

THE WIRE

The Official Publication of the Defense Force Guantanamo



Eek! Snakes!

Cuban Boa roams the hills of GTMO

The Real GTMO Joe

A comical spin on life from
Spc. David Marquis

Flying High at the NEX



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AND IN OUR PAGES



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Cover Story

Cover photo by Army Sgt. Darron Salzer

Vans BMX riders take flight as part of the 2013 NEX Customer Appreciation Weekend.
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The 238th
**U.S. Navy
Birthday Ball**

Saturday, Oct. 12 at 5:30 p.m.

Tickets on sale at the NEX Annex
from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. daily

THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE'S ARMED FORCES ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

SOCKS OFF COMEDY TOUR



Comedians: Mark Samuels, David Forward, Tim Schultz, Jeff Miller, Johnny Carlini, and Sarah Broad

Date: Saturday, Oct 5 Time: 7 p.m.
Location: Windjammer Ballroom

ARMEDFORCESENTERTAINMENT.COM

BAY WIRE REPORT

The rising cost of babies

The American Red Cross and the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society are offering a 'budget for baby' workshop open to all expectant parents, Wednesday, Oct. 9, at 6:30 p.m., in Room 15 of the Chapel Annex. Please call ext. 2511 to register.

You can't dock here

Boaters, per NAVSTAGTMOINST 1710.10B, private and MWR vessels are not permitted to use the two piers at Leeward Ferry Landing or the pier at Windward Ferry Landing.

CORRECTIONS Please report all corrections to thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil



THE WIRE

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Religious Services

NAVSTA Chapel

Catholic Mass
Tues.-Fri. 5:30 p.m.
Saturday 5 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m.

Spanish-language Mass
Sunday 4:35 p.m.

General Protestant

Sunday 11 a.m.
Gospel Service
Sunday 1 p.m.

Chapel Annexes

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

LDS Service
Sunday 10 a.m., Room A

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

Catholic Mass
Sunday 7:30 a.m.

Protestant Worship
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
Camp 6 - :07, :27, :47
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

Beach Bus

Sat. and Sun. only - Location #1-4
Windward Loop - 0900, 1200, 1500, 1800

East Caravella
SBOQ/Marina 0905, 1205, 1505

NEX
0908, 1208, 1508, 1808

Phillips Park
0914, 1214, 1514

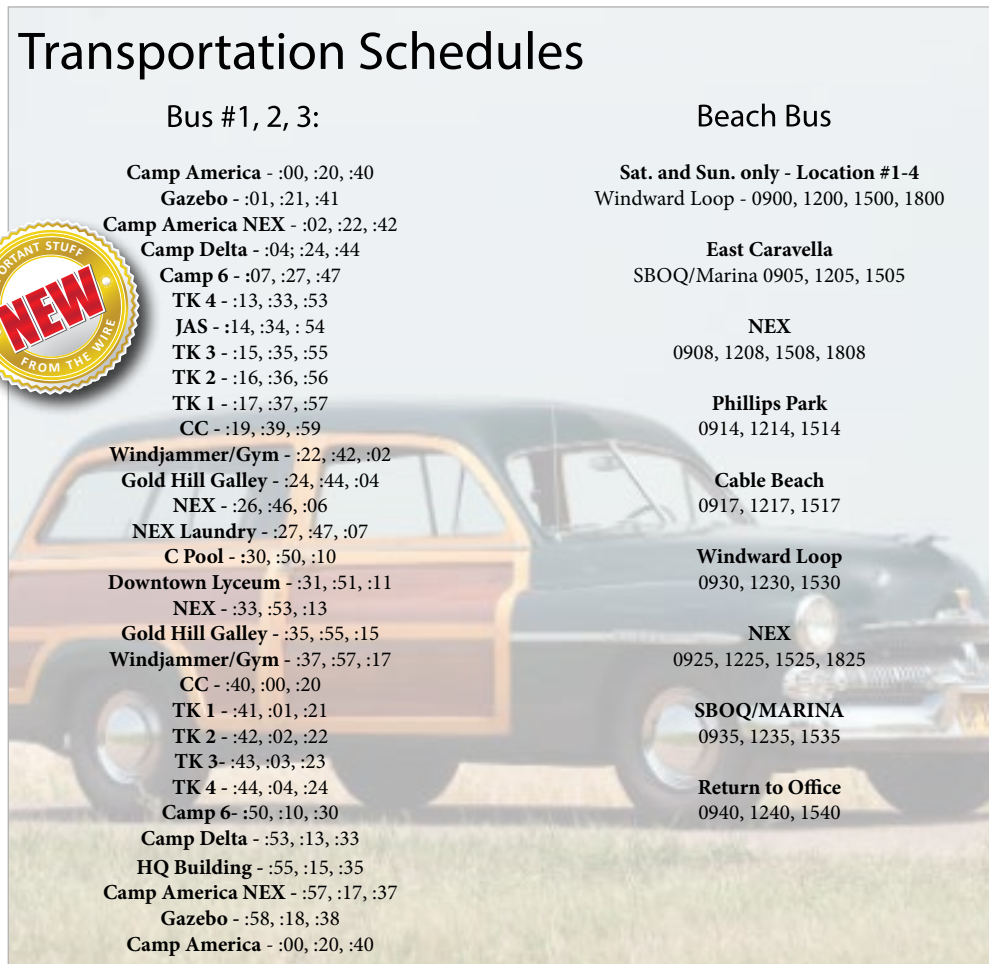
Cable Beach
0917, 1217, 1517

Windward Loop
0930, 1230, 1530

NEX
0925, 1225, 1525, 1825

SBOQ/MARINA
0935, 1235, 1535

Return to Office
0940, 1240, 1540



JOINT TASK FORCE GUANTANAMO



SAFE



HUMANE



LEGAL



TRANSPARENT



By Capt. Eric Venema

Joint Task Force Guantanamo chief of staff

When it comes to the subject of leadership, someone wiser has already said it better than you can. One of those leaders is Gen. Colin Powell. Born April 5, 1937, Powell is an American statesman and a retired four-star, United States Army. He was the 65th United States Secretary of State and the first African American to serve in that position. During his military career, Powell also served as National Security Advisor, as Commander of the U.S. Army Forces Command and as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. His well known philosophies on leadership have significant value to all leaders, junior and senior alike.



Capt. Eric Venema

In his brief, "A Leadership Primer," Powell offers several key insights on successful leadership, some of which I wish to share with you:

1. Being responsible sometimes means pissing people off. Good leadership involves responsibility to the welfare of the group, which means that some people will get angry at your actions and decisions. It's inevitable, if you're honorable. Trying to get everyone to like you is a sign of mediocrity: you'll avoid the tough decisions, you'll avoid confronting the people who need to be confronted, and you'll avoid offering differential rewards based on differential performance because some people might get upset.

2. The day Soldiers stop bringing you their problems is the day you have stopped leading them. They have either lost confidence that you can help them or concluded that you do not care. Either case is a failure of leadership.

3. Don't be buffaloed by experts and

elites. Experts often possess more data than judgment. Elites can become so inbred that they produce hemophiliacs who bleed to death as soon as they are nicked by the real world. Policies that emanate from ivory towers often have an adverse impact on the people out in the field who are fighting the wars or bringing in the revenues. Real leaders are vigilant, and combative, in the face of these trends.

4. Don't be afraid to challenge the pros, even in their own backyard. Learn from the pros, observe them, and seek them out as mentors and partners. But remember that even the pros may have leveled out in terms of their learning and skills. Sometimes even the pros can become complacent and lazy. Leadership does not emerge from blind obedience to anyone.

5. Never neglect details. When everyone's mind is dulled or distracted the leader must be doubly vigilant. Strategy equals execution. All the great ideas and visions in the world are worthless if they can't be implemented rapidly and efficiently. Good leaders delegate and empower others liberally, but they pay attention to details, every day.

6. You don't know what you can get away with until you try. Good leaders don't wait for official blessing to try things out. They're prudent, not reckless. But they also realize a fact of life in most organizations: if you ask enough people for permission, you'll inevitably come up against someone who believes his job is to say "no."

7. Keep looking below surface appearances. Don't shrink from doing so (just) because you might not like what you find.

8. Organization doesn't really accomplish anything. Plans don't accomplish anything, either. Theories of management don't much matter.

Endeavors succeed or fail because of the people involved. Only by attracting the best people will you accomplish great deeds.

9. Never let your ego get so close to your position that when your position goes, your ego goes with it. Too often, change is stifled by people who cling to familiar turfs and job descriptions. One reason that even large organizations wither is that managers won't challenge old, comfortable ways of doing things.

10. Perpetual optimism is a force multiplier. The ripple effect of a leader's enthusiasm and optimism is awesome. So is the impact of cynicism and pessimism. Leaders who whine and blame engender those same behaviors among their colleagues

11. Powell's Rules for Picking People: Look for intelligence and judgment, and most critically, a capacity to anticipate, to see around corners. Also look for loyalty, integrity, a high energy drive, a balanced ego, and the drive to get things done. Good leaders stack the deck in their favor right in the recruitment phase.

12. Great leaders are almost always great simplifiers, who can cut through argument, debate and doubt, to offer a solution everybody can understand. Effective leaders understand the KISS principle - Keep It Simple, Stupid. They articulate vivid, over-arching goals and values, which they use to drive daily behaviors and choices among competing alternatives.

13. The commander in the field is always right and the rear echelon is wrong, unless proved otherwise.

14. Have fun. Don't always run at a breakneck pace. Take leave when you've earned it. Spend time with your families. Corollary: surround yourself with people who take their work seriously, but not themselves, those who work hard and play hard.

Keep striving to make yourselves better leaders. It is a never ending process. I'm proud to serve with each of you.



FOOTBALL MADNESS

at O'Kelley's Pub

Catch the entire lineup starting at Noon each day

**SATURDAY COLLEGE
SUNDAY NFL**



Fire Capt. Glenroy Dixon, Guantanamo Bay Fire Station #2, demonstrates putting out a fire with resident Brance Foley Oct. 1, during the National Night Out at the Downtown Lyceum.

GTMO takes back the night at Lyceum

Report and photos by Sgt. David Bolton

Copy Editor, thewire@jftgmo.southcom.mil

Residents and Service members of U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay and Joint Task Force Guantanamo came together Oct. 1, to bring awareness to fight neighborhood crime as part of a National Night Out at the Downtown Lyceum. The Nation-wide event allows local communities to meet local law enforcement and first responders to gain an appreciation for their duties and support victims of crime.

"The way it works is the neighborhoods will get together," said Edgardo Figueroa, assistant anti-terrorism officer with the naval station security department, "and will come out just like this; they'll bring out police equipment and fire equipment and showcase themselves to the community and bring an awareness of anti-crime and anti-drugs."

Figueroa said the purpose of the displays was to bring NAVSTA and JTF first responders together and meet with residents and showcase equipment and to muster support for law enforcement efforts.

■ Read more online at www.jftgmo.southcom.mil



Army Sgt. Mokokil Rechirei, carpentry and masonry specialists, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 525th Military Police Battalion, shows visitors the Mossburg 500 shotgun at the National Night Out Oct. 1.

TROOPER TO TROOPER

Enforcing standards keeps military a well-oiled machine

By Sgt. 1st Class Richard Delgado

Plans and operations NCO, 525th MP Bn.

The military is an amazing machine with a huge diversity of people from around the world. The only way to get the military in sync, and to accomplish some of the most improbable missions, is through a set of standards. Enforcing those standards should always be on everyone's mind regardless of rank, position or branch of service.

If we have cracks in the system, it could suffer from a catastrophic failure. The military has made this easy for us to avoid such failures; there are plenty of FMs, TMs, STPs, ARs and many other forms of literature to assist us on doing things the right way.

Even the simple and most common violations to the standards can be corrected, usually at the lowest level. Correcting a young Soldier when they make a mistake, as simple as it may be, is the key that starts the simple process of developing future leaders for our Armed Forces. One day we will leave behind the greatest fighting force the world has ever seen to the next generation and for them to succeed we must not lose what makes us great – discipline.



Sgt. 1st Class Richard Delgado

Soldiers can, and should, make corrections when they notice a violation committed by those who outrank them. I always appreciate it when a Soldier conducts a professional on-the-spot-correction to me when I'm wrong, unknowingly. I would rather say thank you and carry on than look like a leader who doesn't know – or worse – a Soldier who doesn't care. Choosing the hard right over the easy wrong might not always seem like the best idea, but that decision will always pay off in the long run. When a young Soldier sees that we, as leaders, are doing things the right way, they will get in line and follow that example. Soldiers see everything we do on a daily basis and we may not know it, but we are the role models for many of them. It's our inherit responsibility to show them what a professional Soldier looks like at all times.

One of the worst things we can do in any profession, especially the military, is create an environment where double standards

exist. No one should ever be above the rules of law. When a unit sees a double standard, it will cause dissent amongst its ranks. As leaders, it's our responsibility to ensure this never happens.

When an unpopular policy or procedure is put out, it's imperative that everyone is held at that standard. Most importantly, Soldiers need to know that leaders stand behind all decisions and policies, regardless of their personal thoughts.

When I was a platoon sergeant for the 193rd Military Police Company here at Guantanamo, my platoon leader and I came up with a few standards of conduct within our platoon. I never once violated them because I was the platoon sergeant, and as such, had to be accountable for my actions, and the actions of my team. If I violated one of my own standards because of my position, then my words from that point on would have fallen on deaf ears, thus making me an ineffective leader.

So the next time you're walking about GTMO and you see someone doing something they shouldn't, Soldier up and make that on-the-spot-correction. If you notice it's you that needs that correction, make it without someone telling you.



Who's hungry for seconds?

By House Cdr. Cindy Neff

Contributor, thewire@jftgmo.southcom.mil

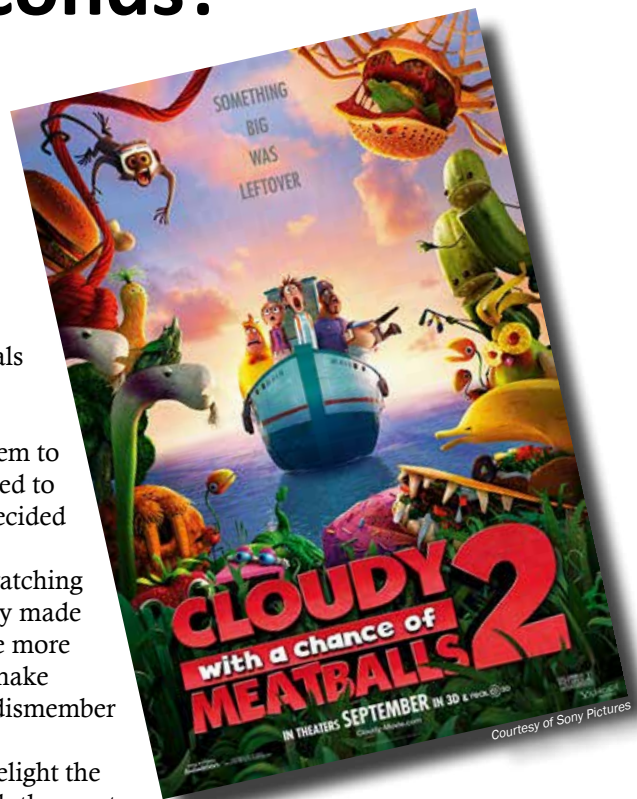
By now we all know the story. Inventor Flint Lockwood invents a machine that turns water into food. Going rogue, it piles on second and third helpings all over the planet! Flint and his crew successfully deactivated it the first time, but something has survived. The food that was once just taking up space has now evolved to take over the environment. In an attempt to clean up the food mess, a hero from Flint's past hires him to go back to his overrun home and shut down the FLDSMDFR. But the question becomes this: are these foodimals friend or foe? The race is on to save either the world or the flamangoes.

I thought the movie had a not-so-subtle condemnation of animals as food. It takes these foods and makes them sentient. Not all of them are, but they all seem to understand their own language and have built a culture, not just adapted to an environment. They have their own belief system, and have decided who enemy and friend are and how to identify them.



They look to Flint and recognize him as their creator after watching a garbled video of Flint describing the machine that accidentally made them. The villain's only plan was to take the machine and make more food to be used as food. So if a strawberry is sentient, does that make him no longer delicious? I think, personally, I would be happy to dismember a Shrimpanzee. Them's some good eatin' shrimp!

Clever, funny, and inventive in the use of food as mammal, this movie will delight the whole family. It has everything from a nefarious villain to an unlikely hero with the most random of support staff. Take the kids, prep a lasagna for dinner, and leave the first movie in the DVD player for when you get home. You're gonna be hungry for more! Four Banana Rats out of five. 🍌



“Getaway” wrecks more than \$1 million in Ford Shelbys

Still can't buy a decent storyline



Courtesy of Warner Bros. Studios

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Gina Vaile-Nelson

Editor, thewire@jftgmo.southcom.mil

If you went to the movies this weekend to see “Getaway,” looking for an action-packed, four-banana rat experience, I'm sorry.

What it's got: a pretty slick 2013 Ford Shelby GT500 Super Snake Mustang (which by the way, the makers of the movie wrecked 13 of them, totaling \$1.23 million in wasted muscle power); loads of wrecks and 94 minutes of trying to re-create “Speed.”

When Brent Magna (Ethan Hawke)'s wife (Rebecca Budig) is kidnapped, he takes to the streets at speeds of 100 mph (don't worry he's a former racecar driver), listening



to the Voice (Jon Voight), and doing everything he asks (hence the \$1.23 million). Somewhere in this mayhem, the Kid (Selena Gomez) pops in to retrieve her prized Shelby and take over as heroin. There's speed, crashes and terrible camera work. What it's not: “Taken,” so if that's what you're looking for, you won't find that here; everything from the dialogue to the action seems to be written by a high school drama student. The producers could've just made a documentary on the Shelby, and that might have been better received.

Let's be honest. After “Getaway,” plowed through the Lyceum, we'd be lucky to end up with half of a rat left, but I'll go ahead and give this flick one banana rat. 🍌

20 minutes to a better PT score

By Capt. Brian Pennington

Command Information OIC, thewire@jftgmo.southcom.mil

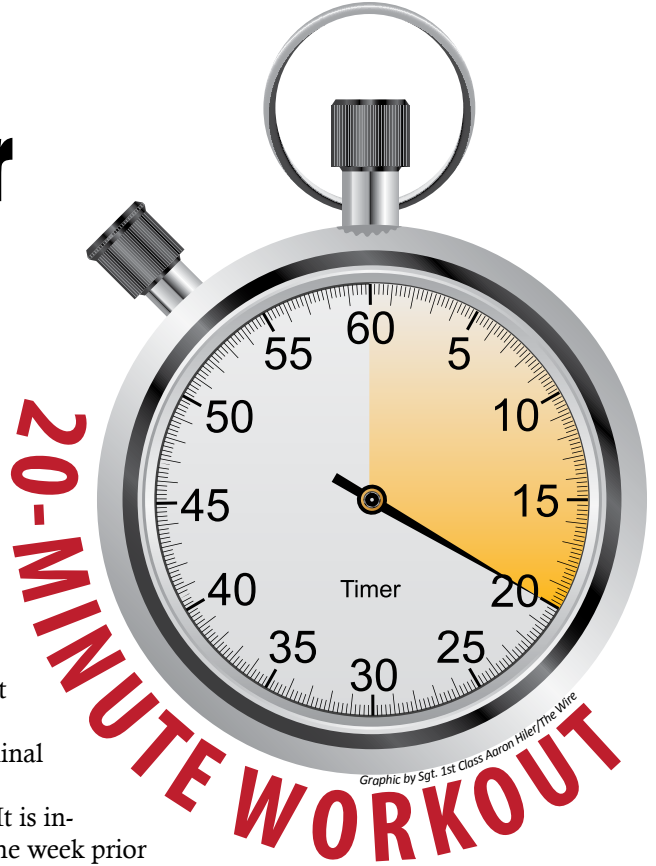
It's the new fiscal year, which means it's time for the physical training test. Regardless of your service affiliation, being in shape is an essential part of your overall readiness. A high PT score can have a major impact in selection for promotion, better career assignments, or getting advanced schooling.

This week's "Workout of the Week" focuses on improving your push-up and sit-up scores. I generally start this workout five weeks before my test to get accustomed to pushing for the full two minutes. I've found that it's also an excellent way to break up the boredom of doing the same old routines. You'll feel the burn in your chest, triceps, hip flexor and abdominal areas.

This workout requires less than 20 minutes, but don't let this fool you. It is intense, which is why I only recommend doing it twice a week, and once the week prior to a PT test. I suggest using it with a good cardio routine to maximize your potential.

The only rest positions are sagging in the middle or arching your back for the pushup, and the up position for the sit-up, exactly like the PT test.

Don't forget to hydrate, warm-up and cool-down properly. If you're not accustomed to a rigorous plan, talk with a medical professional to make sure the workout is safe for you. 🍷



You're done! In only 19 minutes and 30 seconds!

2 Minutes of push-ups	1 minute of push-ups
2 Minutes of rest	1 minute of rest
2 Minutes of sit-ups	1 minute of sit-ups
2 Minutes of rest	1 minute of rest
1:30 of push-ups	30 seconds of push-ups
1:30 of rest	30 seconds of rest
1:30 of sit-ups	30 seconds of sit-ups
1:30 of rest	

Now Showing!

at the Downtown and Camp Bulkeley Lyceums

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

04	FRIDAY	05	SATURDAY	06	SUNDAY	07	MONDAY	08	TUESDAY	09	WEDNESDAY	10	THURSDAY
Gravity (New) PG13, 8 p.m. Riddick (New) R, 10 p.m.	One Direction: This is Us (New) PG, 8 p.m. Kick-Ass 2 (LS) R, 10 p.m.	Jobs (LS) PG13, 8 p.m.	Lee Daniels' The Butler PG13, 8 p.m.	The World's End (New) R, 8 p.m.	Mortal Instruments: City of Bones PG13, 8 p.m.	You're Next R, 8 p.m.							
Riddick (New) R, 8 p.m. Gravity PG13, 10 p.m.	The World's End (New) R, 8 p.m. Elysium (LS) R, 10 p.m.	Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2 (New) PG, 8 p.m.	CLOSED Note: Concessions at Camp Bulkeley are also closed every night until further notice.	Jobs (LS) PG13, 8 p.m.	CLOSED Note: Concessions at Camp Bulkeley are also closed every night until further notice.	One Direction: This is Us (New) PG, 8 p.m.							

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

(LS) = Last Showing



Photo by Staff Sgt. Lorne Neff/The Wire

Boa BOLO

Conservationists track endangered snakes at GTMO

By Staff Sgt. Lorne Neff

Staff Writer, thewire@jftgmo.southcom.mil

Did you hear about the 18-foot boa constrictor loose on JPJ hill? It's not a joke – more like a rumor.

Actually, the biggest Cuban Boa spotted on Guantanamo was in 1989, measuring in at 15-feet-long. Much larger snakes once roamed these hills – upwards of 18-to-20-feet, but vehicles, population growth and domestic

animals have thinned out the numbers. Here at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, there's a team that's actively researching the reptiles and bringing awareness to their plight.

"We want to make it clear, they are not dangerous, they are not venomous, they are not aggressive, they bite only as a last resort when they are severely threatened, and are no danger to anyone," said Peter Tolson, Ph.D., director

of conservation and research at the Toledo Zoo.

Tolson and a small team of researchers travel to GTMO yearly to catalog and collect data on GTMO's female Cuban Boas. The partnership between the Toledo Zoo and the Navy Facilities Engineering Command has been ongoing since 2000.

"We went out and we found these big girls and we brought them back to the

Guantanamo Bay's newest momma, a Cuban Boa named Stubbette, that recently gave birth to 20 slithery snakes, was released back into the wild Oct. 1. Her babies will be released at a later date.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Lorne Neff/The Wire

vet clinic and we collect the data on the offspring: sexes, weights, lengths and then we release them where we found them," he said.

Tolson's project is important, he said, because the species is endangered. Each island in the Caribbean has unique species of boa, but he said the large snakes are some of the most endangered on Earth. Even though the Cuban Boa is protected here at NAVSTA, and the People's Republic of Cuba, the numbers still dwindle.

"On the Naval base, the primary cause is vehicle strikes," said Tolson. "We have tracked over 50, and a

significant portion of those have been struck by vehicles on the roads.

"In Cuba itself, human persecution is a big factor because they eat chickens and if the Cuban farmer sees a boa, he will kill it even though the boa is protected in Cuba as well," said Tolson.

"Here, the rules are enforced and the Navy acts as great stewards," he said.

And while the rules are enforced here, the fact that a staple in a boa's diet is the banana rat, or the hutia, is something may make Troopers and NAVSTA residents happy.

"For those who are ticked off because the hutia chewed their radiator hose or chewed their plants in the back yard, they are the biggest ally, hutia are their primary source of food and they eat one every two or three weeks," he said.

Tolson's colleague Candee Ellsworth, conservation coordinator at the Toledo Zoo, said Troopers and residents have no need to fear the boas and advised if you spot one, to just leave it alone and allow it the opportunity to go along its way.

"They don't have a home per se, that they come back to," said Ellsworth.

"If you see them in the yard, chances are they are just passing through, they don't need to have someone come and search for them," she said. "If you do need to have one removed, call base security for assistance. But in the end, if you leave it alone, you will be fine."

In addition to the boa, Tolson and Ellsworth are studying the Cuban Rock Iguana and the Cuban hutui and will finish their visit with a special reptile exhibit Sunday, Oct. 6 at 2 p.m. at Phillips Dive Park.

"People can come, talk with us, bring the kids and see these animals and we usually have a great time with that," said Tolson. 🐍



Photo by Sgt. Cassandra Monroe/The Wire

Peter Tolson, Ph.D., director of conservation and research from the Toledo Zoo in Toledo, Ohio, makes an incision on Daisy, a Cuban Boa, before inserting a tracking device Oct. 2, at the veterinarian clinic. The tracking device helps conservationists monitor the reproductive data of the Cuban Boa, a protected snake that is found at Guantanamo Bay.



A BMX cyclist soars above the GTMO skate park Sept. 28, during the VANS BMX Team demonstration.

Photo by Sgt. Darron Salzer/T



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Gina Vaile-Nelson/The Wire

Troopers tug and pull a Humvee 80 feet as part of the NEX Humvee Pull Sept. 28. The first, second and third place teams each got Apple products for their efforts.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class O

Patrons ate high on the hog at the chef luncheon Sept. 29, at the Bayview, cakes and burgers discovered by Food Network's hit show "Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives." The chef Brian Duffy's ribs, as seen on Spike TV's "Bar Rescue."



Photo by Sgt. Cassandra Monroe/The Wire

Navy Chief Petty Officer Patricia Fant, Joint Medical Group, takes off at the NEX Customer Appreciation 5km race Sept. 28.

NEX

Navy Exchange
thanks GTMO

Appreciation weekend offers action, fun for all

Story by Sgt. Cassandra Monroe

Staff Writer, thewire@jftgtmo.southcom.mil

Service members and employees stationed at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, were treated to a jam-packed, fun-filled weekend full of activities and programs thanks to the Navy Exchange Customer Appreciation Weekend held Sept. 27, through Sept. 29.

Co-hosted by the NEX and the Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs office, the weekend kicked off with a 5km race, a picnic and performances by the Vans BMX team, magician Justin Willman and the Crisis Band later on in the night. The NEX also raffled off store gift cards, trips to New York and Las Vegas in addition to the 20 percent off sales throughout the store.

Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers and base residents snapped pictures and waited for autographs of more than 10 distinguished visitors and performers including Vietnam War Medal of Honor recipients Don Jenkins and Gary Beikirch.

Residents and Service members also had the opportunity to test their strength in a Humvee pull contest.

The weekend concluded with a fishing tournament Sunday morning, more NEX gift card giveaways, and a celebrity chef dinner at the Bayview Club with three chefs featured by the Food Network. 🍷



Photo by Spc. Lerone Simmons/The Wire

Magician Justin Willman, and host of Food Network's "Cupcake Wars," levitates a table during a magic show Sept. 28, at the NEX atrium. Willman performed a second show later in the evening where he made a bowling ball appear from a sketch pad and wowed the audience with a math trick.

NEX / Customer Appreciation 5K Race

Race Results – Male

1. PO1 Carlos Riley 20:03
2. Darrig White 20:31
3. David Sare 21:05

Race Results – Female

1. Adrianna King 23:13
2. SGT Ana Kalyuzhny 23:33
3. Veronica Murray 24:01

Race Results – Kids (6-12)

- Boys: Trevor Carter 29:58
Girls: Giulia Deschane 43:22

The man behind the comic

By Sgt. Cody Stagner

JTF-PAO, thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil

If you had to pick one of the most influential people at Guantanamo, who would that be? What criteria would you base your decision? Power? Position? Leadership skills?

How about the ability to make you laugh or smile?

Meet Spc. David Marquis, a public affairs specialist at Joint Task Force GTMO and creator of the stick figure “GTMO Joe” comic strip featured in these pages.

His talent showed us the good, the bad, the mundane and the not-so-miserable sides of this island. The comics allowed us a chance to take a deep breath, smile and simply enjoy the life we have here at GTMO—three square blocks at a time.

In his final week here, our resident funny man was kind enough to share a few last words that we hope you enjoy.

The Wire: So, why did you get into comics?

Marquis: I started doing the comics because the cartoon artist from the unit I replaced was leaving and he said, ‘Hey, you’re a funny guy, you should take over the comic.’ So I did. The first thing I did was get rid of the old cartoon layout and created GTMO Joe. Everything I’ve done, I’ve learned on the spot.

The Wire: Where did you find inspiration?

Marquis: I get my inspiration from walking around Guantanamo Bay—every little thing from an iguana stealing a Trooper’s lunch, to banana rats stalking around at night. But, my greatest inspiration comes from

other Troopers. They talk about how GTMO is different from other tours, things that are annoying, or things they love. Believe it or not, sometimes we talk about things not related to the military at all.

The Wire: What is your favorite comic?

Marquis: Well, I have two favorites. The first is one I made about reflective belts. GTMO Joe was talking about juggling an iguana and a banana rat while unicycling down a guardrail. His boss showed up yelling, ‘Unless you find a safe way to do this, don’t do it at all.’

Of course, out poofs a nice reflective belt around

Joe’s waist and down the guardrail he goes. Another favorite of mine is

titled ‘Starry Night.’ Joe sits on the grass, looking up at the stars with a friend who asks, ‘Do you ever look up at the stars seeking answers to life’s questions?’ As Joe looks up, the stars mysteriously form the word, ‘NO.’ So Joe answers, ‘No.’

The Wire: What else did you do here?

Marquis: Other than making comics, I worked in the JTF-GTMO Media Relations office and snorkeled with friends here. Other than sitting outside my Cuzco—smoking and joking with friends—I didn’t do a whole lot. And other than my wife not being here, GTMO life has been pretty awesome.

The Wire: What advice can you give to new Troopers here?

Marquis: For anyone coming to Guantanamo Bay, or for those who have been here a while, don’t complain about what you have or don’t have. Look for all the good things you do have here. There are a lot of awesome people here going through the same thing, so hang out more and meet new people. Things will get better. Get to know the people you are working with and form friendships that will last a lifetime. Guantanamo is one of the greatest places to get deployed, so maybe find a hobby that makes you happy and improve on it.

The Wire: Any last words?

Marquis: I don’t know if I’ve had a real lasting effect on anyone here. I do know for sure my comics have brought joy and smiles to, literally, dozens of people across the island. If I could give the best advice on how to be happy here, it would be to smile, to stop and smell the roses, and always pet iguanas. Encourage others to say, ‘I am on a tropical island in the Caribbean. Life is good.’ 🍷





THE PRICE OF HONOR

Vietnam MOH recipients visit GTMO Troopers

Story and photos by Sgt. David Bolton

Copy Editor, thewire@jftgtmo.southcom.mil

Honor. Courage. Valor. Commitment. These are not just words to be tossed around lightly. Sure, we in the military hear them all the time, but what does it really mean to have honor, to be courageous, to perform a valorous act, and to be committed? Those who know the depth of meaning of these words and who have exhibited actions that go beyond the call of duty, are called Medal of Honor recipients. Guantanamo Bay had the privilege of hosting two MOHRs Sept. 27, through Sept. 30.

Retired Army Sgt. Gary Beikirch, a member of the 5th Special Forces Group and retired Army Staff Sgt. Don Jenkins, a member of the 9th Infantry Division, both served and earned their medals in Vietnam.

Although it is the nation's highest honor, the medal comes with some stigma, sometimes known as what the two men

called the Medal of Honor curse.

"It is easier to get it than to wear it," said Jenkins. "Some guys feel conflicted about it."

"The hardest thing is the memories and guilt people feel," said Beikirch. "The big question people are left with is 'why me?' Why am I recognized and so many others are not?"

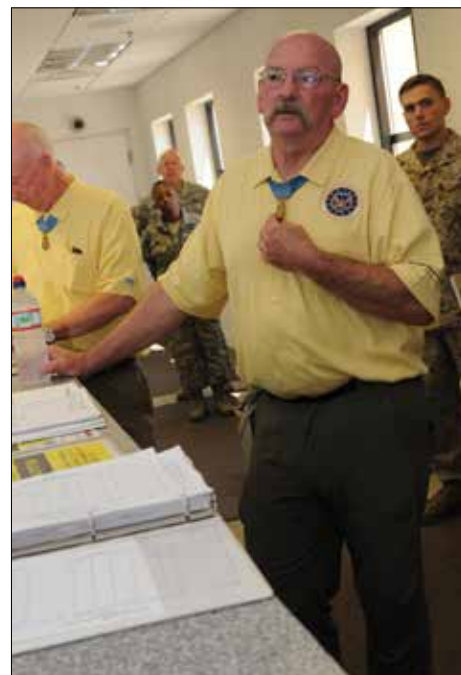
Beikirch went on to say that unless someone can come to terms with why they were selected for the medal, it can be a curse.

Despite this looming notion, both Beikirch and Jenkins agreed that out of the 79 living MOHRs, not one of them wear the medal for themselves. Wearing the medal is done to show people that it is possible to care for someone more than yourself.

"I wear this for you all," said Jenkins as he spoke to a group of Troopers.

As part of their stay at GTMO, Jenkins and Beikirch were escorted around the base and had the opportunity to speak with and hear from some of the Troopers stationed here. The impact of these men was palpable.

"To be able to walk around with them is one of the biggest honors I never thought I would have," said Marine Sgt. Derrick Wyatt, an infantryman with the Marine Corps Security Force and one of the MOHRs' escorts. "Spending time with them is something that will never be topped." 🇺🇸



Medal of Honor recipient Gary Beikirch, talks with Troopers at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, about what it means to receive the Medal of Honor at the Joint Task Force headquarters building Sept. 27. Beikirch earned his medal more than 40 years ago during the Vietnam War.



Medal of Honor recipients Don Jenkins, left, and Gary Beikirch, have lunch with Joint Task Force Troopers at Seaside Galley Sept. 27. Both men earned their medals more than 40 years ago during the Vietnam War.

Strides to end hunger



Troopers walk to raise awareness of those in need

Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Gina Vaile-Nelson
Editor, thewire@jftgtno.southcom.mil

When a Joint Task Force Guantanamo Trooper is hungry, a quick, five minute walk to the galley and a smorgasbord of options awaits – freshly prepared and nutritionally balanced.

But for millions of people around the world struggling for food, water or fuel, there is no quick five minute walk.

“Some people around the world walk upward of six miles a day to get their food and fresh water,” said Navy Cdr. Terry Eddinger, command chaplain, JTF-GTMO. “The Bible tells us to help those who need it – feed the hungry, clothe the naked and heal the sick.”

On Sept. 29, Eddinger and 33 Troopers made strides to bring awareness to world hunger in the nation-wide Christian Rural Overseas Program (CROP) Hunger Walk. Walking as “Team Terry,” the purple-clad delegation marched one and a half miles in solidarity with those who are in need’s struggle for existence. Their early morning walk was a shadow of the High Point, N.C.-based First Baptist Church’s CROP walk.

“I’ve walked for six years with my community,” said Eddinger, “so, this time my Sunday School class supported us here at Guantanamo by sponsoring a team and expanding this walk to Cuba.”

Team Terry raised \$1,200 for the walk, with donations still coming in at press time.

“It helps out our local community,” Eddinger said. “In the case of High Point, it goes to Open Door Ministries to feed homeless and provide them shelter in the wintertime.

Only 25 percent of the funds raised goes there, but 75 percent goes to Church World Service and they distribute it world-wide to relieve hunger, provide disaster relief, clothing and help to refugees. And it’s a sustainment; rather than a Band-Aid, it helps people to provide for themselves.”

Known as the “granddaddy of fundraising walks,” the CROP Hunger Walks were started in 1969. Over the years, they have raised more than \$294 million to assist those struggling with hunger.

“I’m happy to be part of something worthwhile,” said Air Force Maj. David Wright, director of JTF-GTMO’s Behavioral Science Consultation Team. “The CROP Walk has raised over



Joint Task Force Troopers pose for a photo after taking strides to end world hunger Sept. 29, during the CROP Hunger Walk. The satellite walk, organized by JTF-GTMO chaplain, Navy Cmdr. Terry Eddinger, drew a crowd of 34 walkers.

CROP Hunger Walk

funding can go a long way towards helping people in need around the world:

\$72 can provide emergency food supplies for a family of five's needs for a month.

\$120 can enable three women to attend a literacy class for a year and change their lives forever.

\$200 can provide a struggling farm family with a draft animal to significantly increase their food production, as well as a strong back to carry produce to market.

\$350 can enable the eldest in a child-headed household of AIDS orphans to receive vocational training so they can support their siblings and themselves.

\$1050 can support community-based health, hygiene and sanitation training for an entire community.



Graphic by Staff Sgt. Aaron Hiler/The Wire

\$200 million and that's an amazing accomplishment.

"Just like in life, showing up is important," he said. "Showing up and supporting the other branches, civilians and causes in this joint environment is what truly leads to us being a team. Showing up for promotions, retirements, events or whatever – being present is important, but especially so when it is for a noble cause such as world hunger."

For Eddinger, the GTMO CROP walk was an accomplishment, logistically and spiritually.

"I'm very pleased to see this kind of support for the projects that I'm doing that have an impact beyond the individual," he said. "It's important to do things beyond yourself and help others – that's what life is all about."

Eddinger said that while some Troopers are able to find God during worship services, others find peace and God through getting out and doing things that are selfless.

"It's impressive the giving spirit that people here have," he said, "especially when they are given the opportunity to let it show. My job here is to provide that opportunity as much as I can."

For more information about Team Terry's CROP Walk to end hunger, visit www.cropwalk.org. If you're interested in donating to Team Terry, there is still time throughout the month of October. 🍌

MPs run through the night, 72 miles for 72 years

Story by Sgt. Cassandra Monroe

Staff Writer, thewire@jftgmo.southcom.mil

Entering the gates that lead to Joint Task Force Guantanamo, a series of letters stare boldly into the eyes of those approaching the sign. "Honor Bound," it reads. It is placed directly in front of one of the base's detention facilities, where many members of JTF-GTMO and the 525th Military Police Battalion spend 12-15 hours a day working diligently, proficiently and vigilantly.

This sign was part of the route that Soldiers took during their 72-mile run in honor of the Military Police Corps' 72nd Birthday, Sept. 26, at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

As the sun broke the horizon, they took off, running separately as companies led by commanders and guidon bearers, but together as one battalion, chanting cadences as they ran past the detention facilities and through the hills of Joint Task Force Guantanamo.

Although the battalion ran the final miles as a whole, the 72-mile run began with teams from each company, running more than 11 miles until they were relieved by the next company in line to run.

"I watched the hand offs between units last night and the pride that they have and the motivation they have for doing these extra events," said Army Lt. Col. Darcy Overbey, the 525th MP Bn., commander. "These are the stories that they talk about when they leave from here for their redeployment. It's what makes us the strong, vigilant warrior battalion we are."

Upon completion of the run, certificates of appreciation, Army Achievement Medals, and company coins were given out to Troopers who showed excellence within the ranks of the company, solidifying that the Military Police

and other Soldiers with the 525th strive make themselves better through hard work and perseverance.

For Spc. Jaime Hernandez, who just arrived on island a couple weeks ago, running with his new comrades meant more than just physical exercise. The bond shared in the MP Corps is what made the run special for him.

"It's the brotherhood you get," said Hernandez, military police, 491st MP Company, describing running with Soldiers who have been through the same experiences.

"It's not just sacrifice, it's brotherhood, honor and legacy. Without each other, you don't have much," he said. 🍌

■ Read more online at www.jftgmo.southcom.mil



Photo by Sgt. Cassandra Monroe/The Wire

Members of the 189th Military Police Company, 525th Military Police Battalion, start off strong as they run in honor of the Military Police Corps' 72nd birthday, Sept. 26, at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

This week's movie

Pain & Gain

starring

Mark Wahlberg and
Dwayne Johnson

Tues., Oct. 8 at 7 p.m.
Camp America
Liberty Center



THEIR AMERICAN DREAM
IS BIGGER THAN YOURS

MARK WAHLBERG DWAYNE JOHNSON

PAIN & GAIN

THIS IS A TRUE STORY

Courtesy of Paramount Pictures

MOVIE NIGHT



Night Fishing

Friday, Oct. 11, 6 p.m.

Enjoy the peace and wonder of fishing at night. Join us at the Marina at 6 p.m. Registration required – call ext. 2010 or email liberty@gtmo-mwr.org




MOTIVATOR

OF THE WEEK

SPC Ciara Hall
128th Military Police Company

SGT Stephen Bush
Joint Detention Group

Coming up at the

Fleet & Family Support Center

Call ext 4141

Transition Assistance Program (TAP)
October 28-November 1

Mandatory for any Trooper who will be leaving the military or returning home from deployment. Attend seminars in job search skills, resume development, personal finance, and veterans benefits. Call ext. 4141 for more information.



The Wire

OPSEC CORNER

What's that info?

Would you recognize critical information?

Some things are obviously sensitive. Your SSN, bank account and pin numbers, credit card information. It's your job to protect this information so that you do not fall victim to fraud and identity theft.

Remember COPP: Capabilities, Operations, Personnel, Personal Data.

We protect our facilities, operational plans, schedules and rosters here at work. You should do the same at home. Treat everything as sensitive if you're unsure.

Remember OPSEC!

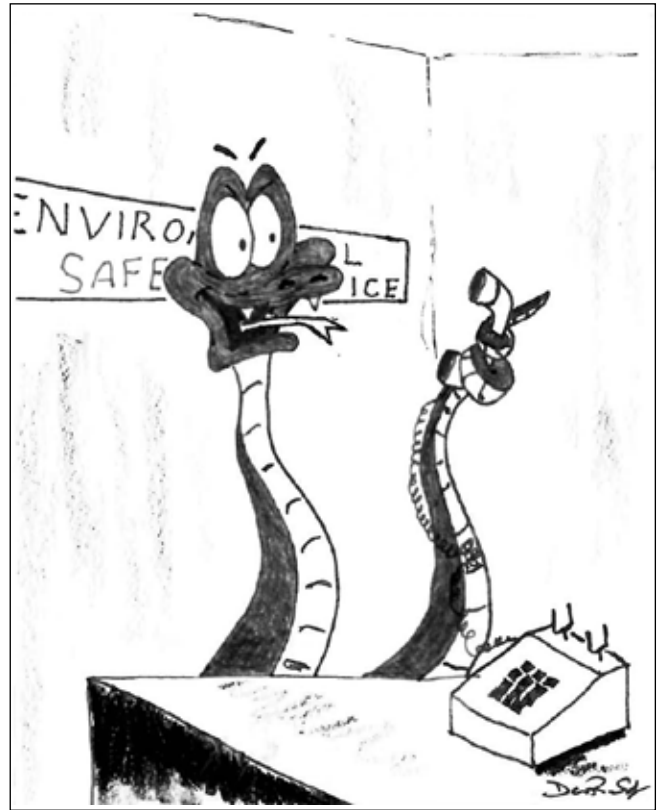
"Solar Flare"

Solar Flares are coronal mass ejections from the sun. These ejections produce radiation. When shot toward the Earth and strong enough, they can disrupt any electronic communication and interrupt our lifestyle. Interruptions can be a good thing when it comes to our routines. Sometimes we need to be interrupted so that we don't miss what God has provided for us.



THE DOWNSIDE UP

by Sgt. Darron Salzer



"Yesss...I'd like to report a missing boa."

There will be a **base-wide power outage** from 4 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Columbus Day, Mon., Oct 14.

Arts & Crafts **Closed**
 Auto Skills **Closed**
 Library **Closed**
 Paintball **Closed**
 CYP Programs **Closed**

CLUBS & DINING

Bayview Club **Closed**
 Jerk House **Closed**
 Triple C **Closed**
 House of Yum **Closed**
 Taco Bell **Closed**
 Bowling **Closed**
 Windjammer **Closed**
 O'Kelly's* **6-10 p.m.**

*Regular menu will NOT be available

GYMS & POOLS

Denich **Closed**
 Camp America **Closes at 4 a.m.**
 Marine Hill **Opens at 4 p.m.**
 Pools **10 a.m. - 6 p.m.**
Closed

Liberty Centers

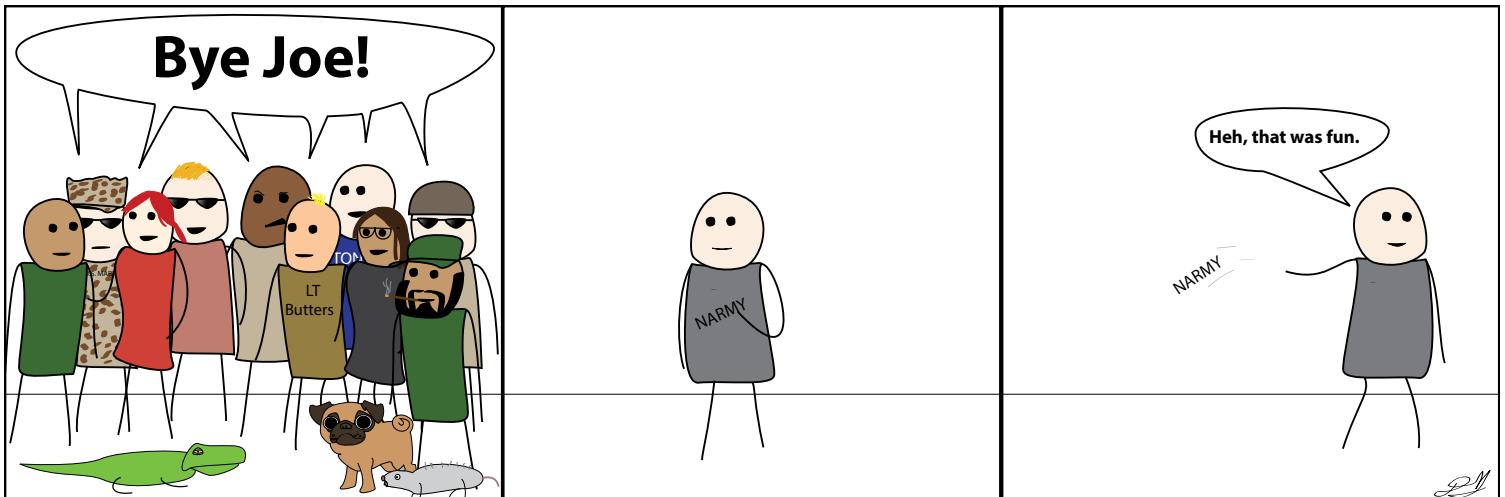
Deer Point **Closed**
 Camp America **Closes at 4 a.m.**
 Marine Hill **Opens at 4 p.m.**
 Tierra Kay **Noon - Midnight**
4 p.m. - Midnight



MWR Columbus Day Hours

Monday, October 14, 2013

GTMO JOE by Spc. David Marquis



You're going to need a bigger boat

Fishing tournament reels in big ones

Story and photos by Sgt. David Bolton

Copy Editor, thewire@jftgmo.southcom.mil

With a splish and a splash, participants of the 2013 Navy Exchange fishing tournament took off from the marina with a dash in the early morning hours Sept. 29. With new fishing rods and tackle boxes loaded with gear as the prize, these avid anglers were going big or going home. The target prey: barracuda, snook and shark. Although there were three target fish to be caught, the primary haul was shark.

"I caught a bull shark that was almost as big as I am," said Navy Chief Petty Officer Heather Lewis, flag writer to the Joint Task Force Commander with the command element. "I didn't think it was as big as it was until we saw it get closer to the surface."

Using tuna as the primary bait, Lewis said it took a good 15 minutes to get him inside the boat.

"It was really a struggle and it was intense and exciting," said Lewis. "As soon as we got him in the boat, I was jumping around like a mad woman."

With the help of her team, Lewis was able to wrangle the beast into their boat. Lewis noted that the team of Navy Chiefs made sure no one fell in and safety was maintained.

So what does it take

to catch a shark? Jamie Bodlovic, a contractor and field superintendent with Ratcliff Construction Inc., said it is all about taking your time and letting the beast tire itself out.

"You just have to wear them out until they get tired enough to where you can grab him," said Bodlovic. "Let him run [the line] out, then slam the brake on your reel. Pick up your pole, give it a good tug and make sure the hook is set."

Participating in his second tournament, Bodlovic said it took almost half an hour to bring his shark into the boat, adding the shark took off several times before eventually tiring out.

At the end of the day, it was the thrill of the chase and hunt that truly won the day for these shark hunters. Tim Baugh, Morale, Welfare and Recreation outdoor recreation director said the tournament is something the MWR does annually with the NEX. This year's event had more than 10 boats consisting of approximately 20 anglers.

After the measurements were taken, the participants took their catches to be cleaned and prepared for what would be a frenzy of a feast. 🌟



Navy Chief Petty Officer Heather Lewis, flag writer to the Joint Task Force Commander with the command element, takes time to pose with the spoils of her fishing crew Sept. 29, at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Lewis, along with other anglers, took part in this year's Navy Exchange fishing tournament which offered tackle gear and new fishing rods as top prizes.



Jamie Bodlovic, right, a contractor and field superintendent with Ratcliff Construction Inc., and Jim Stead, a project manager with RCI, show off their catch at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba Sept. 29. The two men competed in the annual Navy Exchange fishing tournament for the top prize of largest shark

Meals with MONROE

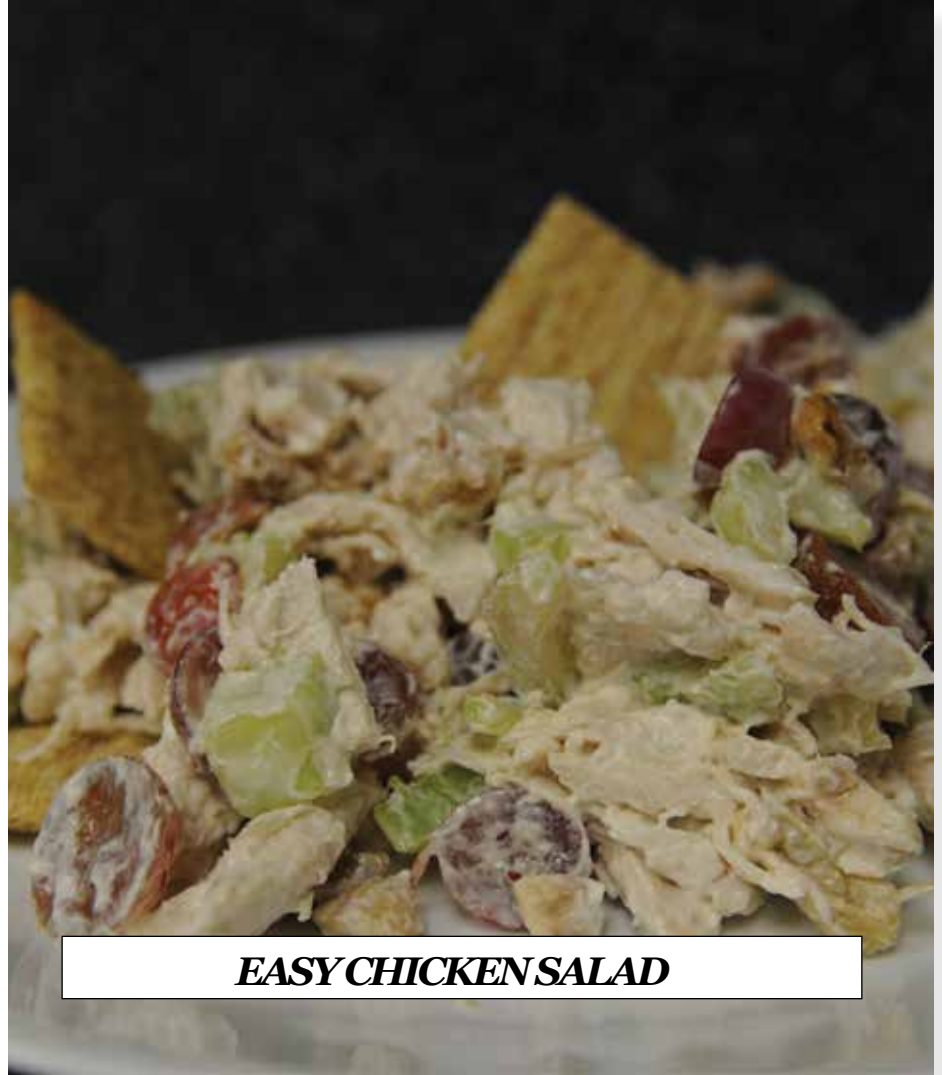
This recipe is from **Sgt. 1st Class Gina Vaile-Nelson**: “I like it because it’s very easy and versatile. You can make a little, or a lot. It can be eaten on a sandwich, with crackers, by itself or on a bed of lettuce. The sky is the limit! Also, boiling the chicken is a healthy way to cook it and you can use the leftover juices as a chicken stock for other recipes.”

Take **four boneless, skinless chicken breasts** and submerge them in a pot of water so that they are covered completely. Add some **Lawry’s seasoning salt** and a pinch of **tarragon** if you have it (but it’s not required). Let the chickens come to a boil. You’ll know they are done when they float, but this usually takes about 15-20 minutes. For faster cooking, you can cut the breasts into halves.

While your chicken is boiling, you’ll need to chop **celery** (about **1/2 cup**, or more if you like celery), and **red seedless grapes** (**1/2 cup** to a full cup). You can tailor this to your liking. Then, have a **1/2 cup** of **walnuts** (packaged) ready.

Once the chicken has boiled, you’ll take it from the pot and shred it with a knife and fork. It will be hot, so you should let it cool for a few minutes.

Put all of your ingredients into



EASY CHICKEN SALAD

a large bowl. Depending on how much chicken you have, that’s how much mayonnaise you will use for your dressing. However, for healthier options, you can mix **mayonnaise** and **greek yogurt** or **low fat sour cream** in half. If you like a little Southern sweetness, you can mix half mayonnaise and half **salad dressing**. I typically eyeball my dressing mixture, but the rule of thumb is **1/2 cup mayonnaise** for 2 cups chicken. Season with a pinch of **salt and pepper**.

Now, there are all sorts of things you can add to chicken salad: apples give it a crunch; pineapples give it a tartness and instead of using fruits, peppers give it a flair. Remember if you use apples though,

add 1/2 teaspoon of lemon juice to keep the apples fresh.

Mix your salad together and let chill for at least one hour before serving. It’s perfect to take to the office for lunch, or to have while you’re watching marathons of your favorite TV series in your room.

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@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil



GTMO Reptile Show

Bring the kids to Phillips Park for a chance to see and experience the snakes of GTMO.

**Sunday, Oct. 6 at 2 p.m.
at Phillips Park**



Facebook
/jointtaskforceguantanamo



Sunspot Outages

Solar flare activity disrupting electromagnetic activity on Earth

Solar activity will be interfering with SCS services at Guantanamo Bay including long distance phone calls, cable television and commercial internet on the following dates and times:

	Phone/Cable	Internet
Sept. 29	10:29-10:34 a.m.	4:09-4:11 p.m.
Sept. 30	10:27-10:35 a.m.	4:07-4:12 p.m.
Oct. 1	10:27-10:35 a.m.	4:07-4:12 p.m.
Oct. 2	10:27-10:34 a.m.	4:03-4:08 p.m.
Oct. 3	10:26-10:33 a.m.	4:03-4:08 p.m.
Oct. 4	10:26-10:31 a.m.	4:04-4:07 p.m.

For more information, please call ext. 77362

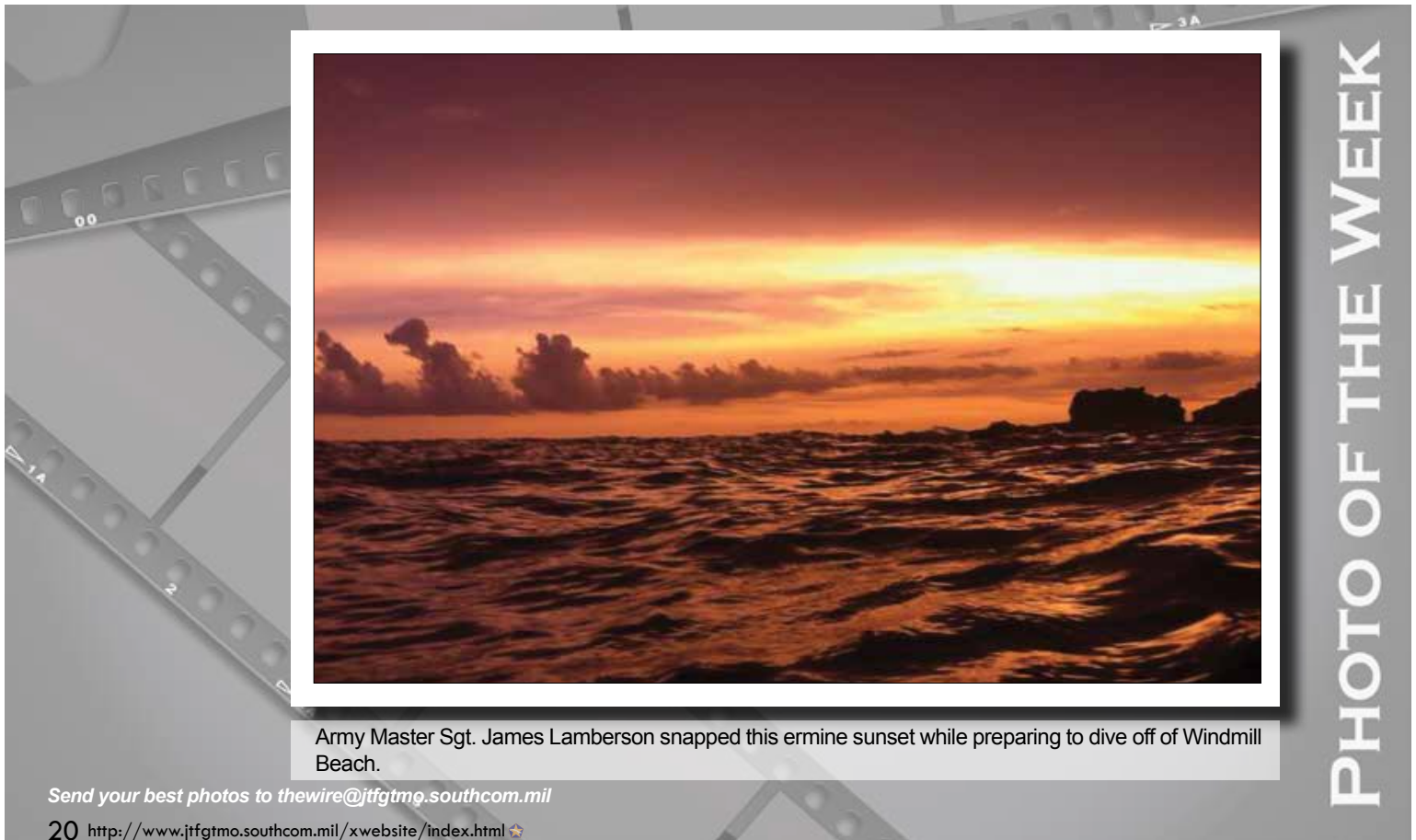
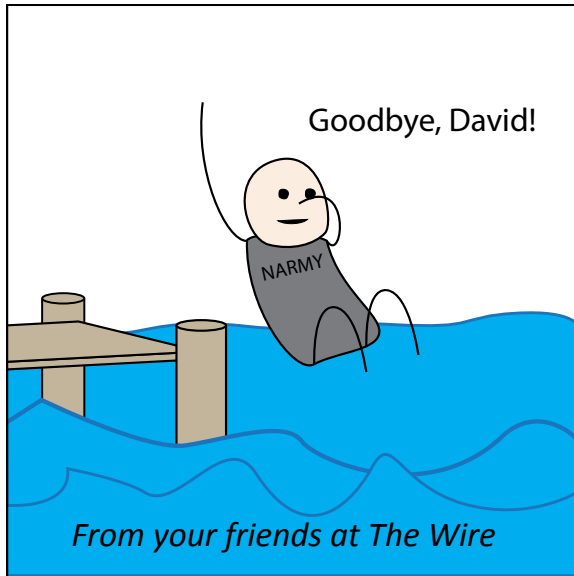


PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Army Master Sgt. James Lamberson snapped this ermine sunset while preparing to dive off of Windmill Beach.

Send your best photos to thewire@jftgto.southcom.mil

20 <http://www.jftgto.southcom.mil/xwebsite/index.html>