

# THE WIRE

The official publication of

Joint Task Force Guantanamo



## *Chasing reindeer*

Jingle Bell Run encourages holiday fitness

## *Santa's uniformed helpers*

# AROUND THE BAY

AND IN OUR PAGES



## 5 Do you hear what I hear?

*Soldiers from the 525th MP Battalion jingles all the way*

## Other Stories

4 *Command Corner and Trooper to Trooper*

6 *Reviews of the latest movies on base*



## Cover Story

Cover photo by Spc. Lerone Simmons

Santa visits Guantanamo, spreads cheer.

PAGE 7

## BAY WIRE REPORT

### Ridgeline Racers



GTMO's Morale, Welfare and Recreation program will sponsor a Ridgeline mountain bike race Jan. 4, 9 - 10 a.m.

Registration is open to riders of all ages and is free to attend. Only 14 slots are available, so register by Jan. 1, at the Marina.

For more information call ext. 2345.

### Meteor Shower Party

Come out to see the amazing night sky and learn about astronomy while looking through the Celestron C11 Telescope. Meeting time is set for Thursday, Jan. 2, 5:30 -11 p.m. at the Lighthouse parking lot. Late attendance will not be permitted after 6 p.m. For more information contact Lt. Cmdr. Cynthia Holland at ext. 9717.

### Bingo all the way

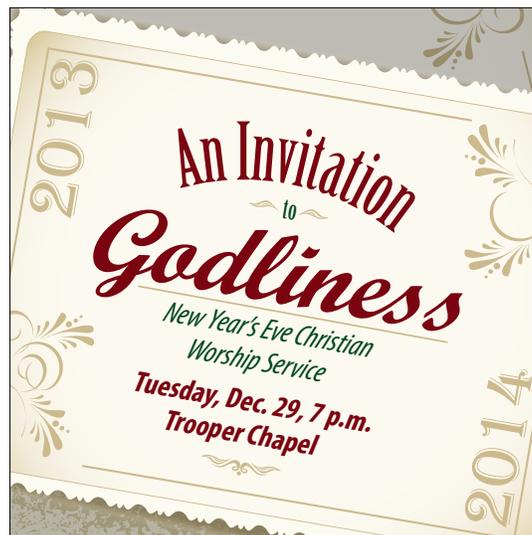
If you like blotting numbers with colorful specialty markers then Bingo at the Windjammer is the place you need to be! Bingo on Tuesdays and Sundays from 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. Get two packs of Bingo cards for just \$10.



**MOTIVATOR**  
OF THE WEEK

**Sgt Kyle Mullinix**  
Military Justice

**SPC ShanQuayla Johnson**  
HHD, 93rd Police Battalion



CORRECTIONS Please report all corrections to [thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil](mailto:thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil)



# THE WIRE

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## Look for us on your favorite Social Media:

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# Religious Services

## NAVSTA Chapel

**Catholic Mass**  
Mon.-Thur. 5:30 p.m.  
Saturday 5 p.m.  
Sunday 9 a.m.

## Protestant Services

General Protestant  
Sunday 11 a.m.  
Gospel Worship  
Sunday 1 p.m.

## Chapel Annexes

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

**LDS Service**  
Sunday 10 a.m., Room 19

**Islamic Service**  
Friday, 1:15 p.m., Room 2

**Seventh Day Adventist**  
Friday, 7 p.m., Room 1  
Sabbath School: Saturday 9:30 a.m.,  
Room 1  
Sabbath Service: Saturday 11:00 a.m.,  
Room 1

## JTF Trooper Chapel

**Protestant Worship**  
Sunday 6:40 a.m.  
Sunday 9 a.m.  
Sunday 7 p.m.

# Transportation Schedules

## Bus #1, 2, 3:

Camp America - :00, :20, :40  
Gazebo - :01, :21, :41  
Camp America NEX - :02, :22, :42  
Camp Delta - :04, :24, :44  
TK 6 - :07, :27, :47  
TK 4 - :13, :33, :53  
JAS - :14, :34, :54  
TK 3 - :15, :35, :55  
TK 2 - :16, :36, :56  
TK 1 - :17, :37, :57  
CC - :19, :39, :59  
Windjammer/Gym - :22, :42, :02  
Gold Hill Galley - :24, :44, :04  
NEX - :26, :46, :06  
NEX Laundry - :27, :47, :07  
C Pool - :30, :50, :10  
Downtown Lyceum - :31, :51, :11  
NEX - :33, :53, :13  
Gold Hill Galley - :35, :55, :15  
Windjammer/Gym - :37, :57, :17  
CC - :40, :00, :20  
TK 1 - :41, :01, :21  
TK 2 - :42, :02, :22  
TK 3 - :43, :03, :23  
TK 4 - :44, :04, :24  
Camp 6 - :50, :10, :30  
Camp Delta - :53, :13, :33  
HQ Building - :55, :15, :35  
Camp America NEX - :57, :17, :37  
Gazebo - :58, :18, :38  
Camp America - :00, :20, :40

## NEX Express Bus

9:55 a.m. - 7:55 p.m.  
Every hour at the stated times

Camp America - :55, :48  
TK 1 - :05, :36  
Denich Gym/Windjammer - :11, :31  
Gold Hill Galley - :14, :29  
NEX - :16, :27  
Downtown Lyceum - :17, :25

## Beach Bus

### Sat. and Sun. only - Location #1-4

Windward Loop  
9 a.m., 12 p.m., 3 p.m., 6 p.m.  
**East Caravella**  
SBOQ/Marina  
9:05 a.m., 12:05 p.m., 3:05 p.m.

**NEX**  
9:08 a.m., 12:08 p.m.,  
3:08 p.m., 6:08 p.m.

**Phillips Park**  
9:14 a.m., 12:14 p.m.,  
3:14 p.m.

**Cable Beach**  
9:17 a.m., 12:17 p.m.,  
3:17 p.m.

**Windward Loop**  
9:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m.,  
3:30 p.m.

**NEX**  
9:25 a.m., 12:25 p.m.,  
3:25 p.m., 6:25 p.m.

**SBOQ/MARINA**  
9:35 a.m., 12:35 p.m., 3:35 p.m.

**Return to Office**  
9:40 a.m., 12:40 p.m., 3:40 p.m.

# JOINT TASK FORCE GUANTANAMO



SAFE



HUMANE



LEGAL



TRANSPARENT



# Shepharding the flock from the wolves

**By Capt. Eric Venema**

*Chief of Staff, Joint Task Force Guantanamo*



Capt. Eric Venema

I was recently reminded about a book titled “On Combat,” by Lt. Col. TC Dave Grossman. In his book, Grossman introduces his theory of sheep, wolves and sheepdogs. It is a good analogy on life, and especially pertinent to our mission as Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen, and Coast Guardsmen. As Grossman states:

*“Most people are sheep. They are kind, decent people who are not capable of hurting each other, except by accident or under extreme provocation.*

*“Then there are the wolves. The wolves feed on the sheep without mercy. There are evil men in this world and they are capable of evil deeds. The moment you forget that or pretend it*

*is not so, you become a sheep. There is no safety in denial.*

*“Then there are sheepdogs. Sheepdogs live to protect the flock and confront the wolf.*

*“In nature, the sheep, real sheep, are born as sheep. Sheepdogs are born that way, and so are wolves. They didn’t have a choice. But you are not a critter. As a human being, you can be whatever you want to be. It is a conscious, moral decision. If you want to be a sheep, then you can be a sheep and that is okay, but you must understand the price you pay if there is not a sheepdog there to protect you. If you want to be a wolf, you can be one, but the sheepdogs are going to hunt you down and you will never have rest, safety, trust or love. But if you want to be a sheepdog and walk the Warrior’s path, then you must make a conscious and moral decision every day to dedicate, equip and prepare yourself to thrive in that toxic, corrosive moment when the wolf comes knocking at the door.”*

I’m proud serve with all you sheepdogs! Honor Bound!

## TROOPER TO TROOPER

# Keeping in touch with family while deployed

**By 1st. Sgt. Roland A. Ellis III**

*First Sergeant, 591st Military Police Co.*

Military life can be tough, demanding and very rewarding. As Warriors we are often required to spend time away from our families and loved ones in order to meet training and deployment requirements. As such, it is imperative that we devise a way to stay connected with our loved ones while serving in this challenging and unique career.

My deployment to Guantanamo Bay this past June marked my fifth deployment, and second since returning from Afghanistan in September 2012. Deployments are part of military life. However, what sets this one apart is that it marks the first Christmas and anniversary I will spend away from my family since marrying in 2007.



1SG Roland Ellis

Careful planning, creativity, and maintaining a good sense of humor has been essential to making this deployment a smooth one.

Thanks to modern technology and the Internet, my wife and I have made it a point to FaceTime almost daily, if only for 10 to 15 minutes. If a picture speaks 1,000 words, then a FaceTime session speaks volumes. So far, I have been able to watch “live coverage” of the children’s basketball games and the always intense Xbox Live sessions. We’re never out of touch and this isn’t the only available option as other possibilities are presented via Facebook and Gmail with their text, chat and video messaging capabilities. Many MWR/Liberty facilities and most company or unit offices have Internet capabilities that provide varying degrees of access to those in Cuba.

In our highly technical, 21st-century world, you don’t have to be tech savvy

in order to stay in touch, as phone calls and “snail mail” are valid alternatives.

Upon arrival to Guantanamo, our Soldiers were issued Moral PINs that facilitate phone calls to friends and family. For many, the two, 15 minute calls per week have done wonders for morale. There are several phone banks available and calling cards can be purchased at the NEX and Mini Marts. It’s surprising just how much of an impact a phone call, card or letter can have on your family. Just think, a decade ago this was the only option available to forward deployed troops.

The “GTMO Experience” varies from person to person and there are a number of available resources. Your time away doesn’t last forever and with a bit of creativity and drive, you and your family can remain connected whether this is your first or fifteenth trip away from home. Keeping in touch with your family makes the time away much smoother.

# Jingling all the way around the base

*525th gets in the holiday spirit with battalion run*

Story and photos by Sgt. David Bolton  
Copy Editor, [thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil](mailto:thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil)

In the hushed morning hours of Dec. 20, Soldiers of the 525th Military Police Battalion gathered in the parking lot of the Downtown Lyceum, decked to the halls in holiday regalia. With a mere five days before the arrival of Santa, the Soldiers donned red and green shirts, reindeer antlers, holiday lights, gifts and, of course, jingle bells on their running shoes for a battalion-wide holiday run. The run itself, little more than two miles, took the jolly joggers up to the U.S. Naval Station Commander's, Navy Capt. J.R. Nettleton, house and back down to the lyceum.

One Soldier, Army Staff Sgt. Michael Chesney, military police, 189th MP Co., went so far as to dress up in a box, wrapped in wrapping paper, for the Esprit De Corps run.

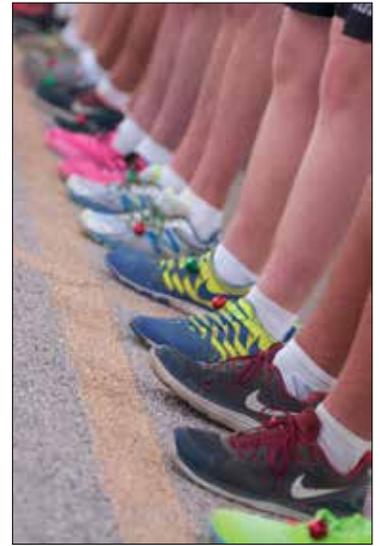
"I hope I have enough morale in this box for the troops. It doesn't start with Staff Sgt. Chesney, but it ends with the troops," said Chesney.

Chesney added the idea behind the box represented the presents that children will get this year. Others in the battalion also enjoyed the chance to wear more festive personal decorations for this bonding event.

"We all get to dress up and have unit cohesion," said Army 2nd Lt. Thelma Teal, personnel officer in charge, 525th MP Bn. Headquarters and Headquarters Company. "It's fun to do, especially here with no snow. It's good to celebrate."

As the Soldiers of the 525th neared the end point, family members joined their Service members to come across the finish line to sound of holiday songs played over the parking lot speakers. Once the battalion had formed up, the commander gave a few closing words of praise to her Warriors.

"Vigilant Warriors, you look awesome," said Army Lt. Col. Darcy Overbey, commander, 525th MP Bn. "Together, this Warrior spirit is what brings us back together and this is why we will always persevere, and accomplish the mission. I am so proud to be part of this organization, you truly are amazing." 🌟



Soldiers of the 525th Military Police Battalion assigned to Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, line up for a battalion-wide jingle bell run at the Downtown Lyceum Dec. 20. All runners wore jingle bells on their shoes as they ran around the naval base.



## OPSEC is a process

What is the 5-step process? First you identify what information is sensitive to you or your work, this is called critical information. Second you analyze the threat and third figure out how vulnerable your information is. If someone were to get your information, what is the risk involved? The fifth step is to emplace countermeasures. Countermeasures can range from shredding your important paperwork to changing your routine. It's easy to do and protects everyone. Use the OPSEC process both personally and professionally. It pays to be a hard target.



## Choose a password that is hard to crack

When choosing a password, try to make it by writing a sentence that you can easily remember. For example: "Los Angeles Lakers will win the NBA tournament this year". Then pick up the first letters of each word and also add at the beginning or at the end (or at both parts) some special characters and numbers. For example, with the last sentence you could get the password: =3LALwvtNtty\$. This method lets you come up with easy-to-remember passwords that are also hard to crack. And you avoid the need to write such a long password down in order to remember it.

Information Assurance



# “Anchorman 2,” a legend laced with perfection

Review by Staff Sgt. Rebecca Wood  
JTF-PAO, thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil

I am a huge “Anchorman” fan. However, I still dreaded the day when “Anchorman 2” would hit the theater. But mark my words, moviegoers, I forgot something very important - Ron Burgundy is kind of a big deal!

This movie keeps the same structure and brings back many of the same unforgettable characters



and inside jokes found in its predecessor. For you movie analyzers out there, there are still undertones of gender and race equality in this film which concentrate on the changes, whether good or bad, that took place in the news world in the 1980s.

Though this flick didn't have as many memorable moments as the first one, I feel I would be lynched by an angry mob of reporters with good hair if I didn't give this movie five banana rats. 🍌



Courtesy Paramount Pictures

## Hustle in the holiday with con artists

Review by Sgt. Katherine Forbes  
JTF-PAO, thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil



I love a good movie about con artists. The connecting factor is that the world of lies relies on something real. Every con artist must have someone to trust with the actual truth.

If this trust is ruined, the whole game is up.

This hustle begins with a simple love story; Irving Rosenfeld (Christian Bale) meets Sydney Prosser (Amy Adams) at a pool party. Bale and Adams' chemistry is electric, which is necessary to convince us to root for them as partners in crime. They get entangled with Richie DiMaso (Bradley Cooper), an overly ambitious FBI agent. The question of how they get out of it, without going to jail, getting killed or abandoning their mutual trust, is what hooks you.

I was going to give this film four banana rats, but it hustled the fifth one out of me! 🍌



Courtesy Annapurna Pictures

## Award-winning acting in “Dallas”

Review by Sgt. Cody Stagner  
JTF-PAO, thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil

This biographical drama follows real-life struggles of Ron Woodroof (Matthew McConaughey), a drug-addicted bull rider who contracted the AIDS virus in the mid-1980s.

McConaughey and supporting actor, Jared Leto (Rayon) were barely recognizable, both actors lost more than 30 pounds to add to the blatant realism within their Oscar-worthy performances.

On the other hand, the film's pace is somewhat slow and its repetitive scenes showing drugs, sex and alcohol use could easily turn viewers' interest.

For method-acting at its finest, but an overall experience lacking a compelling storyline, I give this film three banana rats. 🍌



Courtesy Truth Entertainment

## A punny walk with Dinos gets 2 rats, saves movie from extinction

Review by Sgt. 1st Class Gina Vaile-Nelson  
Editor, thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil

I knew what would happen when I went “Walking with Dinosaurs,” (I did pass grade school).

Parents get killed off, young hero fights adversity to win the love of his life. But getting there was a little painful – enter the puns and immature jokes about poo, vomit and snot (for the kids ... of course).

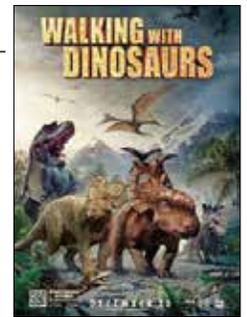


They really saved the movie. It had a big budget to bring the CGI dinos to the big screen. I wish they'd have used some of that money on sound – there's nothing worse than listening to a dino “telepathically” talk, with no facial expressions to match the tone or the fact that they sound animated, yet look real.

BUT, if it gets kids interested in the pre-

historic period, and interested in learning – then I guess it's mission success.

There were several kids there, but most of them seemed more interested in the poop and snot jokes than the dinos. For that, I give this movie two banana rats. 🍌



Courtesy 20th Century Fox

**Now Showing!**  
at the Downtown and Camp Bulkeley Lyceums

	<b>27 FRIDAY</b>	<b>28 SATURDAY</b>	<b>29 SUNDAY</b>	<b>30 MONDAY</b>	<b>31 TUESDAY</b>	<b>01 WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>02 THURSDAY</b>	
	<b>Saving Mr. Banks (New)</b> PG13, 7 p.m. <b>Homefront (New)</b> R, 9:30 p.m.	<b>Black Nativity (New)</b> PG, 7 p.m. <b>American Hustle</b> R, 9 p.m.	<b>Frozen</b> PG, 6 p.m. <b>Delivery Man</b> PG13, 8 p.m.	<b>Hunger Games: Catching Fire</b> PG13, 7 p.m.	<b>Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues</b> PG13, 7 p.m.	<b>Walking with Dinosaurs</b> PG, 7 p.m. <b>The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug</b> PG13, 9 p.m.	<b>The Best Man Holiday</b> R, 7 p.m.	
	<b>Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues</b> PG13, 8 p.m. <b>Dallas Buyers Club</b> R, 10:10 p.m.	<b>Homefront (New)</b> R, 8 p.m. <b>Saving Mr. Banks (New)</b> PG13, 10:15 p.m.	<b>Hunger Games: Catching Fire</b> R, 8 p.m.	<b>Lyceum closed</b> Note: Concessions at Camp Bulkeley are also closed every night until further notice.	<b>American Hustle</b> R, 8 p.m.	<b>Lyceum closed</b> Note: Concessions at Camp Bulkeley are also closed every night until further notice.	<b>Frozen</b> PG, 8 p.m.	
	<b>CAMP BULKELEY DOWNTOWN</b>							

Call the Movie Hotline at ext. 4880 or visit the MWR Facebook page for more information  
**Stay classy, GTMO! No ALCOHOL or TOBACCO at the Lyceums!**

# Spreading Joy

## Troopers give back to GTMO kids

Story and photos by Spc. Lerone Simmons

Staff Writer, [thewire@jftgtmo.southcom.mil](mailto:thewire@jftgtmo.southcom.mil)



**M**ost of us have been blessed with at least one toy during our childhood; whether it was a bicycle, Barbie doll, building

blocks or sports equipment.

Troopers from Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay, remembering their own feelings of Christmas past, stood outside the Naval Exchange atrium Dec. 19, and helped Santa distribute gifts.

“Many of us have children who are not here with us and this is our way to give back to GTMO’s children community,” said Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Rigel Martinez, the admin leading petty officer, assigned to Joint Medical Group, and organizer of the event.

Many JTF units and Troopers donated the gifts for the children of GTMO.

Martinez is the father of a two-year-old and understands how important it is to bring everyone together to bring smiles

to children’s faces.

“It was a community effort, comprised of JTF GTMO Military Police Units, along with civilians that took about two months to collect all the toys, and two hours of gift wrapping to get to where we are,” he said. “It’s the All-American spirit – we do the best with what we have.”

Andrew Teal, 3, with the assistance of his father Brian, shared his excitement about the toy drive.

“I am excited, I like seeing Santa,” he said. He was very appreciative of his toy, saying “thank you,” as he shook the box to guess what he received.

After a few shakes and several smiles, Andrew opted to open his gift once he was home.

“Seeing kids light up makes it feel good to give back,” said Navy Lt. jg. Jaime Shurden, a registered nurse assigned to the JMG. “It helps bring cheer.”

Shurden assisted with the organizing, wrapping, and distribution for the duration of the event.

“This allows everyone to come together, celebrate the holiday season and create life-long memories,” she said.

Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers help a U.S. Naval Station GTMO Sailor’s son pick out a toy during a toy drive at the Naval Exchange Atrium at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Dec. 19.



Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers pose with Santa Claus during the distribution of gifts, summing up a two-month toy drive at the Naval Exchange Atrium, Dec. 19.



*Santa's Classic*  
**Christmas Golf Tournament**  
A 9-hole, best ball knockout

**Sunday, Dec. 29, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.**  
**Lateral Hazard Golf Club**



Register prior to Wednesday, Dec. 25. For more information please call ext. 77288

**Stein Night**  
**Friday, Dec. 27, 6-9 p.m.**

**Ceramics Shop, Fee: \$30**

For more information please call ext. 74795



**HAPPY NEW YEAR**  
**MWR GTMO**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR PRESENTS LOCAL ARTISTS**

**TIKI BAR // 10PM // 2AM // 18 & UP FREE**

**DJ Gangster LIVE inside RICK'S - 10PM**  
**DJ MANNY G w/ PERCUSSION on stage - 1030PM**  
**THE BANANA RATS LIVE on stage - 9PM**

84735  
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www.cmc.navy.mil/guantanamo

# MWR Holiday Hours



**Food & Beverage**

Dec. 24: Normal operating hours  
Dec. 25: Closed  
Dec. 26: Bowling & Taco Bell: Noon-9 p.m.  
Normal hours for all others  
Dec. 31: Normal operating hours  
Jan. 1: Pizza Hut, O'Kelly's: 5-9:30 p.m.  
Bowling: Noon-9:30 p.m.  
Taco Bell: Noon-10 p.m.

**Outdoor Recreation**

Dec. 24: Golf Club House: Closed, No cart rental  
Marina: 11 a.m.-8 p.m.  
Dec. 25: Golf Club House: 8 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Marina: Closed  
Dec. 31: Golf Club House: Closed, No cart rental  
Marina: 11 a.m.-8 p.m.  
Jan. 1: Golf Club House: 3-7 p.m.  
Marina: Closed

\*Golf Course is always open. Clubs can be rented and kept overnight.  
\*\*Reserve boats in advance and pick up the keys the evening prior for morning use and use on a day the Marina is closed.

**Sports & Fitness**

Dec. 24: Normal operating hours  
Bulkeley Gym closes at 10 p.m.  
Dec. 25: All gyms and pools are Closed, except  
Bulkeley Gym opens at 10 a.m.  
Dec. 31: Normal operating hours  
Bulkeley Gym closes at 10 p.m.  
Jan. 1: All gyms and pools are Closed, except  
Bulkeley Gym opens at 10 a.m.

**Child & Youth Programs**

Teen Center holiday hours:  
Monday-Thursday: 1-7 p.m.  
Friday-Saturday: 1-9 p.m.  
Closed Christmas and New Year's Day

All CYP other facilities  
Dec. 25 and Jan. 1: Closed  
Dec. 24 & 31: Normal operating hours

Happy Holidays!