

THE VIEW

The official publication of



Behind the wheel

JVB transports the VIPs

Local flavor

Cuban residents add a little
spice to the GTMO community

Training for the block



AROUND THE BAY

AND IN OUR PAGES



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Cover Story

Cover photo by Sgt. Cassandra Monroe

GTMO guard force undergoes realistic training to prepare them for the job ahead
PAGE 8

BAY WIRE REPORT

A traveler's dream discussed at GTMO



Lee Abbamonte, the youngest American to travel to all United Nations countries, will present his tales from the trails Dec. 9, at 6 p.m., at the Windjammer.

Abbamonte aims to become the youngest person to complete the 'Travelers Century Club,' and will talk about his journey through the 193 U.N. sovereign nations. Event is free and open to the public.

Dashing through the bay

In a one-man kayak, not a sleigh, you can dash through the bay one stroke at a time. Kayak trip is scheduled for Saturday Dec. 14. Call the Liberty Center at ext. 2010, to reserve your spot for this chance to get a nice tan for the holiday.

Get ready to bring some cheer

Head out to Cooper Field Dec. 12, for the Army vs. Navy Flag Football game and cheer on your Service! Games begin at 7 p.m., with the females taking the field first, followed by the males.



MOTIVATOR
OF THE WEEK

PV2 Ryan Curtis
66th Military Police Company

PO2 Jonathon Zocchia
Port Security Unit 301



CORRECTIONS Please report all corrections to thewire@jftgtmo.southcom.mil
The following information was printed incorrectly in the Oct. 4 online issue of the Wire



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Religious Services

NAVSTA Chapel

Catholic Mass
Mon.-Thur. 5:30 p.m.
Saturday 5 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m.

Protestant Services

General Protestant
Sunday 11 a.m.
Gospel Worship
Sunday 1 p.m.

Chapel Annexes

Pentecostal Gospel
Sunday 8 a.m. & 5 p.m.,
Room D

LDS Service
Sunday 10 a.m., Room 19

Islamic Service
Friday, 1:15 p.m., Room 2

Seventh Day Adventist
Friday, 7 p.m., Room 1
Sabbath School: Saturday 9:30 a.m.,
Room 1
Sabbath Service: Saturday 11:00 a.m.,
Room 1

JTF Trooper Chapel

Protestant Worship
Sunday 6:40 a.m.
Sunday 9 a.m.
Sunday 7 p.m.

Transportation Schedules

Bus #1, 2, 3:

Camp America - :00, :20, :40
Gazebo - :01, :21, :41
Camp America NEX - :02, :22, :42
Camp Delta - :04, :24, :44
TK 4 - :13, :33, :53
JAS - :14, :34, :54
TK 3 - :15, :35, :55
TK 2 - :16, :36, :56
TK 1 - :17, :37, :57
CC - :19, :39, :59
Windjammer/Gym - :22, :42, :02
Gold Hill Galley - :24, :44, :04
NEX - :26, :46, :06
NEX Laundry - :27, :47, :07
C Pool - :30, :50, :10
Downtown Lyceum - :31, :51, :11
NEX - :33, :53, :13
Gold Hill Galley - :35, :55, :15
Windjammer/Gym - :37, :57, :17
CC - :40, :00, :20
TK 1 - :41, :01, :21
TK 2 - :42, :02, :22
TK 3 - :43, :03, :23
TK 4 - :44, :04, :24
Camp 6 - :50, :10, :30
Camp Delta - :53, :13, :33
HQ Building - :55, :15, :35
Camp America NEX - :57, :17, :37
Gazebo - :58, :18, :38
Camp America - :00, :20, :40

NEX Express Bus

9:55 a.m. - 7:55 p.m.
Every hour at the stated times

Camp America - :55, :48
TK 1 - :05, :36
Denich Gym/Windjammer - :11, :31
Gold Hill Galley - :14, :29
NEX - :16, :27
Downtown Lyceum - :17, :25

Beach Bus

Sat. and Sun. only - Location #1-4
Windward Loop
9 a.m., 12 p.m., 3 p.m., 6 p.m.

East Caravella
SBOQ/Marina
9:05 a.m., 12:05 p.m., 3:05 p.m.

NEX
9:08 a.m., 12:08 p.m.,
3:08 p.m., 6:08 p.m.

Phillips Park
9:14 a.m., 12:14 p.m.
3:14 p.m.

Cable Beach
9:17 a.m., 12:17 p.m.,
3:17 p.m.

Windward Loop
9:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m.,
3:30 p.m.

NEX
9:25 a.m., 12:25 p.m.,
3:25 p.m., 6:25 p.m.

SBOQ/MARINA
9:35 a.m., 12:35 p.m., 3:35 p.m.

Return to Office
9:40 a.m., 12:40 p.m., 3:40 p.m.

JOINT TASK FORCE GUANTANAMO



SAFE



HUMANE



LEGAL



TRANSPARENT



The power of commander's intent

By Col. John Bogdan

Commander, Joint Detention Group

When a commander issues orders to his subordinate leaders and Soldiers, one of the essential components of his instructions must be his intent. "Commander's Intent," as defined by FM 1.02 outlines the purpose, key tasks and endstate for any task assigned.

The bottom line is that intent must provide a clear vision to subordinate leaders of what the battlefield must look like if and when all other plans go to hell – "ensure you accomplish these primary things, if nothing else."

The first step is to provide clear, easily understood directions. Napoleon had a Corporal review his written orders – if his corporal could understand the intent, then the orders were published. Rommel told his battalion commanders in the deserts of North Africa: "in the absence of orders go out and find something and kill it!"

With well crafted and CLEAR intent, we empower our subordinates to take action, independent of direct oversight;



Col. John Bogdan

to be creative and exploit the initiative when unforeseen events present opportunities. A leader's endorsement or support of his subordinate's actions, regardless of their outcome, centers on the application of his intent and is paramount to a cohesive and dynamic team. Leaders who give overly detailed directions and constantly micro-manage their subordinates stifle creativity and stunt the development of our

future leaders.

Soldiers who know their superiors will support their decisions are empowered to act; they aren't worried about the perceptions of their actions. They become bold and decisive leaders, able to direct sometimes unorthodox solutions in the face of uncertainty that most effectively accomplish the mission. While this is not to say that ends justify the means, it does recognize that each individual's skills, knowledge and expertise have something to contribute to the mission and to improving the entire organization. This type of empowerment is what turns good units into outstanding ones.

Average units accomplish amazing things when leaders are empowered with clear intent and the support of their leaders. It was clear intent that allowed paratroopers, scattered all over Normandy, to assemble with Soldiers of different units, in some cases even different divisions, to drive on and seize key terrain and block critical avenues of approach leading to the eventual success of the D-Day invasions. It was the commander's clear intent, "secure the COP," on COP Callahan, Baghdad, Iraq, that allowed Sgt. Whitley, a young MP team leader, to act. While preparing for mission, her squad was struck by overpowering rocket-assisted mortar fire, two of her vehicles were destroyed and several Soldiers injured. She quickly led troops to cover inside the main headquarters, organized her forces with other responding troops to establish security, and then went back out into the heavy fire, taking two other Soldiers with her, to locate and secure the remaining wounded troops. The enemy was unable to advance upon the compound, and no Soldiers were killed that day, due to her confidence in her ability to make decisions and her understanding of clearly defined commander's intent.

TROOPER TO TROOPER

Strength through diversity, celebrating Native Americans

By 1st Sgt. Davin Butler

First Sergeant, HHC 525th MP Bn.

In 1990, President George H.W. Bush approved a joint resolution to designate November as "National American Indian Heritage Month." Last month, the 525th Military Police Battalion honored the contributions made by Native Americans throughout history – specifically those in the military.

Native Americans have participated with distinction in United States military actions for more than 200 years. Their courage, determination, and fighting spirit were recognized by American military leaders as early as the 18th century. In 1778, Gen. George Washington said, "I think they can be made of excellent use as scouts and light troops."

The Department of Defense estimates that more than 12,000 American Indians served in the military in World War I. The 142nd Infantry, 36th Texas-Oklahoma National Guard Division, had at least 600 Oklahoma Natives from the Choctaw and Cherokee Tribes. The 142nd fought in France, and many of these Native American Soldiers were recognized. Four men received the Coix de



1st Sgt. Davin Butler

Guerre, while others received the Church War Cross for gallantry.

In World War II, Native Americans continued to serve proudly in the Pacific from 1942-1945. The Navajo code talkers served in all six Marine divisions, Marine Raider battalions and Marine parachute units. They transmitted messages by telephone and radio in their native language. It was a code the Japanese could not break and one that was crucial to American success during the war.

Today, descendants of these Tribes still carry on their service within our ranks. They volunteer for service at a high rate – Native Americans have the highest per capita record of service when compared to other ethnic groups. According to the Department of the Army, in 2012, there were 8,138 Native Americans serving.

Their call to service has contributed to the distinctive cultural values from each Tribe. The warrior tradition is best exemplified by these qualities: strength, honor, pride, devotion and wisdom. Rites of passage – including service in the military – are very much respected.

Over the course of the Army's 238-year history, Natives have served among our ranks valiantly and with distinction and honor. Their rich heritage and backgrounds make the U.S. Army more unique. We are proud of their lasting contributions as Soldiers, civilians, veterans and family members in this profession and all professions that benefit the nation and our Army.

Chaplains inspire single Soldiers

Story and photos by **Spc. Lerone Simmons**

Staff Writer, thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil

The arena was set, safety precautions in place, allegiances determined, and the inevitability of risk began to take its toll as Troopers assigned to Joint Task Force Guantanamo at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, prepared to engage in a battle of paintball during a Strong Bonds event for single Soldiers, Nov. 26.

The two-day event was hosted by JTF-GTMO chaplains and consisted of paintball, meals, several workshops, an evening yacht dinner cruise, and one night in a hotel for the 27 participants.

“Before attending the workshops, I viewed relationships as I saw them on TV and acted as such,” said Army Pfc. Ernesto Camacho, military police assigned to the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 93rd Military Police Battalion, “but now I know that you have to get yourself together, before helping everyone else. Initially I thought it was just going to be classes with the chaplains and food, but after experiencing the paintball, and yachting, along with the information that I learned about relationships, it turned out to be better than expected.”

The workshop featured topics from Dr. John Van Epp’s book, “How to Avoid Falling in Love With a Jerk,” which reinforces the ability to manage the different complexities of finding a significant other for the long term, along with self improvement for



Army Capt. Brady Frederick, 525th Military Police Battalion chaplain, instructs a class during a Strong Bonds event for single Soldiers at the Guantanamo Community Center, Nov. 26. Frederick was one of three chaplains who imparted their insight about relationships to the participants.

those seeking love.

“This event should happen more often, maybe quarterly,” said Camacho.

As glamorous as the activities seemed, the basic ideals of hard work, donation and volunteerism played a big part.

“Raising the money was a big challenge but with the 525th Military Police Battalion Family Readiness Group, the Chief of Chaplains fund, and other private donors, we were able to pull this off,” said Army Capt. Brady Frederick, 525th MP BN chaplain. “We wanted to give Soldiers practical tools to help with dating and marriage, while allowing them to have fun – it was money well spent.”

Navy Lt. Cmdr. Scott “Buster” Armstrong, an air operations officer assigned to NAVSTA provided his yacht “Finders Keepers.” His vessel served as the Troopers dinner location and gave Service members another opportunity to increase personal relationship development.

“It’s fantastic to share what my wife Tiana and I have, especially to Troopers who are so appreciative for the opportunity,” he said. “Wow - is the most common feedback term. It also does not have to be a nice boat to have fun, just making the attempt and doing outreach is enough to get something started.”

The next event in the works for Frederick is to give married Soldiers, who are away from their spouses, the tools to help their marriages while separated. 🍷



Troopers assigned to Joint Task Force-Guantanamo enjoyed a sunset sail aboard “Finders Keepers,” during a Strong Bonds event for single Soldiers, Nov. 26. Strong Bonds is a program to give Soldiers practical tools to help with dating and marriage.

Countermeasures

Countermeasures are actions you take to prevent an incident from happening. It can be something as simple as locking your doors when you leave your car in a parking lot, or as complex as some of the physical security measures you take at the office.

Countermeasures help protect you, your family and the mission. They keep you and your information safe.

What countermeasures do you take to ensure you’re not leaking information or giving adversaries an open invitation to your work or home?



Only visit safe sites

With one click of your mouse, you think you’ve searched a legit site, but what you don’t understand is somewhere deep in cyber space are Web-minions downloading malware and collecting information about where you visit, what you like and who you are.

Your government computer prevents some of this from happening. But your personal computing system may not. The safest choice is to only visit reputable sites that publish clear privacy policies. Happy surfing!

Information Assurance





Hollywood gets the book right

Review by Sgt. Katherine Forbes

JTF-PAO, thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil

The science-fiction novel "Ender's Game" has been embraced by readers for several decades. I'm glad Hollywood waited until film technology could handle the imaginative world of Ender.

"Ender's Game" is about a future world, living in the shadow of a war with aliens, "buggers." Mankind barely survived the war and children are bred for their brains and brawn in hopes of a hero; one who can defeat the buggers for good.

Like any movie adapted from literature, there are changes. The most glaring change is the age of Andrew "Ender" Wiggin (Asa Butterfield). At the start of the book, Ender is six years old but even at the age of 16, he has the look, depth and skill to pull off the complicated character of Ender. I found the script to be the only thing lacking. The film could have benefitted from exploring Ender's mind games battle school exploits. This lacking could have been solved with a few simple montage sequences.

In the end, the film hits all the necessary targets—acting, visual effects, and energy. For saving mankind from the possibility of a horrible movie adaptation, I give the film five banana rats. 🍌



Courtesy Summit Entertainment



"Frozen" will melt your heart

Review By Sgt. David Bolton

Copy Editor, thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil

'Tis the season for shallow and pedantic full-length, Disney feature films about the wondrously fanciful world of childhood exploration.

"Frozen" brings young and frivolous Anna (Kristen Bell) and hardened mountain man Kristoff (Jonathan Groff) together to end the eternal winter that has settled on the kingdom. Together, with a group of sub-freezing, arctic creatures, these two must attempt to save the kingdom from its icy doom or risk death in the process.

For what this movie was, it fit the bill of a 'love-conquers-all' animated drama. Dusted throughout

the film's more serious, and at times thrilling, parts are little jokes from Olaf the snowman (Josh Gad). Shockingly, the most

enjoyable part of "Frozen" wasn't what was seen but, rather, what was heard. The musical score in this movie was moving. If you can shut out the childish and derivative storyline, close your eyes and just listen, the

auditory experience of "Frozen" can melt your heart.

For making me feel like I wasn't part of a winter wonder weltschmerz, but still being a good bit of fun, I give "Frozen"

three banana rats. 🍌



Courtesy Walt Disney Pictures



It's "About Time" a romantic film graces GTMO audiences

Review By Sgt. Cassandra Monroe

Staff Writer, thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil

"About Time," starring Tim (Domhnall Gleeson) and Mary (Rachel McAdams), starts out as what seems like a playful movie about a guy who's down on his luck and has no success with women. That is, until he learns an old family secret.

"About Time" managed to pull all of my heartstrings and was beautifully directed, in a way where you felt embarrassed, delighted, happy and sad along with Tim and

the others. You felt as if you shared the same memories.



The many characters of the film had you falling in love with them too; from Tim's charming, care-free father, to his beloved Mary. Tim's sister's problems became your problems as well.

The moment you feel like this movie starts to drag on, you're surprised by a few twists and turns along this beautiful journey of love and family. Overall, I give this movie five banana rats. 🍌



Courtesy Universal Pictures

Now Showing!

at the Downtown and Camp Bulkeley Lyceums



	06 FRIDAY	07 SATURDAY	08 SUNDAY	09 MONDAY	10 TUESDAY	11 WEDNESDAY	12 THURSDAY
DOWNTOWN	No movies will be shown due to setup for the Holiday Concert	No movies will be shown due to the Holiday Concert	Frozen PG, 7 p.m.	Escape Plan (LS) R, 7 p.m.	The Counselor R, 7 p.m.	Carrie (LS) R, 7 p.m.	Ender's Game PG13, 7 p.m.
CAMP BULKELEY	Ender's Game PG13, 8 p.m. Carrie (LS) R, 10 p.m.	Escape Plan (LS) R, 8 p.m. The Counselor R, 10 p.m.	Hunger Games: Catching Fire PG13, 8 p.m.	Lyceum closed Note: Concessions at Camp Bulkeley are also closed every night until further notice.	Frozen PG, 8 p.m.	Lyceum closed Note: Concessions at Camp Bulkeley are also closed every night until further notice.	About Time R, 8 p.m.

Call the Movie Hotline at ext. 4880 or visit the MWR Facebook page for more information

Stay classy, GTMO! No ALCOHOL or TOBACCO at the Lyceums!

LS = Last Showing



One stroke at a time, SWIMMING ACROSS THE BAY

Story and photos by Sgt. David Bolton

Copy Editor, thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil

In the early morning hours of Nov. 30, 30 participants took to the shores of Leeward Point Beach for the pan-bay swim. From Leeward Point, the swimmers set a course for Girl Scout Beach, 1.7 miles away. Surrounded by five Morale, Welfare and Recreation pontoon boats and three times as many volunteers in kayaks with life preservers, the school of swimmers made their way steadily across the mouth of the bay.

“There aren’t many swim events so if you’re a swimmer, it’s a great event,” said Elena Granina, a logistician with base supply. “It’s once-in-a-lifetime; you’ve got to do it while you’re in GTMO.”

Before any of the swimmers were allowed to set foot in the water, they were required to pass a 500m swim test to ensure participants were up to the task.

Swimming such a vast, open body of water takes planning and careful consideration. Looking out over the bay it may seem easy for someone to make a B-line from one shore to another. But when waves, tides, weather, sea life and exhaustion are thrown into the mix, it is good to have a way of navigating through the deep, blue water.

“You have to steer and aim for landmarks so you don’t go too

far in one direction or the other,” said Army Capt. Elizabeth Johnson, commander, 189th Military Police Company. “Then try to get through the middle part where the seaweed and jellyfish are as quickly as possible. The middle is the place you don’t want to be for very long.”



Jumping into the waves of the bay isn’t something that should just be done for the fun of it. Before attempting any kind of MWR-sponsored endurance challenge, it is a good idea to train for the event you want to participate in; whether it’s a marathon, triathlon or a swim across Guantanamo Bay.

“After work I went swimming two times a week,” said Army Pfc. Mark Zaborniak, a generator mechanic with the 189th MP Co. “I think it was a good idea to do that 500m to weed out people that might not necessarily make it or overestimate their abilities.”

In just over an hour, all the competitors and participants who entered on Leeward came out on Girl Scout. Trophies were given to the male and female first-place finishers. Johnson took home a trophy with a time of 47 minutes, 40 seconds and Navy Cmdr. Jerry Berman, an anesthesiologist at Naval Station Hospital, won the men’s trophy with a time of 47 minutes, 30 seconds. ♦



Participants of the Morale, Welfare and Recreation program Swim Across the Bay line up along the start point at Leeward Point beach, Nov. 30, at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The swim was 1.7 miles and required a 500m-swim assessment from participants prior to the event.

*“It’s good to have that type of experience,
knowing how you’re going to
take it and how you’re going to respond.*

*This put a realistic spin on what
could possibly happen.”*

- Staff Sgt. Michael Chesney,
189th Military Police Company

Training of the

*Behavioral Science Consultat
assists newcomers through
scenarios, ensuring strength thro
of the backbone of the detentio*



Army Staff Sgt. Michael Chesney, military police with the 189th Military Police Company, 525th Military Police Battalion, monitors a detainee role player during a training exercise as other Soldiers new to the island, used the exercise to prepare for detainee interaction and working in the detention facilities.

Guards

ion Team
realistic
ugh the ranks
on facilities



Soldiers look on at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Loud bangs on metallic gates, mumbled whispers and shouting echoed through a long walkway containing old detention cells.

“I need more water!” shouts one disdainful voice. “Do you see how hot it is, c’mon, more water?”

Another voice, this one laced with sarcasm, chimes in: “Oh, you’re new! You’re new here!”

Guards, protected by a splash-resistant face shields paced up and down the hallway. At each cell, they ignored the yelling, peered into the cells to check on the occupant.

Each cell, painted sea foam green with a black stripe and a heavy gate, contained a metal block representing a bed, a water fountain and grounded toilet. A Soldier, stopped at a cell to check on the inhabitant and is suddenly caught off guard by a splash to the face, forcing him to leave the environment as other cell inhabitants cackle with laughter.

Thankfully for the guard, the questionable liquid he was splashed with was only water, and the cell inhabitants, only fellow Soldiers playing the role of disgruntled detainees. The guards participated in the training exercise in preparation for life on the block, where they will be faced with many challenges. The scenario is all too real for detention facility guards stationed here.

The realistic training was facilitated by the Behavioral Science Consultation Team, a group that works with incoming Troopers who will have daily interactions with detainees held at the facilities. The new-to-the-island guards started with an extensive and informative slideshow detailing detainee interactions, and what to expect from their jobs. They learned how small actions could speak louder than words, and were reminded to incorporate their basic Army values when interacting with the detainees in the facilities. The later portion of the training put them in a true-to-life situation and prepared them for what they may face.

“There are a bunch of components we use as the BSCT,” said Army Sgt. Christopher Egan, noncommissioned officer in charge of the training. “We show them how to look at themselves,

their values, how they interact with other individuals. Having good interpersonal communications skills can make your job a lot easier.

“This training was to give the new guards a taste of what it will be like and I think what they get the most out of is getting the experience in a safer environment,” he continued. “If they get confused or do not understand what is going on, it’s easier for them to react here.”

For Army 2nd Lt. Thelma Teal, the area officer in charge with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 525th Military Police Battalion, the training helped her grow as a leader by showing her how quickly situations requiring her involvement can arise.

“I have to be ready and I have to know the Standard Operating Procedures,” she said. “SOPs are very important here especially because there’s certain ways to react to detainees. I have to know what actions to take once these incidents occur, and make sure that I choose decisions wisely and that I make them in a timely manner before any other issues arise.”

The purpose of the SOPs is to provide a safe and humane standard for these military policemen to follow when interacting with detainees. The SOPs also include standards for the guards to protect themselves from any harm. For Teal, safety is of upmost importance for her team members and the detainees.

“There are always procedures we can take to make it easier for them,” she said. “In the end we just have to follow them because it’s going to protect the Soldiers from anything the detainees try to do.”

For Army Staff Sgt. Michael Chesney, the most unforgettable part of the training was getting splashed. He said that after taking his eyes off the cell inhabitant for one second and getting splashed was a beneficial part of the learning process.

“It’s good to have that type of experience on knowing how you’re going to take it and how you’re going to respond to it,” said Chesney, military police with 189th Military Police Company. “This put a realistic spin on what could possibly happen.” 🍷



Army Staff Sgt. Joel Shively, a distinguished visitor driver for the Joint Visitors Bureau, poses for a photo while waiting for a DV group at Officer's Landing at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba Aug. 7. Shively said having the opportunity to meet members of Congress and other high-ranking officials is the best part of his job.

Distinguished tours

NCOs handle JTF's distinguished visitors with professional pride

Story and photos by Sgt. Darron Salzer

Photo Editor, thewire@jftgtmo.southcom.mil

When distinguished visitors, including congressional members and foreign dignitaries, visit Guantanamo Bay, the DV drivers of the Joint Visitors Bureau ensure the red carpet is rolled out and a good first impression is made.

Army Sgt. Christian Hiner, a DV driver for the JVB with the Michigan National Guard 177th Military Police Brigade, said first impressions are paramount, and when it comes to a place like GTMO, it's important to show that from the moment the plane door opens that it is a professional environment.

First impressions are paramount in a place like GTMO which is constantly scrutinized, but Hiner and the other DV driver, Army Staff Sgt. Joel Shively, also with the 177th MP Bde., make sure the vehicles used to transport DVs around the station are pristine and in tip-top shape.

"We sweep and mop, shine the inside and tires with Armor All, clean the windows inside and out and wash the exterior – which in itself can take two hours to do," Shively said. "We spend quite a lot of time making sure these vehicles are ready."

On a typical arrival day, Shively said he does any last minute cleaning and fuels up his bus. He stocks a cooler onboard with ice and bottled water for his future passengers, checks over his itinerary so he knows what the plan is because it can sometimes change.

"I will meet the DV party at Officer's Landing once they cross over on the Coast Guard fast boats, greet them as they board the bus, and once they get settled we get started with the tour," Shively said.

A typical tour includes a stop at Camp X-Ray and an occasional stop at the Tierra Kay housing

area to show where some of the guard force lives, Shively said. Additionally, he said they will stop at the detention hospital at Camp Delta and almost always visit Camps V and VI where DVs will go inside and see a typical cell and learn about day-to-day operations.

"We may also go out to the Expeditionary Legal Complex and let them walk through the courtroom and get a tour of that area as well," he said.

When the DVs are not being shuttled around, there can be a lot of downtime for the drivers of the JVB.

"Once they leave Leeward Ferry Landing, I won't see them again until I pick them up for their departure flight," Hiner said. "I spend that time taking classes online to help me further progress in my military occupation specialty."

The time to further his career is great, but

Hiner said meeting people that he would otherwise have never had the chance to is the best part of the job, a sentiment echoed by Shively.

"It's neat to be able to meet these people," Shively said, recalling how much he enjoyed meeting Congresswoman Michele Bachmann.

To Hiner, meeting retired Army Gen. George W. Casey Jr., and Marine Corps Gen. John Kelly, current commander of U.S. Southern Command, are his treasured memories.

Shively said no DV visit would be able to run as smoothly if it were not for the hard work and attention to detail of the entire JVB.

"I drive the DVs around on the bus, but that wouldn't happen if the rest of the team didn't do their part as effectively and efficiently as they do," he said. 🇺🇸



Army Sgt. Christian Hiner, a distinguished visitor driver for the Joint Visitors Bureau, waits for an official DV delegation at the Leeward A irport, Aug. 7. Hiner picks up groups of distinguished visitors there, and drops them off at the Leeward Ferry Landing, where they then take fast boats across the bay to continue on with their visit.

Cooking club provides relaxing environment for retired Cuban residents

Story and photos by Sgt. Cassandra Monroe

Staff Writer, thewire@jftgmo.southcom.mil

The small kitchen at the Cuban Community Center was packed with volunteers from both U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay and those serving Joint Task Force Guantanamo. Several women were hunched over the sink together, cutting various vegetables and transferring them to a pot where hot chicken legs were boiling in a flavored stock. Some of the volunteers made phone calls, ensuring the guests of honor were arriving, while others prepared the dining setup. 'Hola's' were heard over the busy chit-chat throughout the house. Finally, the guests of honor, Cuban exiled residents, arrived and the party began.

The Cuban residents are GTMO's past; Once daily commuters on base, after the Cuban Missile Crisis, they chose to live at the Naval Station for their retirement. The Cuban Cooking Club, a monthly event sponsored by the Cuban Community Assistance program, hosts luncheon, monthly, and a place for the Cubans to get together; ensuring a cohesive bond between the last remaining Cuban-nationals who live on base. Although the cooking club only happens once a month, they do get together

weekly for exercise, entertainment and medical examinations.

In the small, packed building, the joy and relaxing state of the guests was louder than the Spanish music playing in the background.

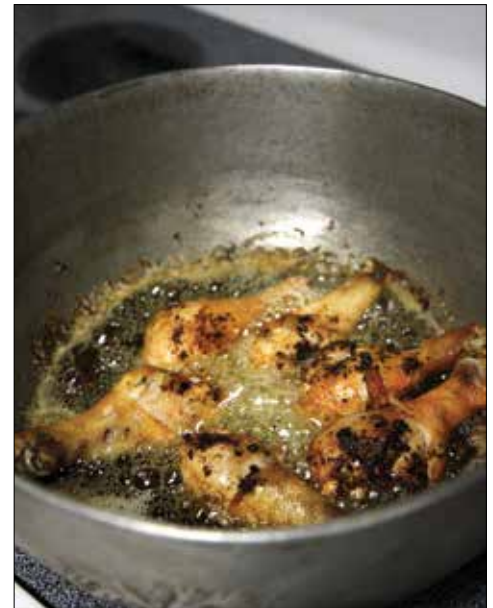
Juanita Harris, CCA director said this was one of many events the Cubans organize. It is also an opportunity for Service members to volunteer.

"They come here and we prepare meals and everyone shares," said Harris. "Cuban residents think it's great having Service members come over to share."

LoLeeta Lewis, a Cuban resident who has lived on base since 1964, was already in her home cooking when she got the call to come to the CCC. Lolita formerly worked for the public works department on base and commuted daily to work, crossing the gates every morning and evening. Cooking has always been something she just knew, something that was instilled in her.

"If I try, I can do it," she said. "It's natural."

Despite this being her first time at the club, she said her ability to mix well with



others she doesn't know, and to adapt to new environments, motivated her to live on this base.

"I mix, I adjust, I make friends, I don't have to know you," she said. "I'm blessed. This is home, GTMO is my family."

As the guests dispersed with full stomachs, the Cubans were left to relax among themselves, speaking in thick Spanish accents with smiles on their faces. ☺

Service members hold a conversation with a Cuban citizen during a Cuban Cooking Club luncheon Nov. 26. The club offers a chance for the retired Cuban citizens residing at Guantanamo Bay to come together for food and friends in a relaxed environment. The monthly event is also a chance for Service members to volunteer and get a chance to know the citizens. For volunteer questions, call Juanita Harris at ext. 2093.



California Courtroom to GTMO Commissions

Reservist marries up civilian, military careers while deployed

Story and photo by Capt. Andi Hahn

JTF GTMO PAO, thewire@jftgtmo.southcom.mil

Being in the Reserves allows for one to have a civilian, as well as a military, career — which are usually two different fields. For Army 1st Lt. Bryan Chan, 194th Military Police Company, his Reserve status in the military ended up mirroring his civilian job.

Chan has a very established civilian career as a prosecutor in southern California, 14 years to be exact, but decided to join the MP Corps because he admired their work ethic and noticed their job satisfaction when working with them.

“People always ask me why I didn’t join the Judge Advocate General Corps since I am already an attorney and in law enforcement,” Chan said. “I always reply with two reasons: First, I wanted a different experience from my civilian life. Second, I wanted to become involved in the other side of law enforcement, where the rubber meets the road.”

The irony in Chan’s reasons wasn’t lost here at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba where Chan found his two worlds collide.

Assigned as the officer in charge for internal security during military commissions, Chan spends more time in a courtroom than a typical MP officer would on deployment.

“I was actually excited when I learned about my assignment on this deployment,” Chan said. “It was high profile and in an environment I am already comfortable with.”

More importantly to Chan, the current hearings going on at GTMO deal with the alleged masterminds of Sept. 11, dubbed here as the “9/11 five.”

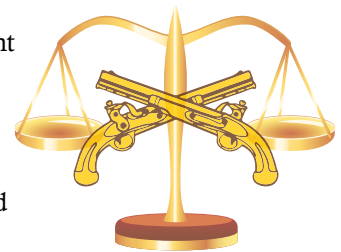
“I joined in part because of 9/11 and my first mission and first command is now being a part of the after effects of that day,” he said. “As I prepared for this deployment, GTMO was becoming more and more in the spotlight and controversial; which got me even more anxious to get here and see what it was really all about.”

Chan said his colleagues at the District Attorney’s Office have been nothing but supportive and proud since he joined.

“They initially thought I was crazy to join at such a late age but understood why I did it,” Chan said. “My immediate supervisor was especially pleased because he served in the Army during the Vietnam War and could relate.”

Chan said he has learned more about the structured lifestyle of the military, but isn’t referring to orderly barracks or practicing customs and courtesies.

“I’ve learned about time management, goal-oriented planning and maintaining a broad, professional network,” he said. “These tools I’ve learned and practiced in the Army have been applied to my civilian job.”



Meals with MONROE

Who doesn't love cupcakes? Who's in the spirit for the holidays? I know I am! Here is a recipe for some seriously delicious pumpkin cupcakes. These flavor-packed, melt-in-your-mouth cupcakes are moist but still maintain an airy texture. They're paired perfectly with cinnamon cream cheese icing. Since they're so delicious, be sure to make two batches! (Recipe adapted from www.thecakemerchant.com)

For the cupcakes, preheat the oven to 350 F and line a muffin tin with 12 paper liners. In a large bowl, whisk together 1 1/2 cups of **flour**, one teaspoon **baking powder**, 1/2 teaspoon **baking soda**, one teaspoon **cinnamon**, 1/4 teaspoon **nutmeg** and 1/2 teaspoon **salt**. If you want, don't be afraid to add a few dashes of **allspice**.

In a bowl, (it helps if you have an electric mixer) beat one stick of **unsalted butter** and 1 cup of **granulated white sugar** until light and creamy. Add 2 **large eggs**, one at a time, scraping the sides of the bowl after each addition. Add 1 teaspoon **vanilla extract** and beat to combine.

With the mixer on low, add the dry ingredients and 1 can of **pumpkin puree** in three additions, alternating between the two. Begin and end with the dry ingredients, until the batter has just come together.



PUMPKIN CUPCAKES WITH CINNAMON CREAM CHEESE FROSTING

Divide the batter evenly between the 12 liners (I used a measuring cup to do this) and bake for 18-20 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean. Cool completely on a wire rack before frosting.

For the frosting, beat 8 ounces **cream cheese**, one stick of **butter**, a pinch of salt, and one teaspoon **cinnamon** until creamy, about 2-3 minutes.

Next, add 2 1/2 to 3 cups **confectioner's sugar**. Beat until incorporated, scraping down the sides of the bowl when necessary.

Add 1 teaspoon **vanilla** and continue beating until combined. Pipe or spread the frosting onto the cooled cupcakes.



p.s.
(one last thing)

I want to hear from you! Did you try my recipe and loved it? Did you try my recipe and hated it? Well... that's too bad but email me anyways!

If you have a recipe you'd like for me to try, **contact me!** cassandra.l.monroe@jftgmo.southcom.mil

Chaplain's WORD OF THE WEEK

ext. 2218



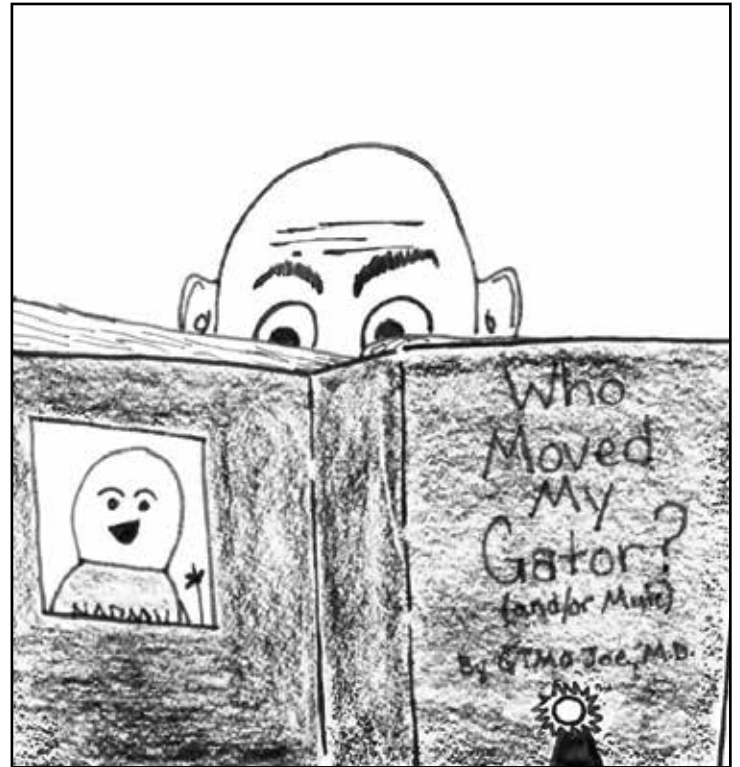
"Mail"

It's that time of the year. Be sure to plan head and get your packages and holiday cards in the mail so your family and friends will receive them in time. Free Christmas cards are available to you at the Camp America Post Office and at the JTF Chaplains Office.

Army National Guard photo by Spc. Lerone Simmons/The Wire

THE DOWNSIDE UP

by Sgt. Darron Salzer



GTMO life improvement



Facebook

/jointtaskforceguantanamo



THE BAY by Rizzo





ARMY vs. NAVY
Flag Football
Thursday, Dec. 12
Womens game at 7 p.m.
Mens game immediately following
Cooper Field



Meteor Shower Party
Come watch the Geminid Meteor Shower as it reaches its peak on
Friday, Dec. 13, 5:30-11 p.m.
at the Guantanamo Bay Lighthouse parking lot



Holiday Parade & Concert
Saturday Dec. 7
Parade at 6 p.m.
Christmas tree lighting
CYP concert at 8 p.m.
Anthony Ruptek
& His Midnight friends, 9 p.m.
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Thanksgiving at GTMO

Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Aaron Hiler
Graphics Editor, thewire@jftgtmo.southcom.mil

Troopers of Joint Task Force Guantanamo were served a traditional Thanksgiving meal of turkey, ham, prime rib and all the trimmings at both Seaside and Kittery Galleys by senior leaders from all of the commands within the JTF.

