

# THE V WIRE

The official publication of  5th Special Forces Group (Airmobile)

## ***Averting disaster***

How two JTF Soldiers saved  
the lives of their fellow man

## ***How to save a life***

Red Cross offers classes  
to aid, assist

***GTMO Cheer***

# AROUND THE BAY

AND IN OUR PAGES



## 8 Life in Boots

American Red Cross helps residents make a difference



## 10 Heroes Among Us

JTF Soldiers rescue swimmers from peril



## Cover Story

Cover photo by Sgt. William Sieck

The festive Christmas tree overlooks the sleepy base of Guantanamo Bay  
PAGE 6

## Other Stories

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- 11 Cartoons and Chaplain's Word of the Week

## BAY WIRE REPORT

### ACM salutes your service



The Academy of Country Music is looking for Service members who can carry a country tune to audition for a "Salute to the Military" show that will air in May of 2014 on CBS. If you're interested in recording an audition please contact Sgt. Antonio Archer with PAO at ext. 73836 or antonio.f.archer@jftgmo.southcom.mil.

One Service member from each branch will be selected to represent their service on the show which will be broadcast live on April 7, 2014 from Las Vegas, Nev.

### Drown some bait

The first Liberty Center night fishing event of 2014 takes place Friday, Jan. 10, at 6 p.m. at the Marina. Call ext. 2010 or email the Liberty Center at liberty@gtmo-mwr.org 24 hours in advance to attend.

### Glaze and Bake

Ceramics Sunday is back GTMO, and you can get in on the action with some free ceramics painting Sunday, Jan. 5, from 1 - 4 p.m. at the ceramics shop.

2 <http://www.jftgmo.southcom.mil/xwebsite/index.html>



**MOTIVATOR**  
OF THE WEEK

**Sgt. Jeremiah Thurman**  
3/89th Cavalry Regiment

**Sgt. Jordan Braga**  
HHD 93rd Military Police Battalion

## Time for a New Ride?

Go to the **GSA Vehicle Sale**

Vehicles will be on display in the NEX parking lot

**Jan. 10-13**

Place bids at GSA website  
[www.gsaauctions.gov](http://www.gsaauctions.gov)  
and use sale number  
**2FFBP114001**



For more information  
contact CW2 Jose Rosario at ext. 3343

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



# THE WIRE

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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  
**Camp 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



# Leadership for the future

By **Capt. Daryl Daniels**

*Commander, Joint Medical Group*

I recently attended a Navy Medicine Commanding Officer's conference where the Navy Surgeon General was one of the guest speakers. One of the things he said to us made a great impression on me, and I would like to share his thoughts with my military co-workers.

"Your leadership has to make a difference," said Vice Adm. Matthew Nathan. "We are in a time of great change. The old way of leading, the old way of doing things, needs to change as well."

When he said this, he wasn't just talking about my leadership, but the leadership of all of us. Gone are the times when we could make decisions in a vacuum, thinking only about ourselves and our local command. Just as the world is shrinking, thanks to the internet, Navy Medicine and the military as an entity are shrinking as well.

We are one command, one base, one region, one Navy, one military, one enter-



*Capt. Daryl Daniels*

prise, and we all need to start thinking along those lines. Gone are the times where we had local empires - our formulas, our rules. We can no longer say, "this is how we do it here." We need to find the best way of doing things, whether it is the way we have been doing things locally, or the way some other command or unit does it. Gone are the days when

we could make business decisions based on personal preferences.

Typically leaders don't like change. One of the dirty secrets of leaders is that they don't really want to change the system because it is that system which helped them become leaders in the first place.

But the system has changed while we were becoming leaders. Because of this, every person reading this article has the potential to be part of the next generation of leaders - leading your peers and subordinates forward during this time of change. It sounds like an ominous task,

but is really very simple - be who you are, lean forward, and do what is right. I am sure almost all of you are already doing that every day.

As we have just closed out the year 2013, and are embarking on a new year, I urge everyone to take this time to reflect briefly on past deeds and accomplishments, and focus primarily on developing yourselves as leaders - providing for, supporting and caring for the troops you lead. Because, as Vice Adm. Nathan said, "Your leadership has to make a difference."

As we look ahead in 2014, I urge everyone to choose at least one small, achievable goal, or a small "bucket list" of things you would like to accomplish at some point during the year, and then set your sights on achieving that/those objective(s). As Abraham Lincoln said to Ulysses Grant when he appointed Grant to head the Union Army, "I neither ask nor desire to know anything of your plans. Take the responsibility and act."

I wish everyone a safe and productive new year!

## TROOPER TO TROOPER

# Learning from the experience of others

By **Chief Petty Officer Gregory Winningham**

*Preventive Medicine, Joint Medical Group*



*Chief Petty Officer Gregory Winningham*

Serving your country in its Armed Forces means striving for excellence at all times. You aggressively seek knowledge and skills that will equip you to do your job with the highest level of expertise. You spend countless hours engaged in one form of training or another because excellence is your goal and failure is not an option.

The military provides a wide array of resources to help you along the way, but not all of them are in writing. Some of the most valuable information you can get is not available in books, manuals or online courses. I am referring to the knowledge that comes only from experience. It belongs

to those that have it, but is available to all who want it. Though the military maintains various mentoring programs, anyone who serves can be a mentor, and everyone who serves should be a mentor.

Mentoring is a developmental relationship in which a more

experienced person serves as a guide, teacher or role model for a less experienced person. There are no limits to the information that can be exchanged in a mentoring relationship. It could include guidance on the technical aspects of your job, advice on advancement and career progression, or even how to deal with conflict resolution and interpersonal relationships. When it comes to your job, there is always someone who has been doing it longer than you have, and has the benefit of having experienced both failure and success through trial and error under a diverse variety of conditions.

Engaging a mentor for their experience is beneficial to both you and your mentor. After more than 20 years of service, nothing gives me greater pleasure than to advise and guide others through their careers. I want them to succeed in every way, and I know I can help them by sharing my own knowledge and experience. I hope you will always look for such opportunities and participate in mentoring relationships. Whether you are seeking to give or receive knowledge, you will always learn something in the process, and fulfill your commitment to excellence along the way. Find mentors among your seniors, and be a mentor for your juniors. Look to your military brothers and sisters for the answers. They will never let you down. You'll never know everything, but you'll always know more than you did yesterday.

## “Homefront” hits home

Review by **Sgt. Cody Stagner**  
 JTF-PAO, [thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil](mailto:thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil)

“Homefront” is about a former DEA agent, Phil Broker (Jason Statham), who moves to his late wife’s hometown in the Louisiana bayou to start anew with his 10-year-old daughter.

Broker and his daughter soon realize how hard it is to adjust to a normal life in a small town. As fate would find it, it’s the town’s desperate, petty drug lord, Gator (James Franco), and his girlfriend, Sheryl (Winona Ryder), who soon do the snitching, while Broker does the running.

It’s an action film of cliché’s with every bit of gratification as a movie-goer would expect. There’s even love, comedy and suspense, surprises and twists.

Since this film has a little of everything and refuses to hold back, and you can’t get much better as an action film, I will easily throw five banana rats at the screen for this film. 🍌



Courtesy Nu Image



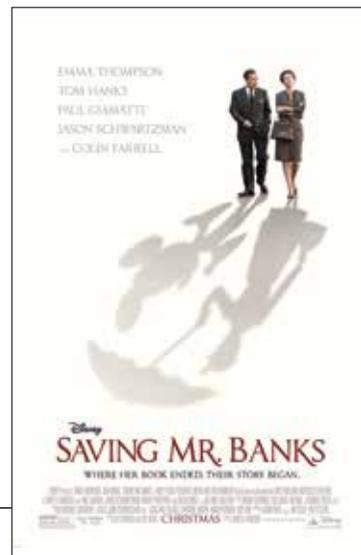
## The Story of Mary Poppins

Review by **Sgt. 1st Class Gina Vaile-Nelson**  
 Editor, [thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil](mailto:thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil)

Based on the true story of Walt Disney’s (Tom Hanks) pursuit of author P.L. Travers (Emma Thompson) for rights of her book “Mary Poppins;” this movie is more about the book’s back story and a daughter’s larger-than-life love of her father (Colin Farrell) – who, through a child’s eyes, can do no wrong.

Thompson delivers an award-winning performance in this film. The score is upbeat and whimsical – which either leads into or brings you out of the dark reality of Travers’ past dealing with the shameful and sad realization that her heroic father was nothing more than a drunk who she – or her Aunt Ellie (Rachel Griffiths) -- could not save.

Film critics and history buffs love this one – and I did too. The sets, costumes and the acting were spot on. Disney delivers in only a way that Disney can. And for that, it gets five banana rats. 🍌



Courtesy Disney

## Stay home for “Black Nativity”

Review by **Pfc. Cody Cooper**  
 JTF-PAO, [thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil](mailto:thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil)

It’s that time of the year again for yet another variation of the nativity scene. “Black Nativity” is a holiday musical drama that follows Langston (Jacob Latimore) as he journeys to New York City to spend the Christmas holiday with his distant relatives, the Rev., Cornell (Forest Whitaker) and Aretha Cobbs

(Angela Bassett).

Unknowingly, Langston sets off on a surprising and inspiring journey and along with his new friends. With a little divine intervention, he discovers the true meaning of faith, healing, and family.

If you like holiday musical dramas about broken families that settle their differences and get back together, this movie is for you. For a free movie, I give this film two bananas rats. 🍌



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

**CAMP BULKELEY DOWNTOWN**

03 FRIDAY	04 SATURDAY	05 SUNDAY	06 MONDAY	07 TUESDAY	08 WEDNESDAY	09 THURSDAY
<b>Philomena (New)</b> PG13, 7 p.m. <b>Saving Mr. Banks</b> PG13, 9 p.m.	<b>Out of the Furnace (New)</b> R, 7 p.m. <b>Dallas Buyers Club</b> R, 9:15 p.m.	<b>Black Nativity</b> PG, 6 p.m. <b>Homefront</b> R, 8 p.m.	<b>Delivery Man (LS)</b> PG13, 7 p.m.	<b>Best Man Holiday (LS)</b> R, 7 p.m.	<b>American Hustle</b> R, 7 p.m.	<b>Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues</b> PG13, 7 p.m.
<b>Saving Mr. Banks</b> PG13, 8 p.m. <b>Out of the Furnace (New)</b> R, 10:30 p.m.	<b>Philomena (New)</b> PG13, 8 p.m. <b>Homefront</b> R, 10 p.m.	<b>Best Man Holiday (LS)</b> R, 8 p.m.	<b>Lyceum closed</b> Note: Concessions at Camp Bulkeley are also closed every night until further notice.	<b>Delivery Man (LS)</b> PG13, 8 p.m.	<b>Lyceum closed</b> Note: Concessions at Camp Bulkeley are also closed every night until further notice.	<b>Black Nativity</b> PG, 8 p.m.

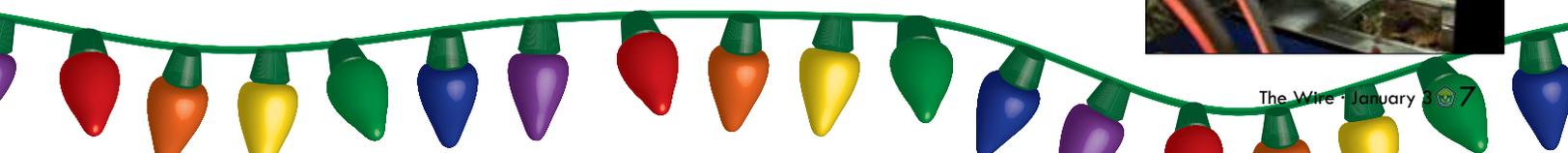
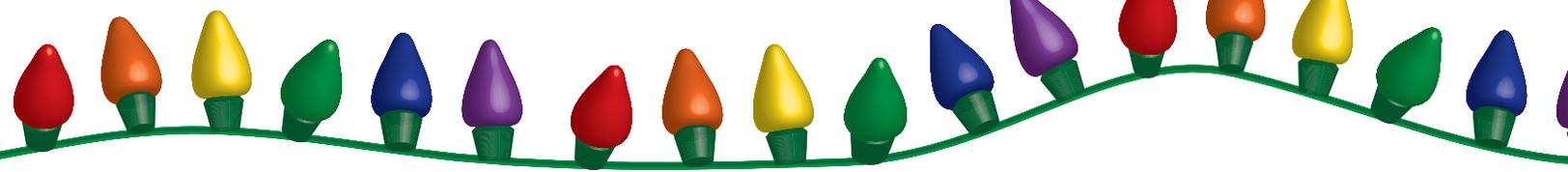
Call the Movie Hotline at ext. 4880 or visit the MWR Facebook page for more information  
 Stay classy, GTMO! No ALCOHOL or TOBACCO at the Lyceums!

# Celebrate Good Times

# GTMO

*The Wire* asked, and the Troopers of Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay delivered. Here's a sample of how you ushered in the holidays. Island style.





C  
RED

O  
S

SERVES GUANTANAMO



Roxanne Stevens, left, station manager for the American Red Cross located at Guantanamo Bay, instructs a cardiopulmonary resuscitation and automated external defibrillator class as Charlene Damp, center, and Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Naomi Creppel, transportation officer with the Commissions Liaison Office, listen Oct. 26. Stevens said the CPR/AED class is one of several ways that the American Red Cross reaches out to local communities, ensuring they are prepared for emergency situations.

By Staff Sgt. Darron Salzer

Photo Editor, [thewire@jftgmo.southcom.mil](mailto:thewire@jftgmo.southcom.mil)



Roxanne Stevens, station manager for the American Red Cross located at Guantanamo Bay, replaces the "lungs" of a cardiopulmonary resuscitation training dummy during a class Oct. 26. During the class, participants learned how rescue breaths and chest compressions can vary depending on the victim.

Tucked at the rear of the Center Bargo housing area sits a building much like the others surrounding it, that is except for the big red cross painted on its façade.

The location of the American Red Cross station at GTMO may seem distant, but its relationship with the military has always been a close one.

"The American Red Cross is a humanitarian organization that works to alleviate and resolve human suffering after natural and man-made disasters," said Roxanne Stevens, the station manager.

According to Stevens, there are five branches of the American Red Cross, and branches located on military installations are called "Services to the Armed Forces."

"It is the original off-shoot of Clara Barton's vision back in the Civil War when she was trying to let families know how the Service members were doing and sent nurses into the military hospitals to write letters for the Service members there," said Stevens.

"Our job on military installations is to take care of emergency communication messages, the ones that we never want to get," Stevens said, "and we also act as agents for the relief societies of the different services and dispense the emergency funds requested through those societies."

Stevens said the American Red Cross does outreach to Service members before and after deployments through online briefings.

"We really want to prepare

the communities we serve to be more resilient, a theme that we're picking up from the military, by offering classes that have to do with returning from deployments, CPR training, babysitting – all to build a resilient community," she said.

The unique community that makes up GTMO – both permanent party and deployed personnel – does not change the services offered by the station according to Stevens.

"But it does change the makeup of our community with a larger turnover of volunteers than other more formal locations," she said.

To combat that issue, Stevens tries to create a balance between opportunities for personnel from both categories through her office, such as very long-term volunteering in leadership roles at the station, and short-

term positions for Troopers who often have irregular hours.

"We just try to look at what the needs are for such a unique environment as GTMO and try to fulfill them," she said.

Many of those opportunities, according to Stevens, are focused heavily on special events throughout the community such as decorating vehicles for the holidays, taking part in the fall health fair sponsored by the Naval Hospital, marching in the Christmas parade, and also the Soldiers Undertaking Disabled SCUBA.

"The participants in the SUDS program are usually from Walter Reed National Medical Center who have been injured," Stevens said. "They come down to complete their diving certification and it's a huge community event that takes a

lot of volunteers to complete over a very active four or five days."

Aside from volunteering, the Red Cross station also offers classes to the GTMO community in areas such as cardiopulmonary resuscitation and first aid.

"We offer two different CPR classes: a basic first aid, CPR and AED class, and also CPR for professional rescuers and healthcare providers," Stevens said.

"For Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts working on their emergency preparedness badge, we can teach a two-hour class on emergency preparedness that also includes a little first aid," Stevens added.

Stevens said she partners with the chaplain's office and the Joint Stress Mitigation and Restoration Team for Troopers within the Joint Task Force.

"We partner with JSMART by having our canine volunteers go over to the JTF side to visit the Troopers," she said. "We have partnered with the chaplain's office by donating phone cards to distribute to people who need to get in touch with their families more often.

"The American Red Cross has a very long history with the military, and it's important to keep our military in the forefront of our thoughts and actions," she said.

Stevens commented on the small stature of the community at GTMO, adding how amazing it is to see everyone come together when the need arises.

"You see that particularly with the families that are here because they really support each other," she said. "It's that great support from really everybody that makes this place stand out." ❖



Roxanne Stevens, left, station manager for the American Red Cross located at Guantanamo Bay, ensures Charlene Damp employs the proper cardiopulmonary resuscitation techniques for an adult victim during a class Oct. 26. The American Red Cross has five branches, and it is the Services to the Armed Forces branch which is located on military installations.

# Soldiers Rescue Swimmers

*Instinct, training saves lives in separate incidents*



Army Staff Sgt. Noe PerezMartir, right, an engineer assigned to 40th Infantry Division, Joint Task Force Guantanamo, recounts the events of Thanksgiving Day with Pvt. Ryan Curtis, military police assigned to the 66th Military Police Company, JTF GTMO, at Windmill Beach, Dec. 11. Within seconds, the two helped separate victims who were struggling in the water.

**Story and photos by Spc. Lerone Simmons**  
Staff Writer, [thewire@jftgmo.southcom.mil](mailto:thewire@jftgmo.southcom.mil)

During the holiday season, Troopers assigned to Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, gathered with friends and comrades to celebrate at different GTMO locations.

On Thanksgiving Day, Army Staff Sgt. Noe PerezMartir and Army Pvt. Ryan Curtis crossed paths during a visit to Windmill Beach.

The two, assigned to units serving under the JTF; PerezMartir, an engineer assigned to the 40th Infantry Division working JTF Logistics, and Curtis, military police assigned to the 66th Military Police Company, sprang into action as they simultaneously spotted two swimmers, separated by a good distance, struggling to stay afloat.

With no formal swimming experience, but having 10 years of military training, PerezMartir rushed to the aid the victim, about 50 yards from the shore.

“I heard the screaming and I just went in,” said PerezMartir.

Seconds after hearing the first cry for help, Curtis sighted another swimmer, who was already heading toward the first victim. He adjusted his course to get to the second swimmer.

Curtis, a former competitive swimmer as a student at Uintah High School in Utah, who has only been in the Army for less than a year.

“I swam a lot in high school and was properly trained,



Army Pvt. Ryan Curtis, right, military police assigned to the 66th Military Police Company, Joint Task Force Guantanamo, talks with Army Staff Sgt. Noe PerezMartir, an engineer assigned to 40th Infantry Division, JTF GTMO, at Windmill Beach, Dec. 11.

but no matter the situation, it’s always good to have someone around, especially if something happens in the water.

After arriving on shore, they began to assess their casualties; like their military training prepared them to do on a battlefield.

Both victims were third country nationals, suffering from leg cramps. Both were thankful and able to walk away, nameless but grateful.

“The Army mentality is to aide someone who needs help,” said PerezMartir. “I usually just come to the beach on the weekends, and never expected anything like this to happen.”

Although unexpected, they considered their actions common sense. “It was the right thing to do,” said Curtis. “I’m not a hero; I’m sure any other person would’ve done the same thing.”

Curtis was nominated by his command and selected to be the Motivator of the Week by Marine Sgt. Maj. Juan M. Hidalgo Jr., senior enlisted leader, JTF GTMO Command, for his actions. ♦



Army Staff Sgt. Noe PerezMartir, right, an engineer assigned to 40th Infantry Division, Joint Task Force Guantanamo, checks Pvt. Ryan Curtis, military police assigned to the 66th Military Police Company, JTF GTMO, for any injuries during a recount of Thanksgiving Day when, within seconds, the two helped separate victims who were struggling in the water, at Windmill Beach, Dec. 11.



**"New Year"**

A new year began a few days ago. This date arbitrarily marks the Earth's completion of a journey around the sun. Remember, the journey is what matters in life too. Take time to enjoy being where you are for no one knows his or her journey's length.

Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Chris Fahey/DVIDS



# WAYPOINTS

*A message from the Commander of Joint Task Force Guantanamo*

Hello and welcome to a series of messages designed to keep you informed on matters of importance at Joint Task Force Guantanamo. I want to talk about my priorities for 2014. My number one priority is you. The conditions will be set to give you the opportunity for success, both professionally and personally and I want everyone to leave here proud of their service. I also want everyone to know that you have the support and admiration from the entire chain of command.

Second, our mission is vitally important to our nation and we must continue to get it right. While the long-term future of JTF Guantanamo is the subject of political debate, our task is to do our jobs to the best of our abilities. Keeping the guard force and the detainees safe will remain my focus along with supporting the legal and intelligence missions. Most of all I want you all to know that I am proud of the way you are doing this vital job. Keep up the good work and I hope everyone has a successful and prosperous 2014.

Honor Bound!

*This message is also available as an audio podcast on the JTF GTMO SharePoint*



**Facebook**  
/jointtaskforceguantanamo



THE BAY by Rizzo



**BCS Championship Game**  
*Monday, Jan. 6*  
*at O'Kelly's Pub*

Kickoff is at 8:30 p.m., so get there early.  
Door prizes • Food and drink specials

50  
Miles

The trek across GTMO begins  
Jan. 11 at 7 a.m.  
at the Downtown Lyceum

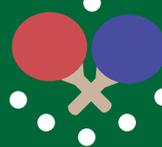
Don't get  
left behind.  
Register by  
Jan. 10.

Can you go the distance?



**Ping Pong**  
• • • **Tournament** • • •

Get your backhand ready and report to the  
**Marine Hill Liberty Center**  
Thursday, Jan. 9 at 7 p.m.

"Less talkie-talkie,  more ping pong!"

For more information call ext.2010



Mar Andrew Embestro caught this lizard before he disappeared into the scenery.

PHOTO OF THE WEEK