

THE WIRE

Journal



PSU 305 Return
Here and Back Again

474th ECES Work Control
Supporting the Infrastructure

Don't wait for the new year

**Navy Command Master Chief
Brad LeVault**
JTF Guantanamo NCOIC

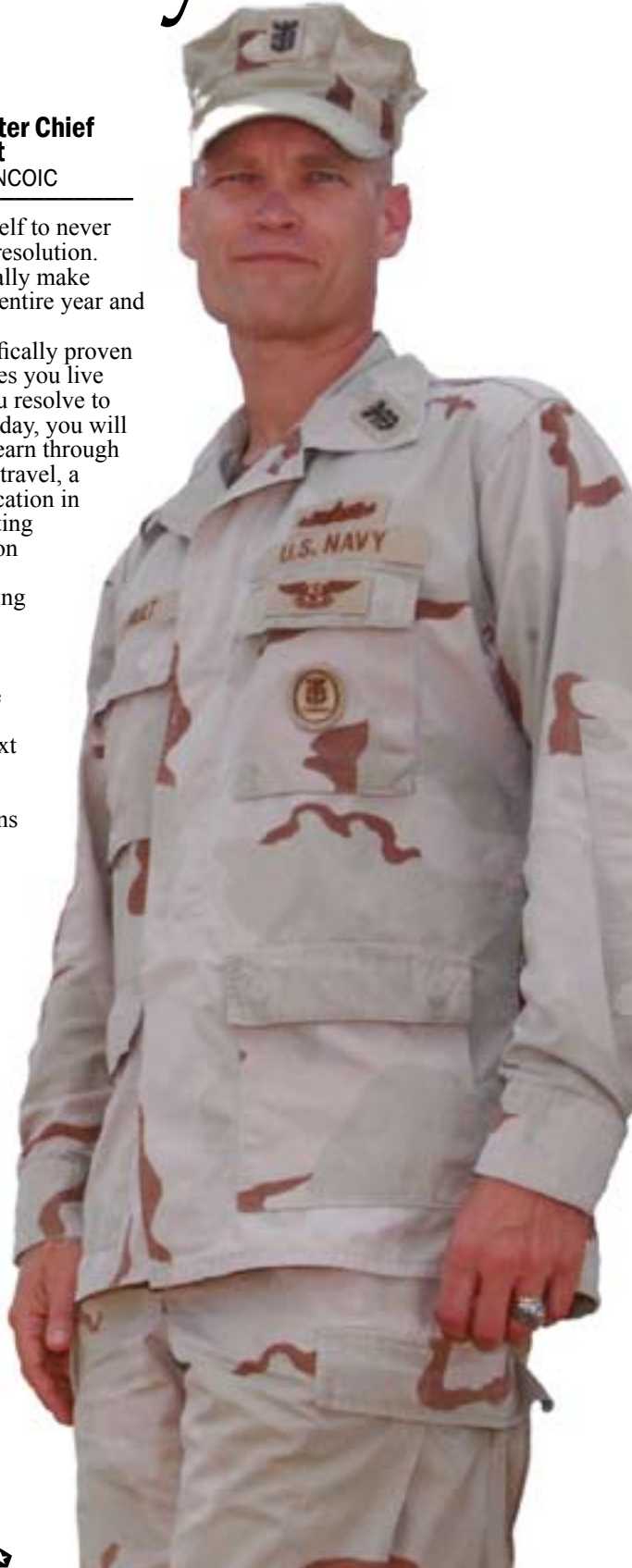
This year, resolve yourself to never make another New Year's resolution. Instead, resolve to continually make resolutions throughout the entire year and throughout your entire life.

First, it has been scientifically proven that life-long learning makes you live longer. That is to say, if you resolve to learn something new everyday, you will extend your life. You can learn through reading, courses, research, travel, a new job or a higher qualification in your current one, participating in a new sport, improving on a current physical activity, public speaking, volunteering at different places, writing, taking on new hobbies and any of a dozen more examples. All will improve your self-worth and give you a reason to start the next resolution.

Secondly, if you continually make resolutions you will accomplish more and become better at everything you do. With each success your confidence builds and you mature mentally and even physically depending on the task completed.

Don't wait until one goal is complete to start a new resolution. Be in the next one as you finish the previous. You will set a good example for your family, friends and co-workers. They will see you accomplish goals and how each one is a step to the next and it will inspire them to do the same.

Waiting to start a resolution until the New Year comes is never a good practice. You are only training yourself to procrastinate. Don't make New Year's Resolutions. 🎯



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COVER:

Singer Steve Harwell and bassist Paul De Lisle of the rock band Smash Mouth croon together during their show at the Downtown Lyceum with a full-house crowd Tuesday, Jan. 6. While on island, Smash Mouth visited both the Naval Station and Joint Task Force Guantanamo facilities. - Photo by Army Spc. Eric Liesse



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.

Here and back again



Members of Port Security Unit 305 (left) stand prepared to relieve PSU 307 of their responsibilities at the transfer of authority ceremony held at the lighthouse here, Dec. 4, 2008. - Photo by Army Pfc. Carlynn M. Knaak

Army Spc. Megan Burnham

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The mission to maintain security both on the water and on land continues as the Port Security Unit 305 from Ft. Eustis, Va., returns to Guantanamo Bay.

This is the unit's third deployment to Guantanamo Bay, where many are returning for a second time and one person is returning for his third deployment. For some, this will be their first deployment.

"I look forward to coming here and working with the Joint Task Force," said Coast Guard Command Master Chief Wayne Miesen. "We had about 20 people that were here in 2005 so we had a lot of previous experience coming back. We knew the area of operations and the basic layout of Guantanamo Bay."

Both divisions of PSU 305, waterborne and shoreside, are continuing their roles in the JTF mission to patrol the bay and escort vessels while also providing internal security during commissions at the Expeditionary Legal Complex.

"It was a little difficult at first, to work with another entity besides the Coast Guard," said Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Donald Wassler, chief boatswains mate, "but once we learned the ropes and settled in, it's been going great and we've been conducting the commissions like we're supposed to."

Along with the advantage of prior



PSU 305's unit patch was created by the first members of the unit in 1994. The outline of the patch is a shield patterned after the shield found within the U.S. Coast Guard Logo and Ensign. The unit symbol is the dolphin which represents the duality of how the unit is deployed. The racing stripe that traverses the patch is a standard identifier for U.S. Coast Guard vessels, aircraft and shore units.

experience to ensure the mission runs smoothly, the unit was also given new Response Boat Small – Charlie version vessels. These will replace their current transportable port security boats which will be used back in Ft. Eustis for training purposes.

"These are made specifically for the Department of Defense and they don't run on gasoline as the TSPB's do," Wassler said. "They are a little different but they are tailored for our mission. They are still in the operations test and evaluation period

to see if they meet the standard to bring online."

During their third deployment here, PSU 305 will stay busy getting the new boats working as a part of the daily norm while continuing their missions keeping Guantanamo Bay safe and secure.

"We're working closely with JTF and the Naval Station to make sure our operations run smoothly without any problems," Miesen said. "I'm just glad to be back and look forward to our stay here in Guantanamo again." ★



The hub of ECES

Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Tommy Morrow talks with a customer at the work control tent at Camp Justice. Work control manages 474th assets and personnel and processes work requests to support the infrastructure of the camp.

**Army Staff Sgt.
Emily J. Russell**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron work control office serves as the hub of activity for Camp Justice. Whether it's managing personnel or equipment, Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Tommy Morrow and Air Force Master Sgt. Oscar Lewallen, production controllers, have it under control.

"As a civil engineering unit, the main focus is to make sure the work is going on," Morrow said. "We know where our people are, all of our assets, including vehicles and radios. We also help manage readiness and training – we function as an orderly room to some degree."

The work control office manages all the work requests that come in from any organization the 474th supports.

"We schedule all the work for all the shops: electricians, HVAC, structures and heavy equipment," Morrow said. "We maintain tent city plus other facilities."

"We're really not doing what we'd normally do as a CE unit here," Lewallen said. "The tent city is the bare base concept, but typically we'd be supporting an aircraft mission. Working in Guantanamo ... we're doing a different mission supporting commissions, keeping transient [housing] running for all the people who stay here,

and maintain the expeditionary legal complex."

"We maintain all communications for the unit as well," Morrow said. "Radio communication and phone service operation is essential to the mission. We have to know at any given time where everyone is at, so the mission can be carried out."

Work control takes work requests from internal customers, like other 474th Airmen, as well as external customers such as visitors, members of the ELC, Office of Military Commissions and the Troopers working for the commissions support group.

"We maintain approximately 50 [trailers], 100 tents, 20-30 structures in the ELC and 5 structures on the hill," Lewallen said. "There are a lot of facilities that require upkeep."

"My day typically starts before everybody gets here so I have time to get work done before the phone calls start coming in," said Morrow. "All phone calls come in here with requests to get work accomplished."

Work requests vary from climate control issues in tents and fixing environmental control units, to dispatching work crews to tackle construction projects.

"If someone asks us to do something outside of the daily schedule, we do it

with the goal of keeping the extra effort to help others from interfering with what is scheduled," Morrow continued. "[We ask] for people to be patient with us, as we are with them." ✪



Radio communication is essential to work control's mission. Air Force Master Sgt. Oscar Lewallen keeps in contact with members of the 474th.

Camp X-Ray, seven years later

**Army Staff Sgt.
Emily J. Russell**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Camp X-Ray, a historic and controversial facility, was originally built in the late 1980s as a holding area for unruly migrants.

Operation Sea Signal, conducted by Navy and Marine Corps personnel of Joint Task Force (JTF 160), took place from 1994 to 1996, and cared for more than 50,000 Haitian and Cuban migrants seeking asylum in the United States. Camp X-Ray became the holding area for no more than 60 refugees who either had a known criminal history or demonstrated criminal behavior.

In late 2001, in preparation for detention operations the camp was expanded to make it the current size.

January 2002 marked the beginning of detainee operations at Guantanamo Bay when the first 20 detainees were transferred to the island. Camp X-Ray, named phonetically for its grid coordinate, held a total number of about 300 detainees before it closed in April of 2002. Detainees were transferred to the newly built Camp Delta facility, which was more secure and provided better shelter and amenities.

After the closure of Camp X-Ray, only visitors have only been there to tour the facility to see where Joint Task Force Guantanamo began. Since 2002, the camp has sat vacant, and eventually became overgrown with vegetation.

Some of the most iconic photographs associated with Guantanamo were taken at the camp during the early days of detainee operations. These photos, taken and distributed by the Department of Defense, were released at a time when Americans and people around the world needed to know that the United States was doing something in the aftermath of Sept. 11. However, the misconception still exists that Camp X-Ray is in use today. ☆

Untouchables prove name in softball tourney

**Army Spc.
Eric Liesse**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

It is technically winter in Cuba, but that didn't stop players on eight different teams from ringing in 2009's first Saturday with a day of softball.

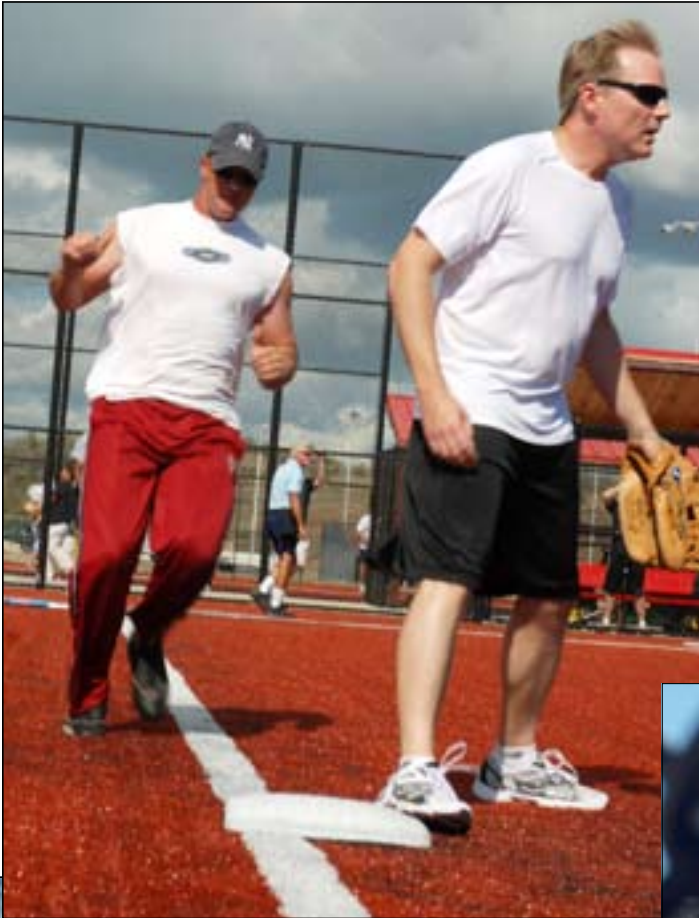
Morale, Welfare and Recreation's New Year's Bash one-pitch softball tournament pitted teams from commands around the base against each other in quick games all day Saturday, Jan. 3, at the Cooper Field Sports Complex.

The eight teams which participated in the tournament were (the) Untouchables, (the) Exhibitionists, (the) Docs, (the) Guardians, a Naval Station Guantanamo team, a 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron "Prime Beef" team, a Marine Fence Line Security Forces team, and a team from the Office of the Administrative Review of the Detention of Enemy Combatants (OARDEC).

At the end of the long day and two brackets, the Untouchables took top honors as the final winners of the tournament, beating the NAVSTA team in the final game.

The one-pitch rule meant that once at bat, each player would be struck out, fouled out, or walked to base with a single pitch, making each game go very quickly.

"Overall, the tournament was a good time for all [the players and coaches], as well as the spectators that came out to catch a few games," said Robert Neuman, MWR's sports director. The tournament also provided players a chance to prepare for the upcoming long-running Winter Open – Recreational softball league, set to begin 6 p.m., Jan. 12, at Cooper Field. ☆



Rude, crude and lewd

Army Spc.
Eric Liesse

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Judd Apatow finally has some competition. With “Role Models,” writer-director David Wain aims to take Apatow’s title of king of smart-and-touching-yet-lewd comedy.

Wain, writer-director of the indie-comedy “Wet Hot American Summer,” paints a classy picture of two energy drink salesmen court-ordered to perform Big Brother-like support to a pair of friendless youngsters. When those peddlers of nuclear runoff are Paul Rudd and Seann William Scott, you’ve got comedy gold.

Rudd and Scott star as Danny and Wheeler, two Los Angeles natives who sell the energy drink Minotaur while visiting schools and pitching anti-drug speeches. Wheeler dresses in the mascot suit – hilarious enough to see this movie – while Danny does the sly talking.

Rudd as Danny carries the movie with an extreme pessimistic and sarcastic attitude, which fits him perfectly for some reason. Think of his character in “Clueless,” but older and more jaded. Scott’s Wheeler is a sex-obsessed alpha-male who’s loyal to friends, but it’s obvious when he opens his mouth why he’s in the suit and Danny does the talking.

On a particularly bad day, Danny realizes he’s 35 years old with nothing accomplished. Plus, his girlfriend Beth (Elizabeth Banks) rejects his marriage proposal and dumps him in one conversation. This prompts a caffeine-fueled self destruction at a high school, ending in several police charges when he realizes his work truck – also fashioned like a minotaur – is being towed.

Thankfully, Beth is an attorney and talks the judge out of a jail sentence.



Instead, Danny and Wheeler are sent to Gayle Sweeney’s (Jane Lynch) child help organization Sturdy Wings. Danny is paired with a nerdy outcast who does live-action role-playing (Christopher Mintz-Plasse, aka “Superbad’s” McLovin’), while Wheeler is set with a womanizing 10-year-old (Bobb’e Thompson) who swears more than he smiles.

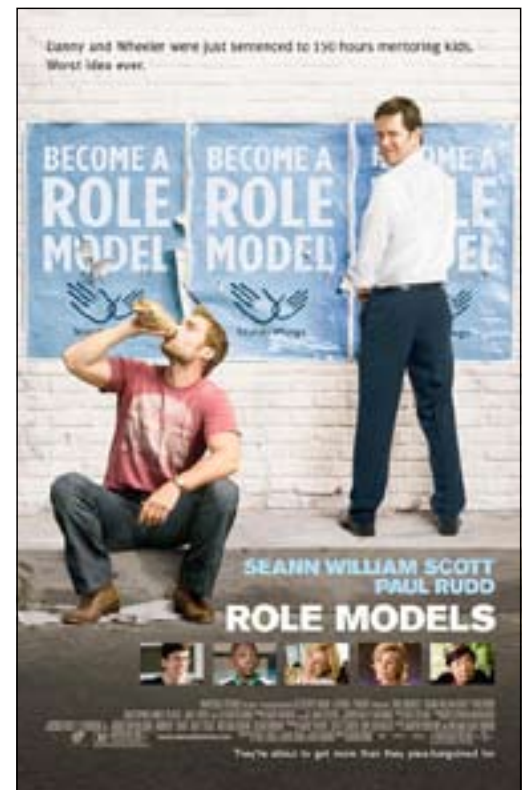
From here on, the youngsters want nothing more than to get Danny and Wheeler off their cases. But since they refuse to go to jail, the big brothers hold firm, even when it means fighting costumed medieval knights with foam swords.

Although the movie pushes its R rating to the extreme, it also has heart. It focuses on the familiar theme of being yourself and not folding to others’ views of “cool.” It introduces Mintz-Plasse’s character as the lame outcast, but soon he is the hero.

“Role Models” is an excellent example of dirty-yet-inspiring comedy, dropping sex jokes in the same scenes as touching “be yourself” speeches. Throw in multiple references to the band KISS, and it’s obvious that this movie does everything right. ☆

R
1 hour, 40 minutes

Rating: ★★★★★☆





Soldiers from the 191st Regional Support Group stand in formation during the transfer of authority ceremony.



191st Guardsmen present arms during the playing of the National Anthem.



Soldiers from the 111st case their unit flag during the ceremony.

New Mexico - Puerto Rico TRANSFER OF AUTHORITY

The 191st Regional Support Group, Puerto Rico National Guard took charge of operations from the 111th Combat Support Battalion, New Mexico National Guard during a Relief-in-Place Transfer of Authority ceremony held in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Jan. 2. The ceremony included speakers from both National Guard Units and from Rear Admiral David Thomas, Joint Task Force Guantanamo Commander.

Which bill is better?

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

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Military members thinking about – or already enrolled in – college may have a decision to make by the time the fall semester draws near.

The Post-9/11 Veterans Education Assistance Act of 2008, also known as the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill or Chapter 33, takes effect Aug. 1 of this year. It does not replace the Montgomery G.I. Bill, also known as Chapter 30, but both education benefits cannot be used at the same time. Members already receiving the Montgomery G.I. Bill can switch to the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill, but they cannot switch back. More importantly, both bills generally provide up to 36 months of assistance, so any time already used under the Montgomery plan will be deducted from the Post-9/11 plan.

So which program is best?

“It’s not one program fits all,” noted Candice Rice, director of the Navy College Office here. She explained that factors such as the state, school and program impact the overall benefits available.

The Post-9/11 Bill, for example, covers tuition based on the highest public university tuition rate in that state. It also includes basic housing allowance at an E-5 rate for the zip code of the college, as well as a yearly \$1,000 stipend for books and supplies. However, unlike the Montgomery Plan, the tuition coverage is paid directly to the college and not the service member. Also, if the state already provides military veterans with free tuition benefits for in-state schools, the Post-9/11 plan would only offer BAH and the stipend.

“You have to crunch your own numbers,” Ernest Houston, a Veterans Administration program coordinator, told service members during one of several briefings this week. “You’ll have

to look at this individually.”

The new G.I. Bill covers graduate and undergraduate degrees, vocational and technical school training offered by an institute for higher learning that has been approved for G.I. Bill benefits, tutorial assistance, as well as licensing and certification testing reimbursement. On-the-job training, apprenticeship, correspondence, flight and preparatory courses might also be covered.

Those who qualify for the Montgomery G.I. Bill or the Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP) are eligible for the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill. Active duty service after Sept. 11, 2001 determines

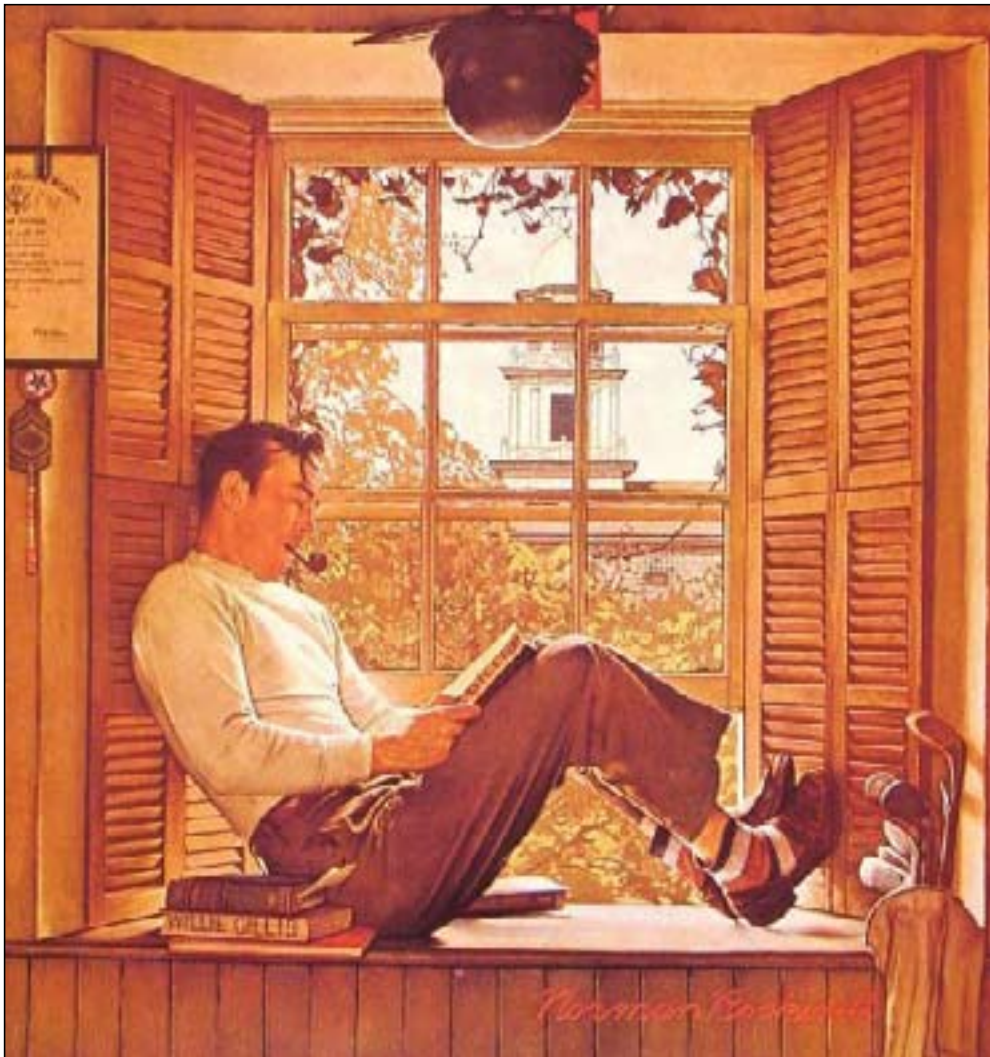
the benefit amount members are eligible for. Individuals who served between 90 and 180 days of active duty, for example, are eligible for 40 percent of total education benefits under the new bill. Those who have served at least 36 months since Sept. 11, 2001 are eligible for 100 percent of benefits. All who qualify are eligible for benefits up to 15 years from the last period of active duty of at least 90 days.

Qualifications for the new G.I. Bill also include honorable discharge, placement on the retired or temporary disabled retired list or transferred to the Fleet Reserve or Fleet Marine Corps Reserve, or discharge due to hardship, condition interfered with

duty (CIWD) or existed prior to service (EPTS).

Other considerations include the \$600 kicker payment made into the Montgomery plan, which is not recoverable if the member transfers to the Post-9/11 plan. Also, if a student loan repayment plan was in force during any of the service member’s post-Sept. 11 active duty time, that time does not count toward the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill eligibility.

Houston cautioned that all the bugs have yet to be worked out of the latest G.I. Bill, and recommends visiting www.gibill.va.gov for more information. 📧



Memory Lane



■ A glimpse of who went before

**Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class
Chris Little**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Inside Camp America on Kittery Beach road, between the gully and the sea huts, is an area known simply as the monument yard. It is where exiting units make their permanent and individual mark on Joint Task Force Guantanamo.

The monuments are passed daily by Troopers and are made up of numerous colors, shapes, and sizes. Every monument offers a tiny glimpse into the past while offering the knowledge of who has shared this historical and unprecedented journey past and present.

“It’s their monument to their service during this very critical, important and historical time period, to leave behind to say, ‘I was here, I served, we served, we were a part of and we are proud of what we did and the legacy that we are leaving behind,’” according to JTF Command Master Chief Bradley LeVault.

The monument yard came to be around September 2004, when then JTF Command Sgt. Maj. Angel Febles consolidated all the existing unit monuments and placed them at their current location. However, when the bridge over the gully was being constructed, the monument yard almost had to be taken down or moved, but it was able to stay without hindering construction.

The ultimate decision on whether or not a Unit will have a monument in the yard is up to the individual Unit’s commander and senior enlisted advisor.

The monuments are to be permanent structures, so they are mainly made of concrete or steel. However, there are no set standards as to how a unit may make their monument, except that it cannot be made using items purchased with appropriated funds.

There have also been rumors circulating that the monument yard will be closed to any new monuments. This has been debunked by LeVault, stating that there is no moratorium on any new monuments at this time. ☆



“It’s their monument ... to say I was here, I served, we served, we are a part of and we are proud of what we did and the legacy we are leaving behind – Command Master Chief
Bradley LeVault



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Finishing up!

Air Force Tech Sgt. Chris Pratt of the 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron grinds and welds a new pair of stair railings on Jan. 8 at Camp Justice to be placed in the Expeditionary Legal Complex. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Chris Little

Boots on the Ground

How did you ring in the New Year?

by Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Chris Little

Army Sgt. Gabriel Cacho



"Got settled into my room, then we had a Paranda - singing and playing instruments."

Army Spc. Joselito Cappa



"Had a cookout and celebrated with the 480th newcomers."

Army Staff Sgt. Kim Dudley



"Went to church and hung out with friends."

Army Spc. Noriel Maldonado



"Watched television and talked to wife and family on the phone."

**Army Capt.
Scott C. Brill**

JTF GTMO Deputy Command Chaplain

Whether deployed or not, raising kids requires Special Forces. Sometimes these special forces come in the form of teachers, classmates, coaches, church leaders, et cetera. Other times these special forces come from above. Take a moment to remember and reflect upon all the times you knew your little ones and loved ones were getting heavenly or earthly help. Isn't it comforting to know that we have help, especially when we are away?

If you will allow me to indulge, I wish to share with you a family story.

My wife was relaxing at home with my six-year-old the other day when she told him, "Elijah, I missed you today while you were at school."

"Mom, I miss you every day when you are at work," he replied. "But that's okay, because when I am at school I can hear your voice in my head."

"What do I say?" she asked.

"You tell me which is my right hand and which is my left."

In the same way, there are all sorts of voices in the world. I can still hear my mother saying, "Remember who you are." Or my best friend's dad: "Never feel sorry for yourself."

Some of the most inspiring messages that light our path are heard years after they are said.

With all the positive messages, there is no shortage of the negative. I hope for all of us that we can always recognize which voice is worth listening to. Remember two things: "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me." (John 10:27), and from grade-school, "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but names can never hurt me."

Happy New
Year, my
friends! ☆

Can
you
hear
me now?

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.

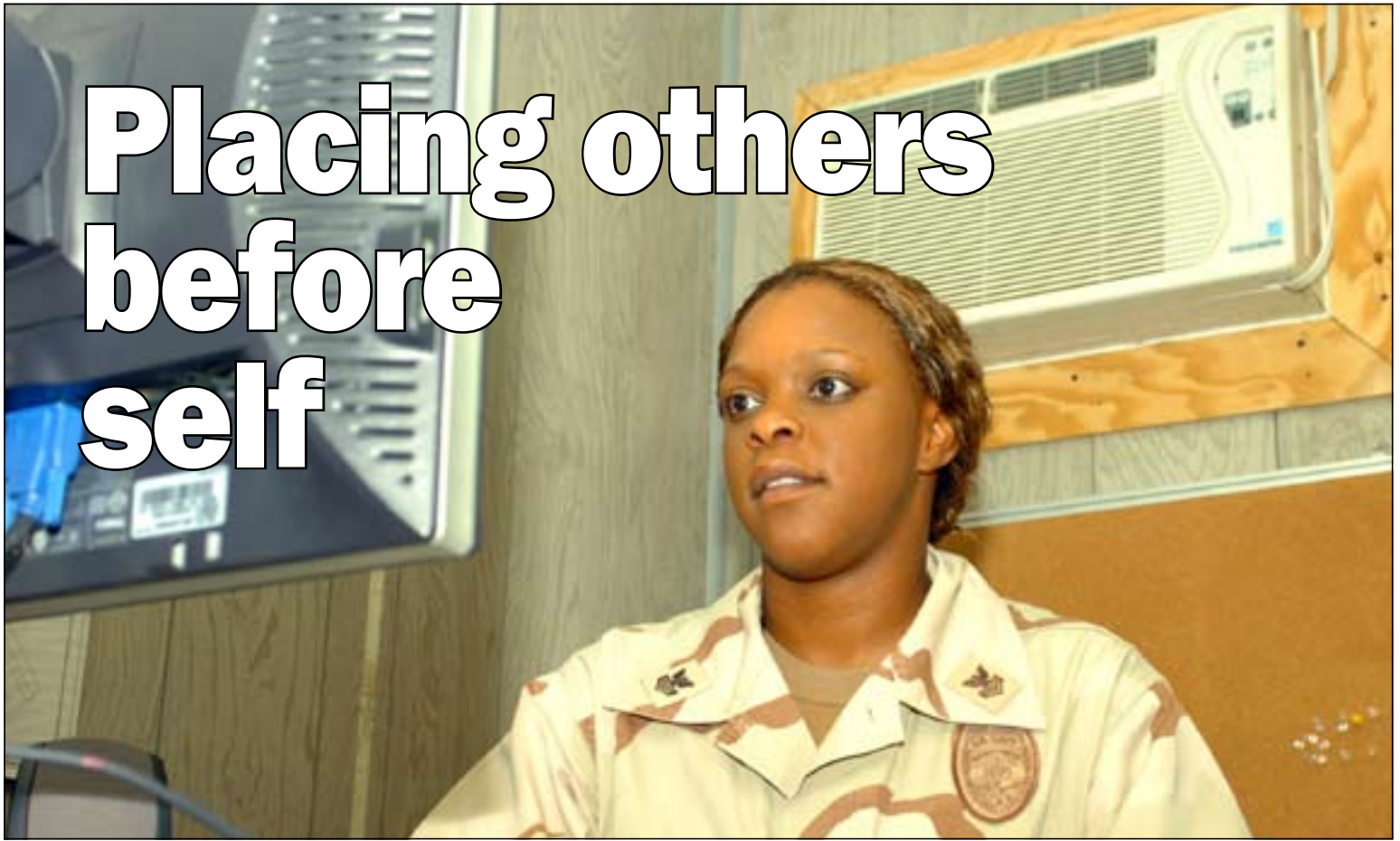
Spanish Protestant Worship

Sunday: 11 a.m.

Bible Study

Sunday: 7 p.m. **Wednesday:** 6 p.m.

Placing others before self



**Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class
Chris Little**
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

In the military, we can be influenced by those around us, whether it be good or bad. Navy Master at Arms Petty Officer 1st Class Yvette Jackson is one of the positive influences to those around her.

Here on a permanent party tour since

August 2006, Jackson has seen changes in both Joint Task Force Guantanamo's infrastructure and Troopers.

"I've seen the transformation from the Army to the Navy, Camp Six opened up – which is a good thing – and I've seen good people come and go," Jackson said. She first came to Guantanamo Bay for a Navy Individual Augmentee mission from March until October 2005, for a change of pace after spending time as a dog handler.

"I actually volunteered, I wasn't volun-told. It's a big change, but I actually wanted to come here and wanted the change," Jackson said.

Jackson starts her days at 6 a.m. compiling slides for the daily JTF leaders' meeting and ensuring that the information is accurate, clear and concise.

Each week, Jackson performs an equipment custody check, making sure that all equipment is properly accounted for. As the lead petty officer for both the Detainee Operations Center and Escort Control, she also wears an administrative hat by dealing with award submissions, leave paperwork and other administrative duties.

With her ever bubbling personality, Jackson says she tries to approach each day with a smile and attempts to make everyone else's day around her a little better. She puts out candy and makes sure that coffee is out for everyone that comes in to help in making their day a little brighter.

"I'm like the mom almost, because I know that if they're having a bad day, I'm probably going to have a bad day," Jackson said.

Jackson's Navy career has spanned 16 years, and her main goal is to make chief and help those junior to her. In her down time, Jackson tries to better herself and others by attending Columbia College, studying for the Navy Chief's exam and mentoring junior personnel.

Another of Jackson's focuses is the United Through Reading program, where Troopers can be video-recorded reading books to their families. The recording is then put on a disk and sent home with the book for them to enjoy.

"[The program] is for all branches, I don't discriminate. I love the people that come and do the readings, because it's for a really good cause," Jackson said.

The program is held the second Thursday of every month between 4:30 and 8 p.m. For more information, or to volunteer to help with the program, contact Jackson at x3581.

Jackson said sometimes she feels that she focuses more on helping others than she helps herself, but trying to be a good role model is very important to her. Jackson figures to stay in past the 20-year mark if she feels she can still help any up-and-comers.

"My advice to anyone is to never let anyone tell you that you can't do something," Jackson said. "Research it and find out for yourself, then make your own decision." ★





Singer Steve Harwell of the rock band Smash Mouth belts out a tune during their show at the Downtown Lyceum with a full-house crowd Tuesday, Jan. 7. While on island, Smash Mouth visited the both Naval Station amenities and Joint Task Force Guantanamo facilities. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Eric Liesse



Members of the 2/162nd Field Artillery Battery gathered to celebrate the end of their tour at the sailing center Jan. 2. During the celebration, each member received a coin from the commander and first sergeant to thank them for a job well done during their year-long support to the Joint Task Force. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Emily J. Russell



Troopers assigned to Joint Task Force Guantanamo receive instruction from a scuba diver instructor during a confined water dive at Marine Hill swimming pool. Confined water dives, or pool dives, allow students the opportunity to become familiar with scuba diving in a controlled environment. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class John P. Wagner, Jr

