



# THE WIRE

The Official Publication of Joint Task Force Guantanamo

## LEADon

Leaders attend skills training

## Love without Limits

Sacred Marriage seminar

# Seabees celebrate



# AROUND THE BAY

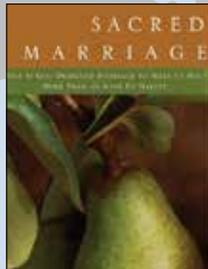
AND IN OUR PAGES



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Cover photo by Pvt. Kourtney Grimes

Navy Seabees celebrate engineering milestones at annual ball

# BAY WIRE REPORT

## Paint a plate



Express your creativity and make a beautiful keep-sake to send back home or add some charm to your home away from home. Paint a plate at the Arts & Crafts Shop Saturday, March 22 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

## Learn a new language

A native Russian instructor will help you learn how to read, speak and write this most difficult and beautiful language. Classes are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the Windjammer Conference Room.

## Create some art

MWR offers pottery classes at the Ceramics Shop. The next basic class is March 16 beginning at 6:00 p.m. A \$40 fee covers clay, tools and instruction. No registration necessary.



# MOTIVATOR

OF THE WEEK

**HM2 Victoria Newberry**  
Joint Medical Group

**SPC Francisco Hernandez**  
357th Military Police Company

## ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION AT O'KELLY'S

March 15th  
4 pm - 2 am

Band & Late  
Activities beginning  
at 2030

Irish Food Fest: 4- 8 pm  
Kid's eat free 4- 6 pm



**CORRECTIONS** Please report all corrections to [thewire@jftgmo.southcom.mil](mailto:thewire@jftgmo.southcom.mil)  
The following information was printed incorrectly in the last issue of The Wire:

**Page 9:** The 339th Military Police Company is an Army Reserve unit. The 591st MP Co. is a U.S. Army unit from Fort Bliss, Texas.



# THE WIRE

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The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay Public Affairs Office.

The Wire is printed weekly by the Defense Logistics Agency Document Services with a circulation of 1,250. It is distributed free to all personnel assigned to the Joint Task Force and is published online.

## 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 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday 9:00 a.m.

## Protestant Services

General Protestant  
Sunday 11:00 a.m.  
Gospel Worship  
Sunday 1:00 p.m.

## Chapel Annexes

**Pentecostal Gospel**  
Sunday 8:00 a.m. & 5:00 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, 7:00 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 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday 7:00 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



# Bloom where you are planted

By **Cmdr. Stephen A. Gammon**

*JTF Command Chaplain*

Some flowers demand particular conditions to bloom, while others bloom more easily. People are similar, as I have noticed here at GTMO. I have had conversations with people who love serving here and with others who are miserable. For most of us our life experience includes a balance of joys and struggles. Sometimes we have little choice over where we are planted or the circumstances around us, but we always have choices about attitudes and aims.

I want to encourage applying this proactive decision in every life assignment: determine to bloom where you are planted.

I entered the Navy 25 years ago after nine years as a local church pastor. I was 34 years old and entirely unfamiliar with military life. After training at Chaplain School I reported to USS Emory S. Land (AS-39) in Norfolk, Va. I was out of my comfort zone. I did not know port from starboard or bow from stern, and being tall I was forever bumping my head on the bulkhead. I felt like a fresh water fish in a salt water pond. The ship



*Cmdr. Stephen A. Gammon*

was a Submarine Tender with a crew of 1600 men and women. I was the junior of two chaplains aboard. Sights and sounds of shipboard life were all strange to me, but from my first day aboard people lined up to see me because of life stresses.

Being in an uncomfortable environment I found myself longing for the world I once knew. It was especially hard when we lifted anchor and I kissed Helen and our children goodbye. I wondered if I had made a mistake. But my faith reminded me God was with me, so I began adapting to my surroundings and shifting focus from myself to people around me. I saw that I could make a positive impact where I was by blooming where I was planted.

When Operation Desert Storm was launched to liberate Kuwait, we were

in wartime mode. Our crew worked long days and stress was high. On one horrible day just three months after I reported aboard and two members of our crew committed suicide on the same day without any connection to the other. This shocked me and our entire crew with vivid awareness of the life-and-death importance of suicide prevention, which requires leaders knowing their troops well and troopers actively looking out for each other. Suddenly my days were filled with supporting crew members through a process of grief and healing. It was not always easy, but I was determined to be a positive influence.

Leadership in one word is "influence," and every one of us is a leader. In your remaining days here, for however long, and in every chapter of life to follow, will you aim to be a positive leader? Determine every day to bloom where you are planted, positively influencing people around you. When many people do that, deserts become gardens. Honor Bound!

## TROOPER TO TROOPER

By **Master Sgt. Jason A. Blaisdell**

*Joint Task Force, J6 Superintendent*

What is sacrifice? Sacrifice for some can be defined simply as, "the willingness to give up something for nothing in return." We have all sacrificed intentionally and unintentionally at some point in our lives. We are all aware of the different levels of sacrifice that people can make. Sacrifice can be as simple and innocent as offering the last morsel of cheesecake to your significant other so your loved one can savor the last bite. Sacrifice can also be complicated and fleeting when in a split second you must choose to surrender your life to save the life of a stranger. Both examples of sacrifice stated previously would be categorized as honorable.

However, there are sacrifices made that are dishonorable as well. Sacrifice

## What is Sacrifice?

can also be defined as, "the destruction of something valuable." As military professionals we are often reminded of the importance of honorable sacrifices; for our families, for our service and for our country. Yet, when faced with life's complexities many make unnecessary and ultimately bad decisions. Those bad decisions like stealing, lying, drinking in excess, fraternization, sexual harassment, etc. have consequences and those consequences lead to dishonorable sacrifice. When a person does something illegal or dishonorable they will ultimately sacrifice and destroy their careers, their families and possibly their unit and even their country.

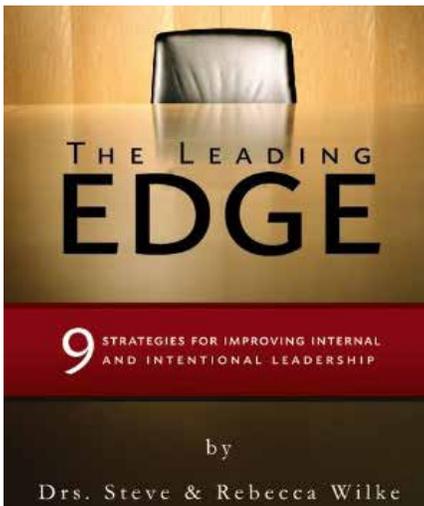
While assigned here at Guantanamo, if you choose to sacrifice, sacrifice and

commit to higher education, the job, fitness or volunteer events. Remember, sacrifices should be honorable like the one made by Army Sgt. Dennis Weichel while deployed to Afghanistan. Without hesitation, Weichel, a father of three young children, in a split second decided to jump in front of a moving armored vehicle and pushed a young Afghan child to safety. Weichel died performing this heroic act; he made the ultimate sacrifice for a stranger. Choose to sacrifice to better yourself, to better the lives of your family and to better the life of a stranger. May we all return

home safely with honor, and may we all get to savor another morsel of cheesecake with our loved ones back home.



*Master Sgt. Jason A. Blaisdell*



Courtesy Photo

**Story by Sgt. Christopher Vann**

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

Joint Task Force Guantanamo hosted renowned author and motivational speaker, Dr. Steve Wilke, at the new Trooper's Chapel at Naval Station Guantanamo, March 5.

Dr. Wilke, principle at LEADon Inc., heads the organization focused on incorporating performance enhancement through leadership development. LEADon has assisted organizations, executives and their teams with their visions to increase productivity and profitability through its principle-based approach.

"About 15 years ago, I had a group of business leaders come to me saying that they spend a lot of money on leadership and it's not getting them anywhere, 'do you have any ideas?' I have plenty of ideas," said Wilke. "And that's when I set out to solve this dilemma, and what came of that was our consulting firm LEADon."

LEADon Inc. has a multitude of professionals with a wide range of expertise in individual, organizational and systems psychology, business management and non-profit organizations. Some of their services include: individu-

# Trained to be a LEADer

al leadership development, organizational leadership and high impact workshops and keynotes, to name a few.

Wilke has been a public speaker for many years and has written multiple books, including "The Leading Edge: 9 Strategies for Improving Internal and Intentional Leadership." One of the stages entitled "Developing and Maintaining High Performance Teams," served as the basis for his poignant lecture during his time on the island.

Wilke said, "One of the keys to building a high performance team is to realize that great teams are evolving and changing, they're never static."

Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Enobong Udoh, a mail services specialist, stated that everyone, no matter your status, rank or duty, can take something

away from the training. "A person who takes initiative and responsibility has qualities that that will carry them through the rest of their career," said Udoh. "Those are elements of leadership."

Navy Cmdr. Steven Gammon, an attendee of the presentation said, "The most important part of leadership isn't just on the intellectual agreement, but to have a passion for unity and what it

is that you're doing."

Wilke has lectured and coached numerous businesses, including For-

“Great teams are evolving and changing. They are never static.”  
— Dr. Steve Wilke

tune 500 companies.

"Leadership is not foreign to the military, there's manuals and training," said Wilke. "The bottom line is: can this help improve a person's personal and professional life? If it does, you have a friend for life."



Photo by Sgt. Christopher Vann/The Wire  
Audience members listen intently as Dr. Steve Wilke speaks during the "Developing and Maintaining High Performance Teams" training seminar, March 5. Dr. Wilke, principle at LEADon Inc, heads the organization focused on incorporating performance enhancement through leadership development.

## Secure your email!

Free email accounts are a great thing to have when used properly. Did you ever wonder why they are free? Those companies make money by signing up as many people as possible, not by providing secure email. Other companies spend millions of dollars to thwart hackers; do you think those free websites do? Don't send work

related material to personal email accounts because they are not secure. USE OPSEC!



## Surf smart.

Malicious internet links are often disguised as convincing promotions from websites you routinely visit, like your personal bank. Your government computer prevents some of this from happening. But your personal computing system may not. The safest choice is to only visit reputable sites that publish clear privacy policies.

Information Assurance



## Teen romance void of drama

Review by Staff Sgt. Carmen Steinbach

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

“Endless Love,” a remake of a lesser-known ‘80s teen romance, echoes a toned down, high school version of “The Notebook.” Summer romance: the uptown girl falling for the boy from the wrong side of the tracks, sporadically placed emo-style music and slow motion kissing scenes.



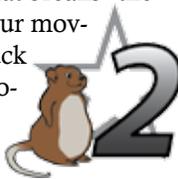
Photo Courtesy Concept Arts

David and Jade (Alex Pettyfer and Gabriella Wilde), both former models with limited acting experience that shows, play the star-crossed lovers breaking the rules of her violently over-protective father to continue their relationship. Jade spent most of her adolescence

mourning the loss of her brother, so she fell hard at the appearance of David and went a little wild - the sneaking drinks and making out in the back of a truck kind of wild.

With a PG-13 rating however, the high school partying and drama seemed subdued. In fact, the over-the-top antics of her father Hugh (Bruce Greenwood) provided the majority of raw feeling. The director, Shana Feste, opts instead for pretty bodies and pretty scenery. The moonlight bounces off the water, to the delight of the lovers that look like they’re starring in a commercial for Pac Sun.

In short, if you are looking for something that breaks the mold or pushes the envelope, keep scanning your movie selections. If you enjoy a beach-side paperback that evokes bubbly feelings and less thought-provoking scenarios, “Endless Love” is the film equivalent. I give this film two banana rats.



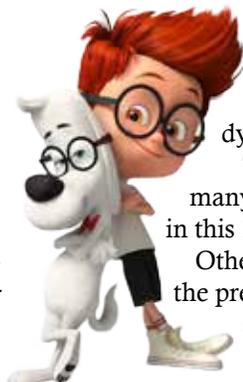
## You can teach an old dog new tricks

Review by Sgt. Kenneth Tucceri

Webmaster, [thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil](mailto:thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil)

“No doubt about it, every dog should have a boy,” said Mr. Peabody, a prodigious time-traveling beagle and co-star of the film, “Mr. Peabody and Sherman.”

If you remember the original cartoon, you are pretty old, because it initially appeared in the ‘50s on “The Rocky and Bullwinkle Show.” It was about Mr. Peabody and his human son, Sherman (it was an adoptive relationship), traveling



through time in their wayback machine.

In the film, the duo takes the viewer to iconic times such as Ancient Egypt and Renaissance Italy. During their wild travels, they also encounter many characters of note. One worth mentioning is Agamemnon, the Grecian king during the Trojan Wars, voiced by David Puddy from Seinfeld.

This was one of the many delightful surprises in this 3D animated film.

Other surprises, aside from the prevalence of unexpectedly hilarious puns delivered by the nerd-

smart pooch, were some great tunes. Peabody bangs on his baby grand in one scene, playing George Gershwin. And before that, John Lennon’s “Beautiful Boy” played during a touching montage!

On top of all this, the graphics and colors were wicked awesome (what’s up Boston!) throughout the film.

I would definitely give this four banana rats, but my fellow staff members would probably make fun of me more than they already do for liking a cartoon so much. But they will make fun of me regardless, so four banana rats it is.

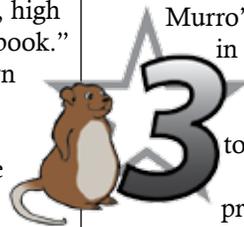


## “300: Rise of an Empire,” fall of a movie

Review by Staff Sgt. Patrick Ponder

Media Relations, [thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil](mailto:thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil)

The 2007 version of “300” was full of action; imaginative and innovative. Sadly, the much awaited follow-up, “300: Rise of an Empire,” fell short in all aspects. Director Noam



Murro’s makes his debut in the action genre and it shows in the worst way. Filled with epic fight scenes, that were cluttered with bodies and excessive camera movement - causing it to look chaotic and hard to follow.

Eva Green’s character, Artemisia, takes the prize as most interesting. Commander of the Persian Navy, she is born a Greek but raised a Persian. Saved from slavery by the Persians as a small girl, she has a deep loathing for the Greeks. I’m pretty sure the saying “Hell hath no fury, like a woman scorned,” was about her.

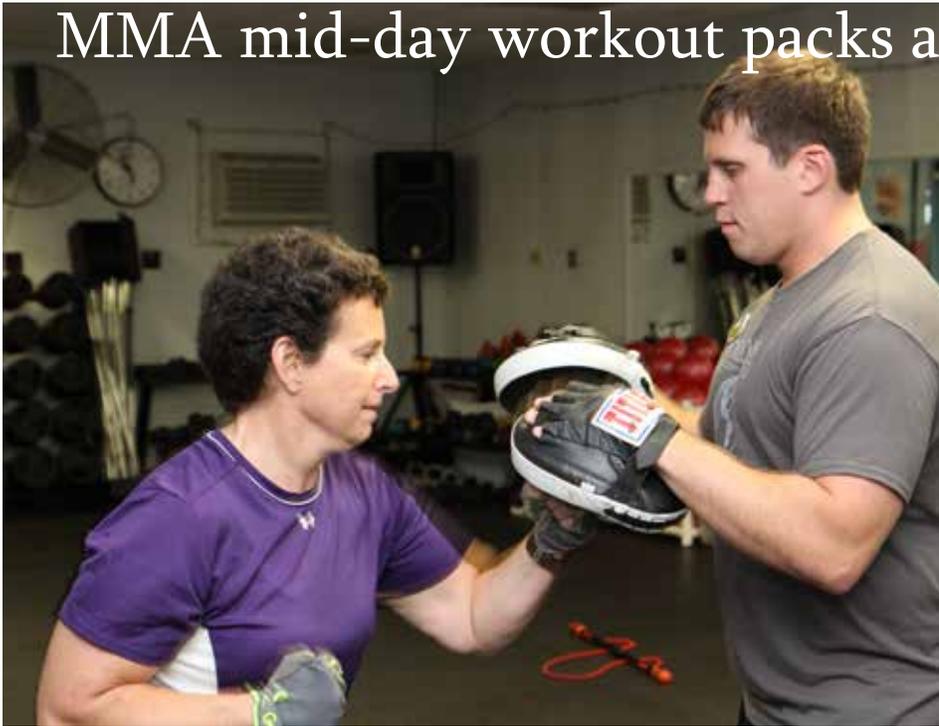
Sullivan Stapleton adequately portrays Athenian General Themistokles, leader of the Greek forces, but fails to match the convincing portrayal of Gerard Butler’s King Leonidas. During the movie, peace-talks take place between Themistokles and his nemesis Artemisia, whose interpretation of the term ‘negotiation’ is apparently a violent and extended sex scene with the Athenian general, who fails to leave an impression. It’s sad since it’s the toughest Themistokles looked in the entire movie.

The fierce Spartan queen comes in at the tail end of the movie with the Spartan army to avenge King Leonidas and save the day, giving the appearance of a possible third movie in the works. Despite its shortcomings in living up to the original, the somewhat entertaining action saves this movie from scoring lower. Three banana rats, and that’s just because I can’t give half points.



Photo Courtesy P + A

# MMA mid-day workout packs a punch.



Kristine Davis, a Department of Defense contractor with Public Works, goes through the two-minute mixed martial arts fitness stations in the Naval Station Guantanamo's Morale Welfare and Recreation's new MMA circuit fitness class that meets every Monday.

**Story and photos by Sgt. Spencer Rhodes**  
Copy Editor, [thewire@jftgmo.southcom.mil](mailto:thewire@jftgmo.southcom.mil)

New scenery and growth is a common sight during the spring season, and so it's fitting that this be the season Joint Task Force and Naval Station Guantanamo Service members will also see new fitness classes from the Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

Monday marks the second class of the new weekly Mixed Martial Arts circuit fitness training, an afternoon workout taught by Carl Heron, a trainer with the MWR, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Marine Hill Fitness Center. A high intensity class involving martial art oriented stations; it is part of an effort by Joseph Belt, the new MWR fitness director, to bring more people in during the day.

Since it's a brand new workout, not many people have caught onto it yet. Kristine Davis, a Department of Defense contractor with Public Works, is one the new attendees and finds herself to be quite a fan. Davis explains that she spent the first half of last year in chemotherapy. Having beaten cancer, she has spent the past six months recovering and getting back into shape.

"If I can do this after going through that, anyone can get in here and do it," said Davis. "I came to the first class and was sore for a week, so I decided this was definitely where I needed to be."

With the gymnasium under construction, it does affect the turnout for some classes offered by the MWR. There are showers at the gyms, but they aren't particularly accommodating for a whole entire class of people trying to get

back to work. Belt hopes when the new facility opens, it will encourage more people to come back during the day, since there are still quite a few people who still look to find their exercise during the lunch hour.

Like Davis, Jamie Bodlovic, a contractor with Ratcliff Construction at GTMO prefers to go to whatever class is offered during the day.

"I was doing spin classes during the day, but it was cancelled, so this was the next option. A lot of people don't want to come and work out during the day, but that's my time to go to the gym," said Bodlovic.

As he transitioned into his new position with the MWR, Belt says he waited a little while, getting used to what was already in place, before he added anything to the schedule. Having spent five years coaching high school football and utilizing different workouts like speed and agility training, using what has worked well for him in different areas in the past, he brings new ideas and experience to those looking to get fit while at GTMO.

"You don't want to change everything, you look to enhance it," said Belt. "So I added what I was good at and have experience with."



Jamie Bodlovic, who has worked for Ratcliffe Construction Inc. for 10 years at Naval Station Guantanamo, is a regular at MWR fitness classes. Monday was his second time participating in the afternoon mixed martial arts circuit fitness class.

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

<b>DOWNTOWN</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>
	Mr. Peabody & Sherman PG, 8 p.m. Need for Speed (New) PG13, 10 p.m.	Winter's Tale (New) PG13, 8 p.m. 300: Rise of an Empire* R, 10:15 p.m.	Endless Love PG13, 8 p.m.	Her (LS) R, 8 p.m.	Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (LS) PG13, 8 p.m.	I, Frankenstein (LS) PG13, 8 p.m.	The Monuments Men PG13, 8 p.m.						
<b>CAMP BULKELEY</b>	Winter's Tale (New) PG13, 8 p.m. 300: Rise of an Empire* R, 10:15 p.m.	Endless Love PG13, 8 p.m. Need for Speed (New) PG13, 10 p.m.	Robocop PG13, 8 p.m.	Lyceum closed Note: Concessions at Camp Bulkeley are also closed every night until further notice.	Her (LS) R, 8 p.m.	Lyceum closed Note: Concessions at Camp Bulkeley are also closed every night until further notice.	LEGO Movie PG, 8 p.m.						

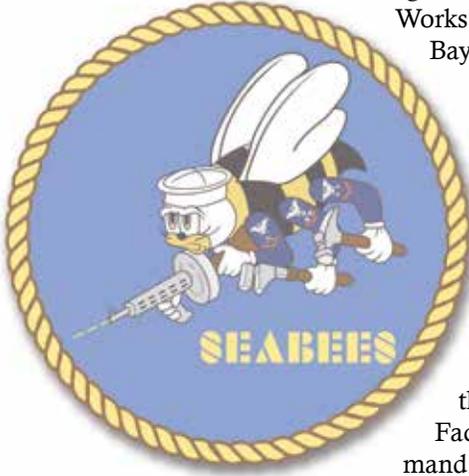
\*Note: Children under 17 require accompanying parent or adult guardian for this film.

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!**

# A busy Ball for GMTO's Seabees

**“We are all gathered tonight to honor and celebrate the unique can-do heritage of the Navy Seabees,”**

said Cmdr. Ronald Jenkins, Master Public Works Officer for the Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southeast, Public Works Department, Guantanamo Bay.



Sailors and their spouses, JTF Troopers, Department of Defense civilians and contractors gathered to celebrate the 72nd birthday of the U.S. Navy's Seabees Saturday, March 8 at the Bayview Club.

“Tonight we are celebrating three birthdays: the 172nd birthday of Naval Facilities Engineering Command, 147th Birthday of the Civil Engineer Corps and, of course we all know we came to the Seabee Ball tonight, the 72nd birthday of the United States Seabees,” said Jenkins.

Seabees are a special kind of hard working sailor who are found throughout the U.S. Navy working diligently as construction mechanics, equipment operators, utilities-men, construction electricians, builders, steelworkers and engineering aides.

“From Midway Island to Iwo Jima, from Germany's

Rhine River to Korea's Incheon shore, from the Quonset huts of Vietnam and the airstrips of the Middle East to the public works of homeport and the FOBS of foreign shores, Seabees have been the Navy's builders, fighters and good-will ambassadors,” said Navy Lt. Baron Miller, chaplain, Naval Station Guantanamo Bay.

The celebratory night's events included: the presentation of the colors, the singing of the national anthem by Petty Officer 2nd Class Timothy Owens, a remembrance ceremony for the lost and fallen, the recognition of the youngest and oldest Seabees and remarks from Rear Admiral Richard Butler, Commander, Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay.

“I'm really honored to be here for this celebration and have the opportunity to speak with you. I would especially like to extend a warm welcome to all the spouses, family and loved ones here this evening,” said Butler. “Your support and contributions to the military and our mission cannot be overstated.”

Events like this provide the troopers with a chance to build camaraderie and time to learn about one another with different services coming together under different commands, said Jenkins.

The ability to work alongside Troopers of different services, DoD civilians and contractors is imperative to com-



Seabees hug it out after a long night of laughter and dancing at their celebratory ball on Saturday, March 8, at the Bayview Club. The group of hard-working sailors are enjoying some hard-hitting fun at the event that celebrates the beginning of their noble trade.

Story and photos by Pvt. Kourtney Grimes  
Staff Writer, [thewire@jftgmo.southcom.mil](mailto:thewire@jftgmo.southcom.mil)



Packed tables of well-dressed Sailors, spouses, DOD civilians and contractors sit attentive to the wise words of Cmdr. Ronald Jenkins, master public works officer for the Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southeast, Public Works Department, Guantanamo Bay. Although from different settings and backgrounds, the Troopers and spouses come together to celebrate 72 years of Seabees.

pleting the mission.

“The diversity is all good,” said Butler. “It’s strength among the United States Armed Forces. No other country can really do it the way we do. Take people who may think a little bit differently and work side by side every day to accomplish the mission. Really, nobody else can do that.”

The Seabees here at Naval Station Guantanamo are vital to the upkeep, repair and construction that keeps this base running smoothly, said Jenkins. The Seabees here are currently working on improvements to the utility systems and finishing up a lot of military construction projects like the new gymnasium and child development center.

While the Seabees have been tirelessly working to continually make progress with the vast list of construction projects awaiting their attention, they still have a lot on their plates.

“We just turned over 22 new homes on Friday to the housing department, 124 more to go,” said Jenkins.

About a week ago there was a ribbon cutting ceremony at the New Trooper chapel in the Camp America area and of course, Public Works, along with the help of others, had a hand in that, said

Butler.

“Sometimes we get frustrated by the pace of things in GTMO, but we are making progress and that was one sign of it up there,” said Butler.

At the end of his speech, Butler quoted Gen. Douglas MacArthur, “The only trouble with your Seabees is that you don’t have enough of them.”

With projects and maintenance keeping GTMO’s Seabees busy, the only worry for the industrious Troopers is what they can do next.

“Seabees continue to answer out nation’s call to build and fight, provide needed humanitarian assistance and win the hearts and minds of local communities, governments and organizations through communities’ relations projects worldwide,” said Butler. “This truly does underscore that our great Navy continues to be a global force for good.”



Petty Officer 3rd Class Harold Bellanosa, NAVSTA colorguard, stands proud holding his rifle at the Seabee Ball on Saturday, March 8, at the Bayview Club.

# Service members, spouses attend Sacred Marriage seminar

Story by Staff Sgt. Carmen Steinbach

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

Any seasoned matrimonial veteran will tell you that a marriage takes work, and no one understands this more than military members and their spouses.

Gary Thomas, best-selling author and international speaker, recently hosted a three-day Sacred Marriage Conference for those stationed and deployed to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

While some attended with their wives or husbands, others, who are separated for the length of their stay in GTMO, attended without their partner. For one Joint Task Force Trooper, her deployment means spending nine months apart from her husband. She attended the seminar to learn ways to keep the love alive while separated by distance.

"It's really good to focus energy and thoughts on him (my husband)," said a Navy personnel assigned to the Joint Medical Group. "I've learned ways

to grow our marriage-ways to connect."

For Thomas, his decision to speak to Troopers in GTMO was fueled by his profound respect for Service members and their families. He described, in memorable detail, seeing a group of Soldiers at an airport in the beginning of the Iraq war.

"Wives were seeing off husbands. There were tears and pain," said Thomas. "I see the sacrifice that military members make. You see names and ages in the paper, but seeing them in person, it was like my kids going to Iraq. I was so moved seeing them."

Thomas continued to say that often during his tours spouses approach him and ask 'how do we handle this?'

For one Trooper attending the marriage workshop, a deployment provided a way for him and his wife to strengthen their bond and work

through smaller problems they were experiencing.

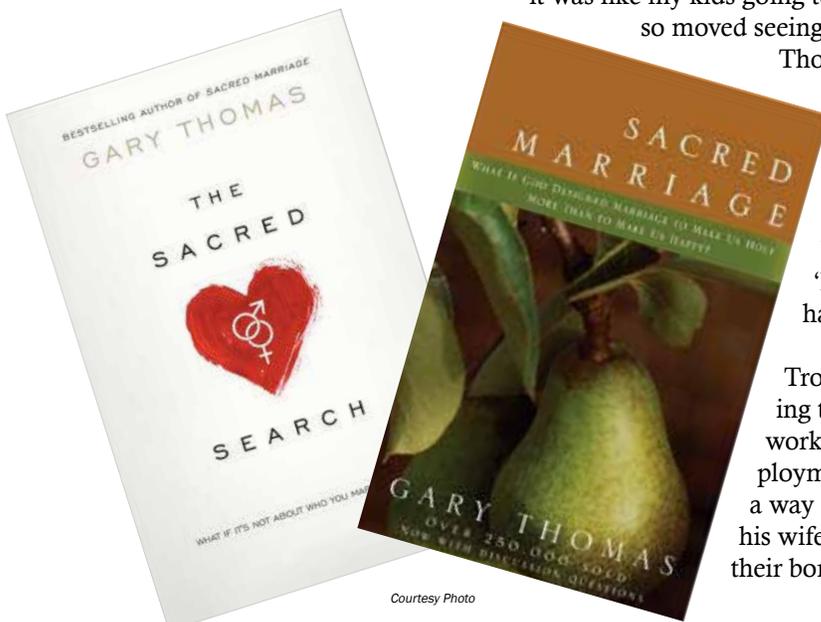
"We were having marital issues," said a Soldier assigned to the 613th Military Police Company. "Now, my greatest need is not to be loved, but to love her. I learned not to bring up the past, and just let it be."

While the first two nights of the seminar were focused on strengthening the bonds of marriage, there was also a segment for singles focusing on planning ahead for a future soul mate.

Thomas even distributed free copies of his newest book for singles, "Sacred Search."



Photo by Pvt. Kourtney Grimes/The Wire  
Gary Thomas, speaker and author gives a marriage seminar for Troopers, NAVSTA personnel and their spouses at the Naval Station Guantanamo Chapel, March 6. Thomas' three day conference was based on his book, "The Sacred Marriage."



Courtesy Photo



Cmdr. Terry Eddinger, Joint Task Force chaplain, cuts the ribbon to the new Trooper Chapel with Rear Admiral Richard W. Butler, JTF commander, and other Troopers, Feb. 27 at JTF Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. This event celebrated the official opening of the long awaited, permanent chapel.

# Long awaited chapel dedicated

Story and photos by Pvt. Kourtney Grimes  
Staff Writer, [thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil](mailto:thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil)

**A**fter much anticipation, the ribbon was cut on the new Trooper Chapel at the Joint Task Force, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Feb. 27.

“We stand in this building today, the doors of which are open for the first time,” said Cmdr. Terry Eddinger, JTF chaplain. The new Trooper Chapel on Radio Road replaced the temporary structure that was the old Trooper Chapel on Kittery Beach Road which took nearly two years from start to finish.

“This event seemed to unfold slowly... but there was anticipation of a time when we would have something more permanent and here we are,” said Cmdr. Stephen Gammon, JTF chaplain.

Now that the chapel is open, the seats are quickly being filled as the freshly furnished building is being used for events on days other

“God will be worshipped here. Prayers will be offered

here. Truth will be spoken here. Burdens will be lifted here. Strength will be given here. Peace will be known here. Joy will be found here. Comfort will be given here.

Grace will be received here. Hope will be restored here.

Love will be present here. And when such things happen, this will be holy ground.”

- Cmdr. Stephen Gammon

than just Sunday. The facility was used for a three day leadership seminar not long after its official opening.

“This building will be used for a lot of events,” said Gammon. “Whatever occurs in this place, may it bring Troopers, families, staff and friends together. May those who enter here find peace. May they enjoy learning, may they become stronger and more prepared for the challenges of life

and service.”

As a place of worship on a military base, the opening of this structure reiterates the freedoms which we work to protect every day.

“People of various faiths will gather here and they will celebrate one of the freedoms that every one of us defends... and that is our religious liberty,” said Gammon. “That is a priceless treasure that we celebrate in America and that we celebrate here.”



Army Staff Sgt. Donald Mason, Joint Task Force Guantanamo training non-commissioned officer in charge, relaxes with conversation and a cigar after work, Saturday, March 8. Mason is a subject matter expert in training and education, both in and out of the military; holding seven different degrees, he offers whatever help he can to troops around him.



## Leadership, education & cigars

**Story and photos by Sgt. Spencer Rhodes**

*Copy Editor, [thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil](mailto:thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil)*

Staff Sgt. Donald Mason, training noncommissioned officer in charge for Joint Task Force Guantanamo and an Army Peer-to-Peer counselor, can often be found outside his personal abode in the Cuzcos, smoking a cigar and talking with troops around him. It may seem like a normal scene in the neighborhood, but when the time is taken to pause and talk, troops will often discov-

er a highly knowledgeable mentor who, quite literally, has an open-door policy to anyone and everyone who believes they could use some help, especially when it comes to education.

“What will my daughter think of me ten years from now?” is the question Mason asked himself after he arrived at a personal low point. He explains that college had not always been something

he considered an option, having always been told that it wasn’t for him, and that he would not do well were he to try. It was his personal inquiry as he stared at his recently newborn daughter’s photo that changed everything.

Almost 15 years later, Mason now holds three associate degrees, one bachelor’s degree, two graduate degrees, one Ph.D. in public administration, and



can't or shouldn't go to school. Doesn't matter how. Just do it."

It's not just college, but the education of resources in a person's life and helping them pursue a better version of themselves that he enjoys doing.

It's commonplace to find Mason, who on top of everything, is a part time professor with Ashford University, helping troops above and below him who come to him for assistance with school.

"You ask him for

the information a person has at their disposal. He'll even use cigars to bridge the gap if he doesn't know someone to help build rapport. It takes awhile to smoke a cigar sometimes, so that's that much more time to help them. Taking two hours to talk or assist someone now, instead of going out, could help them better themselves, whether they are a parent, student or a non-commissioned officer leader. That's the most important thing.

Halfway through talking, Mason yells out at a Soldier walking by the open door to his room. Spc. Steven Boudreaux, a young Soldier with the 2228th MP Company walks through the door to the question: "How often do I end up talking about civilian education?"

Boudreaux tells him he talks about it

is halfway through another doctorate degree in psychology. Going through school he often maintained two jobs, took classes from two different colleges and still picked his daughter up from school. In the end, every second of lost sleep while pursuing success, he believes was worth it.

A notion he does his best to convey to others.

"Things going on in life are not a good reason to not apply to school. It's cause to do the exact opposite," said Mason. "If you personally feel you put in the most you can, and you've been the most you can be in that class despite circumstances that popped up in your life, it doesn't matter if you finished with a 4.0 GPA or not, because you have a degree. There is no one out there who

help with writing or school and he'll drop things to review what you have and help you," said Army Sgt. Maj. Abraham Hinojosa, senior enlisted leader for JTF Operations. "I've seen a variety of rank, up and down, come to him for assistance with school issues."

According to Mason, even if no one does anything with the information he offers, he's still all about improving

all the time, a response that is echoed by two other Soldiers with him, standing outside Staff Sgt. Mason's room.

Before he leaves, Mason asks him what he gave him after they talked for the first time.

Beaudreaux laughs, "A cigar."

“ There is no one out there who shouldn't or can't go to school. Doesn't matter how. Just do it. ”

— Staff Sgt. Donald Mason

## Career and college tips from Prof. Mason

### Military Career

Printout last year's promotion list.

Break down your promotion points in every category.

Use this to gauge what aspects need to be worked on by seeing what areas have the most room for growth.

Make sure your awards are published properly.

If your Enlisted Record Brief only shows one award but you know you have more, check your Iperms, it will affect how many points you get towards promotion.

### Education Tips

Check with your transfer counselor to make sure your college credits will transfer if your trying to go to a 4 year school. Different schools don't always accept the same classes as others.

2-year colleges are cheaper and allow you to conserve Post 9/11 G.I. Bill for a 4 year school.

Look for small scholarships for military personnel, they will add up over time.

Schools look for students who don't do the minimum.

- Did you volunteer?
- Tutor other students
- Participate in school clubs
- Engage in student government

Check to see if your school will give you any credits for your military education.

# Just want it

Story by Sgt. Debra Cook  
Staff Writer, [thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil](mailto:thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil)

A 12-year-old boy wheeled his wagon down the crowded streets of Berlin looking for the perfect spot to detonate the fireworks he'd strapped to the back of it. In the midst of a crowd he stopped, lit the fuses and watched the wagon speed off leaving a trail of fire behind.

That boy was Dr. Werner von Braun who grew up to become the director for NASA and the chief architect for the Saturn V launch vehicle making it possible for Americans to land on the moon. He's credited as being the "father of rocket science."

Von Braun believed, "Man belongs where he wants to go."

Recently, when getting my initial counseling that defines my roles and responsibilities in a new position, my sergeant and I were deciding what goals I'd set to achieve in the coming

year. He suggested I go for a 300 on my Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT) which is the maximum score that can be achieved. I shrunk back at his suggestion because I'd tried my entire military career to get 300 and failed.

I remembered my first APFT in Basic Combat Training. The Soldiers asked the drill sergeant how many situps and pushups they needed to pass. He slammed the APFT regulation book on the desk and glared at us in his Chicago

**"Man belongs where he wants to go."**

street-style way. "You know what your problem is?" he snarled, "You've settled all your life Soldier, and you don't know how to do anything else."

He paced the room and picked the regulations up again. One by one he read each of us only the numbers we needed in all categories to max our



NASA Courtesy Photo

APFT scores.

"Nothing less than a maximum score on your APFT should satisfy you," he said. "You're a Soldier in the U.S. Army now. You don't settle for second best anymore."

My initial counseling and stirred up memories from BCT wrote a new recipe for success in my life because I remember where I belong – and no less than a 300 on my APFT will do.

Where do you belong?



Story by Sgt. Debra Cook  
Staff Writer, [thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil](mailto:thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil)

Petty Officer 2nd Class Ailyn Torres Smith's friend suggested she cook during her first deployment so she wouldn't be depressed or miss home. Smith took that advice and today she's spoiling her fellow corpsman, Petty Officer 1st Class Jacqueline Harris, with her favorite meal.

"Out of every other deployment I've been on," Harris said, "this is the first one where I've had someone cook for me."



Photo by Pvt. Kourtney Grimes/The Wire

Smith's grilling up snapper she caught at the MWR fishing night. As she seasons the fish, Harris kicks back and watches with an ice water in her hand. "Back home, sometimes we'll invite friends and family over and have a big fish fry so when Smith told me she was cooking fish today I've been waiting all morning for it. It's kind of like that comfort of home."

Smith leaves the entire fish intact. "The head and tail are the best part," she said, "and you don't want too much seasoning or it will overpower the good flavor the snapper already has."

While we watched the fish fry Smith said, "I never leave cooking unattended. Even if I'm boiling water in my microwave I don't leave the room until it's done and I turn it off."

She's from the Philippines and cooks lots of recipes from back home. When it was time to eat, something was missing from the table. "Um, where're the forks?" I asked.

She laughed, "Why would I use a fork?"

While the world uses utensils, the Filipinos have a century old practice called *kamayan* of eating some foods with their bare hands. As we peeled the meat from the fish head it felt nice not having the hindrance of utensils. When you make this recipe, try to eat the kamayan way and leave your forks at home!



## Recipe

### Fried Red Snapper

#### Ingredients:

Red Snapper, 1/4 tsp. season salt, 1/4 tsp. black pepper, 1/2 tsp garlic powder.

#### Directions:

Pour vegetable oil into electric skillet. Preheat electric skillet to 350 F Grill 5 minutes on each side for only head and tail Grill 10 minutes on each for entire fish



# Family Support

By CDR Stephen Gammon  
JTF Command Chaplain

Here at GTMO most of us miss and appreciate family from a distance, so while here we need to be as family to one another. Families are designed to support each other in good times and bad. Though all families experience some degree of dysfunction, God's design has always been for families to be people we know we can count on no matter what.

My parents had six children in six and a half years, three sons followed by three daughters, and sibling rivalry was often present in our home. My older brother David and I battled. He was stronger but I was bigger so we were pretty evenly matched. We didn't always agree but we loved each other as brothers.

I recall a day in the schoolyard of the Lee, Maine elementary school when a playground bully was picking on me and threatening to beat me up. On the other side of the playground my big brother saw what was going on and suddenly he was standing between me and that bully,

warning him to leave me alone or he would regret it! I was entirely shocked but incredibly thankful.

It was not the last time a brother or sister looked out for me, or I for them, but it was a vivid example to me of what families can do. Families are to insure none of us feels alone in this world. If you are a person of faith, I hope you will connect with a faith family here. However far away your family is now, find ways to let them know you love and support them. While at GTMO let's be as family to each other, so no one among us feels alone.



Photo Courtesy Red Ant Studios



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## WOMEN'S EQUALITY INTEGRATION MOVEMENT



WINDJAMMER  
AUDITORIUM  
MARCH 22, 2014  
1800 - 1900

FREE FOOD  
LIVE MUSIC  
REAL TALK

## Conch Season is Closed

March, April and May



**Taking Starfish is Prohibited at all times**

Report violations to 4105 or VHS channel 12

## Yoga Class

Tuesday's at 4:30 p.m.

Saturday's at 3:00 p.m.

Available Friday's for Command PT

FREE



Marine Hill Aerobics Room

## The Dive

By Maj. Reinaldo Montero

I bite the hand that feeds me!



Disabled U.S. Service members dove at Blue Beach during the Soldiers Undertaking Disabled Scuba event here January 19, 2014 in this photo by Spc. Raul Pacheco.



PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Send your best photos to [thewire@jftgmo.southcom.mil](mailto:thewire@jftgmo.southcom.mil)