

THE WIRE

A JTF Journal



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JTC provides invaluable service

Are you ready?

Troopers prepare for harsh weather



Dedication to duty

■ Sacrifice yields success

Navy Senior Chief Master-at-Arms John Otis
NEGB Senior Chief Master-at-Arms

Dedication is to devote yourself completely and earnestly to a person, purpose or goal. I feel you must dedicate yourself fully to be successful in any endeavor. Everyone has a purpose in life, whether it's raising a family, getting a college degree or advancing in the military.

My goal was to make chief, and I sacrificed a lot and dedicated myself to my job to achieve my goal. I have seen a lot of former shipmates who are still E-6s and even E5s who say, "I wish I would have dedicated myself more to my job or worked harder, and maybe I would be a chief by now, like you."

Someone told me when I was a young sailor, "Dedication has no working hours; you must sacrifice to be successful and demonstrate not only to your superiors, but peers as well that you will do what is needed to get the job done." I remember being on my first ship as a seaman. It was rigorous and demanding. We worked around the clock with little time off my first deployment. I never hesitated to step up when my lead petty officer needed me to stay late to finish a job and I never complained. I always strived to do things that made me better, even though it cost me time away from my family. It paid off for me in the long run.

Here in Guantanamo many Troopers perform duties outside of their job field. The work here is difficult and stressful, but like any command, you must dedicate yourself to stand out among your peers. This means dedicating yourself to your job, accepting challenging duties and preparing yourself for advancement to the next pay grade.

In today's military, retention is high and advancements are low. Junior troops can lose motivation to study because it may seem impossible to advance to the next rank. You can never predict the advancement percentages, but you can set yourself up for success by studying hard and exhibiting sustained superior performance, which reflects in your evaluations and awards. This will give you more leverage to advance over others.

As leaders we must demonstrate 100 percent dedication to our people. Senior leaders have an obligation – a sacred duty to ensure their troops are motivated and prepared to complete the mission. We are vocal representatives to the chain of command, for our people, to ensure they get the recognition they deserve for their efforts.

Leaders play a vital role in the professional and personal development of their Troopers, and must prepare them for life after GTMO, whether it's transferring or leaving the service. ❖



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COVER:

Army Sgt. Ardicio Galvao (left), Army Spc. Carlos Baptista (middle) and Navy Machinist Mate 3rd Class Jo Kurosu (right), salute the American flag during their naturalization ceremony, gaining United States citizenship at Windmill Beach, April 19. The ceremony was the first-ever held at GTMO. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Shane Arrington

BACK COVER:

With spring upon us, flowers start to bloom at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Tiffany Addair

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.

Keeping you connected

Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class

Zachary Harris

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

You're sitting at your computer reading through your e-mails. You reply to one, hit "send" and it zooms off into cyberspace. Then you attempt to reply to another. You receive an error message, stare blankly at the screen, at your computer's tower and back to the screen. What now?

If you are like the rest of Joint Task Force Guantanamo, you dial the J-6 helpdesk and pray the problem will be fixed before the day's end. What you probably fail to realize, however, is the complexity behind troubleshooting such issues.

"We are responsible for all communications," said Air Force Lt. Col. Joseph Tichich, J-6 director. "That includes radios, internet and telephones."

Communication is one of the main tools used by all Troopers. Whether it's the radios the guards use to communicate within the detention facilities or even just sending an e-mail to a family member back home, it's a big part of our daily lives. The mission of J-6 is important to the JTF because they support all communication issues.

According to Tichich, because the Troopers assigned to J-6 rotate out routinely, contractors are relied on heavily to maintain network functionality.

"Our contractors are our lifelines," Tichich said. "[They] are doing the stuff behind the scenes, providing continuity."

The J-6 doesn't face anything too challenging that they can't handle when dealing with the technical aspect of their job. They do, however, find it challenging to service such a large group of people and an array of daily problems with a relatively small group of on-site technicians.

"There's nothing really hard to deal with," said Brian Hutchinson, J-6 helpdesk technician. "Satisfying everyone at once can be difficult, though."

For members of J-6 that service the Commissions Support Group (CSG), connectivity can mean the difference between smooth operations that maintain JTF's mission or possible complications that will negatively affect mission success. The group runs its own helpdesk specifically for the benefit of the Office of Military Commissions, CSG and trial personnel.

"We coordinate all [technology] aspects for commissions," said Air Force Capt. James Gorsuch, information technology officer-in-charge for CSG. "[Connectivity] becomes a big issue when a lawyer needs it."

While all of this may seem like a job that is larger than life, Tichich brags about his people, touting their intelligence and



Fredarika Fefee, senior network engineer with J-6, routes a Local Area Network (LAN) line at an office in Camp America, April 7. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Zachary Harris

technical savvy.

"They're smart," Tichich said. "[The personnel] in J-6 are true, hard-working professionals that I'm proud of."

Next week, JTF-GTMO will undergo an Information Assurance Review (IAR) performed by Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA). During this time, the DISA team will ensure that JTF-GTMO is meeting requirements for

securing the network. Specifically, DISA will be inspecting personal workspaces for compliance with the rule specifying three foot separation between Non-classified Internet Protocol Router (NIPR) and Secure Internet Protocol Router (SIPR) systems.

If you have any questions or suggestions about information assurance, contact the J-6 office at ext. 8984 or e-mail j6-ia@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil. ☆

Unique service provided

Army Spc. Archie Corbitt III
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The average person at Guantanamo Bay probably does a load or two of laundry each week.

Imagine washing 61 tons of socks, shirts and other clothing items.

That's the mountain of clothes washed each year by the Navy Exchange laundry and dry cleaning service here – arguably the most unique in the Navy.

“The laundry service here mainly supports the troops in terms of uniform preparation,” said Gregory Hunter, services supervisor for NEX laundry. “We take care of dry cleaning needs for all branches of services and perform tailoring for dress uniforms.”

However, in addition to that mission, the laundry services the Joint Detention Group in the care and cleaning of detainee laundry.

“There is a devoted group of employees here that focus mainly on the preparation and cleaning of clothing for the detainees,” Hunter said. “We have separate machines that are used [strictly] for detainee laundry.”

Army Sgt. Jordan Wheeler, laundry non-commissioned officer with the JDG, said it's nice to have such a capable laundry facility aboard the naval station.

“It's good for us, because we can take our stuff to the NEX laundry and have it back in two days,” Wheeler said. “We

drop off about 1,500 pounds of clothes per drop twice, a week.”

That amounts to approximately 132,000 pounds of detainee laundry a year for the JDG alone, said Kathryn Kirkwood, NEX operations services manager. The JTF accounts for more than half of the total workload of the laundry, she said.

Some might find it odd that in addition to taking care of dry cleaning service, the NEX laundry also manages tailor services and car rentals.

The odd combination is necessary, according to Kirkwood, because Guantanamo is considered a remote duty location.

“In most cases, we would contract out for laundry service and other services,” Kirkwood said. “Here we don't have the option of going into the community, so we are the only NEX outside the continental United States that owns and operates its own services.”

Kirkwood said the laundry operates 15 washers and dryers to support the massive amounts of laundry. She said the prices are comparable to those of laundry service providers in the states.

Army Staff Sgt. Rebeca Beltre, Joint Detention Group property book non-commissioned officer, stacks detainee laundry for camp personnel to retrieve, April 19. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Archie Corbitt III



Hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday to Saturday.

For any information on services provided and prices, contact the NEX laundry at ext. 74316. ★



Army Sgt. Claudio Barbour, Joint Detention Group laundry non-commissioned officer, tosses a bag of laundry to Army Staff Sgt. Rebeca Beltre as the two unload a delivery from the Navy Exchange dry cleaners, April 19. The JDG cleans over 2,000 pounds of detainee laundry per week. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Archie Corbitt III

Early detection, prevention

Army Spc. Tiffany Addair

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Many things are necessary to maintain health. Women have gender-specific health-care needs, and the Joint Troop Clinic at Joint Task Force Guantanamo is available for those needs to be met.

While deployed to JTF Guantanamo women have the opportunity to receive a women's wellness exam. This exam is required annually upon entry to the military, regardless of age, and is offered at the JTC on Tuesday afternoons. In the military, more specifically in a deployed environment, this service is not always afforded to women.

"In Iraq the annual requirement to get the women's wellness exam is waived," said Army Capt. David L. Muhler, physician's assistant at the JTC. "It is a good service we provide here in a deployed status."

Unfortunately, statistics have shed light on the importance of screenings and catching any problems early.

"The second leading cause of mortality in women in the United States is breast cancer," said Army Capt. Leo Damasco, JTC officer-in-charge. "The third leading cause is cervical cancer."

The clinic provides breast and pelvic exams, a pap smear and tests for some sexually transmitted diseases. During the exam, additional time is spent on educating women on how to properly conduct a self breast exams, which increase the chances of early detection.

Some tumors are benign, meaning not cancerous, but some are malignant, which are cancerous. Malignant tumors have the ability to spread to other parts of the breast and body and disrupt normal function in those areas. Being aware of your body and noticing abnormalities can be life-saving.

Teaching the patient how to examine her own body yields a more likely chance of finding something abnormal, Muhler said. Women know their own bodies better than anyone else, Muhler added.

Damasco emphasized the importance of focusing on the education, because it increases the chances of catching something atypical.

"The earlier you catch something, the easier it is to treat," Damasco said. "If it spreads or becomes malignant it's too late."

Approximately a month and a

half ago Muhler joined the JTC team. With the addition of a physician's assistant, the JTC is able to add additional appointment times if the demand spikes.

"His presence helps a lot," Damasco said. "With another provider it gives us the opportunity to be more flexible."

See **PREVENT/12**



Army Sgt. Lee McClure, Joint Troop Clinic non-commissioned officer-in-charge, goes over a breast cancer pamphlet, pointing out signs and symptoms to look for, April 15.

- JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Tiffany Addair

A game of precision, power

Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Justin R. Wheeler
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Troopers at Joint Task Force Guantanamo show off their skills in a sport that requires precision, power and practice. This is a cue sport, known as pool or pocket billiards.

Liberty centers throughout Naval Station Guantanamo Bay grant service members access to free pool tables.

At the liberty center in Camp America around 25 people come and play pool each day, according to John Hackett, a recreation aid assistant with Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

“The pool players like the competition,” Hackett said. “They want to see who is best.”

Hackett believes that MWR provides the pool tables to help Troopers relax during their off time.

“It’s a good way of relieving stress for the troops,” Hackett said. “I even play with them sometimes. I’m here for the troops.”

For Navy Missile Technician 2nd Class Kenneth Pickett, Joint Detention Group, playing pool puts him in a zone.

“When you’re playing, you focus on each move,” Pickett said. “It takes you out of the real world for a moment.”

Some service members sharpen their skills daily. Navy Mass Communications Specialist 3rd Class Jesse Sharpe, Radio GTMO, has played pool since he was 13, and continues to play at GTMO. Sometimes Sharpe uses a meaningful cue, or pool stick, when he plays.

“When I was 13 years old I got my first cue from my uncle,” Sharpe said. “I still play with that cue every once and a while”

Army Pfc. Terrell Tardy’s pool playing adventure began when he arrived at GTMO. Since then, he has worked to get better and win games.

“When I started here, I was getting coached,” said Tardy, with S-1 personnel and administration, 525th Military Police Battalion. “It’s easy to learn. Once you get into it you can’t stop; now I feel confident enough to say that I’m around the skill level of a semi-pro [player].”

There are more than 15 official variations of the game, each with a unique goal required to win. However, with each game general principle is applied.

“You simply have to pay attention, identify your target and find your shot,” Tardy said. “It’s just like math.”

Among the many different types of shots, Sharpe enjoys firing long shots.

“It’s like aiming down the barrel of a gun,” Sharpe said. “When you shoot that far and actually land the ball into the pocket, it’s a good feeling.”

Tardy prefers shooting at alternate angles to score.

“I like trick shots the most,” Tardy said. “I especially like banking my shots off the wall.”

Even after GTMO, Tardy plans to continue playing and getting better at pool.

“My goal is to become a better player and beat the best of the best,” Tardy said. “I’ll possibly go play in a league. I plan on buying a pool table for my house and teaching my wife how to play.”

With pool tables spread around the base and Troopers’ love for the game, service members here will have something relaxing and competitive to do during off-time. ★



JTF Guantanamo photos by
Marine Corps Lance Cpl.
Justin R. Wheeler



(Left) Army Pfc. Terrell Tardy, S-1, 525th Military Police Battalion, focuses on his target before making a shot during his pool game at the liberty center in Camp America, April 15.

R

138 minutes

Rating: ★★★★★☆

And you thought your life was odd

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

The twists and turns of “Shutter Island” make it impossible to predict the outcome of the story. If the viewer is patient and takes in the small details, however, he or she will be rewarded with a final act that leaves you asking “wait ... what?”

The film is centered on Teddy Daniels (Leonardo DiCaprio), a U.S. Marshal who has been called in to investigate the disappearance of a patient from an asylum for the criminally insane at Boston’s Shutter Island Ashecliffe Hospital. Daniels is an odd character who seems to have inner turmoil that drives him through the course of his investigation. He is plagued with memories of his service to the country during World War II, hallucinations of his wife and the dead children of the escaped patient.

Teddy’s new partner, Chuck Aule (Mark Ruffalo), appears to be concerned with Daniels’ stability during the opening scenes of the movie. He seems to be merely going along with the investigation while Teddy is border-line obsessed. Daniels is willing to do whatever it takes to get the answers he’s looking for, and Aule is more laid back while maintaining his suspicions of the staff at the hospital.

Dr. Crowley, played chillingly by Sir Ben Kingsley, makes the viewer skeptical of what is actually happening at this facility. He’s compliant with the investigation, to a certain extent, and answers Daniels’ and Aule’s questions with half-truths that will make you wonder

what’s really happening at the asylum.

Crawley adds to the overall oddity of Shutter Island, from his appearance in the movie, all the way until the climax. His colleague, Dr. Naehring (Max von Sydow) is almost his opposite. Naehring answers most of the investigators’ questions with a psychological diagnosis or another question. His overall persona is reminiscent of a mad scientist; a controlled imbalance of sanity that appears to be teetering at all times.

When a hurricane hits the island, things begin to take a turn for the strange. Numerous patients escape during the storm, which gives Daniels and Aule the cover they need to investigate previously restricted wards of the hospital. When the pair becomes separated, Daniels is confronted by a patient, George Noyce, played perfectly by Jackie Earle Haley, who sends the marshal off the edge of reason pursuing his investigation with a passion that could most definitely be confused with insanity.

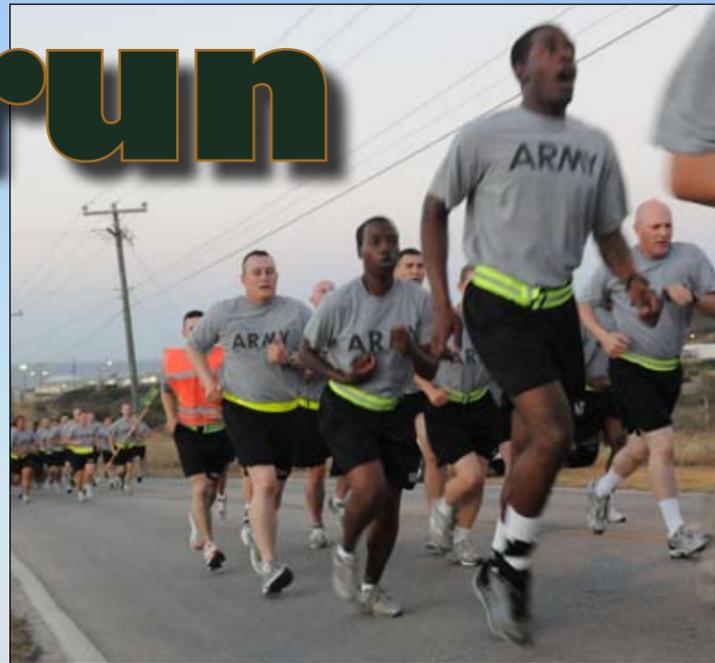
From this point of the movie until the end, the viewer is treated to some wonderfully played out twists and turns that are constructed perfectly into the movie. It isn’t until the climax of the movie that you get the full scope of what’s happening at Shutter Island. The plot twists are straightened out and everything begins to make sense.

The overall experience of this movie is amazing. From the soundtrack to cinematography to the amazing cast, “Shutter Island” will not fail to draw in the viewer and keep him or her guessing until the very end. ☆



Easy run

just for fun



JTF Guantanamo photos by
Navy Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class
Joshua Nistas

Physical fitness is a priority for Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers. Soldiers of the 525th Military Police Battalion took that to heart recently with a battalion fun run. Soldiers gathered at sunrise at Windmill Beach and took off on a four-mile formation run through Camp America. The 525th MP Battalion provide various security operations at JTF, and keeping in shape is one of the many ways they stay focused on their mission. Participating in the fun-runs is also a great morale boost for the Soldiers.

Destructive weather planning

Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Justin R. Wheeler
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Units from Joint Task Force Guantanamo held an annual DxWx, a destructive weather joint interactive exercise, April 12.

The drill, named Citadel Gale, was designed to help prepare Troopers of JTF-GTMO for destructive weather in upcoming months.

“The tropical winds and cyclones affecting the Southeast region normally occur June 1 through Nov. 30, with September being the peak month for storm activity,” said Army Lt. Col. Jorge Galoffin, J-3 plans officer-in-charge.

During the drill, each unit has a specific role. These roles ensure the safety of Troopers, detainees and any JTF visitors. After the training, some units felt more prepared.

“The exercise was handled efficiently and used an accelerated timeline to gauge response time,” said Air Force Capt. Olivia Moss, J-1 personnel, JTF-GTMO. “I believe leadership is now more prepared to respond quickly. Roles have been clearly defined. Everyone knows how their piece of the puzzle fits into a complicated DxWx scenario.”

The drill was broken into three phases. The preparation phase, execution phase and recovery operations. While the phases persisted, each JTF Trooper gained insight of the process. E-mails were sent to all JTF personnel, indicating each step taken by individual units, as well as, an elaborate description of the turn of events.

“In the Citadel Gale’s scenario, a category three hurricane slightly misses GTMO,” said Marine Corps 1st Lt. Christopher Richardson, J-3 operations, JTF-GTMO. “What happens after that is completely up to what we want to test.

We provide [factors into the situation] to steer the drill how we want it to go. For example, JMG wants to test their reaction time with an injured Trooper – the JMG will then go through the steps to giving him medical attention.”

For the future, there is always room for improvement during these drills.

“We would like to implement a more complete roster of mayors and wardens in order to gain quicker accountability and give Troopers a point of contact for questions,” Moss said. “We would also like to look at alternatives for shelter locations, in case a shelter is damaged or flooded.”

Altogether, the drill was handled efficiently and helped Troopers become more knowledgeable and prepared for future weather disasters, according to Moss.

There is another DxWx drill, coordinated with NAVSTA, called Citadel Gale 3. ☆

After heavy rain, large puddles form around the base. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Justin R. Wheeler



After heavy rain, large puddles form around the base. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Justin R. Wheeler

Portions of a hood, kitchen cabinet and ceiling are scorched by a fire in Tierra Kay housing. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Juanita Philip



Prevent kitchen fires

Army Spc. Juanita Philip
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

There are general fire safety precautions you should follow regardless of where you live. Taking time to review tips about following fire safety can help you create a safer and more secure living environment for you and your fellow Troopers.

While service members are here on deployment, many decide to try new hobbies and activities. These can include scuba diving, swimming, Pilates, kickboxing, or even cooking.

With every activity, there is a degree of risk, and those for cooking have been well documented.

“Within the last 15 months, there have been five kitchen fires in Joint Task Force Guantanamo housing,” said Steven Deida, the assistant fire chief of the Guantanamo Bay Fire Department, assigned to the Windward Station. “Most of them occurred in Tierra Kay housing, where the last two fires were two weeks apart.”

Deida went on to say that the leading cause of the fires was unattended stoves.

“Any burner that is unsupervised or [someone has] walked away from it for longer than a minute is not recommended,” Deida said. Many times, residents go upstairs to do something else and forget about what was on the stove cooking.

Adding to the hazard is the fact that many JTF Troopers are shift workers, so they often cook at odd hours. Those odd hours sometimes coincide with power outages, so they leave to do something else, the power comes back on, and a fire starts as a result of an unsupervised burner.

An important factor in kitchen fires spreading quickly is the fact that smoke detectors may have been disabled to prevent them from going off when service members are cooking.

“Many of the fire detectors in TK housing are disabled,” said John DiGiovanni, the fire inspector of the Guantanamo Bay Fire Department. “As a result, they cannot alert the occupants of the

fire, so there is usually more damage to the kitchen.” There are precursors to the fires, but if the service members are not there to see them, or if the alarm cannot alert the service members to them, they go unnoticed.

The inspector and assistant chief both agreed that there are signs that the detector has been disabled when they are investigating a fire scene.

Not all of the housing communities here are like that, though. Cuzco Barracks, for example, are not equipped with kitchens in every room so there is less chance of unsupervised cooking.

Also, the smoke detectors there are attached to a panel and an alarm is sent whenever the detector is tampered with.

Both officials offered three important pointers to reduce the chance of kitchen fires:

- Never leave a stove unattended; that is the most important thing to remember.
- Practice good housekeeping; grease left to accumulate on surfaces is a major contributor to kitchen fires.
- Check your fire extinguisher monthly; make sure that it is in good working order.

Some other things to also remember are: don’t drink and cook – alcohol impairs reaction time; keep countertops clear – many times combustibles like plastics or paper towels are within inches of the fire, and don’t cook on high heat if you don’t have to.

Every deployment or duty station has risks, but one of them should not be a new activity that is meant to help the service member unwind, Deida said. When all is said and done, any activity or hobby that is done here should be low risk.

“Your service is appreciated,” DiGiovanni said. “To have one service member go home without extremities or peace of mind is a travesty, especially from a kitchen fire. Every service member who comes here should leave here in the same health.”

“The number one goal in mind is after [Troopers] tours are finished, we want them to all go home safe,” DiGiovanni said. 📧



The Joint Troop Clinic has an array of items available to Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers that can help prevent pregnancy. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Tiffany Addair

those who are not ready for parenthood. Complimenting the physical exam, the JTC has an array of items available to women that can help prevent pregnancy.

“We have contraception pills, the NuvaRing, the Depo-Provera shot and birth control patches,” Damasco said. “We also have condoms littered all over.”

If there is some type of emergency, such as a condom breaking, there is a pill available at the JTC called the morning after pill. This pill can be used after unprotected sex to prevent pregnancy, but does not prevent sexually transmitted diseases. It needs to be taken within 72 hours to be effective.

The JTC works closely with obstetrics and gynecology at the naval station hospital to meet the needs of Troopers.

They work hand-in-hand with the Joint Stress Mitigation and Restoration Team (JSMART) and the Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention (SAVI) team, providing Troopers with whatever resources needed.

For more information on services provided or to make an appointment, contact the JTC at ext. 3395. ✨

PREVENT from 5

Muhler has enjoyed his experience at the JTC thus far and gave praise to the staff.

“They are a good group of people,” he said. “They are the best group of corpsman and medics I have ever worked with.”

Coupled with annual exams, safe sex

is another measure that should be taken to ensure your safety and health.

If you are having sex or plan to in the near future, it is imperative that you take the necessary precautions to protect yourself. Safe sex is not only important to prevent disease, but also to prevent pregnancy for

WEEKLY INFORMATION SECURITY UPDATE

Information is very valuable to the enemy, especially at a place like JTF-GTMO. Every day JTF-GTMO gets bombarded with malicious and potentially destructive attacks. Cyberspace is in the new war front and it is a battle that changes rapidly. You might think no one cares about your personal information, but the truth is there are thousands of instances of potential intrusions on a daily basis.

Next week JTF-GTMO will under go an Information Assurance Review (IAR) preformed by Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA). During this time, the DISA team will ensure that JTF-GTMO is meeting requirements for securing our network. Specifically, DISA will be inspecting personal workspaces for compliance with the three foot separation rule for Non-classified Internet Protocol Router (NIPR) and Secure Internet Protocol Router (SIPR) systems. Please help us by doing your part. Thanks!

If you have any question or suggestions about information assurance, contact the J-6 office at ext. 8984 or e-mail j6-ia@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil.



Open wide

Navy Cmdr. Cynthia Shalom, Joint Medical Group senior dental officer, completes a routine operative procedure on Army Sgt. 1st Class Angela Morton-Bey at the Joint Troop Clinic, April 12. The JTC is a first-line aid station for Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Joshua Nistas

Boots on the Ground

by Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Justin R. Wheeler

Who is your favorite cartoon character of all time?

Army Sgt. Rosalyn Anderson

Navy Hospital Corpsman
3rd Class Arthur Manning

Air Force Airman 1st
Class Leah Brownell

Coast Guard Maritime
Enforcement Specialist 2nd
Class Zachary Haughton



"Goku, from 'Dragonball Z,' he's always doing what was right for mankind."



"Skeeter, from 'Doug,' he was a funny character."



"Courage, from 'Courage the Cowardly Dog,' he was hilarious."



"Leonardo, from 'Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles,' because swords are awesome."



Easter continues

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

For many in our society, even fellow Christians, Easter is just one day that fades away as soon as the chocolate bunnies are consumed or have melted. However, as members of the age-old Eucharistic community, the celebration of Easter liturgically lasts for 50 days; seven Sundays, with each Sunday being a continuation of the Easter celebration.

Christians are called and anointed with the power of the Holy Spirit to boldly proclaim one message and one message only: “Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.”

This is precisely the witness we give each time we come together for worship; each time we gather together around the ministry of Word and Sacrament. In fellowship with one another, through the hearing of the Word and the breaking of the bread, our Lord reveals Himself to us. And, in response, we cannot help but

hear ourselves echoing the first disciples saying, “Christ is Risen indeed, and He has appeared to us! Alleluia!!”

Unfortunately, though we see Christ in our midst when we worship together, much gets in the way of seeing Him during the week. Personal sadness, disappointments in life, mistrust in God’s promises, anger, resentment, fears of tomorrow, attitudes of gloom and doom – all this and much more hinder us from seeing the face of Christ in our everyday lives. For us Christians, it’s a spiritual challenge to recognize Christ on a daily basis.

I recently came across a story that shares this thought. Once upon a time, the story goes, a preacher ran through the streets of the city shouting, “We must put God into our lives. We must put God into our lives.” And hearing him, an old monk rose up in the city plaza to say, “No, sir, you are wrong. You see, God is already in our lives. Our task is simply to recognize that.”

Perhaps we have difficulty recognizing the Holy in our everyday lives because we are looking in all the wrong places

or looking right past Him. We may keep waiting for that lightening bolt experience when, in fact, the Holy comes to us in the far more ordinary moments of life. Through faith, He can be recognized when courage is given, patience is granted, daily means are provided for and thanksgiving rendered. His face can be seen in the hungry mouth waiting to be fed, the needs of a neighbor addressed, the stranger in our midst welcomed. We see Him by means of a hug, a comforting word, a reassuring glance and an “I love you, too.” When sins are absolved, reconciliation offered and peace is shared we look upon the face of the Lord. When hope is renewed, trust regained and confidence instilled, then, too, the risen Christ is seen.

Indeed Christ is risen and He comes to us still – every day. This Easter season may we be among those who, by faith, recognize God who is already in our lives waiting only to be seen. Then, each day, we can boldly proclaim the acclamation that will not cease for “Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!!” ✠

GTMO Religious Services

Daily Catholic Mass
Mon. - Fri. 5:30 p.m.
Main Chapel
Vigil Mass
Saturday 5 p.m.
Main Chapel
Mass
Sunday 9 a.m.
Main Chapel

Protestant Worship
Sunday 9 a.m.
Troopers’ Chapel
Islamic Service
Friday 1:15 p.m.
Room C
Jewish Service
FMI call 2628
LORIMI Gospel
Sunday 8 a.m.
Room D

Seventh Day Adventist
Saturday 11 a.m.
Room B
Iglesia Ni Cristo
Sunday 5:30 a.m.
Room A
Pentecostal Gospel
Sunday 8 a.m.
Room D
LDS Service
Sunday 9 a.m.
Room A

Liturgical Service
Sunday 10 a.m.
Room B
General Protestant
Sunday 11 a.m.
Main Chapel
United Jamaican Fellowship
Sunday 11 a.m.
Building 1036
Gospel Service
Sunday 1 p.m.
Main Chapel

GTMO Bay Christian Fellowship
Sunday 6 p.m.
Main Chapel
Bible Study
Wednesday 7 p.m.
Troopers’ Chapel
The Truth Project Bible study
Sunday 6 p.m.
Troopers’ Chapel

Soldier to citizen

Army Spc. Carlos Baptista (middle), with the 115th Military Police Company from the Rhode Island Army National Guard, takes the United States Oath of Allegiance at Windmill Beach, April 19. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Shane Arrington



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

Army Spc. Carlos Baptista, with the 115th Military Police Company from the Rhode Island Army National Guard, and his family have dreamt of him becoming an America citizen since he left the island country of Cape Verde, off the coast of Africa, when he was just 4 years old. Twenty years later that dream became a reality when he took the United States Oath of Allegiance while deployed at Joint Task Force Guantanamo.

Completing many steps to receive his citizenship, Baptista has earned his 15 minutes of fame.

Through this accomplishment not only has Baptista made himself proud, but his parents too.

“I know this brings a big smile to my parents’ faces,” Baptista said, with a smile of his own shortly after taking the oath that officially made him a citizen of the country he’d already sworn to support and defend almost four years ago.

Along with Baptista, Army Sgt. Ardicio Galvao and Navy Machinist Mate 3rd Class Jo Kurosu also received their citizenship during the first ceremony held at GTMO.

Baptista joined the Rhode Island Army National Guard Sept. 11, 2006, and he made it clear it was no coincidence he joined on that date.

While getting his citizenship has always been a goal, it was easier said than done.

“I’ve always been very busy, but I needed to start working on my citizenship,” Baptista said. “[I had to] get it while in Cuba to come on this deployment. I was really lucky to have so many people help me. My command gave me the time I needed to study and prepare.”

Army Capt. Nicolas Pacheco, 115th MP Company commander, said he’s glad to see the hard work of his Soldier fulfilled.

“He was very passionate and dedicated,” Pacheco said. “We were all proud to see him raise his hand in the first recorded naturalization ceremony in Guantanamo Bay.”

There were others from outside his battalion that Baptista constantly mentioned, saying how instrumental they were to achieve his goal.

Army Maj. Samuel Maldonado and Army Capt. Alex Arroyo, mentors for Baptista, helped helped him through the process immensely. “They gave a lot of their spare time to help me get everything done properly,” Baptista said. “They didn’t have to help, but I’m glad they did.”

Baptista never

went too long without looking down at the American flag in his hands, the one he was presented during the ceremony. A flag he said will be safely sent home and respected.

Now that he’s an American citizen, Baptista said he’s glad he can now do things that he couldn’t before, such as a security clearance, an American passport and the opportunity to bring more of his family to the country he’s called home for most of his life.

“I always felt like something was missing,” Baptista said. “But now that I’m an American citizen, I feel complete.”

Army Spc. Carlos Baptista receives a folded American flag from Army Capt. Alex Arroyo, Joint Detention Group administration officer-in-charge, after a naturalization ceremony, April 19. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Shane Arrington





Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class Tyler Hammon, a shoreside securityman with Maritime Safety and Security Team 91103, cleans the barrel of a M240B after a gun exercise, April 15. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Joshua Nistas

Around the  the **JTF**



Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Justin R. Wheeler, Joint Task Force Guantanamo public affairs, throws a Frisbee while playing Ultimate Frisbee during physical training, April 16. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Joshua Nistas



Navy Hospitalman Manuel Gutierrez checks in blood samples at the Joint Troop Clinic to ensure tests are completed on time, April 16. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Navy Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Joshua Nistas