Supplying JTF
Purchasing it all
Don’t be left behind
Ordinary leave and AMC flights
The Concept of US

We have all heard slogans or one-liners like, “There is no “I” in team”; “One Team, One Fight” and “Teamwork is the key to success.” Well how about, “No one of US is as good as ALL of US” or simply “The Concept of US.”

What does it mean to you the Sailor, Airmen, Marine, Coast Guardsmen or Soldier when we talk about being a part of a team or how do we promote this concept of US?

When the battalion commander and I meet with all the newly arrived Soldiers to the battalion, this is one of the first things we talk about. The foundation of any strong organization rides on the shoulders of all its members understanding this simple concept.

So let’s start with a quick scenario. If any Trooper saw the any senior leader in their organization getting wasted, throwing bottles at people and picking fights at a local establishment, would those actions represent US here at the JTF well? I suspect that we would all agree the answer would be a loud resounding NO.

If that is so, then how do we ensure as a team that no one person within the JTF makes US look bad? This is the challenge leaders face everyday in getting the message out when we ask young Troopers to take care of and look out for one another. Perhaps it is as simple as “engaged leaders enforcing standards and maintaining discipline.”

For the Soldiers in the 525th Military Police Battalion the acronym used is L-S-D meaning Leadership – Standards – Discipline. I could define each word, but what I would like to share is that these three simple words are key. As a JTF, these three words can help the junior Trooper to the senior leader remain successful.

In another scenario, let’s take the junior Trooper who demonstrated leadership amongst his or her peers when he stopped them from doing something they all knew was wrong. That Trooper not only took charge of the situation but also enforced the standards outlined in policy, regulation or instruction and helped US all to maintain discipline within OUR ranks.

Or that young NCO who goes over to the Tierra Kay’s or Cuzco’s and leads those who live in that area to conduct a police call of the immediate area. Once again a Trooper demonstrated leadership, enforced a standard, and maintained discipline all the while taking care of you the Trooper and helping all of US, including the wider community.

Or the Troopers who diligently coordinated, organized and executed the many volunteer events to better the community, again taking care of US. Or how about that Trooper who stands by his or her battle buddy after they identify their shipmate is just down and may need someone to talk to or may need to be escorted to JSMART. These are just a few examples of “No one of US is as good as ALL of US.” We take care of US by being engaged leaders, enforcing standards and maintaining discipline.

So I encourage all Troopers to subscribe to “the concept of US,” by being an engaged leader, taking care of US, enforcing standards, helping US to maintain discipline and just being a positive impact on the entire JTF family. Remember no matter how good you think your leaders are, they can not be everywhere at every time so we need your help to make ALL of US just that much better. Everyone counts.

When Joint Task Force Guantanamo staffers print multiple copies of a document, load ink into printers, stock up on pens and pencils, or even have a drink of the bottled water that is stocked in all JTF sections not much thought goes into how those supplies get to the supply cabinet, much less the island.

With a staff of five military personnel in the office, the personnel in the J-4 section, specifically the logistics office, are constantly on the go ordering, tracking, picking up and distributing supplies to ensure that JTF-GTMO operates smoothly on a day-to-day basis.

The supply side of J-4 orders and maintains items that are commonly used and are not necessarily accountable items.

“We make legal government purchases for items and supplies, anything that is mission critical for each section under JTF,” said Army Spc. Renee Thomas, the J-4 purchasing agent.

“I purchase just about everything: certificates, toner, connectors, computer supplies, and security materials,” Thomas said, giving examples of some of the items that are requested from JTF sections. “The items I find myself ordering the most are office supplies.”

She is responsible for purchases on behalf of JTF-GTMO, with a limit on her Government Purchase Card of six figures a month.

“The significance of the credit limit on the card is that the designated J-4 Purchase agent works on behalf of the entire JTF and all its J codes,” Thomas said.

Thomas explained when a purchase request comes in she verifies that all the pertinent information is there. Then the property book officer has to sign the request. Anything greater than $3,000 also requires the J-4 deputy director’s signature.

In the event that Thomas is not available, there is an alternate purchase agent. Sgt. 1st Class Olson Christian, the J-4 supply administrative chief oversees the operations and ensures things run smoothly, a challenge for either of them.

“I am responsible for the day-to-day operations in the J-4 warehouse,” Christian said.

“The biggest challenge of my job is when orders are not coming in a timely manner and the vendors cannot be contacted by phone or email,” Thomas said.

After the items are sorted and stored in the J-4 warehouse, the section that requested the items picks them up at the warehouse, Thomas said.

With the arrival of a new fiscal year, Thomas is closing out old accounts and processing new purchase requests. “The end of the fiscal year is easy to reconcile because I know what I am working with,” Thomas said.

“In terms of the beginning of the fiscal year it is a little bit harder to determine our funds so it is harder to send off orders.” Regardless of the time of year, the J-4 Purchase office is always hard at work ordering supplies for the day-to-day operation at JTF-GTMO.
The Joint Trooper Clinic recently started administering flu vaccinations to Troopers for the 2010-2011 flu season. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends everyone receive an annual flu vaccination. The vaccination is mandatory for all service members, unless waived due to allergies, age or religion.

“We’ve already taken care of the majority of the Joint Task Force,” said Army Staff Sgt. Andrew Elliott, JTC non-commissioned officer-in-charge. “Cold and flu might not be a big thing here, but it still happens and we have to always be prepared.”

The CDC places the peak of flu season during January and February, which are on average, colder than the rest of the year. Because Guantanamo Bay is warm year round, the flu does not spread as much as it does in the U.S., however, with the constant rotation of Troopers in and out of the JTF, there is always a chance the flu can find its way onto the island. According to a JTC corpsman this is why it is very important to complete the mission of inoculating all Troopers.

“The vaccination is mandatory for a reason,” said Navy Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Edwin Albino, JTC acting leading chief petty officer. “If due to the nature of their job they can’t make it to us during clinic hours, we’ll go to them. We do what we have to do to get the job done.”

The flu vaccine will protect against three different strains the CDC has determined may cause the most harm this season: an H3N2 virus, an influenza B virus and the H1N1 virus, or swine flu. For more information on flu, go to www.cdc.gov/flu.
There is only word to describe “Scott Pilgrim vs. the World” – epic.
Boasting a fresh directing style, amazing effects and great acting, this movie has it all.
Scott Pilgrim (Michael Cera) is your typical soft-voiced, geeky dude who plays bass in an aspiring rock band. While he doesn’t seem to have the confidence to even talk to women, it appears that he is quite the ladies’ man – I guess it’s the dorky emo boy charm or something.
At a party he is confronted with the girl of his dreams, Ramona Flowers (Mary Elizabeth Winstead). This meeting sets off a series of events involving a stalker ex-girlfriend and seven evil exes that can be described as nothing less than epic.
Every scene in this movie reminds viewers of its comic book roots. The quick edits, the arcade game style effects and the crazy awesome clothes and hairstyles come together to create what is easily the most unique movie of the year.
I have to focus more on the arcade game style effects. Most of the effects are something almost anyone can create on a mid-level effects program, but the way they are weaved together in this movie creates an effects tapestry of “awesome.”
While some of the fight scenes are more legendary than others, all of them leave nothing to be desired. The final fight scene gives you many “oh snap” moments. There are movies that have better technical fighting and some that have more realistic effects, but that is not the point with “Scott Pilgrim vs. the World.” The epic fantasy feel of this movie is the main appeal. It is so off the wall awesome that you can’t help but to love it.
If this movie does not turn out to be a cult classic I will lose all faith in humanity.
Firefighters of Guantanamo Bay Fire and Emergency Services put on a show for base residents in celebration of Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 7. They showed off their equipment, served food and ended the event with a live fire exercise of a mobile aircraft simulator.

JTF Guantanamo photos by Navy Mass Communication Specialists 2nd Class Elisha Dawkins and Wesley Kreiss
Don’t be left behind about leave

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

Taking Leave? J-1, Trooper One Stop can help with the processing for all types of leave, including Rest and Recuperation (R&R) leave travel.

All Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers are eligible to take R&R leave if stationed for a 365-day deployment. However, Troopers must schedule their leave after 30 days into their deployment or before 30 days of departure. A maximum of 17 days can be taken if eligible. According to Army Sgt. Jenelle Looby, non-commissioned officer-in-charge of leave and pass, Troopers do not have to take all 17 days at once, but the maximum number is still 17 days.

Annual leave (referred to as ordinary leave) is defined as leave granted in execution of a command’s leave program chargeable to the service member’s leave account. All service members receive 2.5 days of ordinary leave per month.

Emergency leave is defined as leave granted as a result of an emergency situation (personal or family) that requires the service member’s presence. It is also chargeable to the service member’s leave account.

R&R leave is defined as leave granted in circumstances where operational military considerations prevent the full use of ordinary annual leave. R&R programs are established in areas designated for hostile fire or imminent danger pay. Leave granted in connection with authorized R&R programs is chargeable to the service member’s leave account.

Ordinary leave requires paperwork to be submitted seven calendar days prior to leave period and R&R leave requires 21 calendar days prior to the period. A late Leave Request Form memorandum can be obtained from J-1 if leave paperwork is submitted past required days.

“I’m here to help the service member understand their benefits of the R&R program,” Air Force Staff Sgt. Jason Gardner, NCOIC of R&R programs.

The current leave policy is Policy #1.5 Leave and Pass, dated Sept. 29, 2010. The leave policy references DOD Inst. 1327.06, AR 600-8-10, and several other regulations.

Leave forms for Army (DA Form 31), Navy (NAVCOMPT Form 3065), Air Force (AF Form 988), Marines (NAVMC 3) and Coast Guard (NAVERS 1336/3) can be accessed from the J-1 link on the JTF-GTMO intranet. In addition, the Ordinary Late Leave Request form, Leave Routing Slip and Ordinary Leave Exception to Policy can also be found there.

Summer and holiday season (Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years) tend to be the busiest time for leave. Troopers need to plan accordingly if they wish to request leave during those times. Also, flight schedules need to be checked to ensure availability.

Air Mobility Command makes changes to all flight schedules. So Troopers need to check the schedules periodically before their travel dates. In addition, AMC publishes many flight advisories for GTMO that can be viewed on the JTF Guantanamo intranet naval station roller link.

Troopers that are thinking about taking leave should plan accordingly, use the correct forms and submit the request in the required calendar days with approval from your local chain of command. This will make your leave that much more enjoyable and stress free. 🦅
While at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay and Joint Task Force Guantanamo, there are many ways personnel can get involved with the community.

One way Joint Task Force Troopers can get involved is through volunteering with the Junior Servicemembers’ Association.

The JSA is a service-oriented organization that provides support to its members and gives back to the JTF-GTMO community.

“The JSA is for all service members Army, Air Force, Marines and Navy,” said Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Donielle C. Davis, the public affairs officer for the JSA. “It does not matter if you are NAVSTA, JTF or [Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion].”

According to Davis, the association provides support to junior personnel within the military with a venue to assist them in enhancing leadership skills and preparing them for promotion.

“We get together to hold events, raise money and volunteer around Guantanamo Bay,” Davis said.

The JSA also offers junior service members the ability to use the support of their peers during deployment.

The JSA serves the community and other organizations.

“We have worked with the First Class Petty Officer Association, W.T. Sampson Elementary School, and the local Red Cross Organization to name a few,” said Navy Yeoman 2nd Class Arnibba Williams, the president of the JSA.

“We’ve also helped out with Soldiers Undertaking Disabled Scuba, Hug-A-Hero and the military’s version of Toys for Tots,” added Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Kenneth Bonar, the de facto treasurer. Despite long hours and different schedules, the JSA members try to meet socially as well.

“We are not just all work and no play,” Williams said. “The JSA is also a social organization geared to promote camaraderie amongst the Armed Forces community.”

One benefit of joining the JSA is the opportunity for service members to broaden their personal and professional networks while exchanging ideas, said Williams.

“It has also made me proud to be a senior junior Sailor when I’ve had the opportunity to play a part in the advancement of a junior Sailor’s military career,” she added.

The members extend an invitation to all service members who want to know more about the association.

“If you’re looking for a way to enhance your tour here, the JSA is the organization for you,” Williams said. “We are always looking for creative and exciting ideas for the JSA to participate in, support and host. Come join us in our meeting, and tell or bring a friend.”

The association meets every other Tuesday at O’Kelly’s Pub at 11:15 a.m. For more information on the Junior Servicemembers’ Association call extension 4345.

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Kimberlee Burroughs (center), a member of the JSA, volunteers with wounded veterans during a recent Soldiers Undertaking Disabled Scuba visit, Aug. 28. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Michael R. Holzworth

Newly appointed officers of the Junior Servicemembers Association discuss upcoming events and fundraisers during a bimonthly meeting. The JSA welcomes personnel from all branches, Aug. 24. – JTF Guantanamo photos by Army Spc. Juanita Philip.
Cat care

Army Sgt. Galvao Ardicio of U.S. Army South Atlantic District Veterinary Command, Guantanamo Bay Section, listens for breath sounds, respiration and pulse of Tiger, a Bengal. The veterinary clinic’s mission is to prevent zoonotic diseases of service members and civilians. Sept. 6. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Elisha Dawkins.

Boots on the Ground

How do you practice fire safety?

Marine Cpl. Ammon Bogle

Army Sgt. Jessica Sonson

Air Force Staff Sgt. Jason Gardner

Navy Master-at-Arms Paul Joya

“After I barbecue, I douse the charcoal with water.”

“I turn off my curling iron when I’m finished.”

“I make sure that electrical appliances are plugged in, and water is not dripping on them.”

“I smoke at the smoke pit, and I don’t throw my cigarette out of the car.”

by Army Spc. Juanita Philip
Through the ages the million dollar question for most human beings on the planet has become, “Why am I here?”

Am I simply taking up space and oxygen on this planet hurtling through space? Were we sent to GTMO without a purpose? Both questions are absurd and of course the answer is NO.

Thomas Carlyle said, “The man without a purpose is like a ship without a rudder,” and yet it is easy to lose focus on our purpose when the deployment is on an island surrounded by beaches.

When troopers understand their role and how their job fits in and contributes to the big picture in the greater JTF mission then there is purpose, focus and intentionality. The daily routine may not seem as monotonous and insignificant. Our purpose in the JTF is to be honor bound in our collective humane care for dangerous men, and to keep them off the streets so they are not a threat to the United States and the rest of the world.

For those who ask the question, “Why bother?” the answer lies in finding purpose for our existence and in what we are doing. There is a soap opera called “The Days of Our Lives” and the opening scene shows an hourglass and the announcer says, “like the sands through an hourglass, so are the days of our lives.” Psalm 90:10 says, “The days of our lives are seventy years …” From the moment we are born … from the moment we arrived at GTMO the sands began dropping through the hourglass. You have also heard the term “tempus fugit” or “time flies.” Our lives on earth are brief so as a chaplain I believe we must move along with the plan or the course-of-action God has laid out for our life and live each day with purpose so that at the end of life we will be well satisfied.


Rick Warren in his book, The Purpose Driven Life, says if you live a purpose driven life then this perspective will reduce your stress, simplify your decisions and increase your satisfaction.

What each one of you contributes to the mission is important and your existence does matter. There is a purpose for your life. One of my favorite movies is the old black and white “It’s A Wonderful Life.” The movie portrays a person who does not see a purpose for living but when he asks God for help an angel is sent to allow him to see how his actions throughout his life had a purpose and the positive impact of the sum total. Let’s not just “exist.” Daily let us consult with The Creator for that purpose and live “purpose driven honor bound” lives.
Army Sgt. Robert Smith (center left) and Army Sgt. Oscar Tovar (center right) assemble a .50-caliber machine gun during familiarization training, Oct. 6. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Air Force Senior Airman Gino Reyes


Coast Guard Boatswain’s Mate 3rd Class Matthew Bufford, Maritime Safety and Security Team 91104 member provides security while on patrol, Oct. 4. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Elisha Dawkins