

THE WIRE

The official publication of  Joint Task Force Guantanamo

Burgers & Bowling

The Triple B is now open for business!

Love bubbles up

JTF personnel pops the question



Coronado in the Bay

AROUND THE BAY

AND IN OUR PAGES



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Implementing you training: everyone needs a little reminder.



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Cover Story

Cover photo by Sgt. Spencer Rhodes

The USS Coronado stops by GTMO on its way to California.

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BAY WIRE REPORT

Trivia night at the Tiki Bar



You may want to start to stuff your brain with random facts now! The Tiki Bar will host a trivia night Friday, February 28 at 6:00 p.m. The event is 18+.

Call 77421 for more information.

Steak under the stars

On February 28 from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. at the Bayview you can enjoy a tender steak in the Caribbean night. The choices are: T-Bone \$19.99, NY Strip \$16.99 and Top Sirloin \$13.99. Meals also include chef's vegetables, baked potato, steak fries, Texas toast, pasta salad or tossed salad.

10-Mile Trail Run

Go the distance off the beaten path in a 10-mile trail run. Registered participants must be at the starting line by 6 a.m. at Christmas Tree Hill.



MOTIVATOR

OF THE WEEK

Staff Sgt. Daddyboy Kollie
Base Emergency Engineering Force

Cpl. William Reynolds
66th Military Police Company



CORRECTIONS Please report all corrections to 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
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



Part of the problem; or part of the solution

By Sgt. Maj. Juan M. Hidalgo

JTF Senior Enlisted Advisor w

Very early in my career, I learned there are consequences to the choices we make in life as well as our professional careers. Most importantly, early in my career a wise Staff Non-Commissioned Officer (SNCO) said, “we either choose to be part of the problem, or part of the solution.” Thirty years later, those words still ring true.

Warriors and alcohol

We have examples of people who choose to consume alcohol, and do so without incident. Albeit twenty years ago, I made a conscious choice not to consume alcohol again, I assure you that I am in no way condoning the use of alcohol. Warriors, I know most people can drink alcohol. However, I am not condemning in anyways the consumption of alcohol, as I know most people can drink alcohol like mature adults. Obviously, the central term here is: “Mature Adults.”

Everyone over 21 can legally consume alcohol and I am sure they want to be treated like adults. Why is it, that when leaders open the “Desk Journal” on Monday mornings, it appears that we are inundated with teenage behavior? This is everyone’s concern and one we all need to police without delay. Rank is irrelevant if we cannot conduct ourselves like the professionals we profess to be. We all dedicated our lives when we took our oath to “support and defend...”, that commitment is a twenty four hour a day, seven day a week, three hundred sixty five day commitment to excellence and mission accomplishment. We cannot forget that vow of excellence in all



Sgt. Maj. Juan M. Hidalgo

we do; otherwise, I suggest we need to consider seeking employment elsewhere.

We should all be aware of the major personnel adjustments each branch is undertaking over the next few years.

It behooves those who desire to continue supporting that vow of excellence, to re-evaluate the choices they make. Don’t be part of the problem, but instead be part of the Leadership Solution! The reality today is that cutting away those less than stellar performance records is the easiest first cut. There are no days off in the military. When our record is reviewed for promotion, the briefer doesn’t stand up and say, “please look at this warrior’s exceptional performance to date, but please disregard the day he/she was convicted of a DUI.” Obviously, if we want to continue to serve our Nation, we must conduct ourselves professionally; in and out of uniform.

Warriors and their relationships between the different ranks

With the recent evidence of Warriors failing to think before they act, I started asking our Senior Enlisted Leaders their opinions on what we can do to alleviate this serious leadership failure on all of our parts. I also engaged young Warriors asking the same question and they have shared some interesting insights.

Last week, on two different occasions, and at two different command locations, I discussed this issue with an E2 and an E3. Interestingly, they provided almost identical replies: “SgtMaj, it is a little hard to get this under control when we see senior leaders drinking and partying with juniors.” I was, needless to say, extremely disappointed. In other cases, I received emails and personal accounts from senior leaders

conveying the same concern.

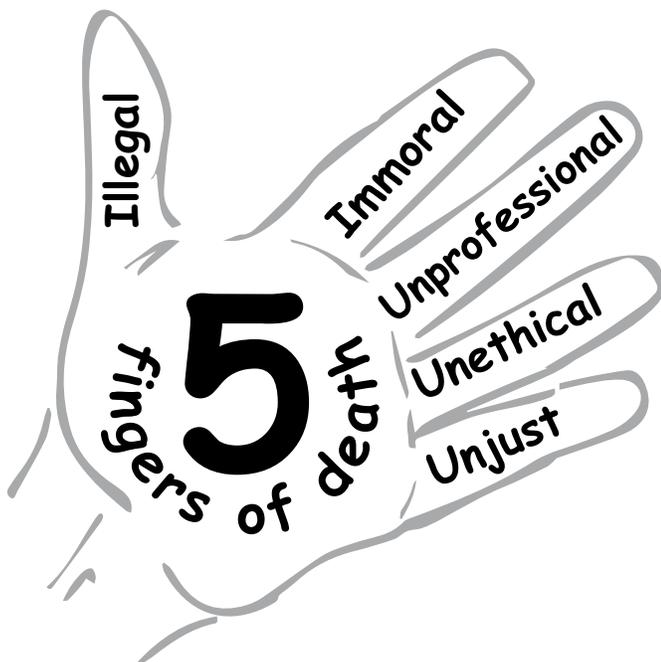
Warriors, in the United States Military, we segregate by rank for a distinct principle. Whether in the performance of our daily duties, or in times of extreme peril, instant obedience to directives and orders is critical to mission accomplishment and the safety and welfare of our subordinates. **E7’s and E9’s, do not party with junior Warriors,** and officers absolutely do not engage in this conduct.

What baffles me, and other senior leaders, is what makes any leader think this is acceptable? I have heard all of the futile arguments; “I need to hang out with my people. Drinking and hanging out with my subordinate’s builds camaraderie. I want my people to know that I am their friend.” Leaders: subordinates do not want your friendship, they want your leadership! That is how we get to know our people, and that is how we build camaraderie.

In 2003, I was a platoon sergeant with A Company, 1st Tank Battalion, 1st Marine Division. I was privileged to lead them on the “March to Baghdad.” To this day I know each one of them, and know that if I ever needed anything, or they needed anything, we collectively could call on each other. To be even more frank, when we were engaged in combat, a few of them despised me because I MADE them always wear their flak jackets and helmets when dismounted from their tanks. This seemed crazy to some; we were in combat and I was making them wear their gear. My point is: I was not their friend. I was their leader, entrusted with their lives, health, welfare, wellbeing, and I did not take that sacred duty lightly. Furthermore, I do not take lightly, the negative “Desk Journal” entries today, here in the JTF. I never consumed alcohol with any of my platoon, and to this day, we all share a mutual respect/bond for one another.

Leaders, we may not be in combat, but all of us are entrusted with the lives, health, welfare and wellbeing of our subordinate Warriors. This means we all need to make a choice right now, not tomorrow, but now- to be part of the solution, not **PART OF THE PROBLEM!** Together, we can make the needed corrections and ensure we lead, mentor and coach our Warriors to be **PART OF THE SOLUTION!**

Semper Fidelis!
SgtMaj Hidalgo



Take a 'Ride Along' filled with laughs

Review by Sgt. Christopher Vann
Staff Writer, thewire@jftgtmo.southcom.mil

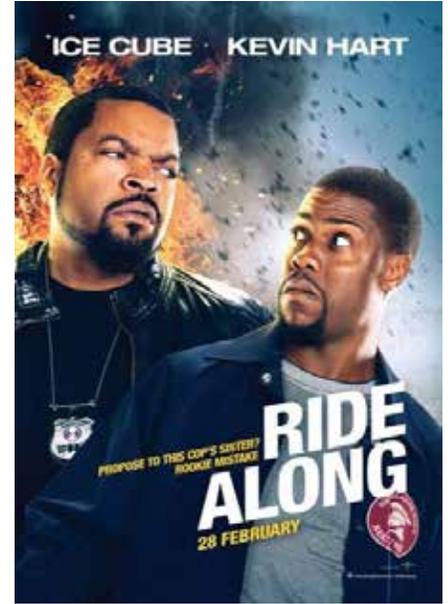
Ben Barber (Kevin Hart) and James Payton (Ice Cube) take viewers on a comedic joy ride in this action/comedy film. Cube plays the loner, maverick cop who doesn't play by the book, and Hart is a fast-talking, scrappy security guard and gamer.

James takes Ben on a 24-hour ride along through Atlanta, in order to prove himself worthy of marrying Angela (Tika Sumpter), James' sister. After a few premeditated 'disturbing the peace' calls, Ben realizes that James is trying to dissuade his 'new' partner from being a police officer, and marrying Angela. Their patrol begins to turn into a real case when

the possible closure of a long running case involving the mysterious criminal known only as "Omar" (Laurence Fishburn).

When you think of past buddy cop movies, like the Lethal Weapon series and National Security; the wittiness and grit provided by "Ride Along"

4 creates a definite recipe for an entertaining movie. From the opening scene to the ending credits, this movie will keep you rolling. After you're finished laughing, I'm sure you'll agree this is a four banana rat movie.



Courtesy LBI Entertainment

Robocop: Rebooted

Review by Sgt. Spencer Rhodes
Copy Editor, thewire@jftgtmo.southcom.mil



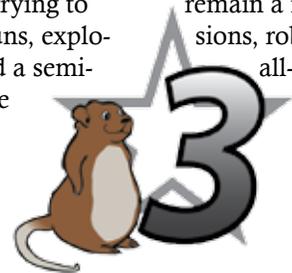
Courtesy BLT Communications, LLC

Hollywood reboots often come with a vast amount of expectations, from a wide variety of viewers. "RoboCop" is a prime example. If you are a fan of the original, a film some consider to be cult classic, then comparing it to this modern rendition may give you mixed feelings. Those who never saw the original franchise may like the new one better.

Detective Alex Murphy finds himself submersed in zealous pursuit of a crime lord in 2028 Detroit. After an attack that leaves him outrageously scorched and broken, he finds a second chance at life when he is placed, or what minuscule amount of him is left working, into a state of the art robotic suit. Throughout the movie, Murphy struggles to retain his humanity when performing his duties as Detroit's new robocop and as a spouse and father. The contention in the film

is created by Omnicorp, who not only manufacturer's his new body, but manipulates his mind and body to adhere to their security ambitions and public image. Diabolical but predictable actions abound from the shrewd Omnicorp CEO, which generally give way to extravagant CGI-powered action scenes that are often made to have a video-game feel.

It's a fun movie, a three banana rat rating for sure. If you choose to compare the old to the new, then you'll be disappointed. Real world technology in some cases already exceeds expectations of the original story. If you're looking for a fun action flick that shows a man trying to remain a man, with lots of guns, explosions, robots, more guns and a semi-cast...you have arrived.



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at the Downtown and Camp Bull:ley Lyceums

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!



	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
CAMPBULLEY DOWNTOWN	I, Frankenstein (New) PG13, 7 p.m. Robocop PG13, 9 p.m.	Her (New) R, 7 p.m. Ride Along PG13, 9:30 p.m.	The LEGO Movie PG, 6:30 p.m. The Monuments Men PG13, 8:15 p.m.	The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (LS) PG, 7 p.m.	Paranormal Activity: The Marked One (LS) R, 7 p.m.	Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit PG13, 7 p.m.	Lone Survivor R, 7 p.m.
	Ride Along PG13, 8 p.m. Her (New) R, 10 p.m.	I, Frankenstein (New) PG13, 8 p.m. Robocop PG13, 10 p.m.	Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit PG13, 8 p.m.		The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (LS) PG, 8 p.m.		The LEGO Movie PG, 8 p.m.

Navy, Coast Guard patrols escort Coronado into Guantanamo Bay

Story by Staff Sgt. Carmen Steinbach

Editor, thewire@jftgmo.southcom.mil

The Navy's newest littoral combat ship, the future USS Coronado (LCS 4), en-route to Coronado, Calif., stopped over in Guantanamo Bay. While the soon-to-be commissioned vessel is undergoing sea trials and refueling at Guantanamo Bay, its visit provided the Coast Guard and Navy units here with an opportunity to work together.

The Maritime Security Detachment (MARSECDET) Port Security Unit 301's primary mission is to ensure the defense of the Naval Defensive Area (NDSA) and the Seaside approaches to the detention facilities at Joint Task Force Guantanamo. Naval Station (NAVSTA) harbor patrol provides force protection within Guantanamo Bay and will respond to any law enforcement missions.

Since no vessels are allowed to enter the NDSA or the bay without the expressed approval of NAVSTA, the two units must communicate effective-



Photo by Staff Sgt. Carmen Steinbach/The Wire

Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Wayne Gibson, a gunner's mate with PSU 301 from Cape Cod, Mass., escorts the Navy's newest war ship, Pre-Commissioned Unit Coronado into Guantanamo Bay, Feb. 15, 2014.

ly to ensure any vessels approaching the NDSA or attempting to enter the NDSA are properly vetted prior to entry.

“MARSECDET provided an escort of the Pre-Commissioned Unit (PCU) Coronado as she made her way through the NDSA into the Bay. As a U.S. war ship all vessels must stay clear at least 500 yards away from her as she transits,” said Chief Petty Officer Scott Duckworth, the Waterside Security Chief. “We enforced and maintained that clear area, or security zone as she passed through the NDSA. As she reached the entrance to GB, USN Harbor Patrol assumed the escort and brought her dockside.”

A U.S. war ship is a type of high value asset (HVA), which needs protection when coming into a restricted area.

“When an HVA is in open water, it

has a lot more options for defending itself,” said Chief Petty Officer Wayne Gibson. “When you bring an HVA into a restricted port, that’s when potentially small vessels could come along-side and do some type of terrorist activity.”

Gibson explains that it’s important for an HVA to have a small craft escort when entering a narrower field of operations in the event a smaller unidentified boat is approaching a high value asset, the security vessels would engage that target before it had an opportunity to come alongside the HVA.

“That’s why you have that two-layer es-

cort or a layered defense,” said Gibson. “That extra level of protection so you can engage small craft that may have intent to do harm to the high value asset.”

Communication between the Joint Task Force’s MARSECDET and NAVSTA is key. They must respond jointly when assistance is requested, whether escorting for a refueling visit or responding to a suspicious vessel.





Operation Purple Dragon: Education in Action

Story by Staff Sgt. Rebecca Wood
JTF Public Affairs, thewire@jftgmo.southcom.mil

The last two parts of this series covered some of the OPSEC training that happened here in Guantanamo Bay and some of the aspects and repercussions of operation security. In this last segment, it will show that Operation Security is not just an idea; it's an actual military program.

The Birth of Purple Dragon

In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson approved to continue a series of air strikes against targets in North Vietnam and air strikes against the Viet Cong platoon, who attacked the US airbase at Pleiku earlier that year. These strikes were almost a daily occurrence but by the summer of 1966, it was apparent that these strikes weren't causing as significant of an effect as predicted. The National Security Agency (NSA) uncovered, through an investigation of procedures and interviews of personnel, that the North Vietnamese were predicting the strikes beforehand by the use of unclassified information. As a result, the U.S. Pacific Command created a team of analysts that conducted assessments and gave recommendations, resulting in a significant decrease in the North

Vietnamese being alerted of air strikes beforehand. This team of analysts was nicknamed Purple Dragon and marks the birth of the Operation Security program.

Annual OPSEC Assessment

On Wednesday, February 5, 2014, OPSEC Gabe walked into the Joint Medical Group and sat down with the JMG Operation Security Manager and Chief as part of his annual OPSEC assessment. The room was busy with sailors completing their tasks for the day, and the walls were covered with the operation security posters Gabe had printed months before. When he found out they were almost done with their tour

here, he looked through their program binder and asked questions about what kind of turnover they have planned.

"The main goal of these assessments is to make sure every section has the resources they need, like policies and training tools," said Gabe. "I have to make sure the OPSEC reps are active in implementing OPSEC into their mission and encouraging a good OPSEC posture among their personnel."

He finished the conversation with recommending to Chief Petty Officer Cae-

sar Othon, the JMG Operation Security Chief to brief his troops now and then on the importance of OPSEC.

"Training is great but most of the time people just need reminders," said Othon. "My job as an OPSEC Chief is to educate them that OPSEC is not just a military and work thing but also something people need to implement in their personal life such as making it public knowledge when you go on vacation or what your address is."

Disposing of Sensitive Material

OPSEC Gabe ended his day of assessing the Joint Task Force by 'dumpster diving' and looking for signs of sensitive material being disposed of in the dumpsters. Gabe did find some material on Wednesday that seemed to reinforce the practice of why he stresses his security managers to also look through their trash.

"JTF sections are encouraged to do their own dumpster diving to make sure their personnel are not throwing away sensitive material," said Gabe. "It also helps reinforce our 100 percent shred policy. Bottom line, unless it's candy wrappers or coffee cups it probably needs to be shredded."

Bottom line: unless it's candy wrappers or coffee cups it probably needs to be shredded.

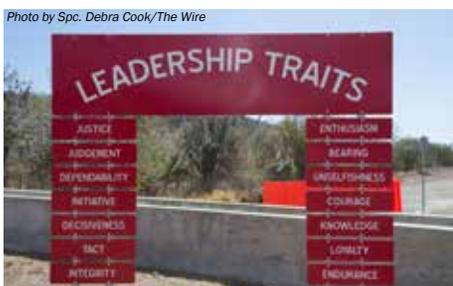
- OPSEC Gabe



Marine Corps values BEEF up

Story by Spc. Debra Cook
Staff writer, thewire@jftgmo.southcom.mil

Photo by Spc. Debra Cook/The Wire



The color red in our nation's flag is popularly believed to mean valor and hardiness. Now that same color shines out on the new sign installed at the entry gate of Joint Task Force, Guantanamo displaying the 14 Marine Corps leadership traits.

"I think the sign is inspirational because those traits can help any trooper make critical decisions rapidly," said Tech. Sgt. Brad Brophil with Base Engi-

neer Emergency Force (BEEF).

Once the sign was complete, the heavy equipment shop dug down and put the concrete in. BEEF went to work on drilling, leveling and spacing the signs for each trait. The metal poles were then welded and set on site.

Marine Sgt. Maj. Juan M. Hidalgo said he chose to use the 14 Marine Corps traits because they're attributes JTF personnel can aspire to live by.

Triple B offers variety for GTMO residents

Bowling, Burgers and Bar now open!



Story by Sgt. Cassandra Monroe

Staff writer, thewire@jftgmo.southcom.mil

There's a new burger spot here at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, offering Service members and base residents a chance to grab a bite of something new during their bowling leagues.

The Triple B, which stands for Bowling, Burgers and Bar, offers a variety of bowling alley food fare, to include burgers, chicken wings and tenders, and even milkshakes.

After it's unofficial opening, Jane Raymond, the bowling center manager, said that the Triple B's sales doubled, keeping up with its counterpart, Taco Bell.

The whole bowling center and food court area has been and will be undergoing more renovations in the future, with many upcoming bowling tournaments in mind.

"I want to give people the 'wow' factor," she said. "I want

this to eventually reflect an upscale bowling center."

Although the Triple B has been open to give GTMO residents a taste of what's to come, the official grand opening will be Thursday, Feb. 20th at 11:00 a.m. Following the grand opening, GTMO's newest burger joint will have an updated menu, including a 'build your own burger' option, with specials varying on a daily basis.

Overall, Raymond is expecting a great turnout for the up-and-coming burger spot.

Troops want a flavor of home and this will increase morale, she said.

Raymond encourages feedback for the Triple B, ensuring quality food and service for all Service members and families. She can be reached at ext. 2050.

Underwater proposal:

JTF team member set to take the plunge

Story by Sgt. Spencer Rhodes

Copy editor, thewire@jftgmo.southcom.mil

Air Force Capt. Holly Hess, chief of public affairs, Kunsan Air Base, Korea, had no idea the recent visit with her fiancé Jim, a Joint-Taskforce Guantanamo contractor and team-member, would become one of the most memorable days of her life.

According to Jim he had always wanted to commit to a unique proposal; something memorable.

"My plan was to propose doing something adventurous like skydiving or under the Northern lights of Alaska," said Jim. "Since we both love diving, I thought it would be the perfect moment to propose underwater and no less in Cuba."

Air Force Maj. Christian Hodges, the deputy Public Affairs Officer here at JTF, explains that he's been friends with Hess for quite some time and knew she may be in the area at some point, but not so soon. As a result, he had no idea he would be the first to know of their engagement, as he stumbled upon the couple at the beach, moments after the proposal.

"With the internet situation here being, uh, what it is, Holly and I were having a hard time linking up and days were slipping by, we just kept missing each other," said Hodges. "So Imagine my surprise when, on my almost daily run to Windmill Beach, I see someone messing with her scuba gear and when she turns around, it turns out to be Holly. What's even better is her showing me an engagement ring. Jim had

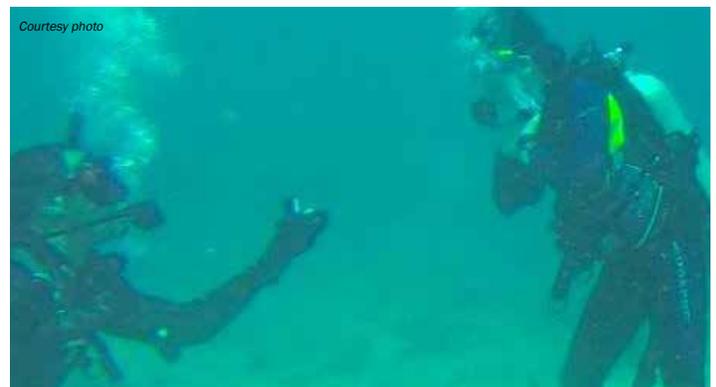
only proposed moments before, underwater!"

Hess explained that because they love adventurous and outdoor activities they decided to go scuba diving, and that Jim said he was going to put a camera down in the water to film them swimming together. At the time Holly thought nothing of it, but halfway through their dive, he placed the camera on a rock and knelt down on the ocean floor.

"I thought it was really weird and didn't understand what he was doing," said Hess. "I was looking around at the fish and the reef. When I looked back at him, he was on bended knee with the ring."

For Jim, it was an opportunity to propose in a peaceful but exhilarating place, where not many people propose, successfully creating the memorable moment he wanted.

"When we met, we connected," said Jim. "Since our jobs take us in different places, it's been hard for us to build on our relationship. We believe we need to make our time together count because we don't get much of it."



Building a future in the present

Story by Sgt. David Bolton

Copy Editor, thewire@jftgmo.southcom.mil



Courtesy Photo.

Army Staff Sgt. Chaquetta Starks, supply sergeant noncommissioned officer in charge of Task Force Platinum, seen here vacationing in Tel-Aviv, Israel.

She's in charge of requisitioning everything for the subordinate units under her. Whether it be admin supplies, refrigerators, TVs, ammo, housing, central issue facility equipment, funding and budget issues, or all of the property book equipment. She oversees these items down to company commanders the lowest level. She is Army Staff Sgt. Chaquetta Starks, supply sergeant noncommissioned officer in charge, Task Force Platinum.

"A unit may need something and it's up to me to look at the budget for the whole battalion to see if we can order it and make sure we're not overspending, to include training," Starks said.

When she isn't overseeing the inventory, making sure people are stocking supplies, or making sure her unit has items on hand, Starks is going to school and taking classes at Coastline Community College.

"I'm working on my logistical degree in supply management," said Starks. "I'm supply. I like logistics, so for me it's the easiest thing to do. It's what I love to do."

Starks said she was going to school for criminal justice, but then switched over to logistics last year because she realized she didn't want to continue in the CJ field.

"I had 81 credit hours in criminal justice," said Starks, "so

now I'm starting over again. I should be done in a year and a half."

Her next class, intro to child psychology with concentration in child development, begins next month. Once she finishes her degree, Starks said the next step is to re-enlist and try to finish out her 20 years in the Army. Once that is done, she plans on continuing her education with the use of her G.I. money.

"After I retire I should have my masters degree and I'll start looking for jobs," she said. "I'm going to aim for a government job, but if I can't do that, I'll get something close to home."

Although Starks admits the logistics field can be tedious, it is something that appeals to her particular nature and is something which she can focus on as an individual.

"I'm more of a behind the scenes person," said Starks. "Hopefully as a manager I get to work by myself, and logistics offers that. Sometimes it can be a headache but if you're organized, it can work out."



Courtesy Photo.

Army Staff Sgt. Chaquetta Starks was promoted during a deployment to Forward Operating Base (FOB) Sharana, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

CHAPLAIN'S

Plowing a straight row

By CDR Stephen Gammon
JTF Command Chaplain

When I was young my family had huge vegetable gardens, my siblings and I were the labor force. At planting time one year, my dad placed in my grip a hand tiller and told me to lay a row for planting. I thought, "This can't be hard." I grabbed hold, dug into the soil and marched down the length of the garden laying a row for seed. I kept my eyes a few feet ahead, pushing against the stubborn soil. When I reached the other end of the garden, I turned around and was shocked to see how much I had wandered.

The row I laid was crooked as could be! My dad watched what I was doing, but allowed me to get to the other end so I could see what I had done, and be in a right frame of mind to learn a better way.

"Stephen, come back with the tiller and I will show you how to lay a straight row," he said. "Son, if you look only at your next step you will wander. To plow a straight row, do not look down or to the right or left; keep your eyes fixed on your destination until you reach it."

I did as instructed. Looking to the other end of the garden, I fixed my eyes on where I was going and plowed ahead.

When I reached my destination and looked back that row was straight as an arrow.

This is wisdom for life. If we limit our focus to our immediate challenges or the distractions around us, we will be as prone to wander as when I laid that first row in the garden. In faith I know what my gaze is fixed upon. What are you aiming for?



Photo by 2nd Lt. Joshua Frank, 4th IBCT, 3rd ID PA



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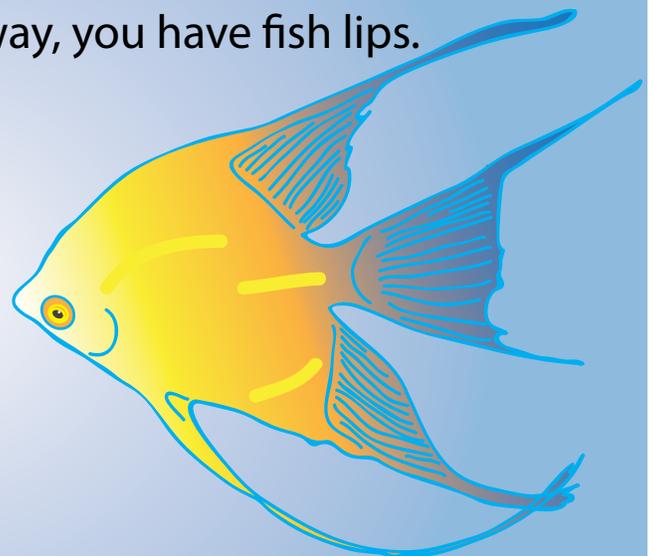
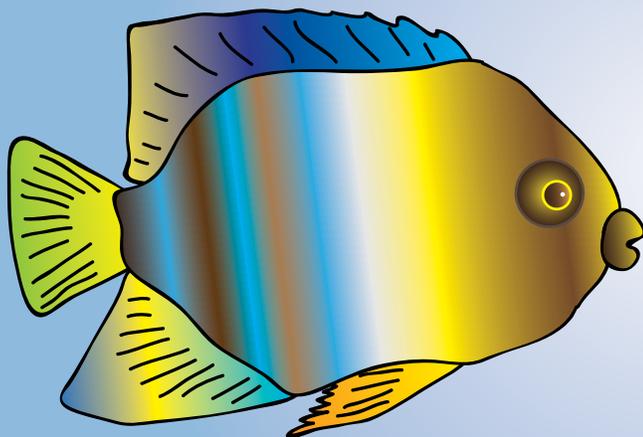


The Dive

By Sgt. Kenneth Tucceri

Kiss me beautiful!

Um, no way, you have fish lips.



BACK BURNER



Pool Tournament
Monday February 24
7:00 p.m. Camp America

A row of five pool balls with numbers 8, 1, 3, 6, and 13. The 8-ball is black, 1 is yellow, 3 is red, 6 is green, and 13 is white with a black stripe.

Call 77421 for more info.

2014 Coin Design Contest



Combined Federal Campaign
Overseas
CFCOVERSEAS.ORG

The 2014 Combined Federal Campaign-Overseas (CFC-O) Annual Coin Design Contest is underway.

The contest is open to all DoD employees and their family members to create a 2014 CFC-O coin design that embodies the spirit of the campaign.

The chosen design will be distributed to select contributors during the 2014 CFC-O this fall.



Visit CFCOVERSEAS.ORG for more information

Contest entries will be accepted through 15 March 2014.

SUBMIT YOUR DESIGNS TODAY!

Evening skies burn red at the GTMO lighthouse in this photo taken by Lt. Cmdr Joshua F. Henson of the JTF GTMO-JMG-Joint Troop Clinic.



PHOTO OF THE WEEK