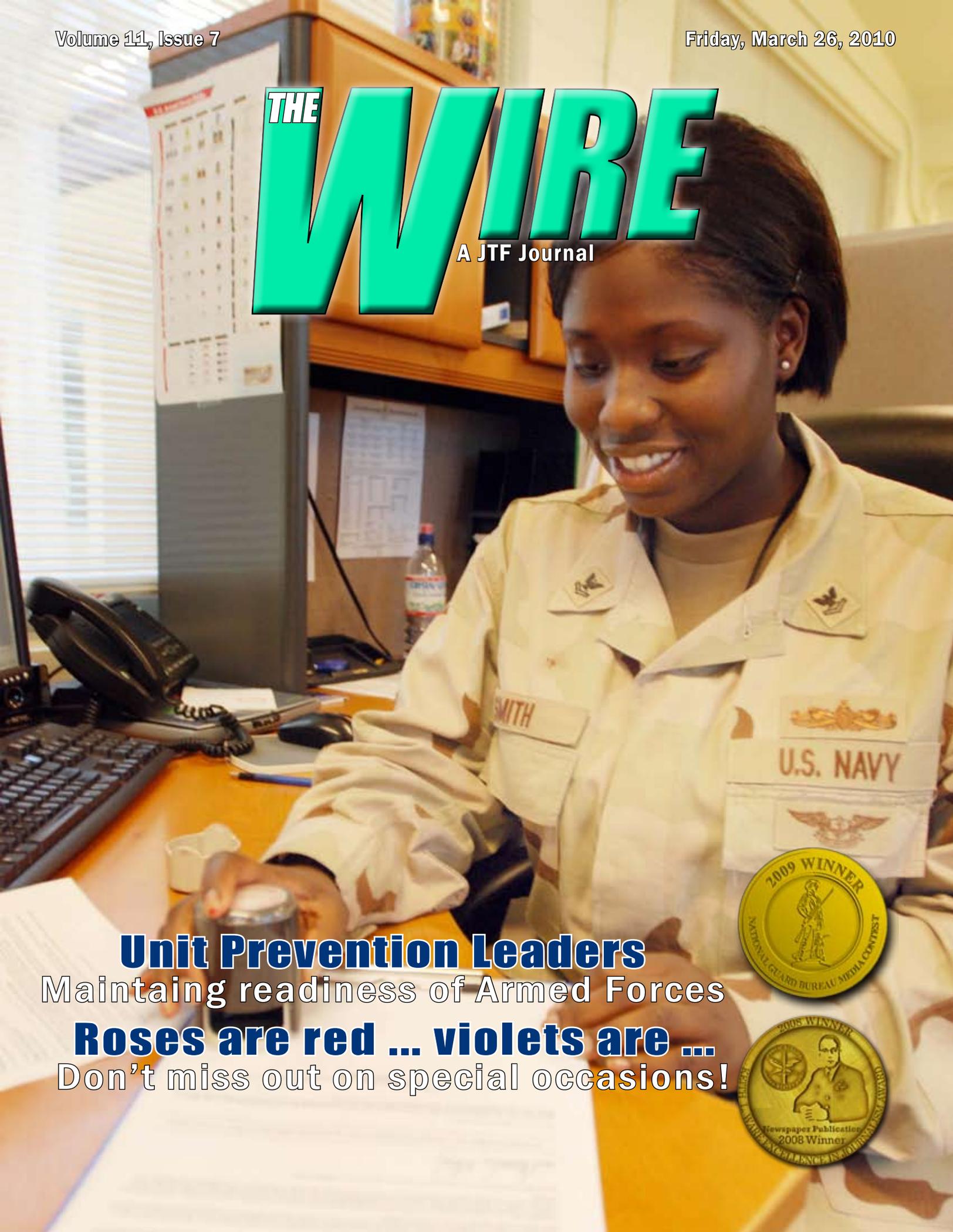


THE WIRE

A JTF Journal



Unit Prevention Leaders

Maintaining readiness of Armed Forces

Roses are red ... violets are ...

Don't miss out on special occasions!



Military Discipline

Army Command Sgt. Maj.
Steven Raines

525th Military Police Battalion Senior Enlisted Leader

The U.S. Armed Forces is an organization that has been in existence for 235 years, excluding the National Guard militia. It dates back to 1775 when the revolutionary war took place to proclaim our freedom. One particular thing that our much more technologically advanced military has in common with the military of the past is the disciplined Trooper, who the military needs to be strong and successful.

General George Patton said, "You cannot be disciplined in the great things and undisciplined in the small things. Brave undisciplined men have no chance against the disciplined valor of other men."

Well-disciplined Troopers guarantee an increased ability of the unit to successfully accomplish its mission, no matter how great or how small, in a professional manner, and with dignity and pride.

Discipline in the military is one of the most basic elements of war fighting. Its purpose is to make Troopers so well trained they will carry out orders quickly and intelligently – even under the day-to-day rigors of accomplishing our mission.

Discipline is actually a positive value that protects us from danger and destruction.

The American Heritage Dictionary defines discipline as "training expected to produce a specific character or pattern of behavior, especially training that produces moral and mental improvements."

The dictionary also says it is a systematic method to obtain obedience.

When you initially start talking about discipline, Troopers mostly connect it with punishment or reprimand as a result of violating a policy, procedure or military or civilian law.

Both are valuable parts of military discipline; however, it is much more than that. It is the desire to do what is right even if it is difficult, dangerous or seems insignificant.

It is ensuring that you, the Trooper, continue to do the right thing even when your supervisors are not there and you know you can do the wrong thing or cut a corner and get away with it.

It is the desire to accomplish the most simple of tasks to standard, not because of the fear of punishment but the pride in the unit and oneself.

Discipline at JTF Guantanamo is even more important because of the stakes involved.

In civilian life, a lack of discipline may cause some discomfort, get you sent to the bench, cost you your job, or – at worst – get you in trouble with the law.

Here at JTF, poor discipline by Troopers could have national strategic consequences with a lasting impact on U.S. policy. Or, it could get you or another Trooper seriously injured or killed.

That is a price way too high to pay.

Disciplined Troopers ensure the safe, humane, legal and transparent care and custody of detainees, which must remain steadfast. The mission of JTF has to be done right and it has to be done right the first time! 🇺🇸



JTF GUANTANAMO

Commander:

Navy Rear Adm. Tom Copeman

Command Master Chief:

Navy Master Chief Petty Officer
Scott A. Fleming

Office of Public Affairs Director:

Navy Cmdr. Brook DeWalt: 9928

Deputy Director:

Navy Lt. James Gonzales: 9927

Operations Officer:

Army Capt. Robert Settles: 3596

Supervisor:

Air Force Chief Master Sgt.
Randy Dunham: 3649

The Wire

Executive Editor, Command Information NCOIC, Photojournalist:

Navy Mass Communication Specialist
1st Class Edward Flynn: 3592

Editor, Photojournalist:

Army Spc. Tiffany Addair: 3499

Photojournalists:

Army Staff Sgt. Shereen Grouby
Navy Mass Communication Specialist
1st Class Marcos T. Hernandez

Navy Mass Communication Specialist
2nd Class Zachary Harris

Navy Mass Communication Specialist
2nd Class Shane Arrington

Army Sgt. Athneil Thomas

Air Force Staff Sgt. Angela Ruiz

Army Spc. Archie Corbitt III

Army Spc. Cody Black

Navy Mass Communication Specialist
3rd Class Kellie Bliss

Marine Corps Lance Cpl.
Justin R. Wheeler

Contact us

Editor's Desk: 3499 or 3594

From the continental United States:

Commercial: 011-53-99-3499

DSN: 660-3499

E-mail: thewire@jftgmo.southcom.mil

Online: www.jftgmo.southcom.mil

COVER:

Navy Legalman 2nd Class Rasheeda Smith notarizes a power of attorney for a service member at the Trooper One Stop, March 23. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Justin R. Wheeler

BACK COVER:

An M-4 rifle rests on the ground at Windward Range after being fired, March 16. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Justin R. Wheeler

The WIRE is the official news magazine of Joint Task Force Guantanamo. It is produced by the JTF Public Affairs Office to inform and educate the Troopers of JTF Guantanamo through news, features, command guidance, sports and entertainment. The WIRE seeks to provide maximum disclosure with minimum delay with regard to security, accuracy, propriety and policy. This DoD news magazine is an authorized publication for the members of the Department of Defense. Contents of The WIRE are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or Joint Task Force Guantanamo. It is printed by the Document Automation & Production Service with a circulation of 1,000.

Holy Week, holy ritual

Air Force Maj.
William S. Wiecher
JTF Deputy Command Chaplain

On Sunday, March 28, Christians will enter into their holiest week of the year, known fittingly as Holy Week.

Beginning with Palm Sunday, this holy time concludes with the three holy days of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the Great Easter Vigil. The events of Holy Week come to a climax with the celebration of the feast of the resurrection, Easter Sunday.

For the Christian tradition, worship and prayer during these days shapes their belief, strengthens their faith and inspires hope.

Within the Christian tradition, there is an ancient axiom; *lex orandi, lex credendi*. The literal translation of this latin phrase is, “the law of prayer determines the law of belief.”

Another way of understanding this axiom is simply; the way we pray, *lex orandi*, will determine the way we believe, *lex credendi*. However, an even deeper appreciation of this statement, which describes the power of worship and prayer for the Christian life, is illustrated by the addition of the following phrase; *lex vivendi* – how we will live, how we worship reflects what we believe and how we will live.

Time, religious tradition confesses, is a gift of God’s creation. All peoples and cultures order time in various ways based upon the rhythms of nature. In Christianity the natural rhythms take on a new meaning, and time is organized by the church year.

The church year or the liturgical calendar tells the story of God, who is beyond time and who acts in history above all through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This is the Christian narrative story, that we proclaim praise and share every time we gather to worship as a community.

Therefore, all Sundays of the year are festivals of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In a profound sense, Sunday, the first day of the week, is also the eighth day of the week – the weekly celebration of the day of resurrection is our primary Christian festival. However, on several specific days at the center of the church year, our worship takes on a particular shape or form. These central days have come to be known as the Tridium, the Holy

Tridium or the Holy Three Days.

The biblical foundation for these three days comes from Jesus’ words to his disciples, that he would be handed over to death, and that “after three days he will rise again,” Mark 10:34.

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week. It is on this day, united with Christians around the world, we mark the triumphant entry of Jesus into the holy city of Jerusalem, with shouts of Hosanna, welcoming him as a king ... but quickly those cries of praise become cries of crucifixion, and on this day the passion of Jesus is read ... setting the tone for the coming week.

Thursday of Holy Week, also known as Maundy Thursday, begins the Great Three Days. During this worship service, on this night, we participate in the saving power of Jesus’ passing over from death into life.

Maundy comes from the Latin Word *Mandatum* meaning “to do this” or “commandment.” What Jesus commands this night is to love one another as he loves us.

As a sign of our calling to follow Jesus’ example of humility and service, we may wash one another’s feet as Jesus washed his disciple’s feet. Finally, on this night we gather around the Lord’s Supper, the Holy Eucharist, the sacrament of his body and blood, recalling the night in which he gave to his church this sacrament.

At the liturgy’s conclusion, the altar area may be stripped of furnishings, and become barren, as a sign of Jesus’ abandonment.

The next day, Friday, is known as Good Friday. This service continues the journey through the three days of Jesus’ suffering, death and resurrection. At the center of this liturgy is the passion reading according to St. John which celebrates Christ Jesus victory on the cross.

As Jesus draws all people to himself, we pray for the whole world for which, Christians confess, Christ died. In closing of the service we honor the cross as the sign of forgiveness, healing and salvation; proclaiming the mystery of faith: Christ has died, so that we may live!

On the night before Easter Day, Christians around the world will gather to celebrate Jesus Christ’s passage from death to life, known as the Easter Vigil. Christians have been commemorating the death and resurrection of Jesus since

See **HOLY/14**

525th Soldier of the Quarter

Marine Corps Lance Cpl.
Justin R. Wheeler

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

A person who earns Soldier of the Quarter honors represents the Army motto "This We'll Defend," referring to our nation. That professionalism exemplifies the traits of the ideal Soldier and what the Army is about.

Army Spc. Anthony Berkowitz, chaplain assistant for the 525th Military Police Battalion, Joint Task Force Guantanamo, represents the Army as the named Soldier of the 1st Quarter for the 525th MP Battalion.

"I was happy to meet my goal of becoming Soldier of the Quarter," Berkowitz said. "It was my best achievement since I've come to GTMO."

The process of being nominated begins in each individual's work section. A soldier or non-commissioned officer is screened by their immediate supervisor. The supervisor then decides whether to recommend the soldier to appear before the company-level board, where they compete against Soldiers from other platoons. Upon being selected as the monthly honoree, the Soldier proceeds to the 525th's quarterly board, where Berkowitz kept himself motivated to stay on top.

"My drive to stand out helped me," Berkowitz said. "I wanted to see where my military bearing, knowledge and

professionalism were ranked among my peers."

This self-motivation is a major contributor when competing in these boards, he said. Also, having support from NCOs, knowing the job and maintaining bearing play key roles in his success.

"Knowing your job is important to be recommended for these boards," Berkowitz said. "You have to be someone willing to complete or attempt any task."

Berkowitz is an example of this in his work environment.

"When it comes to Army knowledge, he knows all of that material," said Navy Religious Program Specialist 3rd Class Tania Gedeon, chaplain's assistant for JTF Guantanamo and Berkowitz's co-worker. "He could probably tell you every Army regulation there is!"

Along with knowledge of his job and the Army, Berkowitz does more than just exemplify selflessness and a winning attitude toward career progression.

"He tries to progress his Army career in and outside of work by going to school and volunteering," Gedeon said. "He takes online classes and he helps with the United Through Reading program."

Berkowitz represents the traits of an ideal Soldier and those pursuing the title of Soldier of the Quarter. The four winners from respective quarter boards will progress to the U.S. Army Southern Command

Soldier of the Year competition to represent the 525th among other battalions.

"I am lucky to have the chance to represent the 525th in the USARSO board," Berkowitz said. "I plan on showing the USARSO board that the 525th MP Battalion is the best battalion in the southern region."

With three quarters remaining this fiscal year, three more Soldiers have the opportunity to stand out within the battalion and compete with Berkowitz among other Soldiers in the U.S. Army. ★



(Above and left) Army Spc. Anthony H. Berkowitz, 525th MP Battalion chaplain's assistant, receives an Army Achievement Medal from Army Command Sgt. Maj. Steven Raines, 525th MP Battalion's senior enlisted leader, March 12. - JTF Guantanamo photos by Marine Lance Cpl. Justin R. Wheeler



Army Staff Sgt. Tammy Reels, with the 115th Military Police Company, Rhode Island Army National Guard, practices applying tamper evident tape to a specimen bottle during the Unit Prevention Leader Training Course, March 9. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Shereen Grouby

Army Staff Sgt. Shereen Grouby
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Service members of Joint Task Force Guantanamo completed the Unit Prevention Leader Certification Training Course at Columbia College, March 12.

A UPL administers the unit biochemical testing program, commonly known as urinalysis. They are tasked with helping the commander implement the drug and alcohol testing program. Each UPL must hold the rank of officer or non-commissioned officer.

The course covered specific aspects of substance abuse programs and focused on the unit prevention leader's role. In addition, focus was placed on the mission of the Army Substance Abuse Program and how it strengthens the overall fitness, effectiveness and readiness of its Soldiers.

Each service has its regulation governing how its substance abuse program is developed and implemented. Under a joint task force, however, using multiple regulations would not be effective.

"JTF Guantanamo has been mandated to use the Army standards for conducting urinalysis, said Army Sgt. 1st Class Ann Marie Swan, J1 noncommissioned officer in charge. "It is for all units falling under the JTF, regardless of branch of service."

A total of 19 people, 18 Soldiers and one Sailor, completed the 40-hour course which included online training and practical

exercises. The weeklong course was one phase of the UPL certification process.

"To become certified, the service member completes the course and is designated on appointment orders by the commander," said Linda Donaldson, the instructor and alcohol and drug abuse specialist from the U.S. Army South Substance Abuse Program. "And, they have a background check completed."

UPLs collect, handle, store and submit urine specimens to the lab for testing. Therefore, the course focused on the pre-collection, collection and post collection procedures. Specific steps must be followed to ensure specimens are tested at the lab.

"This job requires you to be focused," Donaldson said. "[You have to] follow each step of the process so you do not receive discrepancies or errors on the batches submitted."

Because of the strict collection procedures, UPLs should have the respect of their unit and commander.

"If you are here, you were chosen because you have above and beyond integrity," Donaldson said. "You and your commander must have a good working relationship and all aspects of the program must be understood up front."

A good working knowledge of the program enables UPLs to meet the strict standards that are required.

"You must be trained to standard. The role of the UPL requires attention to detail," Donaldson said.

For those that finished the course, knowing the standard and completing the tasks to standard, enable them to accomplish their role as a UPL and enhance the readiness of JTF Troopers. ★



Linda Donaldson demonstrates how to apply tamper evident tape to a specimen bottle during the Unit Prevention Leader Training Course held at Columbia College, March 10. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Shereen Grouby

GTMO Crush wins softball tournament



Mark Massa, member of the GTMO Crush softball team, pitches the ball during the softball finals at Cooper Field, March 17. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Kellie Bliss

**Navy Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class
Kellie Bliss**
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Many Guantanamo residents may have played in the double-elimination softball tournament, but only one team got to take home the big prize – the winner’s trophy.

In a high-spirited, energetic game, it boiled down to the GTMO Crush and the GTMO Intensity competing in the finals to determine who would walk away with first place. The GTMO Crush took the win in the last game with a score of seven to five.

The softball tournament had 12 teams battling for the ultimate win.

Both teams in the finals showed a love for the game and good sportsmanship. GTMO Intensity’s first baseman, Christian Souvenir, says the best thing about the tournament is just having the chance to play softball.

“It doesn’t get any better than being out here on the field, swinging the bat, throwing the ball, playing with your teammates and having a good time,” Souvenir said. “There’s great sportsmanship, too.”

Softball gives residents the chance to get out, exercise, and have some fun. Master-at-Arms 2nd Class William Clark coached

the GTMO Crush to victory with this in mind.

“I think these tournaments are a lot of fun, and it brings a lot of people out,” Clark said. “The best part is meeting a lot of people from all the different branches and it builds a lot of camaraderie between everyone playing.”

Most of the participants were satisfied with the way the event unfolded.

“The tournament is a good morale booster and it’s a well-organized event,” said Army Sgt. Donald Beasley, with the 193rd Military Police Company and the 3rd baseman for the GTMO Crush team.

Morale, Welfare and Recreation organized the event, as well as all softball events held year round. And, mother nature added her blessings.

“The weather plus the fields are ideal for softball to be played all year,” said Robert Neuman, MWR sports coordinator.

Everyone in GTMO has the opportunity to play softball during the upcoming all-night tournament, April 2. Registration for this event ends March 29.

The next softball season is scheduled to begin April 19 for both men and women divisions. The registration deadline for the season is April 15. For more information

on MWR activities and sporting events, contact the sports office at ext. 2113. ☆

Adam Frame, member of the GTMO Crush softball team, hits the ball at Cooper Field, March 17. –JTF Guantanamo photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Kellie Bliss





Over the edge

**Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class
Zachary Harris**
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The power of love given by a father to his children is impenetrable and can drive a man to do many things. For detective Thomas Craven, that includes hunting down your daughter's murderer with the sole intent of revenge, no matter the cost.

Mel Gibson stars as Craven, a good detective with an impeccable record of service to the Boston police force. He also has a solid reputation for his service to his country as a former Army master sergeant. He loves his daughter unconditionally with all of his heart and soul.

When she is murdered in cold blood on the porch of his colonial home in a Boston suburb, Craven sets out to find the party responsible and exact his revenge.

While going through his daughter's personal effects, Craven finds a gun. He runs the serial number and traces it back to his daughter's boyfriend. During his encounter with the boyfriend, Craven learns that the killers got the right person. Emma (Baja Novakovic) was on the verge of unraveling a conspiracy at the research

and development firm she worked for that had ties to both the Boston government and the federal government.

Jedburgh, played perfectly by Ray Winstone, is a "fixer." He is called to handle situations in the most discreet and effective way possible. He is cold-blooded, but logical. In his first encounter with Craven, he cautions the detective to heed while investigating the people involved. While the individuals who hired Jedburgh would prefer that he kill Craven, he decides to let him continue his investigation.

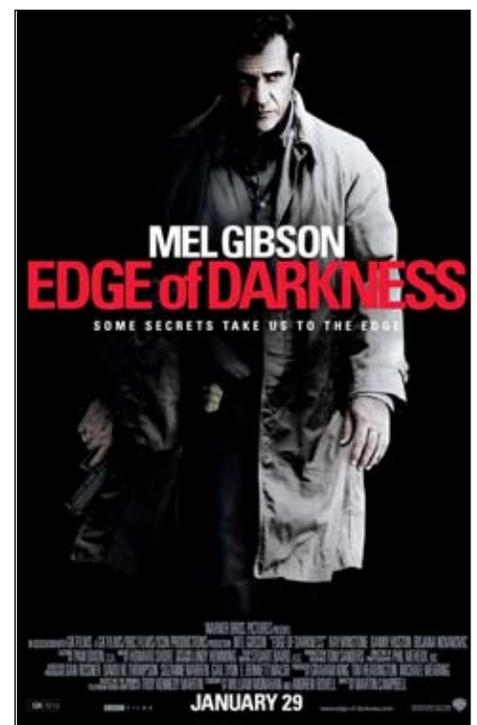
The detective continues to unravel the conspiracy that resulted in his daughter's death. He's threatened at every turn and manages to get out of a few scrapes after encountering the perpetrators' "button men." He eventually runs down the head of the group responsible and responds to the crime accordingly.

Jedburgh also ends up doing what he does best. The situation is smoothed over, presumably to never be brought to light.

This was a great movie. Gibson does an extraordinary job of playing the once-caring-turned-cold-blooded father figure out for retribution. Winstone is amazing in his role, managing to be dynamic, cool and collected all at the same time. While the movie centers on Craven and his exploits through the tragedy of his daughter's death, the supporting cast lends depth that helps fill in the gaps of the character of Emma.

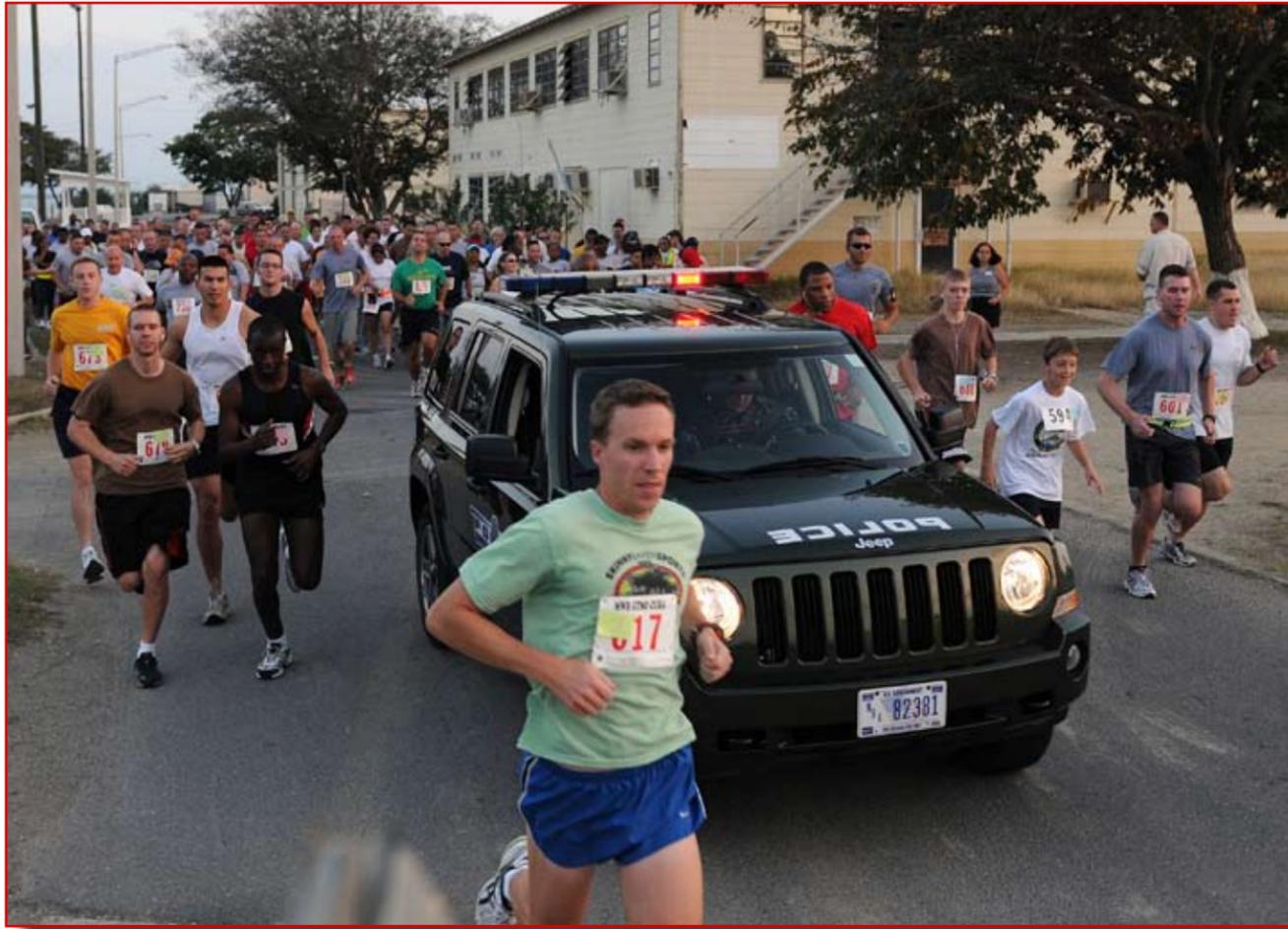
The twists and turns of the movie will

keep the viewer guessing throughout. While the movie is a thriller at heart, the director still manages to sprinkle in some comedic relief along the way. While the term "edge of your seat" is often over-used, this movie will truly keep you on the edge of your seat, wondering what is coming next. ☆



R
117 minutes
Rating: ★★★★★☆

RED CROSS 5K RUN



Runners, escorted by naval station security, take off from the starting point atop Marine Hill.

JTF Guantanamo photos by
Navy Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class
Kellie Bliss

Runners dash past a water point grabbing water to stay hydrated during the 5k.



Navy Lt. Eamon O'Reilly crosses the finish line atop JPJ Hill during the American Red Cross 5k.



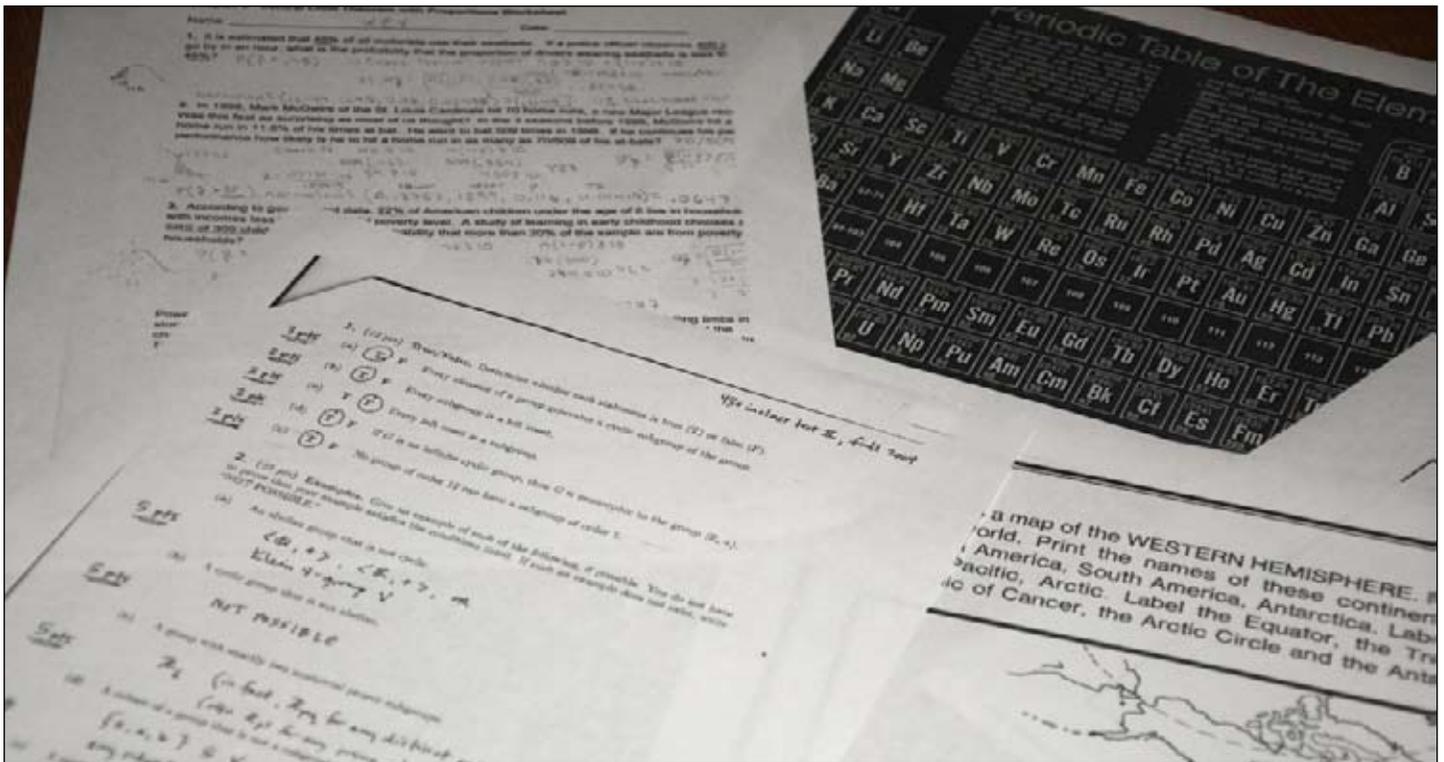
Air Force 1st Lt. Andy Kmetz runs up JPJ Hill.



Participants of the Red Cross JPJ 5k run checkin to receive their numbers.



Army Pfc. Raymond Morris (left) and Army Cpl. David K. King, volunteers for the American Red Cross, cheer on participants traveling up John Paul Jones Hill.



Worksheets from various areas of study cover the desk of a JTF Trooper. The Servicemen's Readjustment Act, commonly referred to as the G.I. Bill, has helped service members pay for higher education and training programs since it was signed into law by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, June 22, 1944. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Shane Arrington

Trooper to student

Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class
Shane Arrington
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

A chance to see the world, the opportunity to serve your country and a steady paycheck in a rough economy; all three are common reasons service members join the military.

There's also a fourth, very common reason many join ... education benefits.

For those on active duty, the Tuition Assistance Program is one of the main ways for service members to pay for their classes.

For those who've done their time and moved on, or for drilling Reservist/Guard members, the main educational benefit is the Government Issued Bill. In addition, Guard members have a multitude of state-sponsored education benefits.

Officially titled the Servicemen's Readjustment Act, the G.I. Bill was signed into law by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on June 22, 1944. Over the years, the G.I. Bill has been revamped multiple times, and there are multiple versions. The main two in use today are the Montgomery G.I. Bill and the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill.

Expanded in 1984 by Mississippi Congressman Gillespie V. Montgomery, the Montgomery G.I. Bill was the poster child for veteran's educational benefits until the coming of the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill

in August 2009. Even with the Post 9/11, the Montgomery still stands strong due to the flexibility of its benefits.

The Active Duty Montgomery G.I. Bill, for veterans who served on Active Duty, pays \$1,368 (as of Oct. 2009) each month directly, to the individual for full time student status. The Selected Reserve Montgomery G.I. Bill, for those who have at least a six-year obligation to serve in the Reserves/Guard, the payout is \$333 a month. This information and more can be found on the Department of Veterans Affairs Web site.

The Post 9/11 G.I. Bill pays, directly to the school, 100 percent tuition based on the highest in-state tuition charged by an educational institution in the state where the school is located. On top of this, individuals are given a housing allowance of an E-5 with dependents. The actual amount is based on zip code. Individuals are also given a book stipend of \$1,000 once a year.

Which G.I. Bill a person uses is based upon the situation, such as chosen school or current military status - some states pay tuition for veterans and guard members. Service members and veterans should definitely do their research before committing to either option.

For example Marshall University, in Huntington, W.Va., has 140 students going

into the Spring 2010 semester using the Montgomery and Post 9/11 G.I. Bill.

"We currently have 73 students using the ADMGIB and 67 using the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill," said Lora Varney, Marshall University veteran certification official. "We also have 54 students using the National Guard and Reserve Select G.I. Bill."

Telford Simpson, a former Soldier working for Joint Task Force Guantanamo's Joint Intelligence Group, said the number one reason he joined the Army was to serve his country, but as a veteran he didn't miss the opportunity to use his benefits. He says the G.I. Bill is a great thing, but wants service members to remember that it's not always quick and painless.

"Make sure to save some money," Simpson said. "It can take a while before the money starts to flow through the system."

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) does it's best to make sure the money gets to the veteran, or the educational institution, in the proper time, but sometimes an administrative mistake can happen or things might simply get lost in the mail. To provide assistance in these situations, as well as to give general information and answer any questions a service member or veteran may have, the VA can be contacted through their toll free number 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551) or their Web site, <http://www.gibill.va.gov>. ★



Arrange special events

Army Spc.
Archie Corbitt III

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Roses for true love, carnations for innocence, and lilies for purity – flowers say many things without making a sound.

At the Navy Exchange Personalized Services Shop, service members and civilian personnel stationed at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay and Joint Task Force Guantanamo can send and receive flowers from loved ones back home.

NEX operations services manager, Kathryn Kirkwood, said whenever there is a holiday they get the most JTF Troopers in the flower shop.

“The best way for them to keep in touch with their loved ones is by sending home flowers or gift baskets,” Kirkwood said. “With flowers by wire, they can keep in

touch with family and friends and not miss out on special holidays.”

Flowers have always been a sign of love and affection between people.

“When my drivers go out they often come back with smiles on their faces, said Audrey Edwards, a florist here. “They say how happy the customers were when they received their bouquet.”

The ability to both send and receive flowers helps bridge the gap created by deployments.

“I think it’s great that we have the flower shop,” said Navy Intelligence Specialist 3rd Class Megan Rascoe, with JTF Guantanamo’s Joint Intelligence Group. “It gives people a way to express their feelings for each other without having to buy something huge.”

She said her flowers are for a special group of people – her family.

“I’d send flowers to my granny, she’s my favorite relative,” Rascoe said. “I would also send flowers to my dad because he turns 50 this year.”

Anyone interested in ordering flowers can go to the Personalized Services Shop or online to www.navy-nex.com. All military members can access the NEX Web site. Family members at home can also access the Web site or order through Florist Transworld Delivery by phone or online at, www.ftd.com.

According to Kirkwood, part of the NEX mission is to provide the comforts of home in an isolated and remote duty station.

“Whether it’s Mother’s Day or telling a friend ‘I’m thinking about you or I miss you,’ our military members can reach out and participate in events even though they can’t be there,” Kirkwood said. 🌸

Ready-made flower arrangements sit on display in the flower shop at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay. The flower shop allows Troopers to send and receive bouquets to and from family and friends for special occasions, while away from home. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Archie Corbitt III



The meaning of Passover

Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class

Zachary Harris

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Passover is the Jewish holiday commemorating the Hebrews' liberation from slavery in Egypt and the "passing over" of the forces of destruction, or the sparing of the firstborn of the Israelites, when the Lord "smote the land of Egypt" on the eve of the Exodus. The Hebrews marked their doors with the blood of lambs to show the Angel of Death which houses to avoid.

"It's a holiday that's celebrated to varying degrees by different families in their homes," said Jeff Einhorn, Jewish Lay Leader. "I've been in some homes where the celebration takes 40 minutes

and others where it takes three hours."

The festival marks the first and most momentous event in Jewish history. Passover begins on the 15th and ends on the 21st (or, outside of Israel and among Reform Jews, the 22nd) day of the month of Nisan (March or April). This year, Passover will be celebrated from March 30 through April 6. During these eight days all leaven, whether in bread or other mixture, is prohibited, and only unleavened bread, called matzo, may be eaten.

"The Israelite slaves left in such haste that they had no time to let the bread rise," Einhorn said.

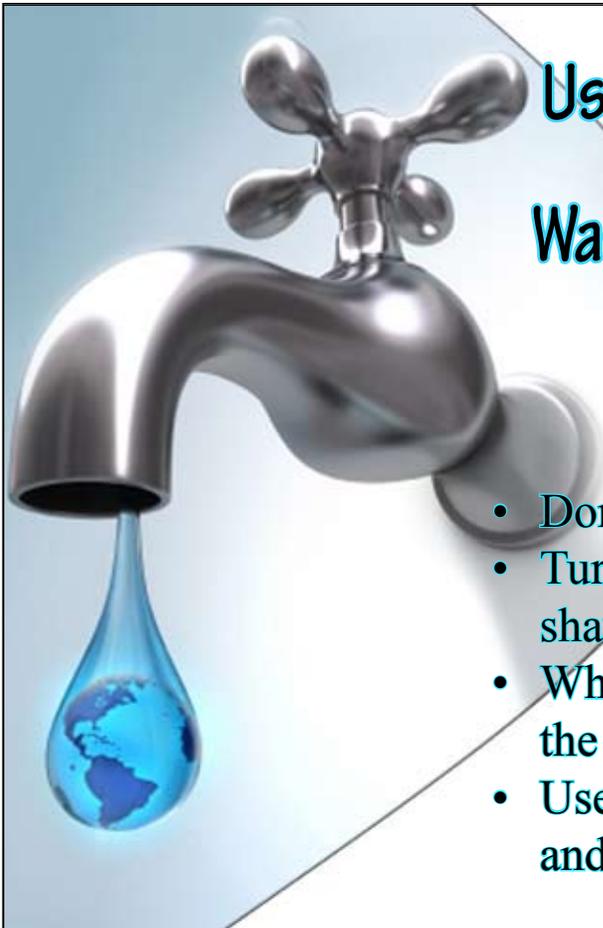
The matzo also symbolizes the Hebrews' suffering while in bondage. Passover is also sometimes called the

Festival of Unleavened Bread.

Passover is often celebrated with great ceremony, especially on the first night, when a special family meal called the seder is held. At the seder, foods of symbolic significance commemorating the Hebrews' liberation are eaten, and prayers and traditional recitations are performed.

"Through the course of the dinner, the story of the Israelites' exodus from Egypt is told using the items on the table," Einhorn said.

Though the festival of Passover is meant to be one of great rejoicing, strict dietary laws must be observed, and special prohibitions restrict work at the beginning and end of the celebration. ☆



Using lawn sprinklers is PROHIBITED

Washing vehicles at one's residence is PROHIBITED

Water Conservation TIPS

- Don't use your toilet as a trash can
- Turn off water as your brushing your teeth or shaving
- When doing laundry, match the water level to the load size
- Use a broom, not a hose to clean driveways and sidewalks



Open lines of communication

Air Force Staff Sgt. Rodgrick L. Anderson (left) and Senior Airman Christopher K. Moore, both from the 186th Civil Engineering Squadron of the Mississippi Air National Guard deployed to Joint Task Force Guantanamo with the 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron, bury wires underground for connectivity to surrounding buildings inside Camp America, March 18. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Cody Black

Boots on the Ground

by Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Jusitn R. Wheeler

What is your favorite GTMO wildlife?

Air Force Staff Sgt. Curtis Hudnell



"The iguana, because I like to see them in their natural habitat."

Navy Religious Program Specialist 3rd Class Adam Donato



"The curly tailed lizard, because they come into my office to keep me company."

Coast Guard Machinery Technician 3rd Class David Reza



"Banana rats, because I like the way they look."

Army Spc. Inez Tauvela



"I like seeing the road runners, because they are fast."



HOLY from 3

Apostolic times, because his death and resurrection are at the heart of Christian faith and practice.

As early as the second century, Christians celebrated the Great Easter Vigil, an event which began the night of Holy Saturday, continuing until dawn on Easter morning. During this vigil, Christians commemorated salvation history, awaited the return of Jesus, and celebrated the resurrection of Jesus at dawn on Easter Sunday.

It was at the vigil that catechumens, after a three-year period of catechesis, were baptized and received first communion.

The Easter Vigil became in many ways the most important day of the liturgical year. This vigil liturgy includes the following strong signs or symbols – new fire in darkness, light spreading from the light of Christ, the water and the Word of baptism and the celebration of the first resurrection meal, the Holy Eucharist.

There is also the reading of the powerful words of the great saving stories of the

Hebrew Scriptures, and the reading of the first Easter Gospel ... and of course there is the triumphant Christian proclamation and faith – Alleluia Christ is Risen! To which the people respond, He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia.

These days are indeed a tremendous time of meaning, faithful conviction and life empowering through the transformation of earthly time. We invite you to share these important days with us. Lex orandi lex credendi, lex vivendi. ☆

Easter Sunrise Service

When: Sunday, April 4

Where: Windmill Beach

Time: 6:45 a.m.

For additional information contact the JTF chaplain's office at ext. 3202 or 3203, or the NAVSTA chapel at ext. 2258.

GTMO Religious Services

Daily Catholic Mass

Mon. - Fri. 5:30 p.m.

Main Chapel

Mon. - Fri. 6:30 p.m.*

Troopers' Chapel

Vigil Mass

Saturday 5:00 p.m.

Main Chapel

Mass

Sunday 9:00 a.m.

Main Chapel

***Time Change**

See insert for Holiday services

Protestant Worship

Sunday 9:00 a.m.

Troopers' Chapel

Islamic Service

Friday 1:15 p.m.

Room C

Jewish Service

FMI call 2628

LORIMI Gospel

Sunday 8:00 a.m.

Room D

Seventh Day Adventist

Saturday 11:00 a.m.

Room B

Iglesia Ni Cristo

Sunday 5:30 a.m.

Room A

Pentecostal Gospel

Sunday 8:00 a.m.

Room D

LDS Service

Sunday 9:00 a.m.

Room A

Liturgical Service

Sunday 10:00 a.m.

Room B

General Protestant

Sunday 11:00 a.m.

Main Chapel

United Jamaican

Fellowship

Sunday 11:00 a.m.

Building 1036

Gospel Service

Sunday 1:00 p.m.

Main Chapel

GTMO Bay Christian

Fellowship

Sunday 6:00 p.m.

Main Chapel

Bible Study

Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

Troopers' Chapel

The Truth Project

Bible study

Sunday 6:00 p.m.

Troopers' Chapel

Flying: A photographer's dream

**Navy Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class
Marcos T. Hernandez**
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

By vocation, Navy Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Michael Watkins, combat cameraman with Joint Task Force Guantanamo, sees the world through a photographer's lens. It's his avocation that lets him look at the world from several thousand feet in the air, through the windscreen of an aircraft.

"As a kid, I was fascinated with flying and was constantly looking up to the sky," Watkins said. "Planes and basically anything with a lot of buttons on it is what called my attention as a kid."

It's that extreme hobby that gives Watkins his 15 minutes of fame.

Watkins, attached to Combat Camera Group Pacific, is a legacy photographer's mate deployed to Joint Task Force Guantanamo. While he has earned the praises of his peers for his excellent photography skills, it's his instrument rated private pilot's license and the more than 400 flight hours that keeps him focused. When he is at his homeport in San Diego, Watkins spends his leisure time flying his plane.

"Piloting an aircraft gives you a sense of freedom that you don't get from everyday life," Watkins said. "In fact, it's the ultimate freedom. Pilots don't take that freedom for

granted."

Watkins began his quest to fly in 1996 when, at 18, he acquired a student pilot's license in his home state of Washington. In 1997, he was flying solo after earning his private pilot's license. By the time he was 20, he was already an instrument rated private pilot.

Later in his career in 2007, after returning from a deployment in Iraq, Watkins decided to treat himself by purchasing the plane he had been renting for more than eight years – a red and white 1969 Piper Cherokee-140 fixed wing aircraft. Since that time, he has flown from San Diego to scenic places such as Big Bear, Catalina Island and all over Washington State.

When at his homeport duty station, Watkins is the lead petty officer for combat cameras training department. He is regarded as a professional by many people with whom he's worked.

"He is one of the most passionate photography training petty officers I know," said Navy Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Anthony Hayes, a fellow combat camera photographer with JTF Guantanamo. "The times I've worked with him have been very positive."

His duties as training petty officer translate perfectly to his future plan to become a flight instructor.

"He could easily become a flight instructor because he has both the

experience as an instructor and as a pilot," Hayes said.

According to Watkins, flying an aircraft is different from driving an automobile where the driver can only make singular turns at a given moment while driving in a single direction. Piloting an aircraft on the other hand, provides the pilot with a third dimension in handling.

"Being able to decrease an aircraft's altitude and make a turn simultaneously, or to tip the wing as the aircraft's altitude increases are examples of factors in handling that yield a third dimension," Watkins said.

Many people believe piloting an aircraft is complicated but Watkins thinks otherwise.

"Flying a plane is easy, land navigation is easy and communications is easy," Watkins said. "It is kind of like juggling three balls. You have to manage all three at the same time."

Contrary to popular belief, you don't necessarily have to be wealthy to be able to fly planes or even own one.

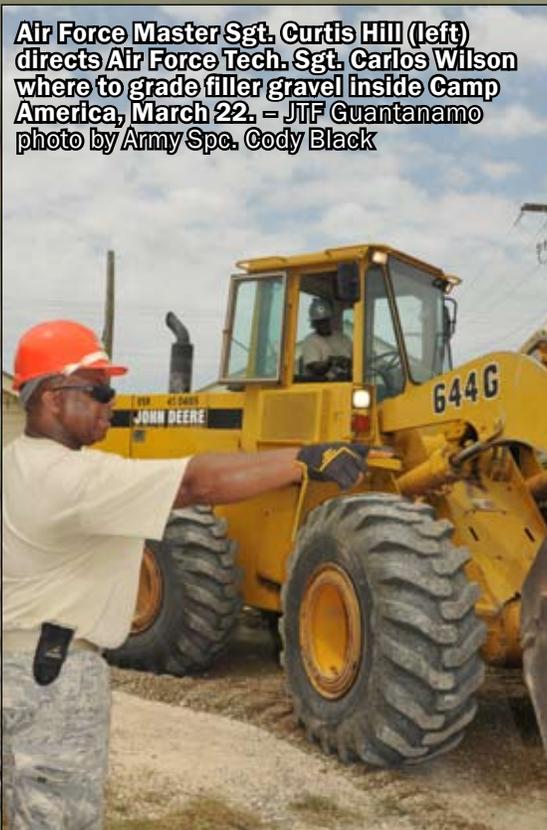
"I bought my Cherokee for \$25,000 and invested around \$17,000 more in avionics upgrades," Watkins said. "That's not much different from buying an expensive car if you think about it."

Not long after departing Guantanamo, Watkins plans on finishing up his commercial pilot's license certification. ★



**Navy Mass Communication Specialist
1st Class Michael Watkins, combat
cameraman with Joint Task Force
Guantanamo, is all smiles as he stands
next to his plane. – Contributed photo**

Air Force Master Sgt. Curtis Hill (left) directs Air Force Tech. Sgt. Carlos Wilson where to grade filler gravel inside Camp America, March 22. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Cody Black



Army Sgt. Sierra S. Bibbs (left) and Army Spc. Yusef A. Abdul, with the 525th Military Police Battalion, put new tires on rims at Joint Task Force Guantanamo's 525th MP Battalion motor pool, March 17. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Cody Black



Army Sgt. 1st Class Susanatte N. Grosvenor, J-4 property book office non-commissioned officer-in-charge, verifies serial numbers of an incoming shipment with Army Sgt. Melinda B. Gibson, J-6 supply NCOIC, March 17. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Athneil Thomas

Around the
★
JTF