

Volume 9, Issue 29

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THE WIRED

PTSD

Help starts when you
ask for it

Change of Command

New NEGB commander up to
the challenge

What makes a leader?

**Army 1st Sergeant
Mark A. Tillman**

525th MP Battalion 1st Sergeant

The American Heritage Dictionary defines a leader as “*One that leads or guides.*” Army Field Manual 6-22 defines leadership as “*The process of influencing people by providing purpose, direction, and motivation while operating to accomplish the mission and improving the organization.*”

As leaders if we tell the Troopers why we are doing the mission, how it needs to be accomplished, and get them to want to do it - the mission gets accomplished and we have succeeded as leaders.

When it comes to improving the organization, this is where true leadership comes into play. Taking care of Troopers is the foremost way to improve the organization.

In my 16 years as a Non-Commissioned Officer, nothing has compared to the look on a young Trooper’s face when they realize that their problem has been fixed.

I learned a long time ago that if you take care of the Trooper, and more importantly, their family, they are more likely to re-enlist and continue their military service.

When it comes to the family, if at any time a Trooper’s family feels that the military is not willing to assist them, we have more than likely just lost that Trooper from any continued service past their expiration term of service. Yes there are times the answer you have to give is not the answer the Trooper wants to hear, but if they realize that you have done everything you possibly can, and explain to them how you have arrived at the answer, they usually understand.

When you have time, sit the Trooper down and show them exactly how you came to the answer. You will give them a better understanding of regulatory guidelines, and you enhance their research capabilities (remember that we are training our replacements).

We, as leaders, must always remember that just because a problem does not seem like much of an issue, it is most likely the largest problem that Trooper has had to face since they left home. We must always give our full attention to every problem that might be troubling our Troopers. If their minds are elsewhere, they may end up forgetting a vital part of the established procedures, resulting in an injury to them or their battle buddies.

As leaders, we know the accomplishment of the mission is always the goal, yet taking care of the Troopers must always rank up there along with it. There is nothing more rewarding when a young Trooper looks at you and says “Thank you” after you have fixed a problem.

The ability to accomplish the mission and take care of Troopers at the same time is truly what makes a leader. ✪



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COVER:

Residents of U.S. Naval Base Guantanamo, including the Joint Task Force, buttoned down for Hurricane Ike Sept. 6-8. The hurricane brought heavy rains and winds gusting up to at least 45 knots per hour Sunday and Monday, resulting in minor damage. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. 1st Class Vaughn R. Larson



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 regards 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 1000.

New NEGB CO up to challenge

**Army Pfc.
Eric Liesse**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

U.S. Navy Cmdr. Michael Fulgham officially took command of Joint Task Force Guantanamo's Naval Expeditionary Guard Battalion Friday, Sept. 5, in a ceremony at Troopers Chapel.

NEGB's outgoing commanding officer, Navy Cmdr. Jeffery Hayhurst, spoke of what he'll remember most of his time leading the NEGB.

"I'll miss the pride and professionalism displayed by the guard force executing a unique and difficult mission," he said.

Hayhurst will not be off-island for long, however, as his next duty will be as Deputy Commander of the Joint Detention Group.

Present at the ceremony were both Navy Rear Adm. David M. Thomas, Jr., JTF commander, and Army Col. Bruce Vargo, JDG commander. After both Fulgham and Hayhurst read their orders for their next duties, in a light-hearted moment, Hayhurst presented Fulgham with the "true marks" of the NEGB commander: his mobile phone and "NEGB CO" name tag.

Fulgham will command the NEGB on its mission of safe, humane, legal and transparent care and custody of detained enemy combatants. Fulgham has detention command experience, formerly working as executive – then commanding – officer of U.S. Naval Consolidated Brig Miramar, San Diego, from July 2005 until March 2008.



Navy Cmdr. Michael Fulgham (left) is given the "NEGB CO" nameplate and commander mobile phone from Navy Cmdr. Jeffery Hayhurst during Change of Command ceremony for the NEGB at the Trooper's Chapel Friday, Sept. 5.

"I was ready to get onboard and advocate and represent for the Sailors and Soldiers here," Fulgham said of hearing his orders for Guantanamo. He emphasized he plans to work for, rather than just over, the guards.

Fulgham expects a challenging job for his tenure as commanding officer of the NEGB, especially with the overt visibility and scrutiny JTF is consistently under.

"[We need to] make sure we keep doing what we need to do for the mission, and still make our adjustments, should we need to change," he said.

Fulgham's Navy career began in June 1989 as an Ensign through the Navy Reserve Officers Training Corps at the University of San Diego/San Diego State University. In March 1990, he graduated from the Surface Warfare Officers School's Division Officer Basic Course and Gas Turbine Engineering Officer of the Watch Course.

Fulgham served as executive officer of USS Duluth, an amphibious transport dock, during a deployment to the Persian Gulf in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom in October 2002.

Fulgham's past military awards include three Meritorious Service Medals, six Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, as well as other unit awards. ★



Navy Rear Adm. David M. Thomas, Jr., gives a short speech during the NEGB Change of Command ceremony at the Trooper's Chapel Friday, Sept. 5.

Facing forward

**Army Staff Sgt.
Gretel Sharpee**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

As military members across all services return from operations overseas, “the unseen scars of war,” can surface and haunt those affected. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder has been called many things but unless it is addressed, it can cause havoc on every aspect of your life, from your ability to do your job, your health and your personal relationships.

For one former Army sergeant, his symptoms of PTSD were evident to everyone but himself after he returned from Iraq where he operated as a counter intelligence specialist.

His story below is a honest, brave account of what it takes to address PTSD, seek help, and emerge successful.

In 2003-2004 I went to Iraq where I worked the counter-bomber mission. My job entailed long trips to post-blast sites and working with the Explosive Ordinance Disposal teams and Combined Explosive Exploitation Cell.

While there I lost one friend to an Improvised Explosive Device and another to a mortar round. I also came close on 22 occasions to being killed- to include one close encounter with an Improvised Explosive Device, a vehicle crash in the Green Zone and being blown out of my rack by a 107mm rocket the night before I left Iraq. I left that mission with some back issues, some tinnitus and feeling unsure about what I wanted to do when I got back to the states.

From the states I took a job in Guantanamo Bay; where I became pretty much sedentary. I allowed my experience in Iraq to haunt my daily life and sour me to the point where I worked non-stop. And if not working, I was in front of the TV eating all the wrong stuff with at least six-12 sodas a day. Worse still, I was becoming increasingly distant from my wife and children, and on the verge of throwing it all away for no real reason other than I could not seem to clear my head.

Then in November 2007 I hit a wall, due to work stress and other things that removed some of the defensive barriers I had built in my mind. I ended up having a rather vivid flashback while waiting in line at the dining facility here, and at that point I knew it was time to seek outside assistance.

I called the Joint Stress Mediation and Relife Techniques team here, but told them

my first concern was that I wouldn't take any medications whatsoever, which I was assured wouldn't be necessary.

What I found out was I had the start of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder which was not full-blown yet, but needed to be addressed. I knew that I was developing some rather bad avoidance habits: Crowded areas made me nervous and tense, and for what ever bizarre reason I could not tolerate people standing behind me; driving in traffic left me extremely tense.

I will confess to being resistant at first to the help the combat stress team offered and not really sure if it would work, but I wanted to stick with it. I recognized the problems I had, all of which were bad for my physical and mental health. By that time in December, my weight had gone up over 280 pounds and was pushing 290, and was having issues of acid reflux, my legs falling asleep at my desk and climbing to the second floor of my office left me out of breath.

Basically I had all the signs of trouble ahead if I did not change my ways, which was made worse by the fact that I was still not sleeping well and still working as hard as ever. Often, I would get to work between four and five a.m., leave after five p.m. and was enrolled in school on top of it. I had used my back injury as an excuse not to work out at all. The doctor of course suggested losing the weight to help alleviate the stress- something I already knew, but did not want to face.

One morning I missed my alarm. Even by waking up on my own, I still had plenty of time to get to work at a normal time. I

realized that I needed this time to make changes to my life.

In the next few months I made subtle but major changes to my diet. I quit soda cold turkey, but compensated with green tea to avoid caffeine-withdrawal headaches. With time, I was also able to wean off that as well.

I also started walking in the mornings before work. The first venture was by no means fast, but within weeks I was up to four-to-six miles.

It was at this time I also came to the most important revelation of all- I had wanted to do this for me and no one else. I found the internal change had to come from me and I had to want to do it. With that knowledge in hand, I motivated myself and decided I needed to make the changes into habits.

Through changing my eating habits, I lost four inches off my waistline and, more importantly, lowered my blood pressure to an acceptable range.

Now I love running and run every other morning, rain or shine. I credit my physical and mental turnaround and improvements to taking that first step to confront what was bothering me and ask for help.

The best part about the past few months has been the number of people that have told me I have been an inspiration to them to start working out again, to go to the gym, to start running, swimming, and to improve their health. That is one-side effect I never thought possible, but one that feels good and adds to the motivation to keep going and never look back. ☆

By Chris.



Air Force 1st Lt. Carly Omizo, air operations and country clearances officer of J3, reviews an outprocessing form with Air Force Maj. Matthew Cho while Air Force 1st Lt. Frederick Puskar observes. Fredrick will be Cho's replacement in the J4 strategic mobility department.

J3 and J4 working behind the scenes

**Army Spc.
Megan Burnham**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

In the process of traveling to or leaving from U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, a Trooper will mainly concern themselves with making sure they have their plane ticket, everything they need, knowing what time to check-in at the airport and carrying all of their necessary paperwork.

What a Trooper does not think about is the work required to ensure the plane departs and arrives on time and is maintained mission-ready to fly. This work is accomplished by the Joint Task Force Air Operations of J3 Joint Operations Center.

It is the mission of Air Force 1st Lt. Carly Omizo, air operations and country clearances officer, to monitor and track all flights coming to and from base.

"From the air operations standpoint, I coordinate with flight dispatch and the

observational tower on Leeward side," said Omizo. "I make sure that all flights are coming in and they're coming in on time."

The task of tracking flights is done on a website that shows when a plane leaves from a given airport and how long it will take to land in Guantanamo Bay. With this website, Omizo will monitor all incoming and outgoing flights.

In addition to monitoring flights, another duty of air operations within the JTF mission is working with the J4 strategic mobility office to schedule flights.

When a Trooper goes on regular leave, they will normally fly out on the AMC rotator, space available or through Air Sunshine or Lynx airlines. However, situations for special airlift requests will arise when a Trooper needs to go home on emergency leave or on mission critical travel. In these situations, air operations works closely with J4 Transportation to achieve a flight plan as soon as possible.

"If you are on emergency leave, you get priority on rotators and AMC flights," said Omizo.

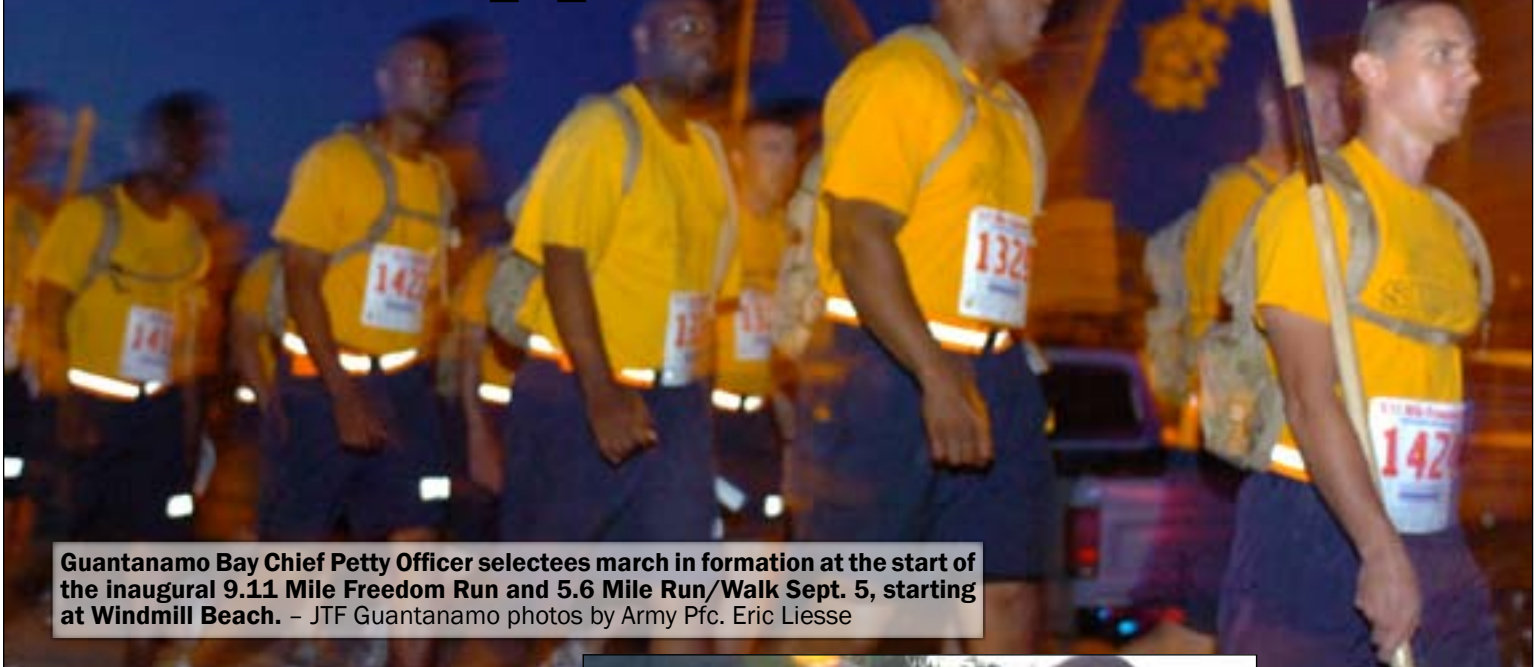
"We have a lot of [available flights] from different locations to Gitmo," said Air Force Maj. Matthew Cho, J4 strategic mobility officer. "We have access to most of those flights to get people on and off as well as other mission essential travel."

Other tasks that air operations and strategic mobility collaborate on include other special airlift requests for distinguished visitors, C-12 aircraft, and various operational requirements.

As the country clearances officer, Omizo also assists Cho with verifying that newcomers have obtained their country clearance paperwork and are eligible for an airlift.

"There are a lot of different aspects we work together on and collaborate on," said Cho. "We are on the phone everyday working on one mission or another." ☆

Running to show support



Guantanamo Bay Chief Petty Officer selectees march in formation at the start of the inaugural 9.11 Mile Freedom Run and 5.6 Mile Run/Walk Sept. 5, starting at Windmill Beach. - JTF Guantanamo photos by Army Pfc. Eric Liesse

Army Spc. Megan Burnham

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Over 200 residents of U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay spent their early Saturday morning traveling to Windmill Beach to participate in the first, potentially annual, inaugural 9.11 Mile Freedom Run and 9.11 kilometer (5.6 mile) Run/Walk.

The Guantanamo Bay Freedom Run was modeled after the Freedom Run founded by Dirk Beveridge, 2008 executive committee member of the We Do Care organization. This is a non-profit organization in Chicago whose mission is to provide the public opportunities to support, and thank, active-duty military personnel, their families, and veterans.

The event was set in motion when Beveridge visited Guantanamo Bay in April for the 75th Joint Civilian Orientation Conference. When touring the base, Beveridge was impressed by the work of the Troopers and the overall mission. He asked Army Brig. Gen. Gregory Zanetti to consider hosting the run to proceed simultaneously with his race in Barrington, Ill.

The run had special meaning as it gave participants the chance to run simultaneously with family and loved ones who also participated in the Freedom Run in Ill. Army 1st Lt. Sarah Cleveland will participate in the race here while her mom and sister run the race in the states.

"I wish I could be there with them but this is the next best thing," said Cleveland.



Derrick Johnson (left) receives his prize for finishing first place among males from Navy Master Petty Officer Craig McVeay.

"I'm actually running with them even though I'm not home, which is a rare opportunity."

The run began at 6 a.m. with the starting line at Windmill beach. The long and hilly route first sent participants approximately two miles along Magazine Road to Kittery Beach Rd. The next section was a trek over Skyline Drive that brought runners to a loop around Villimar and Nob Hill Housing. Before runners retraced their steps from Skyline Drive back to Windmill Beach, they had to overcome a steep incline up Nob Hill Road.

"It was a great run and an outstanding challenge," said Derek Johnson, first male finisher. "It was great to see such support. I hope they do this again next year."

Johnson completed the run in 57:06 with Jason Snyder finishing second at 58:46. Kimberly Higdon was the first female to finish with a time of 1:09 followed by

Megan Burnham at 1:16.

When each participant crossed the finish line, Zanetti presented them with a coin that commemorated the event. After participants collected their coin, they made their way to a refreshment area where water, Kool-Aid and fruit were provided.

During the award ceremony, first place male and female finishers were given a \$20 Navy Exchange gift card while the second place finishers received a \$10 gift certificate. A raffle followed that gave all runners the opportunity to win a two hour ride on the Gitmo Guen, a dinner certificate for Chateaubriand steak at the Bayview, as well as a \$20 and \$10 gift certificate at the NEX. All runners and walkers also received a T-shirt for participating in the event.

The event wrapped up with a beach party and barbecue at Windmill Beach hosted by Jeffrey Shaw of Morale Welfare and Recreation. ★

Redeeming value lost in space



**Army Pfc.
Eric Liesse**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

This movie is aimed at young children – minutes in, you know The Looney Tunes are high-brow in comparison. Also, I often favor lame jokes and groan-worthy one-liners. However, with recent animated triumphs such as “WALL-E” or “Finding Nemo” fresh in the public’s mind, “Space Chimps” is simply bad by comparison.

First, the script is just lame and has few decent jokes – none of which children would get. Second, the animation looks unfinished – as if this is the animated storyboard for producer review.

The movie follows Ham III (voiced by Andy Samberg) – the grandson of the first space traveler, Ham – as a cannon-propelled circus chimp whisked away by NASA to venture into a newly discovered worm-hole in space. He travels with two experienced simian astronauts: chimp-babe Luna (Cheryl Hines) and hard-line commander Titan (Patrick Warburton). They go to a far-away planet, get tormented by the locals and hilarity is meant to ensue – however, it doesn’t.

There are moments of chuckles – I even laughed once! But when the feature is (allegedly) a comedy, one laugh isn’t good enough. The jokes mostly center around different ways to make chimp jokes, such as Luna telling Ham to ‘evolve’ and Titan’s endless dry chimp-related puns (“Let’s chimp this ride”) etc.

There are some lines which target adults, such as Ham playing the theme to “Beverly Hills Cop” which causes an overtly Indian rocket scientist to break dance, a dig on low public expectations of art history majors, and a David Bowie reference. The Bowie reference was my one actual laugh, but that is because I’m a big Bowie fan. There are a few veiled sexual references, but in a theater full of children, you’ll shudder

more than laugh.

Luna puts the comedy best in reference to Ham: “You’re kind of funny, but in an unbelievably annoying way.”

On the foreign planet is a race of unimaginative blue and purple aliens being oppressed by Jeff Daniels – which is frightening enough. As a nasty alien, Daniels’ voice sounds distant and flat, yet he is intended to be the film’s villain. As Ham, Samberg sounds like he’s just reading lines.

This level of animation is not going to cut it in today’s market. The scenery has gaping open spaces, textures are flat, and movements are harsh and overly precise. The chimp team appears mostly lively, but the aliens stand like stand-ins from an older animated technology.

The movie has the expected self-encouragement theme running through it, but most family movies do. With decent family films – even great ones – out now, “Space Chimps” can orbit success but never get there. ★



G
1 hour, 21 minutes

Rating: ★★☆☆☆



9.11 Mile Freedom Run in GTMO

JTF Guantanamo photos by
Army Pfc. Eric Liesse

Guantanamo Bay Chief Petty Officer Selectees stand in formation before marching the 5.6 mile section of the 9.11 Freedom Run.



A few motivated Guantanamo Bay residents spent their Saturday morning, Sept. 6, either running 9.11 miles or running/walking 9.11 kilometers (5.6 miles) as part of the first 9.11 Mile Freedom Run held on base. This run was founded by Dirk Beveridge of the We Do Care organization in Chicago, Ill., as a way to honor those affected by Sept. 11 attacks as well as to show support for those currently stationed overseas.

For more information on the run, see Local Sports on page 6.



Craig McVeay, assistant coordinator, briefs participants on the route for the start of the run.



Participants push off from the start of the 9.11 Freedom Run.



Oranges and bananas awaited the participants at the finish line.



Kimberly Higdon, first place finishing female, finishes the run strong.

Top Finishers

Males

Derek Johnson - 57:06
Jason Snyder - 58.46

Females

Kimberly Higdon - 1:09
Megan Burnham - 1:16

Keeping accountability at home

**Army Pfc.
Eric Liesse**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

When meteorologists alert the public to an impending hurricane, preparations soon begin for those in its projected path – including Joint Task Force Guantanamo.

Marine Capt. Wayne Geschwindt, the destructive weather officer with J-3, explained how JTF uses the “mayor and warden” accountability system to track personnel when a standard chain of command is physically impractical due to dangerous weather.

“It’s primarily to gain accountability of JTF personnel when a storm passes and we lose power, losing the ability to communicate by phone,” said Geschwindt, adding that it is a “proximity-based accountability system.”

The system is based on housing arrangements, in that each JTF housing area has one or two mayors, depending on its size. The mayor is in charge of reporting their housing area’s accountability status to J-1 – and ultimately JTF Commander Rear Adm. David M. Thomas, Jr. – during extreme weather.

Under each mayor is one or two wardens for each JTF command living within that housing area. The wardens are accountable for personnel in their military unit that live within their jurisdiction.

A wardens’ responsibility is tied to both command and living arrangements based on the presumption they would know work and personal schedules for their Troopers better than, for instance, having a warden for each block of trailers at Cuzco Barracks.

“I’m not telling wardens how to get their reports, but I do expect physical, visual confirmation,” Geschwindt said.

Wardens are the first line in the chain, and each Trooper should keep their respective command’s housing area warden informed of their whereabouts when the system enacted.

Mayors are selected only after their command clears their ability to do the job. Wardens are selected by the command they are under, ensuring they have the ability and schedule to execute the plan whenever needed.

The mayor/warden system is designed to be used only in extreme circumstances. It is set to be started and used when power is out – or will be soon.

These conditions would be during Condition of Readiness 1, which is highest in the scale of base-wide hurricane preparedness set by Naval Station commanders.

“I think it’ll work best if we have to evacuate a housing area, like Cuzco Barracks or Camp Bulkeley Housing Area,” Geschwindt said. He added that when everyone is moved into their designated hurricane shelter, the mayors and wardens would know whether the people from that housing area made it to the shelter safely.

Although the system had its basic structure when Geschwindt arrived in April 2008, he has been improving and revising the system ever since, adding that he is always open to suggestions.

“I love criticism because it only strengthens the plan,” Geschwindt said. “The plan was designed for worst-case scenario events. It’s always good to plan for the worst-case scenario, but it’s very rare that Gitmo gets the worst-case scenario.”

One major facet spearheaded by Geschwindt was making sure JTF Troopers understood the system and who their warden and mayor was in a storm event.

“I wanted to keep it in the front of everyone’s mind and keep hitting them at least twice a month or more before a storm hits,” Geschwindt said. “[That way] we could say, ‘You’re a mayor, or you’re a warden, and you have responsibilities,’ instead of just training once a year.”

Other improvements Geschwindt is in talks to enact are ideas such as making mayor and warden homes visually recognizable to everyone and making sure each housing unit has at least one hard-line phone for power outages. He also suggested setting mayor and wardens as those who won’t be rotating out during hurricane season to keep consistency.

Although improvements will be made, Geschwindt maintains that it is important Troopers know how the system works. That is because when it is enacted, it is vital to everyone’s accountability.

“It’s important [Troopers] know that it’s important we know where they are,” said Geschwindt. ★





61 years in the Wild Blue Yonder

**Army Sgt. 1st Class
Vaughn R. Larson**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs



The youngest of the U.S. Armed Forces turns 61 next Thursday.

The U.S. Air Force became a separate branch of the military on Sept. 18, 1947 when the Armed Forces were reorganized under the National Security Act. Prior to this, the Air Force had been a part of the Army – first as an aeronautical component of the U.S. Signal Corps from 1907 to 1918, then as the U.S. Army Air Service from 1918 to 1926, then it was reorganized as the U.S. Army Air Corps from 1926-1941, and finally the U.S. Army Air Forces from 1941-1947.

Whereas before 1947 the Air Force had been tasked with supporting ground forces, the National Security Act made the new branch responsible for air combat and operations.

“In this day when a powerful counterattack is America’s only real answer to aggression, there can be no question that we need the world’s first Air Force,” said W. Stuart Symington, shortly after

being sworn in as the first secretary of the Air Force. “It is only through the global, flashing mobility of the Air Force that we can hold our counterattack poised ... we feel, with deep conviction, that the destiny of the United States rests on the continued development of our Air Force.”

In its early years, the U.S. Army Air Corps coped with shortcomings in technology, tactics and administration. A Jan. 7, 1931 agreement between Army Gen. Douglas MacArthur, then Army Chief of Staff, and Navy Adm. William V. Pratt, the Chief of Naval Operations, relieved

Navy aviators of coastal defense. This prompted the development of new doctrine and aircraft such as long-range bombers for the Air Corps, and laid the groundwork for what would become the Air Force.

In 1935 command of the Air Corps assets centralized under the General Headquarters Air Force, led by an aviator who answered to the Army Chief of Staff. This removed control of air combat units from Army corps commanders and established four geographic regions for air control. These districts would later become the first four numbered air forces.

Today, the U.S. Air Force is the world’s largest and most technologically advanced, with 10 major commands and 24 numbered air forces. It encompasses such missions as air combat, training and education, cyberspace operations, materiel, space operations, special operations, and air mobility, as well as operations in Europe and the Pacific, and the Reserves. Its role today is to provide sovereign options for defense of the U.S. and its global interests, as well as to fight in air, space and cyberspace.

The Air Force, in various incarnations, has participated in military and humanitarian operations since World War I. It has also performed wheeled convoy operations in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Here at Guantanamo Bay, the Air Force supports the Joint Task Force with base engineers and information assurance and various individual augmentee positions. ✪



Intermission

Winds and rains from Hurricane Ike caused significant damage to the Camp America movie screen at the Bulkeley Lyceum earlier this week. According to Lisa Dula, marketing director for the Morale, Welfare and Recreation office at Naval Station Guantanamo, repairs have begun and are projected to be complete in two weeks. "It is a high priority," Dula said. The movies scheduled to run at the Bulkeley Lyceum will not be rescheduled, due to a playdate contract with production companies. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. 1st Class Vaughn R. Larson

Prevent and report all fraud, waste and abuse

Fraud, waste, abuse and mismanagement of Department of Defense resources and authorities is no small infraction. Whether it is a reprimand at the lowest possible level or appropriate prosecution under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, fraud, waste and abuse are serious issues. Most importantly, tracking and reporting them are the responsibility of every Trooper.

The following are examples of each, and what can and should be done if any are spotted:

Fraud is intentionally taking from or depriving the military of something of value, or lying in records or to officials.

- Offering/taking bribes
- Substituting materials in equipment
- Making false statements
- Recording false measurements
- Falsifying records and account books
- Conflicts of interest
- Criminal irregularities

Waste is extravagant, careless or needless use of military funds, or use of military property resulting in procedural failings. However, uses such as stockpiles of recourses for wartime needs would not be considered waste, and such needs should be taken into account.

Abuse is intentionally wrongful use of military resources. It also includes misuse of rank, position or authority resulting in loss or misuse of military resources.

When related to personnel, authoritative abuse is also defined by wrongful use of power to hinder rights of any person or person gain of the wrongful authority.

When any incident of fraud, waste or abuse is noticed, an appropriate person of authority should be officially notified. It should be handled at the lowest level possible in the chain of command, but other

channels are also open for such grievances, such as the Inspector General's office or a higher person in the chain of command.

The IG system should be used when notifying the chain of command could result in reprisal or the chain of command is the party involved. However, the lower in level the issue is taken to, the quicker the issue can be addressed as they are usually more familiar with the situation.

If these methods are not practical, the Department of Defense has a 24-hour hotline specifically for these kinds of issues: The Defense Hotline

By phone: 800-424-9098

By email: hotline@dodig.osd.mil

By mail:

Defense Hotline, The Pentagon,
Washington, DC 20301-1900.

In all cases, the identity of the writer or caller is fully protected.

Information provided by Joint Task Force Inspector General's office

Trooper is young poet's muse

The fourth-grade daughter of a Joint Task Force Trooper had an original poem published in a recent issue of "On The Move," a publication of the Military Child Education Coalition.

The issue was titled "Artistic Expressions – The Military through the Eyes of Their Children." According to Denise Montana-Graham, retail and logistics manager for MCEC, hundreds of students contributed submissions for the issue.

The poem by Amanda is titled "Little Trooper."

*I'm mad, I'm sad, I'm upset, I'm angry
I don't want you to go, but I'm your little Trooper!*

*I don't want you to go
but if you have to – I'll try to understand
I'm proud, I'll be your little Trooper
I'll do what I can. Now listen to me.*

I'll have a tough time, but yours will be tougher.

*You might miss my birthday, or the tooth fairy.
And now I ask you, what are you going to be doing?
You can't tell me?*

*Sorry that I may be mad, I may be upset and angry.
But I love you and I am proud of you
and I know you love me too.*

*I'll try to be good, I'll try to be happy
Even though I'll be sad, I'll be your little Trooper.*

*I'll miss your good nights and hugs
I'll miss you altogether ...
I'll miss your kisses and happiness
These are my feelings, I know you feel the same.*

*We won't want anything to change
But this is your job, and we all understand,
I'll be your little Trooper the best I can.*

*I'll have my feelings,
I'll smile when you're gone, but I'll smile
even bigger when you come home.*

*My life will be better then.
We will make new memories and not forget the old.*

*You are my hero!
I can see the smile on your face already when you read this.*

I'm planning our welcome home get-together now.

For more information about the MCEC, visit the website www.MilitaryChild.org

Boots on the Ground

by Army Staff Sgt. Gretel Sharpee

What did you do while we were at Condition of Readiness One for Hurricane Ike?

**Navy Petty Officer 3rd
Class Jason Lail**



"Watched about five movies on the AFN movie channel."

Army Spc. Lionel Bonilla



"I was in my room watching movies and watching the roller for updates."

Seaman Glenn Rians



"Played Rummy and ate MREs."

Army Staff Sgt. Dennis Rodriguez



"Brought support with my section to the Troopers in the JDG S4."

Teach us to number our days

**Navy Lt. Cmdr.
Clint Pickett**

JTF Command Chaplain

Guantanamo Bay is a place where there is more than a little interest in time! When people here meet for the first time, often you hear questions like, “How long have you been here?” or “How much longer do you have left?” And people like to talk about time. Who here has not heard the movie “Groundhog Day” mentioned in conversations here? I love that movie! As I have been in different workspaces, I have noticed some people keeping a tally of their days here inside their covers.

So how long have I been here? By the time you read this article, I will have been at Guantanamo Bay for just a bit over 100,000 minutes. No, I have not been counting! Shortly after I got here, someone e-mailed a deployment calendar that keeps track of the weeks, days, hours, minutes, and even seconds of the deployment. So that is how I know I have about 440,000 minutes until I

leave Gitmo. And no, I don’t check it every day!

Time. Psalm 90 – one of my favorite psalms in the Bible – talks about time, and happens to be one of the oldest psalms in the Bible. Listen to verse 12: “Teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.” As I look at the 100,000 minutes, does that help me get a heart of wisdom?

Maybe not! So how do we number our days? To me, the psalmist calls us to count our days, live our days, and learn from our days. Life isn’t a seemingly endless succession of days, each one like the day before. Our minutes and even hours go by far too quickly to really keep track of them.

But days we can begin to appreciate, ponder, and remember. “Teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.” This psalm bids us consider the limitations of life. But it also encourages us to grasp the wonders and blessings of life. Wisdom is seeing things in life as they really are, seeing reality for what it is. Wisdom is learning that I am not the center

of my world. Wisdom is appreciating how blessed we are each day, even in the tough times.

This Sunday is a special day in my life, which is why I happen to be thinking a lot about time this week! This Sunday is my wedding anniversary. Twenty-three years ago, my wife and I were married. And every year at this time, our anniversary gives me the opportunity to look back over the last year.

Hopefully, anniversaries are not like “Groundhog Day!” My anniversary is a special day to celebrate, to be thankful for another year with my spouse. I can look forward to the coming year, and commit to treasure the time, to learn from my days, to act in them, to make a positive difference in my life and in my relationship.

Each day, I have a choice. “Teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.” Life doesn’t have to be just another Groundhog Day. May we live each day to the fullest, appreciating our relationships with each other, and with our God! ☆

JTF CHAPEL SCHEDULED PROGRAMS

Catholic Mass

Sunday: 7 a.m. Confession

7:30 Mass

Wednesday: 11 a.m. Spanish Mass

Protestant Worship

Sunday: 9 a.m.

Spanish Protestant Worship

Sunday: Noon

Keeping the Hutia population healthy

**Army Sgt. 1st Class
Vaughn R. Larson**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

He's not quite the Pied Piper of Hamelin, but Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Cory Becherer still plays an important role in the quality of life here.

Becherer, a Master at Arms and senior non-commissioned officer in the Camp America commandant's office, volunteers up to 15 hours each week helping Bremcor's environmental control office with Hutia population control and monitoring.

"I like the outdoors," he explained. "A lot of people complain about banana rats, so I thought I'd take it upon myself to help."

Becherer is part of a team led by Bremcor's Mark Massa that scours the naval station, from the fence lines to housing areas and beach access roads, in search of Hutia colonies that have grown large enough to damage the habitat. Hutia can strip trees of leaves and damage undergrowth, Becherer explained.

"That's why you see all those trees that are dying," he said, and why dirt washes onto roads after a rain.

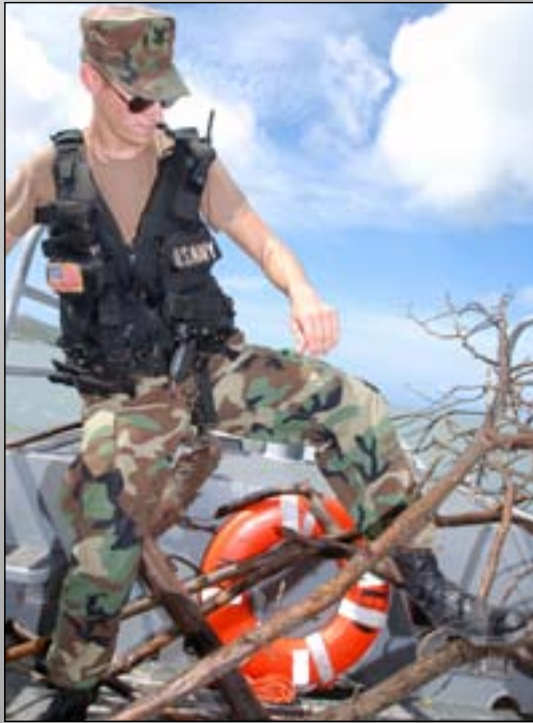
When overpopulated Hutia colonies are identified, the population control team uses pellet guns or .22 caliber weapons to reduce the colony. The team coordinates with base security, informing the Masters at Arms of where they will be, who is participating, and what weapons are being used.

Becherer has volunteered for this duty since January, and in that time has learned how Hutias live and breed, and their life expectancy. He said he has seen an improvement in the Hutia population until recently, when the team took a break.

"I'm starting to see a lot of Hutias around," he acknowledged. "[It's time to] start up again."



Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Cory Becherer, shown here after receiving the Joint Service Accommodation Medal and the Global War on Terror Expeditionary Medal at the Joint Task Force Headquarters last November. – Wire file photo



Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Adam Booth, Master-at-Arms for U.S. Naval Security Force Harbor Defense, breaks apart debris collected out of Guantanamo Bay during the clean up after Hurricane Ike. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Erica Isaacson

Air Force Staff Sgt. Wilmer Rodriguez, a Joint Task Force Trooper working in the logistics office, takes the temperature of detainee food to be served. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Erica Isaacson



A Guantanamo Bay resident spends his afternoon playing Frisbee Golf before Hurricane Ike was expected to hit the base. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Megan Burnham

Around the

JTF



Not even Hurricane Ike can keep this Bay Hill resident from grabbing a breath of fresh air Monday morning, Sept. 8. An umbrella provides some level of cover during a break in the heavy winds and rain. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. 1st Class Vaughn Larson