

Volume 13, Issue 5

Friday, December 9, 2011

The WIRE

An award-winning
JTF journal

Moving up in the world:
NEGB frocks Sailors

107th Blazes a Trail

Remembering
Pearl Harbor

JTF Guantanamo marks
70th anniversary

COMMAND CORNER

REAR ADMIRAL DAVID WOODS

COMMANDER, JOINT TASK FORCE GUANTANAMO

There is a unique dynamic that exists amongst our uniformed service. This dynamic is comprised of elements of intense competition which is contrasted with undeniable camaraderie—especially when challenged. This week we observe two events which serve to highlight this dynamic and its elements.

On Saturday at FEDEX Field just outside of our nation's capital arguably the most pure rivalry in college football will be played for the 112th time. The Army-

their weight" in this game. You will also usually see the least penalties of any game all year. I also recommend you stay tuned at the end of the game to watch as the cadets, midshipmen and their fans come to attention as each academy's school hymn is played. Regardless of the excitement, jubilation and celebration when the hymns start to play all of this is abruptly stopped out of honor and respect. It is unlike any other action in college sports. The realization is that although foe on

As you serve and perform in your part of our mission, embrace our inter-service competition; but more importantly, cherish our inter-service camaraderie.

Navy Game is played between the "Cadets" of the US Military Academy at West Point, NY and the "Midshipmen" of the US Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md. The rivalry which started between the two academies in 1890 is steeped in many traditions. Even the mascots can be traced back to "The Game." Just before the fourth game in 1893 the crew of the USS New York gave

a goat to the Midshipmen who had him on the sidelines presiding over Navy's 6-3 victory. Army answered a few years later at the next game in 1899 when an Army Quartermaster in Philadelphia thought the Cadets, who had lost three of the first four games, needed their own lucky charm in the form of a mule which had long been a logistics mainstay for the Army. The new lucky charm seemed to work as the Cadets were victorious 17-5. Despite this long standing rivalry there is still a large part of our population that think the Army-Navy Game is played between Soldiers from the ranks of the U.S. Army and Sailors from the Fleet in the U.S. Navy. Sad to admit but as a youngster in Utah I was one of the misinformed.

So I encourage you to watch "The Game" on Saturday. Regardless of their records, teams seem to "punch above

the gridiron it is still just a game and they are truly brothers-in-arms where it counts in defense of our nation.

The other event we observed this week was the 70th commemoration of the December 7th attacks on Pearl Harbor where the vast majority of the 2,409 killed were Sailors, Marines and Soldiers. Surely some present when the vicious attacks took place that Sunday morning had

listened to the Army-Navy Game the week prior when Navy won 14-6. Some may have even played in "The Game" a year earlier. The fact is that although they may have cheered for their teams in the inter-service rivalry a week before, that morning these brothers in arms faced an enemy that cemented their camaraderie and showcased truly countless heroic actions. The attacks also unified our nation which rallied behind the battle cry "REMEMBER PEARL HARBOR." This camaraderie led to our nation's victory in the Pacific.

Here at Joint Task Force Guantanamo we are routinely competitive in sporting events but we are truly Honor Bound by camaraderie in our profession of arms in the defense of our great nation. The

see **COMMAND** next page

Cover: A traditional wreath tossed into the Caribbean Sea in remembrance of those lost 70 years ago in the attacks on Pearl Harbor. The ceremony, held Wednesday shortly after an annual prayer breakfast at Seaside Galley, had more than 80 members of the Joint Task Force Guantanamo community in attendance. —photo by Mass Communication Spc. 2nd Class Kilho Park



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NEWS FROM THE BAY

Stocking Stuffer Shuffle

The Naval Station Intelligence Department will host a 2K-5K walk/run today at 4 p.m. starting at Ridgeline parking lot next to the large Christmas tree on Sherman Ave. Admission for the walk/run is free and participants may donate toys and other small items to the Operation Christmas Stocking's charity drive.

For more information, call Staff Sgt. Edwin Latrell at 5111.

Red Cross adjusted hours

The Guantanamo Bay Red Cross office will operate on an adjusted schedule for the month of December. The Red Cross office will close at noon Fridays Dec. 2, 9 and 16. The office will be closed Dec. 19-23 and Dec. 30.

If there is a need related to an emergency message during the off hours, call 84150 or 1-877-272-7337.

Army vs. Navy flag football

Come out for the largest sporting event on Guantanamo Bay when men and women face off against each other and a flag football showdown at Cooper Field. The pre-ceremony events begin at 9:30 a.m. Kickoff for the women's game is at 10 a.m. and the men's game starts at 11:20 a.m.

Please do not bring beverages in glass bottles.

There will be drawings for VIP seating (recliners on the 50 yard line) and MWR goodies; and free Army vs. Navy T-shirts "sling-shot" into the crowd.

For more information call 2113.

COMMAND cont.

attacks of September 11 almost 60 years after Pearl Harbor have had the same galvanizing effects on our nation and its military members. So as you serve and perform your part of our mission, embrace our inter-service competition; but more importantly, cherish our inter-service camaraderie which makes us the finest military and the greatest nation on earth. REMEMBER PEARL HARBOR...NEVER FORGET 9/11. We are Honor Bound to do so!

Reading bingo in progress

The MWR is holding a reading bingo game at the library. Pick up your bingo card and read a book within the genres specified on the card.

Once you've read a book, put the title on the card in the corresponding genre, along with a major event in the book.

"We have a bingo card you can pick up," said MWR librarian Amy Webster. "Each square on the card has a different category and you read a book from that category. When you get bingo, then you come in and fill out a little stub and we put it in a drawing."

Reading bingo will run from now until March 31. Until then there will be drawings held at the end of every month for anyone who has earned bingo. The last drawing will be for a \$100 NEX gift card and limited to only those who completed the entire board.

For more information, call 4700.

NASCAR drivers visit Guantanamo Bay

NASCAR drivers Joey Logano and Brad Keselowski will visit Guantanamo Bay Dec. 13 on a USO entertainment tour. They will be at the Gold Hill Galley from 11 a.m.-12 p.m. and at O'Kelly's Irish Pub from 7-9 p.m.

Keselowski (below left) drives the #2 Miller Lite Dodge Charger in the Sprint Cup Series and the #22 in the Discount Tire Company/Ruby Tuesday Dodge Challenger in the Nationwide Series for Penske Racing.

Logano (below right) drives the #20 Home Depot Toyota Camry in the Sprint Cup Series and the #20 GameStop/Sports Clips Toyota Camry in the Nationwide Series for Joe Gibbs Racing.

For more information, call 4882.



Seabee Fun Run

There will be a 3.7 mile run on Dec. 10 from Phillips Dive Park to McCalla Field and back. Register at the NEX Atrium from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 3-4 or on the day of the run at 6:30 a.m. The top 10 runners will receive a Seabees coin. The first 50 participants get a T-shirt.

Registration is \$15. For more information, call 84984.

Santa Claus is coming to town

Santa is making a stop at the NEX Atrium Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon. Bring your holiday wishes and a camera.

The NEX will open early on Dec. 17, from 8-9 a.m., for kids-only (and parents!) shopping. Pick out your presents before regular NEX hours, and then head over to McDonald's for breakfast with Santa from 9-10 a.m.

Dodgeball tournament

Get your team together and register by today for dodgeball at Denich Gym. A coaches' meeting will be held Dec. 12 at 5:30 p.m. A prize will be given to the best holiday team outfit. Teams that make it to the finals will receive T-shirts and the winning team will get a trophy.

For more information call 2113.

Free kayaking trip

Join MWR on a free guided kayak trip Dec. 11 launching from the Marina. Sign up by 3 p.m. today at the Marina or by phone at 2345.

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Trooper to Trooper

SENIOR MASTER SGT. SCOTT WELLS

BASE EMERGENCY ENGINEERING FORCE

Where's the BEEF? What's the BEEF? You see us around, you have heard of us, but you might not know what the BEEF is. It is important for those who are new to Joint Task Force Guantanamo, or even those who have been here for awhile, to familiarize themselves with the other units located here and get an idea of what they do.

BEEF is an acronym for Base Emergency Engineering Force. The Air Force established the Prime BEEF program in 1964, building teams of engineers to better respond to worldwide contingencies. This was due to aircraft and support personnel being deployed without providing runways, water supply, electricity, housing, and other facilities necessary to support them.

The 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron of the California Air National Guard comprises JTF Guantanamo's current BEEF. All Air Force civil engineers in a Prime BEEF are rapidly deployable teams of specialized civil engineer units which provide a full range of engineering support required to establish, operate, and maintain garrison and contingency airbases. Our primary mission is to provide civil engineer support for the beddown of personnel and aircraft.

How does the 474th ECES fit into the mission here at JTF Guantanamo? We are tasked with supporting the Commissions Liaison Office with a tailored Prime BEEF team to maintain facilities at Camp Justice and the facilities in the Expeditionary Legal Complex.

Camp Justice provides the basic beddown facilities to house members of the Office of Military Commissions, media and other personnel who are traveling to Guantanamo



Bay. The camp provides air-conditioned buildings with beds, showers, latrines and Morale Welfare and Recreation facilities. We are on call 24 hours a day to respond to any situation concerning the power, water or air conditioning for the camp area.

All units, regardless of primary military occupational specialty or "typical" mission, must be ready to respond to any task assigned to them. This is particularly important at JTF Guantanamo because of the high-visibility mission, unique location, tropical weather, and all the other qualities which make the unit's time here critical.

The Prime BEEF program ensures

the 474th ECES is organized, equipped, and trained to perform any of those roles. Our teams must be able to deploy with little advance warning and perform civil engineering contingency and wartime tasks at any type of base and in all weather conditions.

Now that you know what the BEEF is, take some time to learn who else your unit works with or who else might have an impact on your mission. Always consider how your unit interacts with all other pieces of the JTF puzzle and remember that everyone has an important role to play.

Going above and beyond: Joint Task Force frocks NEGB petty officers

Preventive medicine available at the Joint Troop Clinic

By Chief Petty Officer Sharon Raymond

Special to The Wire

A Navy Preventive Medicine Technician (PMT) will now be available on a daily basis from 8-11:30 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. at the Joint Troop Clinic to provide clinical preventive medicine to members of Joint Task Force Guantanamo. All visits are on a walk-in basis; no appointment necessary. This includes immunizations, wart removal, sexually transmitted infection (STI) treatment and travel medicine along with any other preventive medicine issues.

The PMT is available for treating existing conditions as well as to provide information. You can reach the JTC at extension 3310.



Forty-five Sailors, including Petty Officer 2nd Class Patrick Vickers (right), were recognized for their near-future promotions and outstanding leadership potential during Dec. 2's frocking ceremony at the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion flagpole. These Sailors (below) are now authorized to wear the rank above their paygrade, as they now bear the responsibilities. —photos by Mass Communication Spc. 1st Class Ty Bjornson

By Mass Communication Spc. 1st Class Ty Bjornson

Rear Adm. David Woods, commanding officer of Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay, frocked a total of 45 JTF Sailors to their next paygrade. The Dec. 2 frocking ceremony held at the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion flagpole drew a crowd of both the frockees and their congratulating departments.

"One of the best things I get to do in the Navy is promote the future of the Navy," said Woods. "They've been doing great

things here (at JTF Guantanamo Bay) and their performance, expertise and knowledge is rewarded by being recognized."

"I feel proud," said newly frocked Petty Officer 2nd Class Patrick Vickers. "I know all of us worked really hard."

The "frocking" of enlisted Sailors selected for advancement allows these members to wear the insignia of the higher grade before the actual date of their official promotion. Though a frocked individual has been selected to advance, they usually wait

for their vacancy to become available in their field for the official promotion.

"Now I know what it feels like," said newly frocked Petty Officer 1st Class Angela Small. "It's finally my turn and it's a great feeling. It's given me what I needed to continue on."

Though these newly frocked Sailors will not yet receive the monetary raise for their advanced paygrades, they have assumed the title and increased responsibility in their selected advancement and continue to serve the Navy as leaders in their respective fields.



Don't send work related material to personal email accounts!

Free email accounts are a great thing to have when used properly. Have you ever wondered why they are free? Companies which provide free email accounts make money by signing up as many people as possible, not by providing secure email. The U.S. government employs many people, systems and resources to thwart hackers and ensure the security of email. Free email accounts don't do this, and are not secure. USE OPSEC!

TROOPER FOCUS

By Army Sgt. Saul Rosa

With 12 years in the Air Force, Senior Airman Chris Cardoza has both a decade's worth of experience and few tons of heavy machinery at his fingertips. Cardoza is a heavy equipment operator for the Joint Task Force Guantanamo Base Expeditionary Engineering Force (BEEF).

Cardoza has been with this and other BEEFs for the past 10 years. Originally a munitions and weapons specialist, Cardoza started working with the BEEF in heating, ventilation, air conditioning (HVAC) and refrigeration. He finally retrained into heavy equipment and has enjoyed his decision ever since.

"I enjoy just being out in the open," said Cardoza. "It's fun working on the equipment as opposed to working behind a desk, stuck inside all day."

Cardoza brings a lot of experience to the table, and also a positive attitude and good work ethic.

"He's a great asset and he brings a lot to the table," said Air Force Master Sgt. Darren Milner, Cardoza's noncommissioned officer in charge. "He is a fast learner, highly motivated and dedicated."

While work takes up much of his time, Cardoza still tries to accomplish some of his own personal goals and enjoy the opportunities available down here.

"We had a soccer team here at the BEEF," said Cardoza. "My goal is to get into better shape, so I try to work out 2-4 times a

week."

The time Cardoza has spent on the island has been relatively smooth, however a few assignments were exceptionally challenging to his team.

"When we first got here, we had to build two structures and we had a deadline," said Cardoza. "It was stressful trying to get it done before that deadline. But we got a sense of accomplishment, because we actually got it done in time and our superiors were happy with our work."

With his time in service and go-getter attitude, Cardoza offers this advice to Troopers.

"When you deploy, you get out of it what you put into it," said Cardoza. "It all depends on how hard you work and how focused you are on the missions."



BULLET BIO

Time in service: 12 years

Hobbies: Working out, snorkling, and going to the beach

The boss says: "He's a team player and I'd like to see him move up in the ranks."

Advice to junior Troopers: "Stay positive and look at each deployment as an opportunity to grow and further your career."

What's your favorite meal at the galley?



"I like fried chicken because it tastes really good."

Army Pfc.
Wil Roman



"I look forward to taco night, because tacos rule!"

Master-at-Arms 1st Class
Michael Moseley



"I like chicken, because I get it chopped up and I make a salad with it."

Staff Sgt.
Jamie Espinoza



"I like spaghetti. I don't know why, I just enjoy it."

Culinary Spc. 3rd Class
Gregory Burke

BOOTS ON THE GROUND

MONEY MATTERS

Ninja bucks: turn your pay into savings so fast, you can't even see it!

By Army 1st Lt. Amelia Thatcher

There's a simple way to accumulate savings without even realizing it. Imagine one day idling about on the Internet, checking all the email, funny sites, news sites, and – why not? – your USAA account, and bam! Out of nowhere, you have a few grand in the bank.

It is possible, it is easy, and all it takes is a little process called automatic transfer.

First of all, find a bank which offers free checking and savings accounts. In a financial age where it is common and outright blatant practice for large banks to chisel their customers, service members luckily have the option to use military-oriented businesses such as USAA, Navy Federal Credit Union, and the Army and Air Force Exchange Service's Military Star Card. These services even make it

relatively easy for young people with no credit history to get a credit card without having to piggyback off Mom and Dad.

Once your online bank accounts are set up and you become familiarized with the features and settings, look for the function which links your accounts together. This may be found under the same tab or option to set up transfers. Link the account where your direct deposit military pay goes with a separate savings account. USAA Performance First Savings accounts accrue up to .45 percent interest, which according to their site, is double the national average. Alternatively, NFCU offers Share Savings accounts with up to .30 percent interest. NFCU is also now available to members of all branches of the

military, and physical offices (unlike USAA) are located in more than two dozen states.

Once your accounts are linked, you can set up a transfer. There are two types: single and recurring. You can schedule a sum of money to go from one account to another just one time, or you can move, say, \$200 every payday for a whole year into your linked account. Automatic transfers can be canceled or changed at any time, should you need that \$200 to be available in your regular direct deposit account. You can also set up multiple transfers to other bank accounts, or even to a PayPal balance.

Automatic transfers have some functions in common with the Thrift Savings Plan, a retirement savings program available to service members and federal employees. Like TSP, when you set the payday contribution percentage, you don't have to keep going back every two weeks to add money to the account. But unlike TSP, which locks the savings away until retirement, you can get your money out of a regular savings account in case of an emergency. Set it and forget it – and if you budget accordingly, you won't even miss it.

Be a real savings champ and check your balances regularly, even if you decide against setting up an automatic transfer. It is perfectly reasonable to want as much of your money as possible available in an easily accessible checking account. However, consider putting some of that money into savings whenever the checking account balance exceeds an amount necessary to cover expenses, bills, and foreseeable emergencies. Have a car? Keep an extra \$500 available for tickets and repairs. Have a pet? Keep \$1,000 for the veterinarian.

For young service members without a mortgage or dependents, this is the time to save those bucks and establish a painless habit of sending money straight into a savings account. Deposit money automatically at every payday, before getting used to having a big cushy balance burning a hole in your pocket. Then one day, when you need a down payment for a house or a car, your stealthy savings will make it possible.

For more information, visit:
www.tsp.gov
www.usaa.com
www.navyfederal.org
www.shopmyexchange.com/ExchangeCredit





Getting in the weeds with the Trail Blazers

Left: Sgt. 1st Class Martin Sullivan and Sgt. 1st Class James Scott, both of Joint Detention Group Headquarters, 170th Military Police Battalion operate lawn mowers as part of the tasks that were carried out during the improvement of a stretch of Boa Breeze Way between Tarantula Trail and the Boa Bend intersection. —photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jerome Grant

to any one group,” Trail Blazers formed and the core membership is currently comprised of members of the 170th Military Police Battalion and a civilian contractor.

“We have taken that to heart and are answering the challenge of cleaning up the trails,” said Sullivan. “We started doing this about mid-October.”

So far, the Trail Blazers have improved Ridgeline Trail from start to finish, Lizard Lane to

Racer Run, and all of Racer Run itself. They also cleared Tarantula Trail from the Sherman Avenue and the Sixth Street entrance up to Ridgeline.

On Dec. 4, the Trail Blazers finished clearing Boa Breezeway from Tarantula Trail to Boa Bend.

All the equipment and tools used to reveal the hidden trails

see TRAIL BLAZERS next page



By Sgt. 1st Class Jerome Grant

You can find them on the unimproved trails, early on Sunday mornings, moving as a loosely formed pack through the thick brush. Nope, I’m not talking about Marines or hutias (banana rats!); I’m talking about the Trail Blazers.

Prior to the Trail Blazers, a group called the Breakfast Club took care of the trails by removing trash. But the Trail Blazers have not only picked up where the Breakfast Club left off: they have gone a big step further by finding trails which have become overgrown and making them passable again.

“When we first got here, a group of us started riding mountain bikes on Ridgeline on

Sundays, but it got boring after a while,” said Trail Blazers leader Army Sgt. 1st Class Martin Sullivan, of the 170th Military Police Battalion.

“We tried to ride some of the side trails, but most were overgrown,” Sullivan said. “And I thought it’d be a lot more enjoyable if they were passable.”

The challenge originally came from Joint Task Force Guantanamo commander, Rear Adm. David Woods. At an All-Hands meeting in September the question of who took care of the trails came up. As it happened, the question went unanswered and in October, Woods challenged Troopers to take on this responsibility.

With the assessment that “care of the trails doesn’t belong

Right: Staff Sgt. William Peace of Joint Detention Group Headquarters, 170th Military Police Battalion operates a weed whacker during trail improvements of Boa Breeze Way between Tarantula Trail and the Boa Bend intersection. —photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jerome Grant



Members of Joint Task Force and Naval Station Guantanamo choirs sing “Silent Night” to conclude Dec. 2’s Holiday Cantata. Of the 16 performances that night, JTF Troopers sang in at least five. —photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jerome Grant

Hark, the Joint Task Force angels sing

By Sgt. 1st Class Jerome Grant

On Dec. 2, the Naval Station Command Religious Program presented its third Holiday Cantata. A cantata is a composition of various solo, chorus, and choir pieces accompanied by instruments, and the music flowing from the naval station main chapel confirmed to all who could hear it: the holiday season is here.

“This is the third year we’ve done this and my last,” said Navy Chaplain Lt. Douglas Holmes. “I wanted to do something for all the different services to be able to participate, to add their own flavor.”

Among the 16 performances, Joint Task Force Guantanamo was represented in at least five.

The Gospel Choir, which sang “Joy to the World,” was comprised entirely of members of the JTF Guantanamo community. The group

Men of Faith, who sang an a cappella version of “O Holy Night” was also made up of all JTF Troopers. Both singing groups were directed by Petty Officer 3rd Class Marco Griffin, from the Camp America post office.

“I’ve been singing all my life,” said Griffin. “My dad is a pastor and sings a lot, so I started too.”

The performances from the various religious programs on the island, while mostly made of choirs, also included interpretive dance, musical pieces, and solos. The evening was topped off with all participants forming a mixed choir which sang “Silent Night.”

“All those different choirs together,” smiled Col. Donnie Thomas, JTF Detention Group commander. “It all touched my heart. Everyone did a great job.”

TRAIL BLAZERS cont.

come from a variety of organizations. Army Sgt. David Sutton first got the Joint Detention Group engineers involved when they loaned the first weed eaters. But equipment loans now also include tools from Public Works and the Seabees, who have provided more and more equipment as the work has progressed.

“We started with weed eaters and a bush hog attachment but now they are providing mowers, rakes, shears, and all the personal protective equipment we need,” explained Sullivan. “They’ve all been great!”

The Trail Blazers are also very grateful for the support of Jill Lynch, from Morale Welfare and Recreation, and Capt. Ana Schaus, from the Joint Detention Group for providing water, Gatorade, and snacks to

them while they are working.

And there is still more work to be done. “We’re hoping to get more people involved,” Sutton said. “Maybe another unit or group to switch out the work with every other weekend.”

The Trail Blazers meet every Sunday at 8 a.m. For more information, contact Sullivan at martin.e.sullivan@jftgmo.southcom.mil or extension 8243.

Guantanamo Bay's Holiday Parade and Concert: A festive way to kick off the season



Members of the 107th Military Police Battalion dress as holiday characters to add a festive twist to their float. —photo by Army Sgt. Saul Rosa

By Army Sgt. Saul Rosa

Lights illuminated the base as a festive parade made its way down Sherman Ave. Dec. 3 at Guantanamo Bay.

The Holiday Parade is an annual event to kick off the holiday season. This year some changes were made to bring a little more flair to the festivities.

“When I came on board it was an annual event,” said Amiee Mac Donnell, the Morale Welfare and Recreation community activities director. “The one thing we did differently was incorporate the tree lighting on Christmas Tree Hill into the parade rather than hosting a separate event.”

Eight floats made their way down the avenue with Santa and Mrs. Claus leading the way in a white wagon pulled by a truck rather than Rudolf. In addition to floats, golf carts and marchers joined the parade. The parade began at 6 p.m. at the SCSI parking lot, and ended at the Downtown Lyceum where country band Emerson Drive performed at 9 p.m.

“The 107th (Military Police Battalion) did a Christmas wonderland float,” said Mac Donnell. “They had characters from different Christmas movies. They were definitely creative.”

The planning process took

more than 10 weeks for the evening’s events. MWR had to coordinate with security, various commands, and community organizations to ensure safety and to plan out the shows for the holiday parade and concert.

“It was a good turnout,” said Mac Donnell. “There were nearly 30 entries. Next year, we may have an award for the most original or creative entry to draw in more participants.”

Although MWR hosted the event many Troopers volunteered to support the parade and the activities afterwards.

“We like to keep active in the community, help out and give support,” said Petty Officer 1st Class Robert Welsh, the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion volunteer coordinator.

Many Troopers feel that volunteering brings a feeling of being at home.

“It’s just like home,” said Petty Officer 2nd Class Christian Yambao. “It gets our minds off of work and brings a sense of community.”

For the sense of community or the desire to be helpful, volunteers played an impressive role in the evening’s events.

“It’s amazing to see all the servicemembers who want to be involved in the community,”

said Mac Donnell.

After the holiday parade, MWR held a pre-concert show featuring various community groups. There were also free cookies, hot cocoa, and eggnog as well as arts and crafts for children. Santa and Mrs. Claus took time from the busy season to greet the community and listen to all the holiday wishes.

Once the community activities ended, the crowd was ready for the holiday concert featuring Emerson Drive, a country music band from Canada.

In 2000, Emerson Drive released its first American single “I Should be Sleeping.” The group produced singles such as “When I See You Again” and “Let Your Love Speak.” The members include Brad Mates with lead vocals, Dale Wallace on keyboard and background vocals, Danick Dupelle on guitar and background vocals, David Pichette on fiddle, and Mike Melancon on drums.

“We did a survey in the summer to see what the community wanted,” said Mac Donnell. “Country music was in the top three and we haven’t had a country band in a while.”

The band played for well over an hour and even threw in something special for the kids.

“We asked them to do

something for the holidays,” said Mac Donnell. “We had no idea that they were going to ask the children up to the stage to sing Christmas carols with them.”

“We feel great about being here and wish we could stay longer,” said Mates. “I think the whole idea of being able to go to the different bases around the world and put an hour and half show on for people who wouldn’t get a chance to see it back home is great. Guantanamo, thanks for having us. It’s been a blast and I look forward to seeing everyone again.”

“I think it was great night, we had a blast; it’s pretty unique to play a venue like this,” said Wallace. “We played Christmas carols for the kids, had gift openings and I have a hat on that has Christmas all over it.”

As the lights dimmed down on Sherman Ave. and the crowds dispersed from the Downtown Lyceum, the holiday parade and concert were over and success could be measured by the crowds of people which showed up.

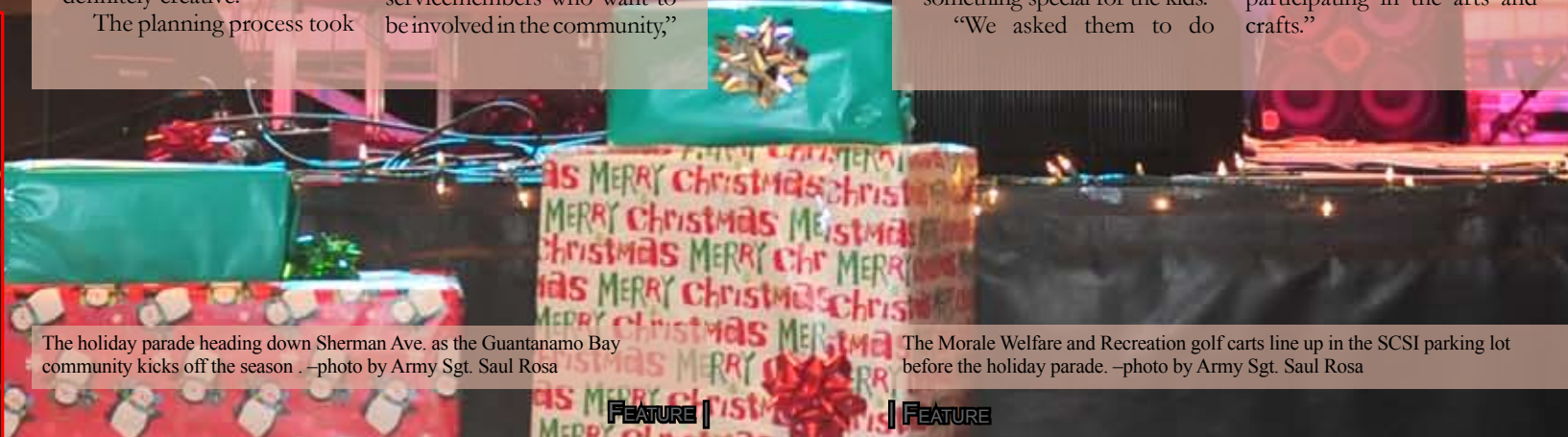
“It was definitely a successful event for us,” said Mac Donnell. “We had a great turnout from the community for both watching the parade and viewing the activities and participating in the arts and crafts.”



Santa and Mrs. Claus make an appearance after the parade to listen to holiday wishes from the Guantanamo Bay community. —photo by Army Sgt. Saul Rosa



The holiday parade heading down Sherman Ave. as the Guantanamo Bay community kicks off the season. —photo by Army Sgt. Saul Rosa



The Morale Welfare and Recreation golf carts line up in the SCSI parking lot before the holiday parade. —photo by Army Sgt. Saul Rosa



A story of Pearl Harbor

By Sgt. 1st Class Jerome Grant

Approximately 80 people attended a prayer breakfast at the Seaside Galley Dec. 7, to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

After a unique a cappella rendition of the national anthem sung by the Joint Task Force Guantanamo choral group Men of Faith, and opening remarks by Navy Chaplain Capt. Thom, Rear Adm. David Woods, Joint Task Force commanding officer, shared his thoughts about what this significant historical event means for today's Troopers.

"Honor," Woods said. "When you see the value sign at the gate as you drive through, it triggers a thought about what that means."

In his remarks regarding honor, Woods made mention of the well-known ship, the USS Arizona, and the sacrifices made by the 1,117 service members who perished on that ship that day. Being a native of Utah, he shared two little-known stories surrounding the Florida-class battleship bearing the name of his home state.

The most poignant of those accounts was of Croatian-born Medal of Honor recipient Chief Petty Officer Peter Tomich. Tomich's job as a watertender was to keep the boilers running and thus keep the ship powered.

When the first torpedo hit, Tomich evacuated his men from

PEARL HARBOR continued next page



Above: The USS Utah, sunk in the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, nevertheless saw great heroism as Chief Petty Officer Peter Tomich evacuated the boiler rooms and in doing so, lost his life to save others. —photo courtesy Naval History & Heritage Command

Clockwise from bottom left: attendees at Wednesday's prayer breakfast for the 70th anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attack.

Joint Task Force Guantanamo Chaplain Capt. Bradley Thom notes not only is 2011 a landmark year for WWII remembrance, but the 10th anniversary of September 11. A traditional wreath is tossed into the Caribbean Sea. While far away from the Pacific and 70 years away from Pearl Harbor, some at JTF Guantanamo have been touched personally by the attacks. A common practice in many parts of the world, particularly during major holidays or military events, naval ceremonies often include a wreath to symbolize a life preserver and commemorate those who have died in service to their country.

—photos by Mass Communication Spc. 2nd Class Kilho Park

PEARL HARBOR cont.

the boiler rooms, but realized if boilers remained running they could explode. So as the ship continued to list, Tomich went back.

Tomich was able to shut the boilers down, and his rapid actions are credited with preventing the explosion of the machinery, thus saving many sailors' lives. Though Tomich's own life ended that day, his story continued.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt authorized the Medal of Honor to be awarded posthumously and presented to Tomich's family. However, since Tomich was an orphan and his other relatives had left the U.S. almost 20 years earlier, all attempts made to notify family members of the award were unsuccessful.

Eventually a destroyer, which was named for Tomich, was awarded the Medal of Honor on his behalf. After the USS Tomich was retired, then-Governor of Utah Herbert B. Maw "adopted" Tomich and made him an honorary son of Utah. The award then came under the guardianship of the state of Utah, and was put on display in the state capital.

Through the diligence of many in the service of the Navy and Army, more than 64 years after Roosevelt authorized the awarding the Medal of Honor to Tomich, U.S. Naval Forces Europe Adm. Harry Ulrich presented the well-traveled Medal to a relative. Retired Croatian Army Lt. Col Srecko Herceg Tonic, grandson of Tomich's cousin John Tonic, was presented the award in a ceremony held on the USS Enterprise on May 18, 2006.

Tomich's actions were honorable, as were the actions of the service members who continued for years to find a family member and give the Medal of Honor a home.

"We stand on the shoulders of men like this to continue to carry the stars and stripes," Woods said at the close of his remarks.

For at least one person in the audience, Pearl Harbor offered a personal connection.

"For me this is a very special day," explained Air Force Chaplain Lt. Col. Gary Bertsch, Joint Task Force deputy chaplain. "My wife's uncle, Seaman 1st Class Walter E. Koch, was one of the sailors killed on the Arizona that day.

"Twenty years ago, on the 50th anniversary, a coin was struck to commemorate this day and we were able to get one for my wife's mother to remember her brother," said Bertsch.

ON THE WING

Air demo team accepting applications

By Air Force Col. Bruce Smith

366th Fighter Wing

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – America's premier air demonstration team, the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds, is accepting applications for several positions, Air Force Personnel Center officials announced today.

The 138-member unit exhibits Air Force professionalism and skill in support of recruiting and retention programs to reinforce public confidence in the Air Force, to strengthen morale, and support community relations and public image programs, said Bob Cronin, of the AFPC academic and special utilization branch.

"Serving with the Thunderbirds is a great opportunity to help foster strong relationships with other countries, strengthen pride in our country and service, and see a piece of the Air Force that

most Airmen never see," Cronin said.

Officers serve a two-year assignment on the team, while enlisted members serve three or four, Cronin said.

The squadron performs up to 75 demonstrations per year in the U.S. and overseas. Activated in 1953, the Thunderbirds are an Air Combat Command unit and, if necessary, all members and equipment can be rapidly integrated into a flying unit.

Available positions include demonstration pilot, operations officer, executive officer, maintenance officer and public affairs officer.

For full application preparation and submission instructions, or for information about other personnel opportunities and issues, go to the secure Air Force Personnel Services website at <https://gum-crm.csd.disa.mil>.

ON THE DECK

Navy researchers begin dengue vaccine trial

By Naval Medical Research Center Public Affairs

SILVER SPRING, Md. – Researchers from the Naval Medical Research Center's (NMRC) Infectious Diseases Directorate announced they are ready to begin a Phase-1 dengue vaccine clinical trial this month.

The announcement comes at a critical time with recent outbreaks around the world, including in the Federated States of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands, where Navy Medicine personnel are currently on the ground assisting the CDC and the World Health Organization.

"The increase in dengue endemicity worldwide raises the likelihood of multiple exposures for deployed U.S. military personnel, potentially increasing their risk for developing the more severe forms of the disease - dengue hemorrhagic fever and dengue shock syndrome," said Lt. Cmdr. Janine R. Danko, principle investigator on the study and an Internist and Infectious Diseases Subspecialist. "The goal of our dengue vaccine program is to develop a safe and effective vaccine that protects against dengue."

Transmitted by the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, dengue is one of the most common viral infections deployed personnel can acquire when stationed in tropical areas of the world. Dengue infection can be incapacitating and harmful to DoD missions and no treatment is available to prevent infection; a vaccine is critically needed.

An FDA Phase 1 trial is a clinical study in a small number of volunteers to evaluate the safety of a new vaccine. The FDA will provide oversight ensuring the study will produce useful information to assess the safety and efficacy of the vaccine.

"Developing a dengue vaccine is a top priority for military infectious disease research," said Capt. Kevin R. Porter, director, NMRC Infectious Diseases Directorate. "We are using a vaccine that has shown effectiveness in recent pre-clinical studies. The upcoming Phase 1 clinical trial of this vaccine approach is a critical step toward meeting the need for a tetravalent dengue vaccine to protect deployed military forces against dengue fever."

This 12-month study includes forty volunteers who will be assigned to three dose groups and followed through several visits and laboratory assessments with the study team physicians. The research team intends to compare the immune responses between the three groups.

COAST TO COAST

Coast Guard's gift guide for smart boating

By 7th Coast Guard District Public Affairs

MIAMI – With the holiday season upon us, the Coast Guard encourages boaters throughout South Florida and the Florida Keys to consider some potentially life saving stocking stuffers.

With a wide range of purposes and prices, the following list of survival gear can truly make a difference during an emergency at sea.

–Emergency Position-Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB): It sends a satellite signal with your position to the Coast Guard during an emergency. Remember to properly register your EPIRB to ensure a swift rescue.

–Life Jackets: The best life jacket is the one you wear. There are many different styles to choose from, including inflatable life jackets, which are more comfortable and less bulky.

–VHF Radio: The Coast Guard continuously monitors VHF Channel 16. It is important to understand that cell phones don't always work offshore, and can't be depended on to call for help during an at-sea crisis.

–Sound Devices: Whistles or air horns are extremely affordable, and can come in quite handy during low-visibility situations.

–Signaling Devices: Help responders find you quickly. Flares, signalling mirrors and other devices can make a huge difference, especially at night.

EPIRBs send a satellite signal to the Coast Guard, helping to take the search out of search and rescue. Having an EPIRB onboard your vessel can increase survival chances during boating emergencies. Having a variety of safety devices, however, can exponentially increase survival chances.

On Nov. 19, the Coast Guard received both an EPIRB signal and a mayday call over VHF Channel 16. A fishing vessel was taking on water near the Florida Keys, but the crew was prepared and able to effectively call for help. A helicopter crew and a cutter crew were launched to search, and when the cutter crew witnessed a flare, they knew they had found the distressed boaters. At this point, the fishing vessel had sunk and the boaters were recovered with no medical concerns. Due to the boaters having a properly registered EPIRB, a working VHF radio, and flares onboard their vessel, they were quickly rescued and lived to tell the tale.

ON THE GROUND

Documents from Lincoln's Nat'l Guard service discovered

Illinois National Guard Report

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. – Before his presidency and before his name became synonymous with the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln slogged his way around the state during the Black Hawk War as a volunteer Soldier with the Illinois Militia, today known as the Illinois National Guard.

Lincoln is one of 19 presidents to serve in the National Guard, one of two from Illinois. The other is Gen. Ulysses Grant, who went on to command all Union Armies under President Lincoln.

Previously unknown Black Hawk War documents written and signed by Capt. Lincoln while on duty in 1832, and an affidavit signed by Lincoln in 1855, have recently been discovered at the National Archives in Washington, D.C and their authenticity confirmed by researchers at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, Ill.

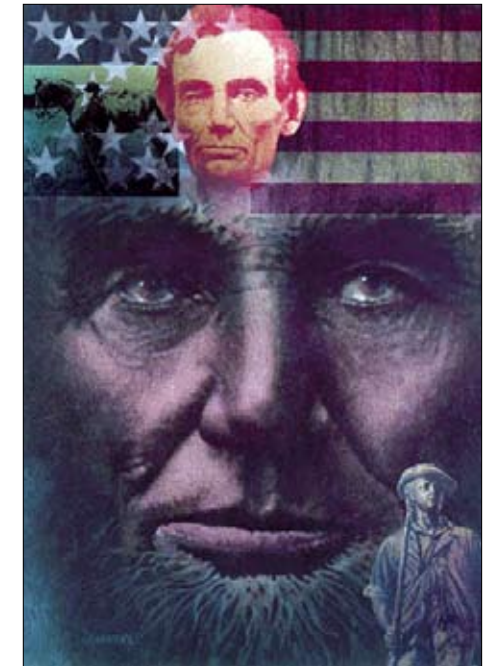
"Few documents survive that detail Abraham Lincoln's service as a company captain in the 4th Illinois Mounted Volunteers in the 1832 frontier disturbances collectively known as the Black Hawk War," said Daniel Stowell, editor of *The Papers of Abraham Lincoln* at the ALPLM.

"This discovery reminds us that many U.S. presidents, including Lincoln, answered their country's call to duty long before becoming the nation's chief executive and that service had a formative effect on their future careers," he said.

Lincoln always said he was more gratified by being elected an officer by his men than any position he held afterwards, according to Stowell.

Anne Musella, a researcher, recently brought a previously discovered certificate of discharge signed by Lincoln to the attention of Papers of Abraham Lincoln staff who are working at the National Archives Building in downtown Washington. That led David Gerleman, an assistant editor, to delve further in the Bounty Land Warrant files at the National Archives where he found two more certificates of discharge written and signed by Lincoln.

Together with other documents previously discovered, it appears that Lincoln, like other officers, filled out and signed dozens of these certificates of discharge. Given to Soldiers as they mustered out to return home, the veterans later submitted these documents as proof of service when they claimed the bounty lands allotted to them by Congress.



Painting of President Abraham Lincoln, who also served as a Citizen Soldier, by Chet Jezierski. –photo courtesy National Guard

The certificates located at the National Archives more than double the number of surviving discharge certificates written and signed by Capt. Lincoln, and likely others still await discovery.

Twenty years after the end of the conflict, changes in bounty land laws gave several of Lincoln's company the chance to claim up to 160 acres of federal land. To do so, they had to provide evidence of their service, and so Lincoln was once again called upon to confirm that they had indeed enrolled in his company.

An additional document discovered by Gerleman in the Bounty Land Warrant Files was an affidavit signed by Lincoln and Thomas Moffet in 1855 attesting that former 1st Cpl. Charles Pierce had honorably served and therefore was entitled to make a land claim.

Like Lincoln's service, Soldiers and Airmen in the Illinois National Guard have protected their communities during natural disasters and other domestic emergencies, while also answering their nation's call during war and national emergencies.

From the communities around the state to the sands of Iraq to the mountains of Afghanistan, the Illinois National Guard has made its mark. The echoes of the past live on today in the men and women of the Illinois National Guard, whose Joint Force Headquarters unit patch features a silhouette of Lincoln.

IN THE FIGHT

Dominican Rep. charity shares holiday joy

By Lance Cpl. Kevin Crist

Marine Corps Air Station New River

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRA-MAR, Calif. – Thoughts of a United States Marine in support of a mission are typically associated with hardened individuals that will take the fight to the enemy's front door or storm off naval ships and aircraft platforms in support of humanitarian efforts. However, Marines worldwide are making a difference in other aspects that do not require a weapon.

Every year, Quezada Family Charities, a charity run by 1st Lt. Jose Quezada, an air support control officer with Marine Air Support Squadron 3 and a Santiago, Dominican Republic native, hosts a toy giveaway during the Christmas season for elementary schools in the Dominican Republic. QFC provides hundreds of children with gifts their parents would otherwise not be able to afford.

"You never really know how good your life is until you have seen these places," said Quezada. "These families have almost nothing. I will give a little girl a doll, and I can tell by the way that she smiles and squeezes it that she appreciates it a lot."

This year, QFC will add San Jose Adentro and Los Cocos, both Dominican Republic schools, to the sponsorship list. As a result, those schools' students will receive hundreds of toys, school supplies and uniforms for students, according to QFC's website.

"I have seen 16-year-olds in third grade," said Quezada. "I want to do everything I can to make sure these kids have a better education."

QFC established the Quezada Family Scholarship Program as a method of motivating and supporting students and their families.

At the end of each school year, three schools participate in the scholarship program for grades four through 11. One boy and girl from each grade receive a plaque and funding based on the highest overall grade point average.

"We just gave someone a QFC full-ride academic scholarship to medical school," said Quezada. "We saw that he was the best in his class and that he deserved it. He will have to find a job if he wants to do things away from school, but as for the schooling itself, he doesn't have to worry about it."

"The Quezada family collects donations, such as gently used clothing to support the program, but most of the monetary funding comes from the Quezada family, he explained. QFC distributes dozens of uniform items to impoverished students who do not have the funds to purchase them each year.

In addition to clothing, toys and school supplies, the Quezada family arranges an annual Christmas food giveaway, providing families with rice, beans, oil, sauces and many more cooking supplies so they can enjoy a great meal with their families. Fresh meat accompanies the cooking supplies.

"[Marines] are continuing to win hearts and minds around the globe," Quezada said. "At the moment, this charity only impacts several hundred, but I hope to continue its growth and eventually have it listed in the Combined Federal Campaign where it can reach tens of thousands."

Egyptian prime minister granted some presidential powers

But Muslim Brotherhood claims another victory

Voice of America News Service

CAIRO – Egypt's ruling military council has given some presidential powers to interim Prime Minister Kamal el-Ganzouri.

The official news agency MENA reported Wednesday the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces will maintain control of the army and judiciary as it hands over more power to Mr. Ganzouri.

Egypt's military rulers said Tuesday they would amend the constitution to give the prime minister more power than his predecessor Essam Sharaf, who quit amid unrest in the country last month. Critics accused the military ruling council of not giving the last Cabinet enough influence.

Mr. Ganzouri unveiled a new Cabinet lineup Wednesday featuring a new finance minister and some incumbent ministers who will be tasked with governing until the end of the parliamentary election process next year.

The finance minister, Mumtaz al-Saeed, is a ministry veteran who faces the challenge of stabilizing an economy battered by unrest since February's ouster of autocratic president Hosni Mubarak.

Meanwhile, Egyptians are awaiting official results from the runoff parliamentary elections held earlier this week. The election

commission says it will announce the results later Wednesday.

The Muslim Brotherhood says its political party has won almost two-thirds of the parliamentary seats reserved for individual candidates in the opening rounds of the lower house elections. If confirmed, the Brotherhood's individual seat victories put the movement on track to become the leading power in the 498-member assembly.

In a statement Wednesday, the Islamist group's Freedom and Justice party says it won 36 of the 56 individual seats that were contested in nine provinces, including the two largest cities of Cairo and Alexandria. It says Freedom and Justice candidates won 34 seats in runoff elections on Monday and Tuesday after winning outright victories in two other seats in last week's first round of voting.

The Brotherhood's party already had won the largest share of seats reserved for parties in last week's vote, securing 37 percent of ballots in the nine provinces, compared to 24 percent for its nearest rival, the ultra-conservative Salafist Nour party. Egypt's liberal coalition was a distant third.

In the coming weeks, Egyptians in the remaining 18 provinces will join the voting for the lower house of parliament. Elections for parliament's less-powerful upper house will begin in late January and finish in March.

Gorbachev calls for new Russian election

Voice of America News Service

MOSCOW – Former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has called for Russia's parliament election to be annulled and a new vote held. He said the results do not reflect the will of the people, and authorities must admit to fabrications and rigging.

Opposition leaders and international observers say the poll Sunday was marred by widespread allegations of vote-rigging, ballot box stuffing and other irregularities.

Pro-government supporters also rallied around the Kremlin. Prime Minister Vladimir Putin's United Russia party won Sunday's vote, but with a considerably reduced parliamentary majority, at around 50 percent.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said Tuesday the elections were neither free nor fair, and the results raised "serious concerns."

Russia's Foreign Ministry described Clinton's remarks as "unacceptable."

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev characterized the elections as "fair, honest and democratic."

Protests spread to more cities

Russia's ruling party won only half of the votes in elections on Sunday. But opponents say even that poor showing was boosted by widespread fraud. Now they are protesting.

Protests against Sunday's Duma elections are spreading across Russia.

On Tuesday, the interior ministry flooded downtown Moscow with dozens of prison trucks and as many as 50,000 police and troops.

Despite this show of force, protesters turned out and black helmeted riot police wrestled into detention a total of 300 people, largely off the sidewalks of Tverskaya, the capital's most expensive shopping avenue.

Police arrested 200 more in St. Petersburg and dozens more in other cities. Dozhd, a private internet TV channel reported that protests took place in 50 Russian cities.

German city evacuates for defusing of WWII bomb

By Mark Patton and Marcus Kloeckner

Stars and Stripes

WIESBADEN, Germany – About 45,000 residents of the German city of Koblenz, nearly half of the city's population, were under evacuation orders Dec. 4 following the discovery of what local officials said was one of the largest unexploded bombs ever found, believed to have been dropped by the British Royal Air Force during World War II.

The nearly 4,000-pound bomb, packed with more than 3,000 pounds of explosives, as well as other unexploded ordnance, were discovered in the Rhine River, where the water levels have dropped significantly due to a lack of rain over the past few weeks, according to local authorities.

Explosive ordnance disposal troops with the 21st Theater Sustainment Command in Grafenwoehr and Mannheim are ready to provide support if needed, said a 21st TSC spokeswoman.

"Our EOD guys have not been asked to support, but they are tracking it and stand by to assist if asked," said Lt. Col. Anna Friederich.

The city's press office said German explosive experts and the German army are expected to take the lead in defusing the bomb, which they are calling an air mine. Officials estimated that a bomb this size could cause a crater more than 20 yards wide and six yards deep with a destruction radius of more than 70 yards if it were detonated. It could blow out windows in a half-mile radius.

From discussions with the British, "it has been known for some time that this type (of bomb) was dropped over Koblenz," wrote the city's press office in an email.

Authorities with the city's fire brigade say plans are under way to evacuate 45,000 city residents in a radius of about a mile, as well as a prison and local hospitals before experts attempt to defuse the bomb on Sunday. Emergency centers are being set up for those who have nowhere else to go.

According to German news outlets, the bomb lies in about 16 inches of water, partly buried in mud, making it difficult to access the detonation fuse.

City officials said Wednesday afternoon that they are still in the planning phases of how to defuse the bomb, which they say is one of the largest found in German history.

A 275-pound American bomb and a German smoke grenade were also found nearby.

Mind, Body & Spirit

An end-of-tour reflection

by Chaplain Lt. Col. Gary Bertsch

As my tour is winding down, I was asked at lunch the other day the highlight of my tour, and I said, "I think it's coming full circle."

Let me explain. I enlisted in the Air Force in 1973, so I've seen the end of the Vietnam War. Then I served in the Guard and Reserve for about 15 years, so I served during the Cold War. I came back on active duty in 1992 right after the first Gulf War and have served my 20 years (so far) supporting operations downrange with many deployments.

During this time I've served in supporting operations against terrorism. Mostly, I've been serving Airmen launching aircraft but also I've done FOB-hopping and have worked with Army and Navy personnel, Marines and even some Coast Guard folks. It was always a view from behind the scenes. I typically saw the secondary effects of our efforts, but seldom the end results. I've often heard that our mission was all about being at "the tip of the spear."

Being here at Joint Task Force Guantanamo has made me realize that while combat operations downrange may be the tip of the spear, our mission here truly is the spear's tip and more. All we have done, all we have and will accomplish and all our sacrifices will ultimately

be judged in the camps and in various courtrooms and the judgment of the press — for good or bad.

For the short amount of time that we are here, we ARE the tip of the spear. We bear honesty, integrity, and the moral high ground regarding the care of the detainees and the demeanor of those who visit here in the interest of transparency. I pray that history will hold that during our slice of time here, that all our actions will be held blameless and above board in all aspects.

This is what I mean by "coming full circle." Very few of our brothers and sisters in arms can see the final results of their sacrifice, their loss, their valor. We are in that historical moment of time in which we have the privilege to see first-hand the end results of all the efforts of those who have come before us. What lies ahead in the final outcome, we can only guess. But each of us can say with pride that we've done our duty, exceeded the standard and are "honor bound."

May God grant each of you peace, strength and courage, and may God hold you loved ones in the palm of his hand until you are once again safe and home.

Chaps out!



Joint Task Force Guantanamo commander Rear Adm. David Woods presents Chaplain Lt. Col. Gary Bertsch with the Joint Service Commendation Medal. Bertsch completes his tour this week as deputy chaplain for JTF Guantanamo.

REAL STEEL

PG-13
127 min.



By Mass Communication Spc. 1st Class Ty Bjornson

Robots sure seem to be in vogue right now. However, the robot love affair has always been a sci-fi staple for many moons, especially since the 1950s. As we progress through the 21st century, real life robots are doing tasks in extreme environments and replacing humans in various fields for both efficiency and human safety. There's even been a reality-based television show about remote-controlled "Battle-Bots" which pummel each other into submission for our entertainment. It was only a matter time before we got a movie that combined these concepts to give us a fresh spin on a familiar world.

From its very start, "Real Steel" is old-fashioned feel-good movie, the kind that you don't see too many of anymore. Sure, this movie has ultra cool robots which battle each other to the death in "underground" and arena settings. And yes, the film was also released in IMAX to showcase its cutting edge CGI special effects which compete in quality with the most recent "Transformers" movie. But this film doesn't focus on the random robotic rambunctiousness which is present in so many other recent metallic mash-up blockbusters. This movie is actually about real people with real problems. And, oh-my-gosh, this film has heart. How the heck did that happen? Where does it get the nerve to offer that in this day and age?

The film opens with down and out loner Charlie Kenton (Hugh Jackman) who travels in his big-rig around the rural midwestern farm country to enter his boxing robot in rodeos and underground robotic fighting venues, which for the most part replaced human boxing. Existence for Kenton, who is a former boxer, is hinged on making money from betting pools winner take all style. This rootless existence has left him jaded and socially distant as Charlie lives off the grid like a disgruntled carnie never knowing when the "big win" will be come his way. Even his childhood friend Bailey (Evangeline Lilly, "Lost") has a hard time getting though to him.

After Charlie's robot is demolished by a rodeo bull and escapes from paying his debt, Charlie soon learns the mother of his 11 year old son Max (Dakota Goyo) has died. The boy's aunt wants Max to live with her and her wealthy husband, who can better provide for the boy. Charlie, desperate for cash, makes a deal to have Max live with

him for three months, after which the aunt gets custody.

As you could expect, the estranged father and son are forced to deal with each other for the first time in their lives. Regarding each other with apprehension, they soon bond through a mutual appreciation of robotic boxing, which for the most part replaced human boxing. A late night junkyard find of the early generation sparring robot "Atom" proves to be the winning ticket gold for the duo. The extremely resilient "Atom" leads the Kentons in a series of underworld, robofight victories sparking public interest in them and to those who would have other plans for their continued success.

What's pleasant about "Real Steel" is the real feel of rural Americana life. Though the film takes place in the near future, the subject matter is treated as the gospel truth. The end result is a film that feels sincere and genuine about its people, places and things. Perhaps this shouldn't be too much of a surprise: "Real Steel" is loosely based on the 1956 short story by Richard Matheson ("The Twilight Zone", "I am Legend") whose writings often focused on ordinary people dealing with ordinary problems in extraordinary situations.

The cast does a good job of conveying sorrow, regret and reconciliation. It's nice to see Hugh Jackman play Charlie as a unrelenting boxer who just wants to survive. Newcomer Dakota Goyo is fun as Jackman's estranged son who at times is smarter than Charlie when it comes to patience, understanding and determination. The two actors play off of each other nicely, with Goyo holding his own in all of his scenes. There's no denying Evangeline Lilly successfully conveys Bailey and her heart of gold. Who wouldn't want her on their side?

"Real Steel" is co-executive produced by Steven Spielberg who is no stranger to family friendly fare. There are a few nods to Spielberg's own film "E.T." (1982) in the human child-robot dynamic between Max and Atom. Since "Real Steel" has elements of a boxing film, you might also notice a few tips of the hat to the "Rocky" movies as well. All of these factors help make "Real Steel" one of the better family films in recent years. There's a delight in its straightforward simplistic story telling about its real people. And that makes a real difference.



GTMO Quick Reference

Bayview Club - 75605
Wed.-Fri. 11 a.m.-8 p.m.
Sun. & Holidays 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Bowling Center - 2118
Mon.-Fri. 6-11 p.m.
Fri. 6 p.m.-12 a.m.
Sat. 1 p.m.-12 a.m.
Sun. & Holidays 1-11 p.m.

Caribbean Coffee - 77859
Mon.-Sat. 6 a.m.-10 p.m.
Sun. 1-10 p.m.

Jerk House - 2532
Sun.-Thu. 5-9 p.m.
Fri. & Sat. 5-10 p.m.

KFC and A&W Express - 75653
Daily 11 a.m.-10 p.m.

MWR Liberty Centers - 2010
Mon.-Thu. 11 a.m.-12 a.m.
Fri. 11 a.m.-1 a.m.
Sun. 9 a.m.-12 a.m.
Sat. & Holidays 9 a.m.-1 a.m.

Library - 4700
Mon.-Sat. 8 a.m.-9 p.m.
Sun. & Holidays 12-9 p.m.

Pizza Hut - 77995
Mon.-Thu. 11 a.m.-9 p.m.
Fri. 11 a.m.-11 p.m.
Sat. & Sun. 12-9 p.m.

Windjammer Cafe
Mon.-Thu. 11 a.m.-9 p.m.
Fri. 11 a.m.-10 p.m.
Sat. 5-10 p.m.
Sun. 5-9 p.m.

Windjammer Club - 77252
Fri. & Sat. 5 p.m. - 2 a.m.

Windjammer Sports Bar
Mon.-Thu. 5-9 p.m.
Fri. & Sat. 5 p.m.-2 a.m.
Sun. 5-9 p.m.

Safe Ride - 84781

GTMO Religious Services

Daily Catholic Mass
Tues.-Fri. 5:30 p.m.
Main Chapel

Vigil Mass
Saturday 5 p.m.
Main Chapel

Mass
Sunday 9 a.m.
Main Chapel

Catholic Mass
Saturday 5:30 p.m.
Troopers Chapel

Pentecostal Gospel
Sunday 8 a.m. & 5 p.m.
Room D

Gospel Service
Sunday 1 p.m.
Main Chapel

GTMO Bay Christian Fellowship
Sunday 6 p.m.
Main Chapel

Protestant Worship
Sunday 9 a.m.
Troopers' Chapel

General Protestant
Sunday 11 a.m.
Main Chapel

Islamic Service
Friday 1:15 p.m.
Room C

Jewish Service
Friday 7 p.m.
Chapel Annex

LDS Service
Sunday 10 a.m.
Room A

Iglesia Ni Cristo
Sunday 5:30 a.m.
Room A

United Jamaican Fellowship
Sunday 11 a.m.
Sanctuary B

Liturgical Service
Sunday 10 a.m.
Room B

Church of the Sacred Well
Call 2323
for information

	9 FRI	10 SAT	11 SUN	12 MON	13 TUE	14 WED	15 THU
Downtown Lyceum	Hugo (NEW) (PG-13) 7 p.m. The Thing (NEW) (R) 9 p.m.	Arthur Christmas (NEW) (PG) 7 p.m. Real Steel (PG-13) 9 p.m.	Happy Feet 2 (PG) 7 p.m.	What's Your Number (last showing) (R) 7 p.m.	Dolphin Tale (last showing) (PG) 7 p.m.	50/50 (R) 7 p.m.	Twilight: Breaking Dawn (PG-13) 7 p.m.
Camp Bulkeley	Twilight: Breaking Dawn (PG-13) 8 p.m. 50/50 (R) 10 p.m.	Hugo (NEW) (PG-13) 8 p.m. The Thing (NEW) (R) 10 p.m.	Dream House (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Real Steel (PG-13) 8 p.m.	What's Your Number (last showing) (R) 8 p.m.	The Muppets (PG) 8 p.m.	Ides of March (R) 8 p.m.

Call the movie hotline at 4880 or see the MWR GTMO Facebook page for more information.



The latest graduates of the week-long bus driver training course are ready to use their new skills. -photo by Mass Communication Spc. 1st Class Ty Bjornson

Background: The Joint Detention Group's Officer Professional Development session Dec. 2 included a tour of Fisherman's Point. This hill was the first to be taken by Marines in the Spanish-American War in 1898. -photo by Mass Communication Spc. 2nd Class Kilho Park



Sgt. Maj. Callie E. Leaver and Staff Sgt. James Kleinhinz, both of Joint Detention Group Headquarters, 170th Military Police Battalion, chat during a break in the work clearing a portion of Boa Breeze Way Dec. 4. -photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jerome Grant



The JTF At Shutter Speed