Corpsman Ball
Heroic history recognized

Keystone visit
Senior enlisted leaders from all branches tour JTF

JDG change of command
Independence Day Trail Run

Celebrate our nation’s freedom with an invigorating race through the Guantanamo wilderness as MVR sponsors the Independence Day Trail Run. The run begins at Christmas Tree Hill, located across from the post office off Sherman Ave., at 6:00 a.m. on Friday, July 4. You can register at Denich Gym until the day prior.

Open rec softball tournament

In keeping with the 4th of July festivities, there will be a free Independence Day Softball Tournament, held Saturday, July 5, beginning at 8:00 a.m. Teams must register at Denich Gym by July 1. This is a double elimination tournament.

6 • Cover Story

MWR hosted a beach volleyball tournament Saturday to kick off the upcoming season. Eight teams competed in the blistering heat to take home the trophy.

8 • E-9s take flight

Senior enlisted leaders attending the Department of Defense’s Keystone Course toured Joint Task Force Guantanamo. Among their ranks was our own Marine Sgt. Maj. Juan Hidalgo.

10 • Corpsman Ball

Sailors celebrated the honored 116-year history of the hospital corpsman at the Corpsman Ball Saturday night. Throughout the night, several programs paid homage to the past and looked forward to the future.

FEATURES

Cover photo: Army Col. David Heath, the Joint Detention Group’s new commander, passes the JTF’s new command sergeant major, during the Change of Command and Change of Responsibility ceremony at Windward Range at Joint Task Force Guantanamo Tuesday morning. For the complete story, please pick up next week’s edition of The Wire.

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Lessons of leadership

By Army Col. David Heath

Commander, Joint Detention Group

As the new commander of the Joint Detention Group, I welcome this opportunity to provide my leadership philosophy to you and explain the behaviors I demand. The mothers and fathers of America have entrusted us with the lives of their sons and daughters. Take that responsibility seriously. Service members are our most precious resource. Honesty and integrity are non-negotiable. Our professional relationships depend upon it. Misbehavior, lies or omissions to cover up those mistakes are intolerable. The effective operation of any complex system depends on truthful, timely information.

Bad news does not get better with age. Although first reports are often wrong, inform your leaders of actual or potential problems immediately to give them the maximum amount of time to formulate potential solutions.

Remember the golden rule, treat everyone with dignity and respect. The title of commander or first sergeant means that those leaders have different duties and increased responsibilities from others. It does not mean that these leaders are somehow smarter or better than those they lead. Serving in a leadership position is a privilege, not a right.

Maintain balance in your life. Balancing between your family, work and relaxation is vital to healthy relationships and mental well-being. I expect everyone in our organization to take time to do something they enjoy. Work hard while at work, but try not to bring it home with you. Unless someone one’s life depends on your presence or immediate action, it can probably wait until tomorrow.

Maintain a professional appearance and bearing at all times, both on and off duty and demand high standards of those around you. Remember, good leaders do the right thing even when no one is watching and they never walk by mistake.

Being right is precious; especially here. Do not waste it. Take advantage of every training opportunity, scheduled or not.

The preceding points are merely a guide to success and by no means inclusive. You have all been well trained in the expectation of military and Trust your instincts. Do the right thing.

As a wise leader once told me, “if the little voice in the back of your head says something is wrong, it probably is.”

As a physician, my job is to help you keep healthy. Most of that is done through counseling about the risks to help prevent illness and disease. As well as prevention and the identification and treatment of illness if you already have symptoms. I wanted to spend some time quickly provide some of the unique health risks here at Task Force Guantanamo.

It would be negligible of me to point out the obvious health risks that we might bring to GTMO such as obesity, alcohol and smoking. These are the leading causes of death and still very prevalent here at GTMO. These habits can be used to help us cope with stressors in life. Moderation is the key to food and alcohol, but that takes self-control on a regular basis. See your medical provider or JSMART to help develop coping skills for confronting, smoking and alcohol abuse.

The next most prevalent health risk to Troopers is probably due to sports and exercise. Take personal responsibilities to avoid injury or illness. Prevention is the best practice to help prevent the issues above, proper stretching, warm up, stretch it out, hydration and gradual increase in intensity will minimize the most common problems such as strains, sprains, dehydratation, overheating and overuse injuries.

Environmental risks are probably the next most common to health. As a physician, my job is to help you keep healthy. The United States will be playing against Germany in their last and perhaps most important game in the group stage phase of this tournament. The sting of that last minute goal made by Portugal may still hurt, but will be forgotten if Team USA makes it to the knockout phase of this competition. The kind of grit and determination necessary, indeed required, of those called upon to make history. While it may take an additional 90 minutes to make history on the field, another type of history is already being made by soccer fans across the U.S. More and more people back home are watching soccer with TV ratings for this World Cup upwards of 17 million viewers, and surely will see the United States go one, four years. Even Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, in its own, unique way, seems to have taken over by soccer fever.

The fans are certainly here – they may be a little quieter and less colorful than those shown on TV, but you can spot them at the dining facilities and restaurants every time there’s a game on. They are starving at T.V. intently and cheering. They may not be as truly concentrated on the match, trying to figure out not to get their team to move past the pressing put on by their opponents or simply a little embarrassed by their love affair with a game both passionat and delicate, whose beauty inevitability rests in the eyes of the beholder. As we enter round 16 this week, we will start sifting single-elimination games; they will not take place as often as during the past two weeks, but they may take longer if there are draws. I certainly hope that Team USA makes it past Germany to play at least one more game in Brazil. But if they don’t, I will continue to watch the games, although some of the passion may be gone.

In my 14 years of naval service, this is the first time I have ever heard the honor and privilege to serve alongside the men and women of the Navy Hospital Corps. While I don’t necessarily have the exact same conditions. I have

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Hospital Corpshistary

By Navy Chief Petty Officer Andre Dortrait

Join Task Force Guantanamo

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MALEFICENT
Review by Staff Sgt. Kenneth Edel
Photo Reactions, photo@gtmo.southcom.mil

“The best villains are the ones that do the wrong thing, but for the right reasons.”

I went into “Maleficient” with high expectations on execution, largely because I’m very familiar with the original character having seen almost every Disney movie. It’s a character tragedy at its core and probably one of my favorite stories in a long time. If you are a fan of the classic Disney films then you won’t run into any surprises as this latest endeavor follows the same safe, happy working narrative formula as its predecessors.

It’s a beautiful movie to say the least, as expected from Disney. In fact, you’ve never been a fan of Angelina Jolie as an actress, after seeing this movie and all the micro expressions she pulls off, you may have a change of heart. Just the small reaction to hearing about the King’s newborn daughter Aurora is wonderful in its detail. True to the classic character, Jolie has the commanding presence of Maleficient down to all the little nuances that made this Disney villain great 55 years ago. Of course the rest of the cast pulled off their roles, but none had the dimension to offer as the titular character played by Jolie.

The film possesses everything to be desired from the original character, but with a very different tale. This movie is more of a prequel to Sleeping Beauty. Maleficient, scorned by the betrayal of the King whom in ages past, she had develop feelings towards. The King’s daughter Aurora experiences the by-product of that betrayal and scorn towards the King.

Suitable for all ages, the film sticks to the feel-good development it knows. This may also be why they opted out on doing away with her servant when transforming into a dragon in the climatic moments of the film. It’s odd since they set it up perfectly as Maleficient saved him from certain death. It would have been poetic for him to give his life at the end to save her and Aurora from what was meant to be his fate all those years ago. But alas, I guess that’s just “too dark” for Disney.

If you enjoy complex characters, dealing with inner turmoil and traveling on a road to self-redemption and the like, then Maleficient worthy of your attention. The rest of the cast feels underdeveloped but they’re really just there as a backdrop to make possible Jolie’s path to redemption. From a brightness girl, to a broken, and betrayed soul and finally, hero. I cannot stress how important it is to understand that this is a movie about Maleficient, and not a retelling of “Sleeping Beauty.” The film receives four bananas.

BLENDED
Review by Pvt. Kourtney Grimes
staff@wires.kcmdtu.mil

This viewer-populer romantic comedy starts with a hilariously unfortunate blind date set in Hooters that leaves the two newly single parties, Lauren (Drew Barrymore) and Jim (Adam Sandler), with a mutual feeling of disinterest for each other. Post-date, the two parents of a combined five trouble children run into each other multiple times before they somehow end up vacationing in Africa, sharing a hotel room they unknowingly bought from a mutual acquaintance.

The vacation starts out rough considering Lauren and Jim don’t get along at all. The parents begin to care for each other’s children in ways they could not due to gender roles. In the end, Barrymore’s adorable banter and Sandler’s comedic timing are a recipe for an ideal romantic comedy just like “50 First Dates” and “The Wedding Singer.”

While the plot did get a bit melodrama and predictable, “Blended” gave comedic relief to this stubbornly sub-favorite Disney film. With Hollywood-perfect couple and family laughs, this film gets three bananas.

JERSEY BOYS
Review by Staff Sgt. Carmen Steinbach
Editor, thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil

Saying the film resembled a Clint Eastwood directed musical sounds like a jab. Unfortunately “Jersey Boys” was no joke. The Broadway show turned film adaptation tells the story of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons. Where one expects bright lights, catchy tunes and showmanship, this version falls short, taking on more of an edgy, biopic format.

The musical numbers are the meat and potatoes, but the audience was wowed through thick, dry dialogue and over-done mob scenes. Those containing Christo-pher Walken as mob boss Gyp DeCarlo are standout. Per the norm, Walken steals the show.

The story begins in 1951 with the music group coming together that includes Valli (Tony-winner John Lloyd Young) as the lead singer, Tommy Devito (Vincent Piazza from “Boardwalk Empire”), Nick Massi (Michael Lomenda) and Bob Gaudio (Erich Bergen). All of the cast members are veterans of the big stage, and flawlessly bring their characters to life. Per the soundtrack.

age others to just download the soundtrack.

VEN in the pearl of the Antilles where the outdoor ther-mostat only alternates between hot and super hot, the summer season is still something to celebrate. Cook-out are held more frequently, the beach is slightly overcrowd-ed and the summer sports are in full swing.

The beach volleyball league doesn’t kick off until the end of July, but that didn’t stop the MWR from hosting a tournament Saturday at Cooper Field. The idea was to give the many spectators and competitors a chance to have a good time while they are in store for everyone to.

From 9:00 a.m. until late afternoon, the teams volleyed, set and spiked, covering themselves in sand and sweat. The spectators came and went, cheering on their favorites until the heat too much.

In the end, it was The Smokin’ Aces that came out on top, finishing the tournament undefeated. The Joint Medical Group’s team came in second, conceding the final match after a previous loss against the victors, but winning out in the losers’ bracket.

The winning team consisted of Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Andrew Peters, Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Ryan Miller, Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Jeffrey Roeder, Mr. Alan Sterling, Mr. Blair Stone and Miss Julia Bamura.

Peters, the team captain for the Smokin’ Aces, thanked the participants and hosts of the event.

“We enjoyed the tournament and willingness of the MWR staff to accommodate the many spectators and athletes that were out there Saturday,” said team captain, Petty Officer 1st Class Andrew Peters. “They provided a good opportunity and atmosphere for everyone to enjoy. We had a good time and faced some good players but by the end of the day I think the heat and intensity of the sun beat us all.”
“O ur main objective is to make sure future com-
mmand team leaders understand the ramifications
of a joint branch environment,” said Billy Har-
grove, retired Marine of 21 years and the Keystone program
manager. “It’s not a required course for promotion, but if you
are going into a joint environment, it’s highly recommended
because your experience won’t give you the impact you need
to be effective.”

Forty-eight E-9 leaders from all military branches arrived
at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay Sunday, as part of the De-
partment of Defense’s Keystone Course. Keystone prepares
senior enlisted leaders who are currently serving or slated to
serve in a general or flag officer level joint headquarters or
a service headquarters that
could be assigned as a
joint task force. The
program sends
the class
to multiple command groups across the country to view and
interact with joint branch environments, allowing peer to peer
learning for those going into similar career paths.

Similar to Warrior Leader Courses throughout the Army
(and other branch equivalents) for young noncommissioned
officers, a jovial camaraderie could be seen amongst the various
E-9s Sunday, as stories of mutual acquaintances and past expe-
riences were traded back and forth on a boat transporting the
diverse selection of senior enlisted leaders to the windward side
of GTMO. Students in the program had a myriad of experienc-
es to offer each other, and while purposes for enrollment in key-
stone vary from person to person the learning goals remained
the same.

Marine Sgt. Maj. Juan Hidalgo, who already serves as the
senior enlisted leader at a division level joint environment here
at Joint Task Force Guantanamo, explains that most sergeants
major will rarely have the chance to work for a flag officer with
approximately 45 individuals across the entire Marine Corps
currently doing so; even fewer at the 3-star level or higher. For
him personally, this course has served as a unique tool as he
continues his path as a sergeant major.

“It really is a great course because you need to understand
command at a tactical, operational and strategic level,” said Hi-
dalgo. “Capstone is a similar course for flag officers, so if you’re
going to be working with them at the same level, it’s good to
have the same type of educational experience for a leadership

Senior enlisted leaders visit
Naval Station Guantanamo Bay

position such as this.”

The program provided a brief
glimpse of the unique operations
going on at JTF, with tours of the
operational side of the JTF
GTMO’s detention facility, as
well as the Northeast Gate and
the Expeditionary Legal Com-
plex. Students had the opportu-
nity to garner first-hand viewings
of the joint environment and
determine what aspects would
need to be taken into consider-
ation when utilizing their own
experiences.

Chief Master Sgt. Phillip
Easton, currently serving as the
command chief for the 341st
Missile Wing at Malmstrom
Air Force Base, Montana, says
that the training provided him a
unique learning experience as he
has just started his new path as a
command chief.

“The Air Force doesn’t usually
have many joint billets, and in
my 24 years this is my first time
seeing a joint working environ-
ment,” said Phillips. “A lot of my
peers in this course have already
had some experience working
with flag officers. I’m just start-
ing my time as a command chief
master sergeant and I’ve already
been able to hear from those who
are a little more experienced in
this particular area of leadership;
what worked best for them and
what I could do better by learn-
ing from their experiences when
integrating into a new position
with a new boss.”

Following the visit to JTF
GTMO, the Keystone students
would make stops at Key West,
Florida, and Texas before head-
ing back to Washington D.C. to
conclude the leadership class.

Marine Corp Security Force 1st Sgt. Joshua Whitley, gives a historical account of the Northeast
Gate to students of the Department of Defense Keystone Course Sunday afternoon.
Hospital Corpsman history honored

In keeping with tradition, the oldest and youngest corpsmen present cut the cake at the 116th Hospital Corpsman Birthday Celebration, held Saturday at the Windjammer.

In its century of service, the Hospital Corps has proven itself ready to support Marines and Sailors by giving them aid whenever and wherever necessary. After the American Civil War, the need for a professional, well-trained group of individuals to provide medical care for the Navy became apparent. President William McKinley signed a bill on June 17, 1898 establishing the Hospital Corps and thereby designating all medical Sailors as hospital corpsman.

Since that time, they have been putting themselves in danger to provide care to those on the battlefield. At the very beginning of the ceremony, Sailors performed a symbolic ceremony in remembrance of prisoners of war and those missing in action. One of the many traditions of military customs, setting an empty table in open view, reminds those in attendance of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice. In this particular evening, they honored those hospital corpsman that never returned home from their duty.

“One of the stronger traditions that binds corpsmen on each Hospital Corps birthday is the remembrance of our brothers and sisters who have fallen in combat, often times giving their lives so that others may live,” read Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, retired Navy Master Chief Joe Campa, following his speech at the Navy Corpsmen Birthday Ball.

Reciting the noble words of the Corpsman Pledge, Naval Station Guantanamo Bay and Joint Task Force GTMO Sailors gathered together to honor the traditions and heroism displayed since the creation of the Hospital Corps. Together they read the words that spoke to the courage and commitment exemplified by hospital corpsman over the last 100 years, during the 116th Hospital Corpsman Birthday Celebration. A Sailor ties a yellow ribbon around a vase which represents the unyielding desire for missing comrades to return home during a prisoner of war and missing in action recognition presentation during the 116th Hospital Corpsman Birthday Ball.

It’s our privilege to answer the call of Corpsman Up — Petty Officer 2nd Class Albert Acosta

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I solemnly pledge myself before God and these witnesses to practice faithfully all of my duties as a member of the Hospital Corps. I hold the care of the sick and injured to be a privilege and a sacred trust and will assist the medical officer with loyalty and honesty.” Reciting the noble words of the Corpsman Pledge, Naval Station Guantanamo Bay and Joint Task Force GTMO Sailors gathered together to honor the traditions and heroism displayed since the creation of the Hospital Corps. Together they read the words that spoke to the courage and commitment exemplified by hospital corpsman over the last 100 years.

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Navy petty officers with Joint Task Force Guantanamo’s Joint Medical Group take part in a discussion with the 11th Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, retired Master Chief Joe Campa, Navy Chief Ernesto Oliveros and Sailor Kelay Bay.

“While I can no longer stand beside you on the battlefield, I became the MCPON as a direct result of being a hospital corpsman,” said Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, retired Master Chief Joe Campa. “While I can no longer stand beside you in the ranks, I will never forget the joy I felt as a Navy corpsman.”

Campa was also on hand to take part in the historic cake cutting tradition, accompanied by the most senior and junior Sailors in the room. JTF Sailor, Petty Officer 2nd Class Emerson Gutierrez, a member of the planning committee, said he was thoroughly impressed with the outcome of the event.

The Wire · June 27
The legacy between a father and son

When asked about the sanding, Senior Airmen Joseph Graeff just shook his head. “The sanding was just really tedious, it felt like it almost took as much time as cutting out the doorways,” he said. The BEEF spent almost two weeks making the new doors and putting up fencing for the courtyards. While it seems like a simple project, it is a benefit that those working in the camps do not have to worry about. “The guards and medical staffs that work the camps have a challenging job,” said Phillips. “Anything we can do to make their job easier or keep them from worrying about their facility will help them focus on their mission. In my opinion, that’s really why the BEEF is here.”

Joint Task Force Guantanamo’s 474th Base Emergency Engineering Force supports GTMO’s mission in a plethora of ways. One such way is the facilitation of ways. One such way is the facilitation of ways. One such way is the facilitation of ways. One such way is the facilitation of ways. One such way is the facilitation of ways. One such way is the facilitation of ways. One such way is the facilitation of ways.

Senior Airmen Joseph Graeff, with Joint Task Force Guantanamo’s 474th Base Emergency Engineering Force, stands inside the newly constructed door way in Camp 6 Tuesday, June 10th.

Construction in the Camps

Airmen support recreation yard project

True leaders know that leadership only comes by setting the example. In many ways, Thomas Gilchrist, a Marine who was stationed at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay in the 1970s, led the way for his son. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Jeffrey Gilchrist took orders to come to GTMO forty years after his father Thomas left his six-month mark here. “I was so impressed when this young man decided he wanted to join the military and go on our reserve status,” said Thomas about his son’s desire to join. “He already had a job and different things going on but he said, ‘I can go in the reserves and they have all sorts of opportunities.’ He told me, ‘I can do something for the country and for myself also.’”

Thomas Gilchrist, a former Marine who was stationed at GTMO in the ‘70s, stands with his son Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Jeffrey Gilchrist, assigned to Joint Task Force Guantanamo, outside the Tiki Bar May 20.

Thomas Gilchrist, a Marine formerly stationed here in the ‘70s, stands with his son Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Jeffrey Gilchrist, assigned to Joint Task Force Guantanamo, outside the Tiki Bar May 20.

The legacy between a father and son

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Thomas Gilchrist, a Marine formerly stationed here in the ‘70s, stands with his son Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Jeffrey Gilchrist, assigned to Joint Task Force Guantanamo, outside the Tiki Bar May 20.
Focus is how blurry or clear an image is and while some out-of-focus areas in an image can be useful for highlighting the subject of the picture, a completely blurry frame leaves much to be desired. Choosing how much of your photo will be in focus and what you choose to make focused will tell your story. The amount of your photo which is in focus is called your depth of field (DOF). There are a couple different angles of approach at your disposal when trying to control DOF. Becoming proficient in this principle, which can only be attained through practice, will allow you to make more professional looking photos.

"...and be filled with blessings. Know Him. When you do, the days will fly right by – and be filled with blessings."

When we are feeling down, we can think about our planet’s relationship with the sun. During the short dark days, the sun is not farther away – Earth is just tilted in the wrong direction. On the days when we feel feeling down, it’s not that God is farther away from us; it’s just that we are tilted in the wrong direction. Rather than curse the darkness we might experience, we need to seek the light. Don’t focus on what is missing; focus instead on the blessings every one of us has each day. Involvement in a faith community can help us achieve that, and there are many to choose from here. I encourage you to think about the time you were posed by advancing ISIL insurgents, and then will pose recommendations on how to best help the country to assess an insurgency led by the President’s north and west while continuing to move closer to Baghdad, threatening to push Iraq to the brink of instability. The president has chosen Army Lt. Gen. Joseph L. Votel, currently commander of Joint Special Operations Command, to take over as the new commander of U.S. Central Command and North American Aerospace Defense Command. If confirmed by the Senate, he would succeed Adm. William H. McRaven. The president has nominated Navy Adm. William J. Moran, currently chief of staff of the Navy, to serve as commander of U.S. Special Operations Command. If confirmed, he would succeed Adm. William H. McRaven.

"...when words fail to express the emotion that, and there are many to choose from here."

The Wire – June 27

"...to make more professional looking photos."
A manatee is spotted and tracked in the industrial area by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Chris Calhoun. Photo by Air Force Master Sgt. James Powers.

Send your best photos to thewire@jtgtmo.southcom.mil

Time for duty
but first: let me take a selfie