

# THE WIRE

A JTF Journal



**DRMO**  
Managing JTF assets  
**Hurricane preparedness**  
Are you ready?

# Through the chow line

**Air Force Master Sgt.**

**John Asselin**

Senior Enlisted Leader Public Affairs Office

An Air Force Chief Master Sergeant told me something years ago that may not have made much sense to me as a young Airman, but has helped me immensely in my leadership positions. He said, "Airmen go through the chow line first."

It doesn't just mean let your young troops go in front at the chow line; it means take care of your young Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Airmen.

Too often I've heard people say their troops are dumb and lazy and they can't seem to learn the tasks. If that's the case, it's usually our fault as leaders. Some people in your unit are going to be superstars, some are going to catch on a little slower and some are going to need a little more motivation to get rolling. It's our job to find out what motivates them and use it to get them to perform at a higher level. Everybody wants to do a good job; they just need direction. We are teachers, we are advisors and we are mentors. The performance of your troops is often a reflection of your leadership. If you don't take good care of your troops, they will rarely take good care of the mission.

Some of the older leaders may remember the "Golden Apples." A "Golden Apple" could be interesting or prestigious duty, temporary duty to a great location, or recognition from the commander. "Golden Apples" weren't just thank you for doing a good job; they were motivators for us to perform at a higher level. "Golden Apples" aren't distributed as much today as they used to be. People seem to be too busy with their daily operations to give proper recognition to their troops. When this happens, we all need to step back and realize that our troops are part of our daily operations and we need to take care of them as well. Recognition doesn't require a quarterly award package; recognition can be a letter from the commander or senior enlisted person. Recognition can be as simple as thanking someone for their hard work.

Take a look at your young troops. They are technologically more advanced than us older folks – use that to the advantage of the mission. It's difficult to say they aren't dedicated – they all joined the military during war time. They all have a fresh set of eyes on what we do to accomplish the mission and ideas to do things better; you don't improve without change.

Get to know your troops, take care of them and remember: your young troops go through the chow line first. ★



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### **COVER:**

**Army Sgt. Melinda Gibson, J6 warehouse NCOIC, and Rene De Vera, warehouse man, record asset numbers for equipment scheduled for turn-in to the Defense Reutilization Marketing Office, Sept. 21.** - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Juanita Philip

### **BACK COVER:**

**Runners make their way along part of the Cuban/American fence line, Sept. 17.** - JTF Guantanamo photo by Air Force Tech Sgt. Michael R. Holzworth

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

# ARE YOU

# HURRICANE READY?

**Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd  
Wesley Kreiss**  
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Every year most Caribbean Islands are battered and soaked by the wind and water forced upon them during hurricane season. While those at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba are fortunate enough to have natural barriers surrounding the bay, which protect them from the brunt of most storms, Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers, and everyone stationed at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, should be prepared in case the worst should occur.

According to studies by the Naval Research Laboratory, the geographic location of the Guantanamo Bay area and surrounding terrain give the area some protection from both high winds and stormy seas, but this protection is limited.

It is the responsibility of all Troopers to be prepared for disasters. Familiarization with base policy and procedures is key for this preparation.

JTF Troopers should also identify the Unit Warden and Mayor of their housing area. Unit Wardens will be a senior unit representative, in a given area, responsible for keeping unit accountability in the housing area and report that number to the Mayor.

While it has been many years since a hurricane has caused significant damage to base infrastructure, residents should not delude themselves with the belief that the base is invincible. All it takes is one storm with the right set of conditions to break the streak. Not being properly prepared can be deadly.

“We are not likely to be hit since geography works in our favor, but it is still very necessary to prepare,” said 1st Lt. John Langer, a Plans Officer in J-3.

Naval Station Guantanamo Bay Instruction 3440.4, which is updated annually, is the base’s destructive weather plan. It outlines procedures and measures to be followed to reduce the effects of destructive weather impacting the base. Five Conditions of Readiness (COR) exist for various stages of weather: COR 5 – Winds of 50 knots or greater are expected within 96 hours. COR 4 – Winds of 50 knots or greater are expected within 72 hours. COR 3 – Winds of 50 knots or greater are expected within 48 hours. COR 2 – Winds of 50 knots or greater are expected within 24 hours. COR 1 – Winds of 50 knots or greater are expected within 12 hours.

To notify its residents, NAVSTA has a siren warning system. The siren system is tested each Wednesday at noon to ensure the equipment is functioning. During destructive or threatening weather, sirens will notify the base of changes to CORs. JTF-GTMO will prepare and execute based on NAVSTA’s established CORs.

The base remains at COR 5 during hurricane season, which runs from July through November. Peak season is August through September. Troopers need to know where their designated destructive weather shelter is and have a supply kit on hand with enough food, water and essential items for 3-5 days. They also need to make sure they have enough fuel in their vehicles in the event fuel stations close.

The first step in hurricane preparedness is to fill your hurricane basket ahead of

time and know personnel accountability procedures, according to Langer. Gathering those necessary items before you need them and becoming familiar with your responsibilities can offer some peace of mind.

At COR 1, all classified material will be stored and kept out of flood areas, and all galleys and fuel stations will close. All non-essential telephone and cellular phone usage will cease, and all personnel who live in non-hurricane resistant quarters will be directed to report to their assigned hurricane shelters when sirens are sounded. Once there, they will remain inside until the “all clear” signal is given.

Army Capt. Josephine Hector-Murphy, JTF Headquarters, Headquarters, company commander, and a U.S. Virgin Islands resident, is no stranger to preparing for hurricanes.

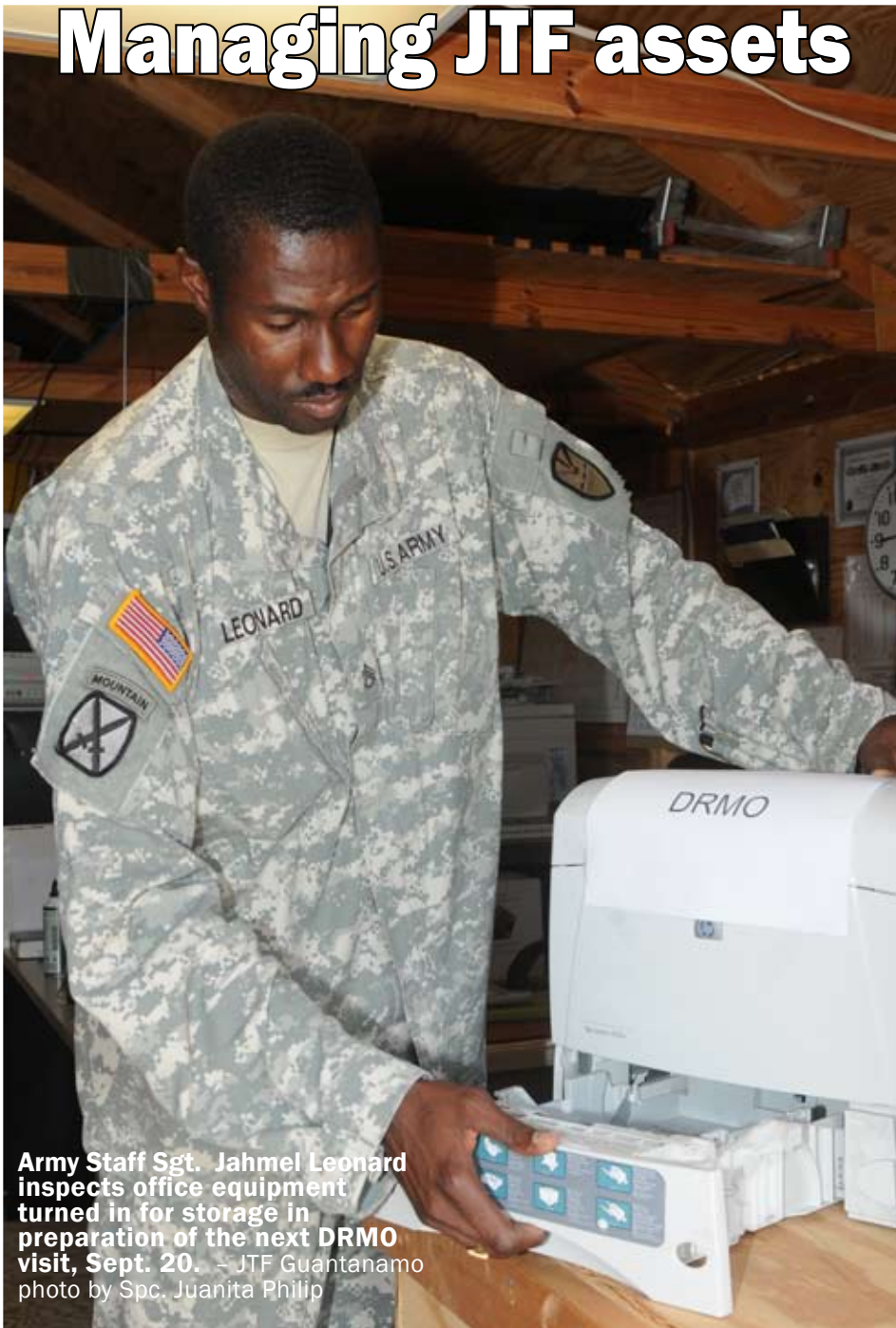
“I make sure I have one month’s supply of dry goods and water,” said Hector-Murphy. She added that even as a seasoned hurricane veteran, one can never be too prepared. “When a hurricane happens, it’s a rude awakening!”

Non-hurricane resistant housing areas include: Paola Point, Deer Point, Marine Site, Camp America, Bay Hill, Tierra Key and Cuzco Barracks. Troopers in these housing areas should check with their chain of command to determine which emergency shelter they are assigned to.

Destructive weather poses a significant threat to personnel, ships, aircraft, installations and other resources. Adequate and timely weather warnings, coupled with prompt and effective action will minimize loss of life and property damage. ★



# Managing JTF assets



**Army Staff Sgt. Jahmel Leonard inspects office equipment turned in for storage in preparation of the next DRMO visit, Sept. 20.** – JTF Guantanamo photo by Spc. Juanita Philip

**Army Spc.  
Juanita Philip**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office opened its doors to the organizations at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay during the week of Sept. 13th - 17th.

DRMO representatives were on island and the DRMO office, which is not located within Joint Task Force Guantanamo, was open for equipment turn-in. About every three months, DRMO visits the island so that organizations have the opportunity to use their service.

Many JTF-GTMO directorates conducted inventories in preparation of DRMO's visit.

Army Staff Sgt. Jahmel R. Leonard, the JTF Headquarters and Headquarters Company supply sergeant, was very busy coordinating the turn-in process of the various sections for which he acts as a supply sergeant.

Prior to DRMO arriving on island, many of the sections were busy making sure that all the equipment to be turned in was in a ready state for DRMO.

"Every time DRMO is on island I have a lot of equipment to turn in," said Leonard. Leonard holds hand receipts of supplies for many of the JTF directorates, from the J-1 (personnel) section to the JTF motor pool.

Another section that has a lot of work to do prior to a DRMO visit is the J-6 section. Army Sgt. Melinda Gibson, the J-6

supply non-commissioned officer-in-charge and warehouse manager, conducted an inventory of the J-6 section and gathered equipment for turn-in.

The J-6 section had a considerable amount of equipment for turn-in, according to Gibson. "I collected more than 120 computers, monitors and other J-6 assets for turn-in," she said.

Prior to the DRMO turn-in, the property book officers of the various JTF sections reviewed their lists and conducted inventories to ascertain what needed to be kept on island and what was to be turned in.

"For weeks before the turn-in, equipment was inventoried for all the sections that I serve as a supply sergeant for," Leonard said. "If a section had no need for any particular item on their hand receipt, I removed the item from their charge and turned it over to another section that had a need for it. If it is not needed anymore, then I keep it in storage until DRMO arrives so I can turn it in."

During this DRMO visit, Leonard estimated that he turned in about 50 pieces of equipment, to include shredders, TV's, VCR's, converters, keyboards, cameras and their accessories, and other office equipment.

Some items were not able to be turned during this visit because they were not serviced by the appropriate sections. "I have several central processing units, laptops and an external drive that were not turned in due to the hard drives not being removed or formatted by the J-6 section," Leonard said.

In order to have the hard drives removed or formatted, an Information Technology Request has to be submitted to the J-6 helpdesk.

"I also have several air conditioning units that were not turned in. They needed to be drained by BREMCOR technicians before they were turned in and shipped off," Leonard added.

Leonard offered a helpful tip to ease the sometimes hectic process of inventory and turn-in. "Conducting inventories and holding equipment for turn-in is an ongoing process for me, but the property book officer has to have their paperwork in order prior to DRMO arriving on island."

Gibson also gave helpful hints from the J-6 perspective.

"It is important when DRMO is on ground that you turn in the old assets," Gibson said. "Lots of times, they [items] are out of warranty and have been removed from the J-6 network.

Furthermore, when [information technology] assets are to be turned in they must be cleared by the helpdesk for removal of hard drives and a determination of reissue or DRMO."

Now that the DRMO turn-in has been conducted, both Gibson and Leonard are back to their daily tasks of managing their assets, purchasing items for their JTF sections and updating sub-hand receipt holder documents with any gains or losses of property – until it is time for the next turn-in. ♡

# PREDATORS

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

The best part about “Predators” is the “Machete” preview that played before the movie wasted the next two hours of my life. Seriously, Adrien Brody won an Academy Award for his amazing portrayal of Wladyslaw Szpilman in “The Pianist” and now he is starring, and I use that word lightly, in a movie that is a very poor adaptation of Richard Connell’s “The Most Dangerous Game.”

The movie opens up with Royce (Brody) falling from the sky with a parachute that does not want to open. I won’t lie, it is an awesome way to open a movie – sadly, the rest of the movie does not live up to the expectations set by the first five minutes.

Royce’s chute finally opens and he lands in an unfamiliar jungle. He soon finds out he is not the only one who crashed into the jungle with no knowledge of how he got there. There are seven other people: smoking government agent Isabelle (Alice Braga), death row inmate Stans (Walton Goggins), Russian soldier Nikolai (Oleg Taktarov), Mexican thug Cuchillo (Danny Trejo), Yakuza thug Hanzo (Louis Ozawa Changchien), Sierra Leone soldier Mombasa (Mahershalalhashbaz Ali), and Dr. Edwin (Topher Grace).

After trekking around the jungle for a bit, the group finds out they are being

hunted by alien creatures. They spend the next hour and a half running from the creatures, with members of the group getting picked off along the way. I know at this point there is not an original plot left in Hollywood, but with the millions of dollars that went into this movie, you would like to think they would at least attempt to make the movie slightly interesting and not overly predictable and boring – well you can think that all you want, but you would be horribly wrong.

During all this running around, the crew shoots approximately a million bullets – OK, perhaps that is exaggerating a bit, but it is close. This hailstorm of bullets does little in slowing down anything, but at some point one of the crew takes down a Predator with a few slashes of a sword during a very boring fight scene. Which is depressing, because a sword fight between a human and an alien has the potential to be awesome. While everyone expects things that current science says is not possible to happen in sci-fi movies, this movie was full of very basic things that just made no sense.

There is nothing creative about this movie. The characters are boring, the story is boring and the cinematography is boring. While the characters are meant to be military and criminal geniuses, the tactics they employ are less effective than something a person would use playing a game on their Playstation or X-Box. ☆

R

107 minutes

Rating:



# 786th CSSB Equipment Movement



An Army C-23 Sherpa landed at Guantanamo Bay to receive the 786th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion's equipment, Sept. 20. The 786th will soon be departing after a one-year tour of manning Joint Task Force Guantanamo's Headquarters, Headquarters Command.

JTF Guantanamo photos by  
Army Spc. Juanita Philip



# Camp Delta FLAG PROGRAM

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

There are many quirks that come with being in the military. Some things are inherently military, whether it is the service member slamming his coin on the bar in challenge, standing up at the movie theater while the National Anthem plays, or showing off a shadow box filled with medals and various military paraphernalia. Usually the centerpiece of a shadow box is a flag, flown somewhere special to the service member.

At Guantanamo Bay, the Camp Delta Flag Program run by the Joint Detention Group offers this service. Flags flown at Joint Task Force Guantanamo for this program have the distinction of being flown over the detention facilities.

According to Army Master Sgt. Glen DeCecco, it feels good to have a keepsake to document his time at JTF Guantanamo.

“This is an outstanding program,” DeCecco said. “It gives any individual, regardless of rank, the access and ability to fly an American flag over a facility that is part of world history.”

The process to have a flag flown is simple. All a person has to do is go to the JDG Headquarters building with either a 3x5 or 4x6 flag, fill out a request form and give it to the executive assistant. JDG escorts will fly the flag the night of the date requested and the commander and senior enlisted leader of the JDG will sign a

certificate of authenticity. JDG Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Porrett said they have never had to turn down a request.

“Each flag is flown for nine minutes and 11 seconds,” Porrett said. “That is a lot of time slots to fly flags. Even on our busiest days – 9-11, 4th of July, Veterans Day – we are able to honor all requests.”

Making sure those requests are fulfilled is a team effort. DeCecco was full of praise for those involved in the program.

“The current JDG EA (executive assistant) does a fantastic job ensuring your request is completed,” DeCecco said. “It is recommended that you submit your request three days prior to the actual date you want it to be flown. It then takes approximately two days to receive your certificate and folded flag.”

The time between when the flag is flown and when the requestor receives his or her flag can vary depending on how many requests the JDG has received at any given time.

It’s not just Troopers and civilians stationed at JTF Guantanamo who request flags. Porrett said they have received requests from many organizations back in the States.

“We’ve gotten requests from schools, Senators, VA groups and survivors of the World Trade Center, to name a few,” Porrett said. “On average, we probably do around eight flags a day.”

Porrett also wants to ensure everyone knows that they can submit a request, whether they are JTF Troopers, civilians, Naval Station Guantanamo Bay service members or civilians. To receive more information on the Camp Delta Flag Program, call the JDG Executive Assistant at 3900. ★

# National Hispanic Heritage Month

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

The United States Armed Services have come a long way since the Army was first formed on June 14, 1775. Not only has America's military advanced technologically in the last 200-plus years, it has also advanced socially. Today, men and women from a melting pot of races, creeds and nationalities make up the fighting forces that defend this nation. Throughout the year, the military recognizes how each has played their part in its history. This month begins Hispanic Heritage Month.

This year's Hispanic Heritage Month theme is "Heritage, Diversity, Integrity and Honor: The Renewed Hope of America."

People of Hispanic heritage are some of those who have contributed a great deal to making America the military power it is today. In recognition of their efforts, President Lyndon Johnson approved Hispanic Heritage Week in 1968. Twenty years later, President Ronald Reagan expanded the observance to cover Sept. 15 through Oct. 15.

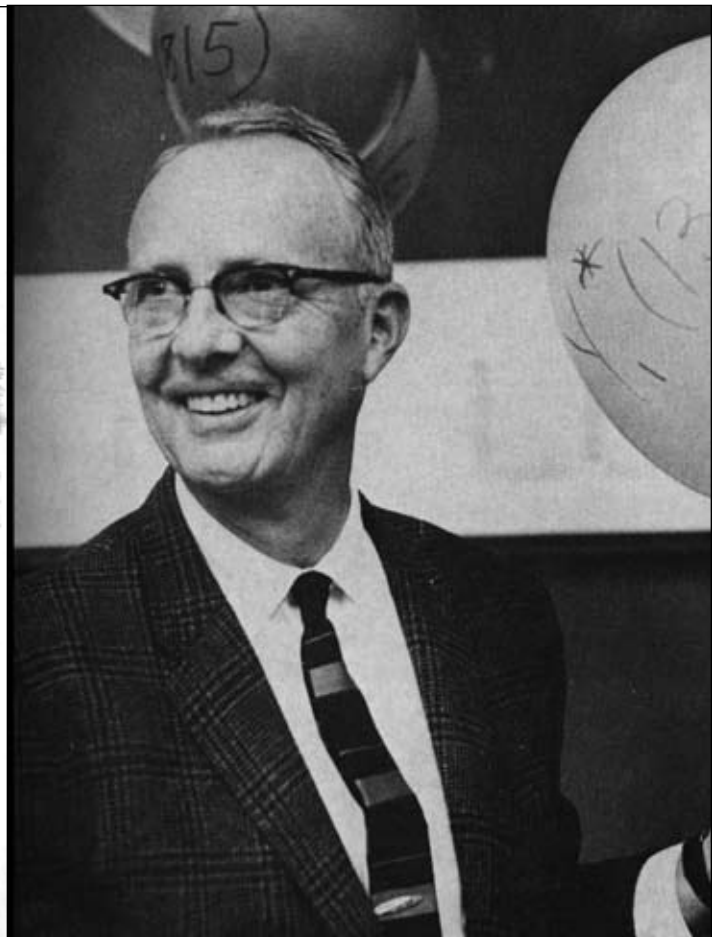
Joseph Marion Hernandez was perhaps one of the first Hispanic-Americans to make a significant impact in American history. In 1793, when Florida broke all ties with Spain to become the Florida Territory, Hernandez switched his allegiance to the United States

and was eventually elected as a Delegate to the Seventeenth Congress in September 1822.

The mid-1900s saw Hispanic-Americans taking charge in the fields of science and medicine. In 1959, Severo Ochoa was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for the synthesis of ribonucleic acid (RNA). Just under a decade later, Luis Walter Alvarez became the first Hispanic-American to receive the Nobel Prize in Physics for his discoveries involving subatomic particles. Alvarez, after receiving a personal offer from Robert Oppenheimer, eventually came to be one of the scientists involved with the Manhattan Project, the project conducted to develop the atomic bomb.

Around the time Alvarez was working on the atomic bomb, Horacio Rivero Jr. was serving aboard USS San Juan (CL-54) as a gunnery officer. Rivero helped provide artillery cover for Marines during the landings of Guadalcanal, Marshall Islands, Iwo Jima and Okinawa. He was awarded the Bronze Star with Combat "V" for his service. Rivero would continue to serve his country during the Korean War, Cuban Missile Crisis and the Vietnam War. On July 31, 1964, he became the first Hispanic-American four-star Admiral in the modern Navy.

In everything from politics, to science, to war, Hispanic-Americans have contributed to the very foundation of what the United States is today. ★



**Joseph Marion Hernandez (left), first Hispanic-American elected to Congress and Luis Walter Alvarez (right), first Hispanic-American to receive the Nobel Prize in Physics.**





## Puerto Rico transitions into JTF-GTMO

Army 1st Sgt. Melvin Torres-Colon secures the Puerto Rican flag while soldiers from Rhode Island's 115th Military Police Company and Puerto Rico's B Co., 1/296th Infantry Regiment look on. The ceremony symbolized the transition of authority from the Rhode Island unit to the Puerto Rican unit, Sept. 20. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Joshua Nistas

## Boots on the Ground

by Army Spc. Juanita Philip

With the "don't ask, don't tell" vote going before the U.S. Senate, how do you feel about the policy?

**Air Force Capt.  
Renee Rivera**



"It wasn't a problem before, so why are we creating one now?"

**Army Sgt. 1st Class  
David Peltier**



"The focus needs to be on getting the nation straightened out, not putting so much effort into 'don't ask, don't tell.'"

**Coast Guard Chief  
Boatswain's Mate  
David Houg**



"What does it matter if the person is gay or straight? As long as you can save my life when I need you."

**Navy Seaman  
Michael Vanfossen**



"It doesn't matter as long as you're supporting your country and doing your job."



**Air Force Major  
Kenneth Brown**

JTF Guantanamo Deputy Command Chaplain

Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you – Matthew 6:33.

No era in human history has seen such a proliferation of information as this present generation. Our technologically oriented society prizes the accumulation and processing of information as one of the most important skills for being productive. According to this mode of thinking, self-worth and personal value are determined by our level of production. It then follows that our value is determined by how well we assimilate information. But such thinking is guilty of many flaws.

First of all, the Biblical idea of the worth of a person is not based upon any level of economic performance, but is rooted in the fact that each person is a creation of God, and all that God has created is good. Second, there is a failure to distinguish between information and knowledge. Information is confined to the mind. It never reaches the heart. Knowledge is when the thoughts in our mind impact our heart and soul. Without a Christ-centered view of the world, the information revolution results in misplaced priorities.

C.S. Lewis writes, “You can’t get second things by putting them first. You can get second things only by putting first things first from which it would follow that the question, ‘What things are

first?’ is of concern to everyone.”

Lewis did not write this in a vacuum. He wrote this in June 1942, during some of the most uncertain times in modern history. War, death and tragedy tend to remind us that life is fragile and that one day we must all encounter death.

We narrow the focus of life to those priorities which are most important. This raises the questions “What are the first things of life?” and “What are the second things of life?” The words of Jesus cause us to focus on exactly this. We spend so much time attempting to satisfy our desire for the second things of life we fail to get the first things right. Not only that, if we don’t get the first things right, we can never get the second things right, no matter how much effort we may exert in attempting to do so.

It is important that we remind ourselves of just what the first things in life are. Jesus tells us that when we spend so much time on material matters we have misplaced our priorities. Once we seek the kingdom values which God desires us to have and place them in their proper place, the remaining matters will take care of themselves. We somehow fall into the trap of believing that unless we can make our faith acceptable to a world system, which rejects our beliefs and ideas, that our faith is incomplete. The truth is that God’s priorities are sufficient whether they fit society’s ideas or not. And what are these first things? Deuteronomy 6:5 says, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”

May we pray daily that God would enable us to put first things first and keep our priority on Him. ★

## GTMO Religious Services

### Daily Catholic Mass

Mon. - Fri. 5:30 p.m.  
Main Chapel  
**Vigil Mass**  
Saturday 5 p.m.  
Main Chapel  
**Mass**  
Sunday 9 a.m.  
Main Chapel  
**Catholic Mass**  
Saturday 7:30 p.m.  
Troopers' Chapel  
Sunday 7:30 a.m.  
Troopers' Chapel

### Protestant Worship

Sunday 9 a.m.  
Troopers' Chapel  
**Islamic Service**  
Friday 1:15 p.m.  
Room C  
**Jewish Service**  
FMI call 2628  
**LORIMI Gospel**  
Sunday 8 a.m.  
Room D  
**Church of Christ**  
Sunday 10 a.m.  
Chapel Annex  
Room 17

### Seventh Day Adventist

Saturday 11 a.m.  
Room B  
**Iglesia Ni Cristo**  
Sunday 5:30 a.m.  
Room A  
**Pentecostal Gospel**  
Sunday 8 a.m.  
Room D  
**LDS Service**  
Sunday 10 a.m.  
Room A

### Liturgical Service

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

### GTMO Bay Christian Fellowship

Sunday 6 p.m.  
Main Chapel  
**Bible Study**  
Wednesday 7 p.m.  
Troopers' Chapel  
**The Truth Project**  
Bible study  
Sunday 6 p.m.  
Troopers' Chapel

# Around the JTF

**Joint Detention Group engineers receive backhoe equipment operation training, Sept. 16.** – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Wesley Kreiss



**(Right) A runner makes his way along part of the Cuban/American fenceline during a Marine Security Forces Company sponsored moonlight run, Sept. 17.** – JTF Guantanamo photo by Air Force Tech Sgt. Michael R. Holzworth



**(Top) A Soldier stands watch over a cell block occupied by detainees, Sept. 15.** – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Joshua R. Nistas