

Around the
★
JTF



Joint Task Force Guantanamo commander, Rear Adm. Jeffrey Harbeson greets Troopers at the Seaside Galley, Dec. 25. Harbeson and other senior task force leadership were on-hand to serve Christmas dinner and wish Troopers a Merry Christmas. -photo by Army Staff Sgt. Benjamin Cossel/The Wire



Petty Officer 2nd Class Raynita Gardner removes shingles during the restoration of the Goat Locker Dec. 28. Gardner is attached to the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 28. - photo by Senior Airmen Gino Reyes/The Wire



Logistics Specialist Seaman Recruit Louis Delk unloads Joint Task Force Guantanamo mail from a cargo plane at Leeward Airfield, Dec 29. Camp America Post Office Troopers handle over 10,000 pounds of mail per week, supporting the Joint Task Force Guantanamo mission.

- photo by Mass Communications Specialist 1st Class David P. Coleman/The Wire



Volume 12, Issue 02

Friday, Dec. 31, 2010

THE
WIRE

An Award Winning
JTF Journal

Welcome Aboard!

2011

Operation
Sea Turtle

A night dive turns into a rescue
operation

Exclusive dive
park to reopen

Seabees repair Phillips
Dive Park



Trooper to Trooper

featuring

Army Master Sergeant Natalie Mosley-Carter

Non-commissioned-officer-in-charge, J1

What does commitment mean to you? Most would agree commitment is an agreement or promise to do something in the future. In other words something to which one is bound by obligation to perform a duty. As service members we have all made a commitment to serve our country.

In our personal and professional lives we make commitments daily. These obligations may be mutual, self-imposed, explicitly stated, or they may not be clear. In relationships, whether married or dating you make a commitment to another person.

In religion you make a commitment to your faith and its teachings. In our lives, whether it be military or civilian, we make professional and personal commitments.

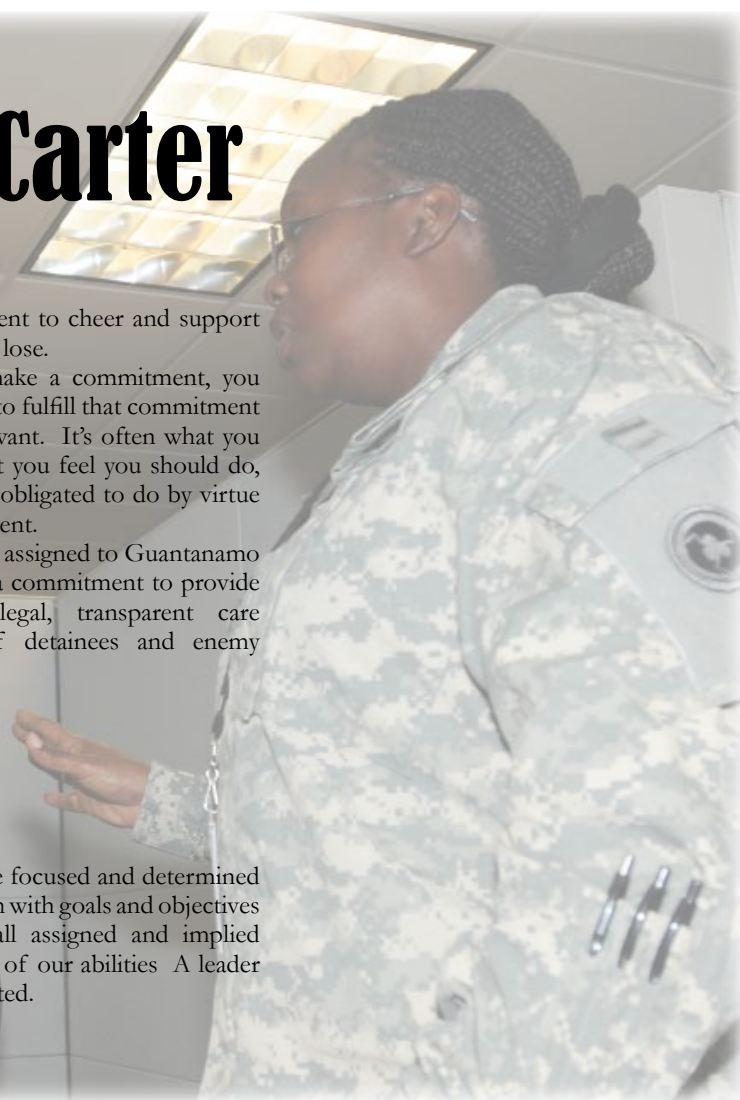
When playing team sports we make a commitment to show up on time and come to practice. You also make a commitment to the team and yourself to give 100 percent. You make the

moral commitment to cheer and support the team, win or lose.

When you make a commitment, you don't always get to fulfill that commitment in the way you want. It's often what you have to do, what you feel you should do, or what you are obligated to do by virtue of the commitment.

All personnel assigned to Guantanamo Bay have made a commitment to provide safe, human, legal, transparent care and custody of detainees and enemy combatants.

As leaders we must be, know and do. A leader must be committed to the mission. A leader must be focused and determined to follow through with goals and objectives to accomplish all assigned and implied tasks to the best of our abilities. A leader must be committed.



JTF Guantanamo

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Navy Master Chief Petty Officer
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COVER:

Goodbye 2010, hello 2011! - photo illustration by Spc. Meredith Vincent/The Wire

BACK COVER:

Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Ayanna Wright works on a JTF Trooper, Dec. 28, at the Joint Trooper Clinic. Troopers can receive a wide array of dental care provided by Cmdr. Bruce Green and the dental staff of the JTC. - photo by Mass Communications Specialist Second Class Elisha Dawkins/The Wire

National Guard Responds to East Coast Storm



About 100 soldiers from the Virginia National Guard's 116th Brigade Combat Team were called to state active duty Dec. 25, 2010, in Norfolk, Va., in response to a severe snowstorm that dropped a record amount of snow on the Hampton Roads area. - U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class A.J. Coyne

Air Force Tech. Sgt.
John Orrell
National Guard Bureau

As of 8 a.m. Dec. 27, 430 National Guard members had been activated in response to an East Coast winter storm that left as much as 2 feet of snow in some areas and prompted six governors to activate their National Guard.

Guard members from Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Rhode Island and Virginia are providing equipment and manpower support to civilian authorities conducting emergency operations throughout their respective states.

"The key to rapid response for this event is having personnel in place and ready to respond," Army Col. Gerald Carrett, joint operations officer for the Virginia Guard, said. "We are staging personnel, vehicles and equipment ... to support missions such as transportation through heavy snow."

Massachusetts Guard members are

assisting local police to evacuate some homes affected by coastal flooding caused by the storms.

Maryland Guard members are calling on the lessons they learned during the "snowpocalypse" earlier in 2010.

"During the blizzards of earlier 2010, we helped deliver babies and rescue motorists on the highway," Army Maj. Gen. James Adkins, the adjutant general of Maryland, said. "Who knows what the next call may be."

Virginia Guard members are assisting Virginia State Police and local emergency response organizations in the Eastern Shore by conducting Humvee-mounted route patrols to assess road conditions and assist stranded motorists.

At about 4:45 a.m. that day, they transported one adult and two children stranded on a side street and also were scheduled to transport emergency services personnel to work at a local hospital.

At about 6:30 a.m. they also rescued three people trapped in their car for more than four hours and transported them to a local shelter for further assistance.

Afghan, Coalition Forces Capture Haqqani Leader

DoD News Service

Afghan and coalition forces yesterday captured a Haqqani network leader during a security operation conducted in Khost province, military officials reported.

Intelligence reports indicate that the insurgent leader facilitated movement of improvised explosive device-making materials from Pakistan into Khost province. He also was responsible for IED attacks against Afghan and coalition forces. The security force followed intelligence tips to a compound in Terayzai district to search for the leader.

Afghan forces used a loudspeaker to call for all occupants to exit peacefully before the combined security force cleared and secured the building. The Haqqani leader identified himself to authorities during questioning at which time he was detained. Two other suspected insurgents also were detained.

A search of the insurgent's house resulted in finding a mortar round and military-style equipment. The operation was conducted during hours of darkness to minimize risk to local residents. No women or children were injured or detained during this operation. Security forces conducted the operation without firing their weapons.

Chavez Dares US to Cut Diplomatic Ties

VOA News

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez has dared the United States to "cut diplomatic relations" amid a dispute over the White House's choice of a new ambassador in Caracas.

Mr. Chavez said Tuesday the U.S. "can do whatever they want," but diplomat Larry Palmer will not be coming to Venezuela.

Palmer was nominated to be U.S. ambassador to Venezuela four months ago. The U.S. State Department has said Venezuela's rejection of his appointment will have consequences for the countries' already strained relations.

Mr. Chavez said Tuesday that an ambassador coming to Caracas must respect the country.

His government has complained about comments Palmer made in Washington in September, saying morale is low in the Venezuelan military and that the government has ties with Colombian rebels.

State Department officials in Washington say the U.S. has full confidence in Palmer.

The years change – what makes us successful doesn't

Navy Rear Adm. Jeff Harbeson
Commander, JTF-GTMO

Army Brig. Gen. Samuel Nichols
Deputy Commander, JTF-GTMO

As 2010 comes to a close, let us take a moment to thank you for your service. Each of you is away from family and friends this holiday season because you answered the call of duty. Make no mistake: the mission here is an important one. Providing safe, humane, legal and transparent care to those in our custody is an essential part of our nation's ongoing fight against those who would threaten us.



This mission was well executed over the past 12 months by our joint team of Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Coast Guardsmen and civilian agency partners. Whether it's Sailors and Soldiers standing watch together in the towers, or Airmen and Marines seeing to the logistics and support of 2,000 Troopers, "joint" isn't just a buzzword here – it's a way of life.

We work well together because despite our different organizations and backgrounds, we share common val-

ues. As we move into the New Year, it's worth taking a look at what we have in common. The shared commitments that have served us well in the past will continue to provide the foundation for success.

Each of our services has specific core values and creeds. These reflect the history and character of the particular service. But it shouldn't be surprising there is significant overlap. All demonstrate a willingness to sacrifice, and a commitment to freedom, our families, and our nation. We also honor those who

set the example for us. Airmen are "faithful to a proud heritage," while Sailors represent the fighting spirit of "all who have gone before." The Marines trace their roots to an "illustrious line of professionals," while the Coast Guard acknowledges a line of expert Seaman who "by their devotion to and sacrifice of self have made it possible for me to be a member of a service honored ... throughout the world."

A comparison of the 'core values' selected by each service also shows a common frame of mind. Integrity, selfless service, striving for excellence – no matter how our particular service phrases the characteristics, the truth is we define professionalism the same way.

We may wear different uniforms. It may seem at times we even speak different languages. Our values, however, make us one team.

But these core values must be more to us than just words. They must be reflected in our actions and how we accomplish our critical, no-fail mission. We must continue to uphold the highest standards in all that we do. The eyes of the world are upon us, and for the sake of our nation we must remain beyond reproach. We can



think of no better resolve to have, as we enter 2011. Thank you for your service, and Happy New Year!

'Idol' alum to ring in New Year at Tiki Bar



American Idol season four finalist Bo Bice is scheduled to perform a New Year's Eve concert here in Guantanamo Bay at the Tiki Bar, December 31.

The 35-year-old Alabama native and father of three has become known for his husky voice and Southern-fried country sensibility. Bice also plays a variety of instruments, including acoustic and electric guitars, saxophone, harmonica and piano. His music has been shaped by such classic acts as Lynyrd Skynyrd, Bon Jovi and The Allman Brothers Band. Since season's four finale, he has released three albums and performed at countless charity events.

When Bice was 14, his family moved to England. There he attended London Central High School, a Department of Defense school primarily for students whose parents are in the military. Perhaps because of that personal tie, he has made two tours to Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan. In 2009, Bice was awarded the Lifetime Presidential Volunteer Service Award for volunteering more than 4,000 hours of his time to worthy causes.

The concert is scheduled to begin at 2200 hours and end at 0100. For more information, contact Amiee MacDonnell at 4882

Misguided turtles find unwitting heroes

Army Sgt. Mathieu Perry
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

An early December night dive at Windmill Beach left a group of divers with memories for a lifetime, while their actions highlighted the values of military members as unsung everyday heroes.

"It was a beautiful night," said Army Sgt. David Scottie Yusko, a medic from New Bern, N.C. "Calm (water) with good visibility."

Yusko said the group of divers briefly discussed their dive and were on their way to pick up the marker lights on shore when they came upon something rather unusual.

"I almost stepped on a turtle," said Yusko. "He was going the wrong way and was headed toward the road instead of the ocean where he should have been."

Chief Petty Officer Jared Pringle, the leading chief petty officer at Interpretive Operations, said when sea turtles hatch at night, they use light from the moon to navigate to the ocean. Pringle hypothesized because of light pollution at Windmill Beach, the young turtles became confused and headed in the wrong direction.

After the dive instructor, who asked to remain anonymous, was alerted to the situation, several members of the group began gathering the baby sea turtles and returning them to their rightful home.

"We kept picking up turtles and putting them in the ocean," said Pringle.

"Those little suckers were quick!" added Yusko. "It was actually fun; we were trying to take them back and they'd try to go the wrong way and we'd get them turned around."

Yusko said several members of the group went over to the pavilion where the lights were on and found several dozen baby turtles attempting to crawl up the wall away from the water.

Pringle said the group spent hours returning the baby turtles to the ocean. Overall, between 80 and 100 hatchlings were found.

"It could be considered an act of selfless service," said Yusko. "Because most people would just turn around and walk away from

it, not really care, or want to take them home."

Pringle said he was surprised they received so much recognition for doing the right thing.

"This is a wonderful showcase for showing us doing good work," said Pringle.

Reflecting on Guantanamo Bay's location, Pringle said Troopers should be committed to the environment and its resources.

"Everyone in the outdoors has the obligation to have the mindset to protect our resources," said Pringle, adding that responsibility is the foundation of being a good steward.

Regardless of a person's location, said Yusko, all Troopers are responsible for ensuring everyone is able to enjoy the variety nature has to offer.

"It doesn't matter if it is in my country or another, we should protect it," said Yusko. I am not a conservationist by any means either, but I just think that we should leave something for people to enjoy."

"This is one of the better things that I have done while I have been down here," concluded Pringle.



A young turtle is held by one of its surprised heroes.

-photo by Chief Petty Officer Jared Pringle



A lost baby turtle that was redirected back to the ocean by a group of divers at Windmill Beach swims away. -photo by Chief Petty Officer Jared Pringle



A diver juggles many baby turtles before returning them to the ocean. -photo by Chief Petty Officer Jared Pringle

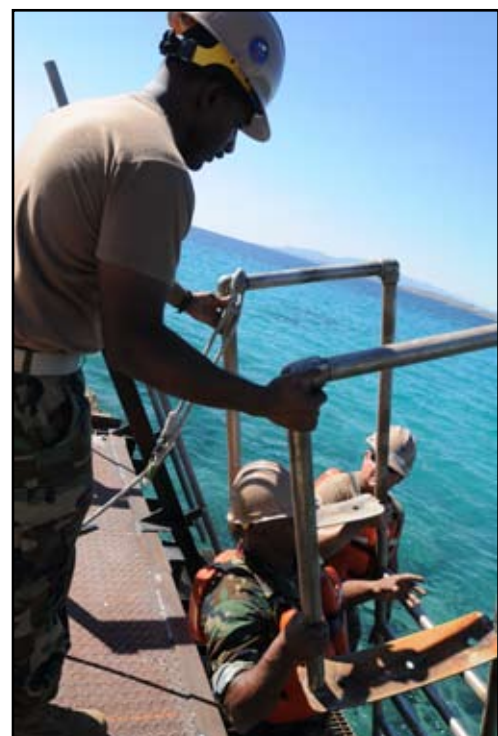
Phillips Dive Park re-opened

Story and photos by
Senior Airman
Gino Reyes



Petty Officer 1st Class Rex Miller observes Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class John Blake welding during reconstruction of a dive spot demolished during a recent hurricane.

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class John Blake welds steel beams to a railing at Phillips Dive Park.



Seabees lower a ladder into the water at Phillips Dive Park. The Seabees are attached to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 28, out of Shreveport, La.

A naval construction team completed work Monday on a badly damaged dive park destroyed in a recent storm.

Troopers from the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 28, or Seabees, spent six days and approximately 100 hours repairing Phillips Dive Park, destroyed by Hurricane Tomas in late October.

"The storm ravaged through Guantanamo Bay, really damaging Phillips Dive Park and made it unusable to divers," said Operations Chief Petty Officer Jeremy Stokes.

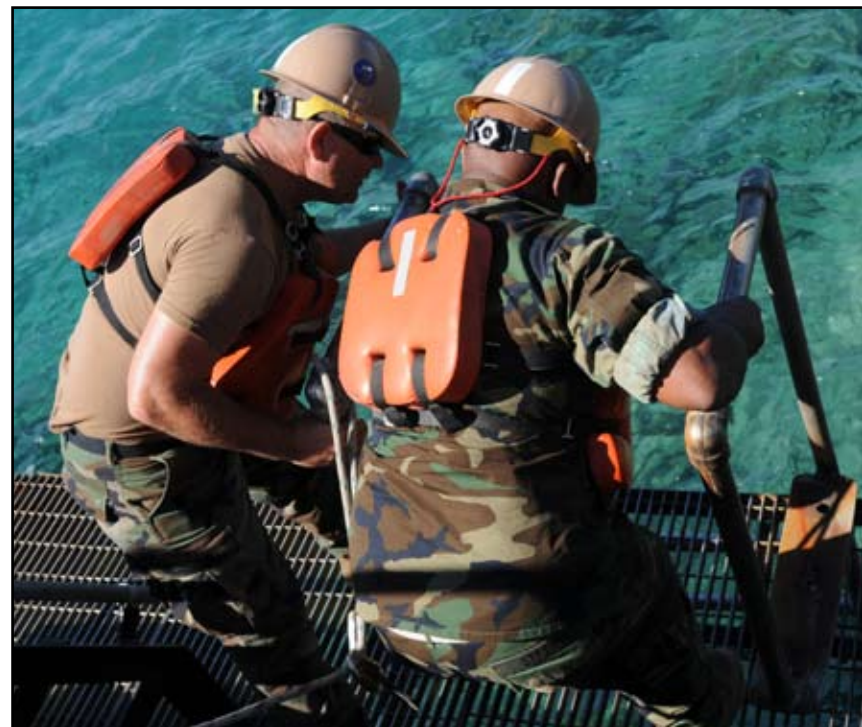
The damaged park not only denied divers an opportunity to utilize it but also posed a safety hazard for community members inadvertently wandering into the area.

"Getting the dive park repaired in an expedited manner and making it as safe as possible for divers, and so the community could enjoy it again was a priority for us," said Stokes.

With massive rust damage and the diver platform completely detached from the concrete, the five-man team of Seabees performed welding and bracing to a new steel platform, reinforcing it to the concrete. In addition, the crews added more durable hand railings for divers, said Stokes. These improvements will allow divers more stable and secure entry to the water.

"It's great that it's open," said Tech Sgt. Chuck Powell, an engineer with the 474 Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, adding Phillips Dive Park is a preferred spot for open water divers.

With the dive park projected to reopen this New Years weekend, Guantanamo Bay community divers can once again enjoy an exclusive spot designed just for them.



(left) Navy Petty Officers 1st Class Rex Miller and Kevin Geegan bolt a ladder to a platform. The Seabees spent a total of six days and approximately 100 hours on the construction project.

Detainee hospital provides top-notch care

Dedicated staff ensure quality care is first priority

Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Elisha Dawkins
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The Joint Medical Group staff assigned to the detainee hospital in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba has a sensitive and unique mission — to provide excellent medical care to the detainees here.

The staff provides medical care to the 174 detainees 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

“We do everything from daily visits, sick call opportunities and preventative medicine care,” said a senior nurse executive who asked to remain anonymous. “We take the best care of our

detainees, keeping our population as healthy as can be.”

The medical staff try and see all detainees throughout the year, said the nurse, and are always available to the detainees for their medical needs.

Routine treatment for patients involves physical exams and physical assessments, said the nurse.

“The most common things we will see are related to sports injuries,” said the provider, noting detainees play lot of soccer. Patients with such injuries are treated with splinting, rest, ice, casting or elevation.

The detainee hospital offers many different kinds of specialty care including cardiology, neurology, dermatology, orthopedics and radiology.

The JMG Hospital corpsmen are tasked routinely to take vital



A detainee repositions his leg during an x-ray for a hospital corpsman petty officer 2nd class. -photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Elisha Dawkins/The Wire

signs and provide medications to detainees with close supervision.

The medical staff provides the detainees care no matter the situation and the leadership recognize that professional care

“I would just like to praise our staff,” said the nurse. “I think we’ve got the best team of professionals you can ... it’s a unified group that goes above and beyond.”

Providing Much to Many



Non-commissioned officer in charge of chaplain operations, Air Force Staff Sgt. Archie Gerald reviews a list of services available to Troopers with Air Force Lt. Col. Marvin Williams, Joint Task Force Guantanamo Command Chaplain. - photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Wesley Kreiss/The Wire

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

Chaplains provide Joint Task Force Troopers unique services and spiritual support here at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Worship services, counseling, Bible studies and financial advice are some of the many services chaplains offer. These services help accomplish the JTF mission by addressing the whole Trooper by taking care of mind, body and spiritual needs. Counseling gives hope,

purpose and focus and can eliminate distractions. Services are open to all military personnel, dependants and civilians.

“I always have an open-door policy,” said the recently arrived JTF Command Chaplain, Air Force Lt. Col. Marvin Williams. “With or without an appointment.”

A valuable service all chaplains provide is confidentiality. Any information discussed at a counseling session with a chaplain will never be shared with the Trooper’s chain-of-command.

“Because of this confidentiality, Troopers have peace of mind to disclose any and all information without fear it may be revealed to a third party,” said previous JTF Command Chaplain Air Force Lt. Col. Daniel Figueroa. “Confession is good for the soul.”

All chaplains have assistants to help facilitate these services and accomplish the mission, said Williams. Known as the chaplains support team, they perform administrative duties such as assessing priorities, logistical support and supplies.

Chaplains always welcome help from Troopers who wish to volunteer their time. Many volunteers play instruments in the church band, sing in the choir and assist with communion during chapel service.

One service that is very popular and tends to boost the morale of Troopers is movie night. Usually on Fridays, movie night is an alternative to other off-duty activities. Movies shown will have a positive inspirational message and show core values.

Troopers can find hope, spiritual peace and confidentiality from chaplains and the services and programs they provide. JTF command chaplain can be reached at X3203, JTF deputy command Chaplain at X2571 and NCOIC at X3202 in Camp America building 1588 near the JTF IOF Headquarters.

Air Force Lt. Col. Marvin Williams
Command Chaplain

During the past year our nation experienced wholesale changes in nearly every segment of society. In fact, it is difficult to find anyone who has not been affected by the comprehensive changes we seemingly face on a daily basis. Some changes are so sweeping, many people are looking for a sign good fortune is finally on its way.

One of the most notable symbols of change and good fortune is the celebration of the New Year. In cities and counties throughout the country, people will gather in homes, places of worship and other public arenas like Times Square in New York City, to celebrate the traditional “bringing in the New Year” at midnight.

What I find intriguing about New Year’s Eve celebrations is the concept of midnight. It is not just the turning of the clock from 11:59 p.m. to 12 a.m.; it is the turning of life. It is the celebration of casting away the old and embracing new opportunities waiting and wanting to be grasped. Midnight is an event that embodies an entire process that I call the “course of life.”

On New Year’s Eve, we find a way of shedding our frustrations, disappointments and pain in an effort to embark upon a new era of hope, dreams and realities not witnessed before. It is taking all of what did not happen last year and finding the determination to make it happen this year. For some, it is about recovering from loss. For others, it is about searching and finding. For all of us, it is about restoring hope and charting a course in line with our destiny.

This New Year will certainly mean a lot to me. There are many things about last year I would rather forget. There are events I do not want to repeat in life again, given that I have learned the lessons enabling me to move forward. I know many share that sentiment. But I must also remember without last year, I cannot become what I will be in this New Year. That gives me cause to celebrate the passing of the old and embracing the new. I will not be at Times Square on New Year’s Eve but I will pause for a moment of celebration and thanksgiving that I have another opportunity to live my purpose in life.

Let New Year’s Day be a time to reassess life and celebrate how far we have come in light of our frustrations and disappointments. Take the time to chart your course in life by looking at your goals and aspirations. Be intentional about building relationships and connecting with people who share your concerns. Never take for granted the moment you are in because there is no time like this time. Enjoy what you are doing and do it to the best of your ability. Remember, the formula for success in life is intentional planning.

Now, go and bring in the New Year.

For information on MWR and upcoming events visit our Intranet

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



Serving Up Christmas Dinner

1st Sgt. Kevin Stapleton, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, was one of several senior leadership serving Christmas dinner Dec. 25 to Troopers at the Seaside Galley. Along with Stapleton, JTF Commander Rear Adm. Jeffrey Harbeson and Deputy JTF Commander Brig. Gen. Samuel Nichols and other senior enlisted leadership offered a message of holiday cheer and warmth to Troopers coming to the galley for a special Christmas dinner. – photo by Army Staff Sgt. Benjamin Cossel/The Wire

New Year's Eve Watch Night Service
Who: CH (LTC) Williams
When: 31 Dec – 1 Jan @ 2330 – UTC
Where: NAVSTA Chapel

Please come join us in celebrating the coming New Year with the inspirational words from CH Williams. All faith groups are welcome so please come join us!!

View Askew - Petty Officer Second Class John Skrzyniarz



Happy New Year GTMO!!!!!!

Movie Review

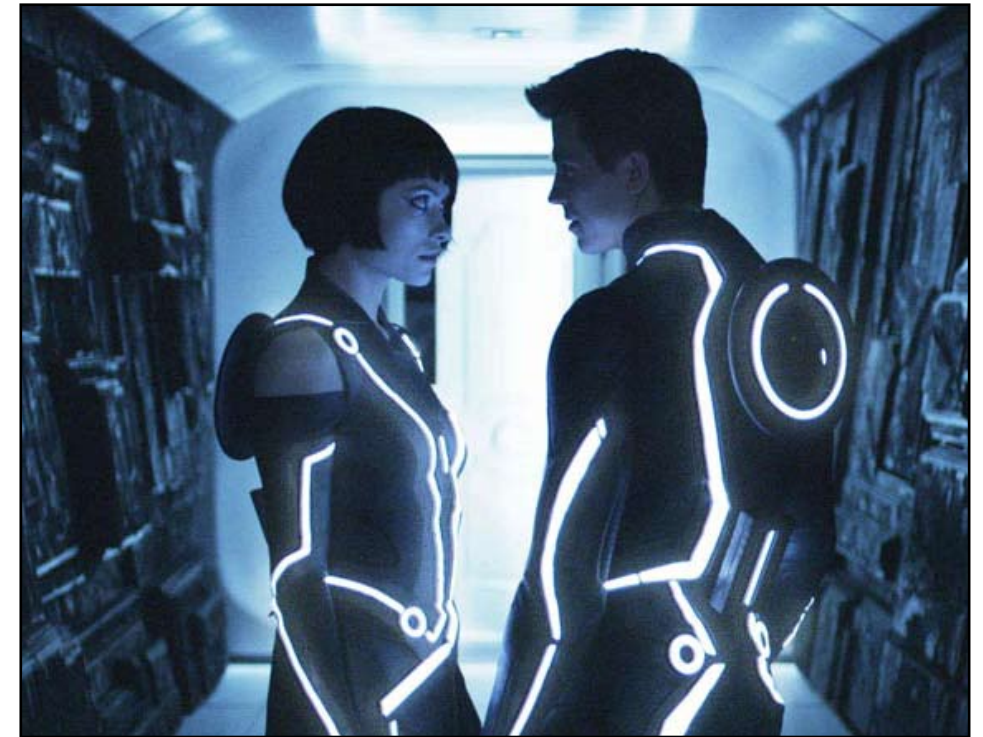
TRON LEGACY

Army Spc. Matthew Muntzer

For those who were around almost 30 years ago for the first installment of “Tron,” it was a technical marvel. With its then state-of-the-art graphics of an imaginary world inside a computer network with human elements, it captivated the imagination. “Legacy” continues that dream world we entered, while still allowing the new fans to start off without needing to see the first movie.

“Legacy” starts off in 1981. Kevin Flynn (Jeff Bridges) is sharing bedtime stories with his son, Sam (Garrett Hedlund), about the mystical world of the Grid and his journey to defeat the Master Control Program. Soon after, Kevin disappears, leaving his son wondering what happened and his company under a new management. Sam avoids the responsibility of being the primary shareholder to his father’s company and even rebels against its new CEO’s plans for a private software firm. With a scene similar to “Batman,” he breaks into his company, stealing his own product and uploading it to the public for free download while ending up on a crane above the city.

Without giving away much more of the film, you will not be let down by the action scenes. They are all over the place: from arena



to race tracks as well some Jason Bourne-esque creeping and fighting.

However, this is not just a graphics-ruled show; there is pretty good story-line as well. It plays out more like a drama, with a son who eventually finds his dad and falls in love with a pretty girl who can fight too. Needless to say, it won’t leave you asking too many questions.

With the aid of computer generated graphics, (Jeff Bridges’ wisened and wrinkled

face returns to its youthful appearance, light cycles in a three- dimensional track with Daft Punk jamming in the background) there is plenty of graphical eye candy for the geeks in us all.

PG
127 minutes

Rating:

How will you be spending this New Year's Eve?



“Hunting for conch and dinner.”

Navy HM1 Gilman Fortin



“Enjoying the company of friends.”

Army Staff Sgt. Thomas Jefferson



“Hanging out with friends.”

Spc. Joel Rodriguez



“Having some traditional food (pasteles), music and spending time with my wife.”

Spc. Jeffrey Cotto

Boots on the Ground