Female Awards**

**Age Groups  
6 -12 years • 13 - 17 years • 18 - 25 years  
• 26 - 39 years • 40 & up**

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## JPAC strives to bring home POW/MIA



MAVEA ISLAND, Vanuatu – Dr. Denise To, left and Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Jacob Wimer, right, excavate a World War II aircraft crash site on the Island of Mavea.

By Army Sgt. Ryan Hallock

Somewhere deep underwater and on the battlefields of World War II are more than 73,000 Americans missing in action. Thousands more are unaccounted for in Korea, the jungles of Vietnam, and other conflicts.

Each year on the third Friday of September, Americans recognize, remember, and honor prisoners of war and service members missing in action. Each day the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) is striving hard to bring those service members home to their families and loved ones.

With its command headquarters located on the island of Oahu in Hawaii, JPAC conducts global search, recovery, and laboratory operations to identify POW and MIA around the world and return them home. Its detachments in Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, and Hawaii assist in-country support during investigation and recovery operations.

“This organization is vastly different than any other organization within the Department of Defense,” said Marine Col. Alan Thoma, JPAC deputy commander. “We’re the only ones who do this.”

The mission begins with investigating the locations of MIA and those service members killed in action who haven’t been returned home. JPAC actively negotiates with representatives from foreign countries to maintain positive relationships and the ability to gain country access. Gaining access isn’t guaranteed and has proven an obstacle in North Korea and countries with little or no relationship with the United States.

“We have built a very strong rapport – based off of the Vietnam conflict

– with Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia,” said Thoma. “We’re regularly in their countries.”

JPAC will be in Burma soon, a country that has been on hold for nearly seven years, said Thoma. As time passes and negotiations are more successful with foreign countries, JPAC is able to send their teams to search more places for Americans who are unaccounted for.

“We’re there in a humanitarian capacity,” said Thoma. “We’re not wearing uniforms; we don’t take weapon systems with us.”

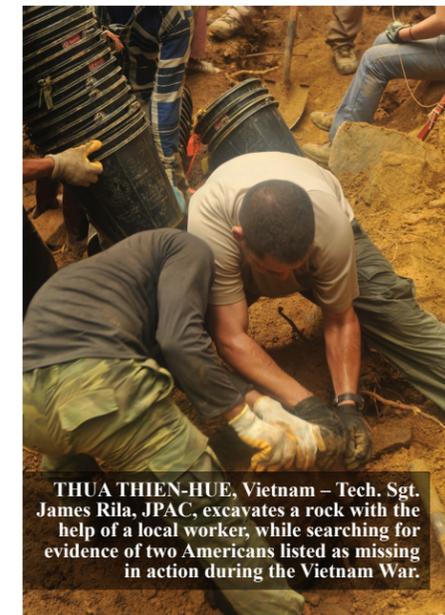
Recovery teams are comprised of anthropologists, linguists, medics, explosive ordnance disposal technicians, and other additional experts, depending on the mission requirements.

**“It is a once in a lifetime opportunity to do something – beyond the protecting of our nation – to bring these service members home.”**

Reports of the locations of downed aircraft or ground losses help the teams to locate MIA, find their remains, and bring them back home. Anthropologists set up excavation sites and sift through every ounce of soil dug for remains of service members.

“It is a once in a lifetime opportunity to do something – beyond the protecting of our nation – to bring these service members home,” said Thoma. “We have the responsibility to locate them, bring them here, and make an identification.”

The teams send all remains and artifacts found during the recovery back to JPAC’s Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii for analysis and identification. Experts use



THUA THIEN-HUE, Vietnam – Tech. Sgt. James Rila, JPAC, excavates a rock with the help of a local worker, while searching for evidence of two Americans listed as missing in action during the Vietnam War.

the world’s largest skeletal forensics lab to make identifications, said Thoma.

More than 1,800 Americans have been identified since the accounting effort began, said Thoma. “And we’re striving hard to locate more.”

After an identification is made, the next of kin is notified by the service member’s branch of service casualty service office, and the remains are returned home. JPAC has the ability to do something very special and to give families the closure they have been longing for. After waiting years, some decades, families can finally bury their loved ones.

“You are not forgotten.”  
The POW/MIA flag bears the motto and

flies with the American flag at the Joint Task Force Guantanamo headquarters. Today in GTMO, JPAC in Hawaii, and all over the world, people are remembering and honoring POW and MIA on their recognition day.

“If you personally were sitting in a cell somewhere, that is something you can always remember,” said Thoma. “There is a commitment and a resolve by America that we will not forget you, and we will come and find you.”

“Until they are home.”  
Combine JPAC’s motto with the one stitched on the POW/MIA flag and there is a powerful commitment to service members and their families that no comrade will ever be left behind.

# ANCHORS AWEIGH

## Chiefs Mess Welcomes 11 More at GTMO



Chief Electronics Technician Rolando Roblesnavarro has his gold fouled anchors pinned by his wife and children while he dons his combination cover for the first time.  
Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Joshua Hammond

By Mass Communication Specialist  
3rd Class Brian Jeffries

With an audience of family, friends and shipmates, 11 new U.S. Navy chief petty officers from Naval Station Guantanamo Bay joined the Chief's Mess during a chief petty officer pinning ceremony at the Windjammer Ballroom Friday, Sept 14.

The ceremony began with chief selectees marching out singing "Anchors Aweigh," followed by the NSGB Color Guard parading the colors and the national anthem performed by Senior Chief (retired) Marc Owins.

In order to get pinned, chief petty officer selectees go through a rite of passage called induction. It's a process steeped in tradition; providing knowledge, direction, heritage and training to the selectees.

It's based on the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy's guidance to ensure first class petty officers selected to chief understand the importance of transition, the role of the chief, and why it is the pinnacle of an enlisted person's career.

This process of induction is also what makes becoming a Navy E-7 different than any other branch, because chiefs and E-7s are two totally different things. The chief's pinning ceremony is a special Navy tradition

that dates back to 1893 when the chief petty officer pay-grade was created. The ceremony signifies a new position of leadership and responsibilities for the Navy.

Without the chief's knowledge, experience and superior leadership, there would be no land of the free and the home of the brave, said Commander John Dickens, while blessing the ceremony by giving the invocation. "When the enemy is dead ahead and the gates of hell break open, the response is, was, and always will be, 'ask the chief,'" he added.

During the ceremony, family members and other chiefs pinned on two gold-fouled anchors to each newly appointed chief's uniform.

"I felt and still feel very proud, humbled, and blessed," said Chief Petty Officer Brandon Lalley.

NSGB Command Master Chief Ross Cramer praised the NSGB CPO Mess for their leadership and efforts in preparing this year's group of chiefs for their new responsibilities and challenges as senior enlisted leaders. He also paid tribute to the many projects and accomplishments that this group of selectees completed in the past six weeks.

With a new leadership outlook, a new uniform, and a new way of doing business, the new chiefs received some sound advice from their fellow chiefs through a skit put on during the end of the ceremony.

The skit shed light on everyone the new chiefs should be thanking for this wonderful opportunity to serve others. They also made it clear once again that not only is the chief in charge, but his or her actions must uphold the sacred trust required to be a member of this elite corps of leaders in the U.S. Navy.

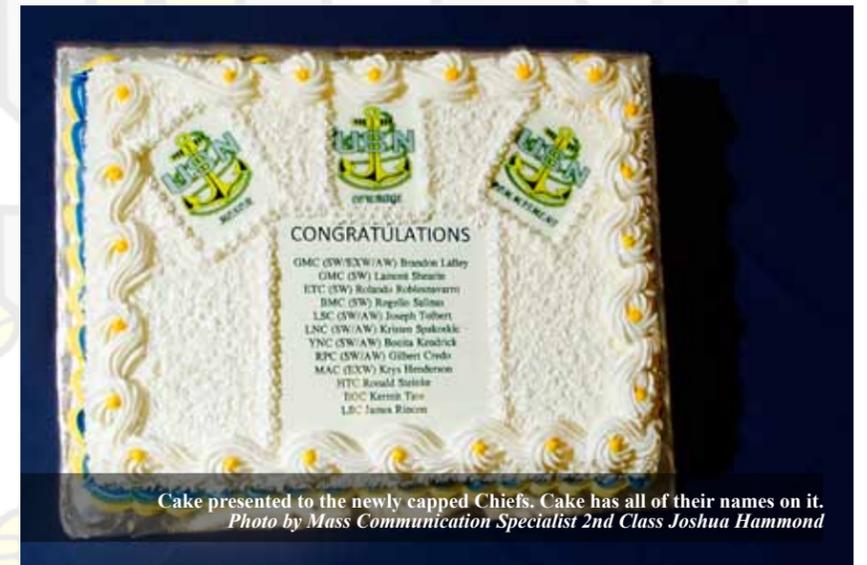
"I learned a lot from this induction season, and had a lot of fun with it," Lalley said about finally getting to the end of the long road to become a chief. "I know I wouldn't even have made it this far without the love and support from my family throughout my career."

As they acclimate to their new titles and become the face of deckplate leadership, the Chief's Mess is ready to help them navigate through the waters of being a first-year chief.

"The fact of the matter is, the U.S. Navy could probably operate without officers but there is NO WAY IN HELL it could operate without Chiefs," Tom Clancy, May 1994.



Chief Equipment Operator Kermit Tate salutes side boys as he gets rung aboard for the first time as a Chief Petty Officer.  
Photo by Stacey J. Byington



Cake presented to the newly capped Chiefs. Cake has all of their names on it.  
Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Joshua Hammond



Chief selectees before getting capped start the ceremony off marching while singing anchors aweigh.  
Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Michael Davis Jr.

# Spec. Heida Diaz



## Trooper Focus



Photo and Story by Spc. Vanessa Davila

You work your whole life to fulfill a dream. No matter how little or how big that dream is, it's got to be a disappointment when you come to the point in your path where you chose to stop working for that dream, short of fulfilling it, because real life happens: children, mortgages, and a million other responsibilities. Some individuals spiral downward, unable to accept their circumstances. Others, like Spc. Heida Diaz, accept what the being in the sky has planned for their lives and keep living, with a smile.

Diaz was graced by the powers that be with a voice worthy of song. She began to sing at her school and local church in Puerto Rico at the age of nine. She went on to sing for a college choir before she even entered college and eventually enrolled in the same university she sang for. She chose to major in music with the goal that she would become a music teacher.

"Music is a way of expression. I always thought that if you want to say something and you don't know how to say it, [music] is how you say it," said Diaz about her love affair with music. "I have a friend who's always telling me 'the stage is your house.'"

Despite her strong relationship with music, in 2004 Diaz decided she needed a break and stopped singing. That meant leaving the band she joined when she was 21.

"It was kind of exhausting," said Diaz

about her career in music.

The break turned into something permanent: life happened. Diaz's intention was to finish taking the last few classes she had left to graduate but life happened. She didn't fret over her circumstances and simply continued to live her life, eventually joining the Puerto Rico National Guard when she was 27.

"I wanted to earn two Grammys at least

before I retired," said Diaz.

"But I think it was not meant for me."

Diaz said she wanted to try something new and better her opportunities. She had no idea joining the Army would also bring her back to the stage. Almost as soon as Diaz was done with Advanced Individual Training, the Puerto Rico National Guard band called and asked her to go on a Christmas tour to promote a Christmas recording they made. Diaz accepted and loved every minute of it.

She hasn't done much with music since then, until she arrived here on Guantanamo Bay a few months ago. Diaz is part of a church choir that performs every week at the Sunday Gospel service.

"When it comes to church and I want to worship, that's actually the best way for me to do it," said Diaz. "I really feel what I'm

doing."

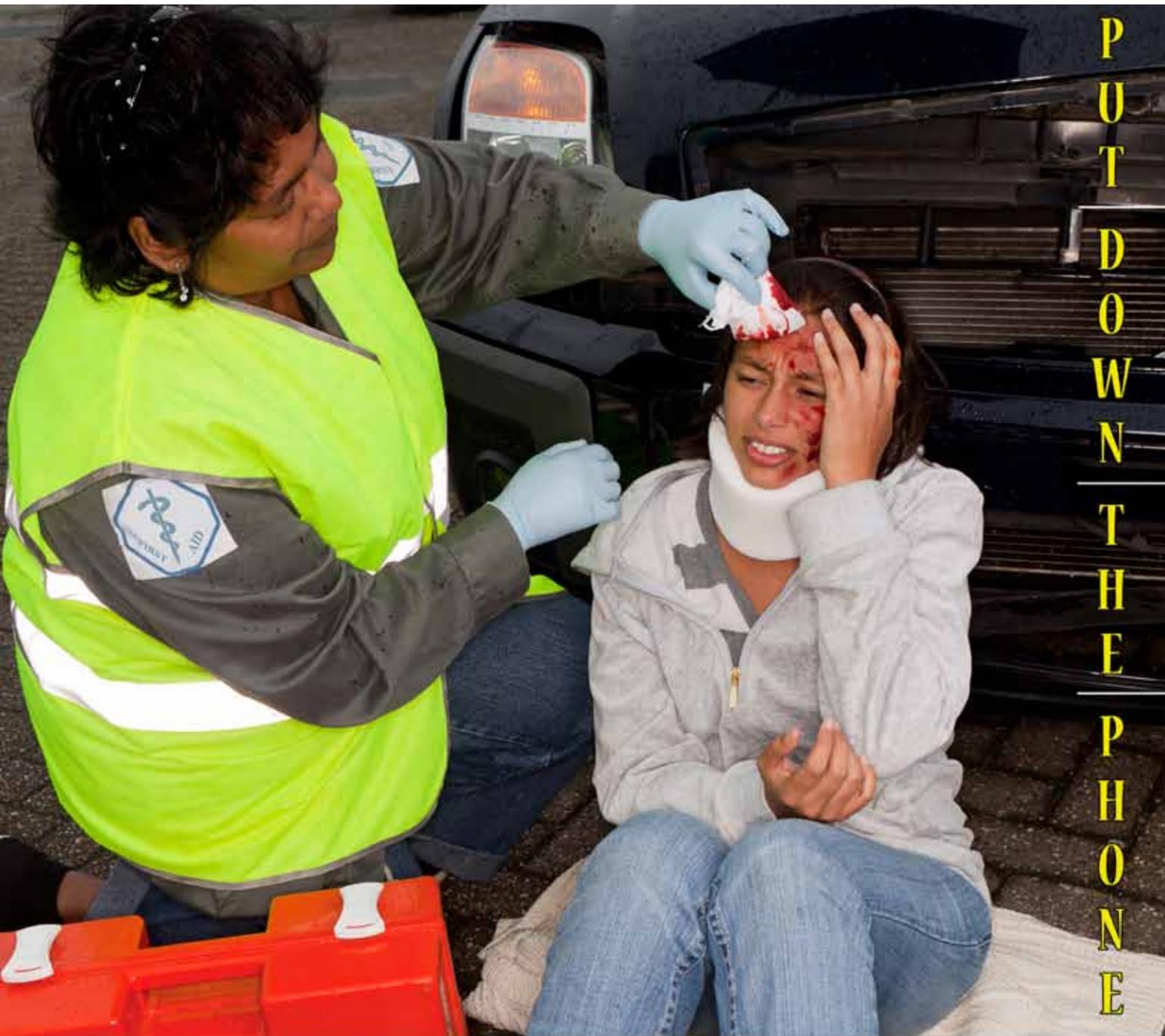
Cuba has been good to Diaz. She's singing again and the similarities between the island of Cuba and her homeland of Puerto Rico sometimes quell the home sickness. And her favorite part of Puerto Rico...

"The warmth of my people," said Diaz.

She's never been away from home for a substantial amount of time except for Army Basic Training and AIT. "Familia" and homeland are entwined like the coils of DNA.

"For me, family is the biggest thing, because we're always together for everything. We grew up together. We ran in the same back yard every Sunday at my grandmother's house," said Diaz. "I'm blessed with a family that is not looking for each other."





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**6,000 DEATHS** and over half a million injuries are caused by distracted drivers every year

**1 in 20** car crashes in the US are linked to cell phones

Cell phone distraction causes **2,600 DEATHS** and 330,000 injuries in the United States every year



Story and photos by Army Sgt. Brett "Bloody McGarritty" Perkins

When given the task of covering Talk Like a Pirate Day, I had no idea what sort of craziness this was all about. Was it some sort of children's activity thought up by the library staff? How does one keep interest in talking like a pirate all day? Most importantly of course, how does one pick up the ladies whilst talking like a pirate?

My very first step was to head to the library several days in advance of the event. There, several important elements of Talk Like a Pirate Day were impressed upon me.

1) Talk Like a Pirate Day always takes place on the 19th of September.

2) The proper title is International Talk Like a Pirate Day, which hints at worldwide acceptance and participation.

3) There is a website dedicated to this strange holiday:  
<http://www.talklikeapirate.com>.

Loaded with this information, I set sail for the distant port of knowledge. It turns out that the history of International Talk Like



a Pirate Day began fairly recently – in the early 1990s – as a tradition started between two friends. These two brave buccaneers, Mark Summers and John Baur, known also as Cap'n Slappy and Ol' Chumbucket, pillaged and looted around the internet. It was here that they stumbled across the email address of author Dave Barry. Mr. Barry then brought the idea to the attention of the public in 2002. The rest of the tale is, of course, history.

Today, International Talk Like a Pirate Day is celebrated across six of the seven continents, and on all seven of the seas. And yes, for those of you pirates out there looking for love, both his and her "piratical" pick-up lines are available on the website.

Naval Station Guantanamo Bay celebrated International Talk Like a Pirate Day at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation library. The event had a less than stellar turn out. Of course all the things that this event may have been lacking - notably grog, swashbuckling, and ready access to docks for the tying up of pirate ships - were far overshadowed by the troubling thought that perhaps this holiest of pirate holidays had gone largely unnoticed. This troubling thought may have entered the minds of some of GTMO's most notorious pirates, but this of course didn't stop them from offering a slightly salty "Arrrr" to everyone who entered the library.

Amy "Black Anne Rackham" Roumell, Patricia "Jolly Mary" Brown, Denise "Aethelflaed the Short" Brown, and Kenisha "Swashy Prudence" Stewart observed this holiday on GTMO for the second straight year. The notorious pirate lasses had stowed their muskets and cutlasses for one day and instead made landfall with a motley crew of unsavory jack-tars. The spirit was certainly alive, even if most of the base's residents had missed landfall. So maybe the library wasn't the pirate's first choice for entertainment; and perhaps the event would have benefited from a ration of grog; and maybe having the event start during school/duty hours may have been less than ideal; but for those of us who wait with eager anticipation each year, the event was near perfect. Especially since I was the only male pirate in attendance! And now me buckos, raise the anchor, trim the sheets, and hoist the main sail. Until next year, I'll be sailing for ports



FEATURE

# It's all about balance

By Spc. Vanessa Davila

If your body is a temple then why do you eat Ho Hos?

I'm partial to Hostess Orange Cupcakes. If you are what you eat then why do you order three personal pan pizzas for your consumption every Sunday?

I'm more a fan of those cheese sticks dipped in an abundance of a viscous sauce called garlic butter, artificially flavored of course, with a side of personal pan pizza.

Why does Whole Foods charge me an infinite amount more for an organic banana as opposed to a regular, all-American banana glistening with pesticides?

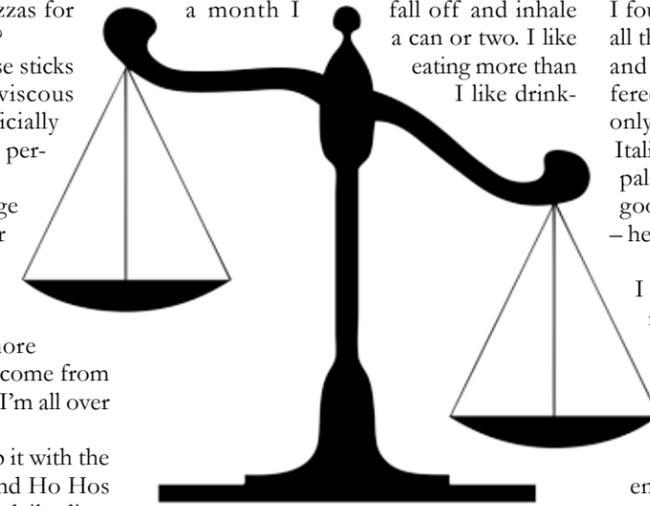
Whole Foods markets are more popular than crack dens where I come from but I never buy organic bananas; I'm all over the organic apples though.

Balance. That's the point. Stop it with the absolutes! Cupcakes and pizza and Ho Hos don't kill people. Those whose daily diets consist of fatty cakes for breakfast, burgers for lunch and pizza for dinner are the ones killing themselves. They haven't found their balance. Go ahead, consume delicious things that won't shrink your waistline. Just eat more things that will. Find your balance.

I say eating salad is like eating tree. I still eat a ton of tree (not with fattylicious dressing) so I can chow down on a double and a single cheeseburger every Saturday. I'm a burger addict which just makes me a burger connoisseur in my humble opinion. If I could eat one every day, I would. But I can't! Not unless I want them to cut a hole in my

wall big enough to evacuate my 500-pound carcass when I die.

Before my chunky friend labeled my burger love an addiction, I was a slave to that drink called soda. I've been on the wagon for years now, except once or twice a month I fall off and inhale a can or two. I like eating more than I like drink-



soda. The city that never sleeps always has a joint its dwellers can frequent at all hours of the day and night to fill their bulging guts. So I began to roam the city with my peeps when I grew tired of my mom's menu in search of what the diverse city had to offer my belly. I found excess and gladly lathered myself in all the Shack burgers and Venezuelan arepas and pork cheeks the five boroughs proffered. You know there are restaurants who only sell one thing? No, not one thing like Italian or Irish, one thing like meatballs! My palate grew out of adolescence – fast food, goodbye! – and matured into a pricey thing – hello expensive New York City restaurants.

But fancy food doesn't ensure balance I found out. It just guarantees a pocket filled with more lint than currency. One day as I listened to Ace of Base's "I Saw the Sign," I opened my eyes and saw the sign: the U.S. Army logo looking right at me as the 7 train pulled into the 82nd Street station. I

enlisted and my pockets weren't so bare anymore. I was also thrust out of my city into places where the food's not so good in comparison. My new job inadvertently helped me find my balance. You can't be a fit Soldier and dive daily into burgers and soda and meatballs.

You don't need Ace of Base and a U.S. Army logo to find your balance. Balance is being on the wagon and sometimes you might fall off and eat too many Ho Hos. All you need to do is put the Ho Ho down get back on the wagon, and remember this, just because your body is a temple doesn't mean that a Ho Ho can't come to worship you every once in a while.



## Puerto Ricans feel American pride

*Pictured are three soldiers from the Puerto Rico National Guard: Sgt. 1st Class Ronald Rivera, Joint Detention Group J4 non-commissioned officer in charge, Sgt. Jose Maldonado and Spc. Dimas Ruiz, also of JDG J4. Maldonado says he and his fellow Puerto Ricans enjoy serving the United States, especially at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay.*

Story and photo by Army Sgt. Jonathan Monfiletto

Puerto Rico may not be an official U.S. state, but that does not mean the Soldiers that hail from the U.S. territory feel any less patriotic or any less enthusiastic about serving their mother country.

"I love my job, and I love my uniform," said Army Sgt. Jose Maldonado, who is in his third deployment with the Puerto Rico Army National Guard. "I will always support the Constitution and the American people."

Maldonado arrived at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay on June 28 for his second tour of duty here after previously being deployed here for a year in December 2009.

This time he's a supply sergeant with the Joint Detention Group. In his first tour here he helped handle external security at Camp America as part of an artillery unit.

He has a deployment to Afghanistan under his belt as well, a tour that lasted from 2006 to 2008 where he served with an artillery battery.

The former active duty Soldier who has served for nine years and works as an Active Guard Reserve property book officer back in Puerto Rico said he is not unique. He said his unit is a mix of new and older Soldiers with up to five deployments on their resumes who share his love of the United States, despite calling Puerto Rico home.

"They come here just because they love what they do," Maldonado said.

He pointed to the significant role the Puerto Rico National Guard plays at GTMO

and said he estimates a new Puerto Rico unit arrives to support the Joint Task Force mission about once every two rotations.

"They have been doing their job well," he said. "Every time, they [U.S.] ask for the Puerto Rico National Guard. We have some really good Soldiers, professional Soldiers."

While they may come from different countries and speak different languages, Maldonado said he and his fellow Soldiers have much in common with their American counterparts — they are always ready and willing to do their part and follow their orders.

"I'll always support this mission and what my superiors say," he said. "I'll always be supportive of my chain of command."

For Maldonado and his fellow Soldiers, he said the cause for their loyalty is quite simple — it is all about supporting a nation that has shown so much support for the people of Puerto Rico.

"We have a nation that backs us up always," Maldonado said. "We're part of their American nation, and we need to support it. Whatever they ask of me I'll give."

That does not mean that life and the mission is always easy for Maldonado, Puerto Rican Soldiers and their American counterparts.

"This place is crazy," Maldonado said. "We come here to do a job, which we all do, but some things are crazy."

Maldonado recalled a time during his first tour at GTMO when a movie was playing at the Camp Bulkeley Lyceum he kept trying to see with no such luck.

Finally, he got a free night in which he was able to make it to the theater. Part way through the movie the projector shut off and the movie ended prematurely.

Maldonado said a guard came out and said a group of detainees, who were being housed at Camp Delta at the time, had complained that the movie was too loud and they could not sleep, so the movie had to be turned off.

"Those are the little things that get you," he said, noting that incidents such as that still do not dampen the pride he feels in serving both Puerto Rico and the United States. "I know what we're doing is important for America."

Maldonado illustrated how his job as a supply sergeant here is important not just for the JTF mission but for the American people by pointing out that the equipment he takes care of was paid for by the American taxpayers.

"We need to keep track of those things," he said.

While Maldonado and his fellow Puerto Rico National Guard members share a sense of American pride and patriotism, he said that is not a sentiment shared by all of the citizens of Puerto Rico.

Some people, he said, question his commitment to the U.S. and willingness to serve in the U.S. military as a Puerto Rican citizen.

"Do you love being Puerto Rican? Do you love your liberty? I'm supporting your way of life," Maldonado said he tells his fellow Puerto Ricans who ask about his military service. "I love the American way of life, even though we are Puerto Rican. ... I love the way we live."

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





By Army Sgt. Jonathan Monfiletto

**H**ilarious slapstick comedy. Well-timed political satire. A feel-good story. An all-around fun movie.

All that wrapped up into one film is exactly what Will Ferrell's new movie, "The Campaign," has to offer audiences of both genders, almost all ages, and nearly all tastes who just want to laugh their butts off.

And with the presidential campaign in full swing and the 2012 election on the horizon, "The Campaign" has a very fitting, very timely release and provides a nice, funny commentary on the state of American politics.

The film revolves around the re-election campaign of North Carolina Congressman Cam Brady, who is seeking his fifth term in office and appears to be cruising toward victory with an unopposed race.

The film begins with Brady announcing his campaign and going over his talking points - "America, Jesus, and freedom" - and then meeting with all kinds of groups, telling them all that they are the nation's backbone - veterans, schools and even Filipino Tilt-a-Whirl operators.

But, a widely publicized political blunder on the part of Brady leads his opponents - two men with plenty of money and influence - to bring in Marty Huggins, the bumbling, timid tourism director from the small town of Hammond, to challenge Brady in hopes of furthering their own interests.

With Ferrell as Brady and Zach Galifianakis as Huggins, hilarity ensues when the two candidates stage their first debate and Huggins makes a weak attempt to trash talk Brady while they shake hands before

it begins. Then they duel to win the crowd - Brady with his well versed rhetoric and Huggins with his catch phrase, "It's a mess."

Next, of course, come the political ads and the mudslinging, as Brady and Huggins trade barbs in a vicious, intense campaign that makes the current presidential campaign seem tame and civil. The false accusations from either side are just hilarious.

And the competition is fierce - babies and dogs get punched, sons get urged to call someone else dad, and wives get slept with and put on TV. Brady gets pulled over for drunk driving, and Huggins nearly relives the act that gave him his childhood nickname.

Meanwhile, the polls constantly fluctuate in favor of either Brady or Huggins, depending on which candidate is saying what and doing what on any given day of the week. By Election Day, no one knows who is going to win, and the race is far from being declared.

While obviously a Hollywood creation, the movie is given a touch of realness with cameo appearances by Wolf Blitzer, Chris Matthews and several other political commentators, as they talk about the Brady-Huggins race on their own news shows.

My penchant for comedy alone makes me give this film four banana rats. Will Ferrell seems to be one of those actors people either love or hate, and I love him. He's been a race car driver, a news anchor, one of Santa's elves and everything in between. And even as a politician he gives another fantastic performance.

I was holding back half a rat because, from the beginning, I felt like the movie was going to have a predictable ending - either Huggins was going to win and bask in the triumph, or Brady was going to win and show

that the system just wasn't ready for change.

I won't tell you how the movie ends - what would the fun in that be? Go see it for yourself! - but a surprise ending brought the movie to an awesome close and forced me to throw that half a rat high in the air. Four and a half rats it is for Mr. Ferrell and Mr. Galifianakis.

I will warn you to stay in your seats when the credits start rolling, as there is one more brief scene displaying a congressional hearing on campaign finance. It's worth sticking around to get an extra chuckle or two.

I know it's not normally part of the review, but I also have to give a full five banana rats to my inaugural experience at the Downtown Lyceum. I arrived on the island just shy of two weeks ago by the time this issue comes out, and I knew when I first got here that a night at an outdoor movie theater was something I just had to try.

Comfortable seats, tasty snacks and a great atmosphere with the warm island evening air made for an enjoyable evening, and I already look forward to going back and catching some more fun at the theater. I hope to be able to see a show at least once a week.

When I do go back, though, it will be hard to top "The Campaign." It had us nearly falling out of seats with laughter that could probably be heard across the bay. It had the right mixture of pure humor and great storyline that I love in a comedy film.

It is also shaping up, in my opinion, to become an instant classic along with other such Ferrell films as "Anchorman," "Elf," "Talladega Nights" and the like. Movies such as "The Campaign" are just plain worthy of four and a half rats.

PROTECT YOUR INFO!



# ALERT Malware is everywhere!

Malware continued to proliferate this year with an average of 42 new malware strains created every minute. Most of the new malware created are Trojans (68.34 percent), followed by viruses (16.02 percent), worms (11.69 percent) and adware (2.58 percent). Trojans remain popular because they are the ideal tool for cyber crooks to steal user data, providing the largest financial return to threat creators. Protect yourself online and be careful when surfing the web. Make sure your virus protection software is up to date and remember OPSEC!

## 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.

**Spanish-language Mass**  
Sunday 4:35 p.m.

**General Protestant**  
Sunday 11 a.m.

**Gospel Service**  
Sunday 1 p.m.

**Christian Fellowship**  
Sunday 6 p.m.

**Chapel Annexes**

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

**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.**

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

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

	21 FRI	22 SAT	23 SUN	24 MON	25 TUE	26 WED	27 THU
<b>Downtown Lyceum</b>	Moonrise Kingdom (NEW) (PG-13) 8 p.m. Magic Mike (LAST SHOWING) (R) 10 p.m.	Madea's Witness Protection (PG-13) 8 p.m. The Dark Knight Rises (PG-13) 10 p.m.	Savages (NEW) (R) 8 p.m.	People Like Us (Last Showing) (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Ice Age: Continental Drift (PG) 8 p.m.	Seeking a Friend for the End of the World (R) 8 p.m.	Savages (NEW) (R) 8 p.m.
<b>Camp Buikley</b>	Savages (NEW) (R) 8 p.m. People Like Us (LAST SHOWING) (PG-13) 10 p.m.	Moonrise Kingdom (NEW) (PG-13) 8 p.m. Magic Mike (LAST SHOWING) (R) 10 p.m.	Seeking a Friend for the End of the World (R) 8 p.m.	Madea's Witness Protection (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Savages (NEW) (R) 8 p.m.	Ice Age: Continental Drift (PG) 8 p.m.	The Dark Knight Rises (PG-13) 8 p.m.

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



**Until they are home**



**National POW/MIA Recognition Day**

September 21, 2012

[www.dtic.mil/dpmo](http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo)