

Volume 13, Issue 31

Friday, June 8, 2012

The WIRED

An award-winning
JTF journal

creature feature!

*Zebras! Conch!
Did we mention
more zombies?*

Inside:
Your no-kidding
guide to hurricane
preparedness

Storm's a-brewin'
(with a chance of zombies)

MARINE SGT. MAJ. SCOTT SMITH
SERGEANT MAJOR, JTF GUANTANAMO

In one word...Wow! I have been on deck for 22 days, and over this short period of time I have found myself completely overwhelmed by the performance of the men and women assigned to Joint Task Force Guantanamo. Having had a chance to get around and see the mission that you accomplish on a daily and nightly basis reminds me that we continue to have the premier military force on the globe. There is no other nation on earth that could even come close to replicating the mission that is undertaken by you here at Guantanamo Bay. I am truly proud to be your Sergeant Major!

As your JTF Senior Enlisted Leader, and being one of the newest members of this command, I find there is a cretin period of newness, at least in my case. I can only best equate it to the start of a new relationship, akin to "the first date." Everything is new and exciting; there are butterflies in the stomach and you can't wait to see each other...for me anyhow, as I am not always sure that you are that excited to see me. And so it goes, as we become more comfortable with one another however, some surprises will still occur – but don't expect flowers or candy.

It would normally be this point in the article where the (new) Senior Enlisted Leader would list his or her expectations of the unit. These could be the dos and don'ts, performance and conduct both on and off duty, and your ability to stay out of trouble and to not bring discredit to Joint Task Force Guantanamo or your service. We must work together as a joint team, and also realize that without the support of the Naval Station we would not be able to accomplish our mission. But I am not going to list my expectations, because I feel this is information that you

already possess. I thought that I would take a crack at your expectations of me.

You expect me to be your voice to the Commander in all issues concerning operations and your quality of life. Mission accomplishment and Trooper welfare are the primary tenets of leadership; we get the job done and we take care of our number one resource: you. You expect me to reinforce the Commander's intent and relay his policies as they are currently stated. You expect that the Senior Enlisted Leader leads from the front, sets the example both professionally and personally, maintains the standards, and encourages those of you in the command to go beyond the minimum requirements. You expect me to lead, train, mentor, educate, motivate and inspire; counsel in private and praise in public. Most importantly though, you expect me to be a good listener and observer which helps me to understand what it is like to be in your position (your piece of the JTF pie), so I am better able to ensure our mission is accomplished and people are taken care of.

Every unit that I have ever served in has been a family, and JTF Guantanamo is no different. You treat people the way you expect to be treated. In this organization, we treat each other with firmness, fairness, dignity and compassion at all times. We do the right thing, even when no one is looking, so your expectations are identical to mine. As I learned a few years ago from a very sage Marine general officer: "when it is right, it's right... when it is wrong, fix it." My job, your job, and our job is to fix it when it is wrong.

I truly look forward to this opportunity to work with and for you as your JTF Guantanamo Sergeant Major!



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Don't mail lithium batteries

Customers may not mail or receive electronic devices containing lithium batteries, including equipment with non-removable batteries, to or from any APO, FPO, and DPO offices. Lithium remains useful, as always, for treating bipolar musicians.

For more information about shipping restrictions, call 2156.

You'll have a ball!

The 237th Army Birthday Ball is scheduled for June 30 at the Windjammer Ballroom. Cocktail hour will begin at 5:15 p.m.

The menu offers filet mignon with either shrimp skewers or vegetable lasagna.

Tickets are \$40 for E-7 and above or civilians, \$35 for E-5 and E-6, and \$30 for E-4 and below.

This is a formal event, and the attire for civilians is formal evening wear or black tie. Military personnel should wear dress uniform.

For more information or to buy tickets, call Staff Sgt. Baker at 8586.

North East Gate tour

Want to learn the history of the North East Gate and the United States Marines at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay? Meet at the Marine Hill Parade Deck at 11 a.m. on the third Friday of every month for the North East Gate tour.

For more information, call 2334.



Join the softball team!

Summer dance show

MWR Child and Youth Programs will present a summer dance show featuring performances by Caribbean Energy Dance and CYP dance clinic participants. The event is scheduled for June 15 at Denich Gym from 6 to 7 p.m. This is a free show for all ages!

For more information, call 55346.

Father's Day fun!

Navy Child and Youth Programs will be hosting paintball and a pool party on June 17. Paintball runs from 2 to 4 p.m. at the paintball range and is open to anyone 10 or older. The pool party runs from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Windjammer Pool. Both of these events are free, and no registration is required.

For more information, call 2005.

Varsity Blues

Looking for softball stardom? MWR's varsity softball team is looking for players just like you, and will be holding tryouts for the team June 16 at 7 p.m. and June 17 at 9 a.m. Tryouts are open to active duty servicemembers 18 years of age and older.

If you are interested, get a registration form from Denich Gym, get it signed by your commanding officer, and return it no later than June 14 at 7 p.m. Do not register for tryouts if you won't be able to leave the island June 20-23 for the tournament in Key West.

For more information, call 2113.

Volunteer everywhere!

Looking to help out your local community for volunteer hours, or just for the warm fuzzies? W.T. Sampson Elementary School is looking for volunteers to assist in their summer cleaning on June 16 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Volunteers are needed to help inventory old furniture and reorganize storage rooms. Come out and build up your volunteer hours.

Please contact Master Sgt. Arier Santiago at arier.a.santiago@jftgmo.southcom.mil or call 8526 to register.

Let's go bowling, dude!

Summer bowling season begins June 14. Four-person mixed teams can still join the fun by registering before Sunday afternoon.

For more information, call 2188.

Think before you act

The Coalition of Sailors against Destructive Actions is looking for new members! CSADD holds meetings every 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at 11 p.m. in the Windjammer Cafe.

For more information, contact RP2 Hosier at Sandra.Hosier@usnbgmto.navy.mil.

Help the Red Cross

The Red Cross is requesting volunteer instructors to lend support to the community. If you are a Red Cross-certified instructor, please call the station manager at 2511.

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The WIRE is the official news magazine of Joint Task Force Guantanamo. It is produced by the JTF Public Affairs Office to inform and educate the Troopers of JTF Guantanamo through news, features, command guidance, sports and entertainment. This DoD news magazine is an authorized publication for the members of the Department of Defense. Contents of The WIRE are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or Joint Task Force Guantanamo. It is printed by Defense Logistics Agency Document Services with a circulation of 1,300.

Trooper to Trooper

Practice Customs and Courtesies

FIRST SGT. CHRIS FICK

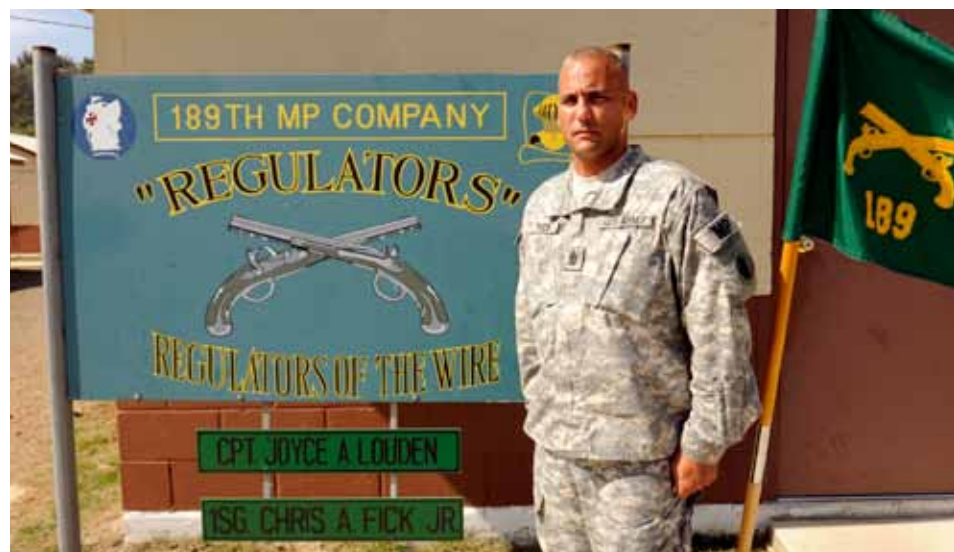
FIRST SERGEANT, 189TH MP COMPANY

Every military branch has their own customs and courtesies, but there are some simple ones that every Trooper should know. For example: when I walk by a young Trooper and they give me the greeting of the day, or when I see them walking into the exchange and they pick up some trash on the ground, I smile inside because I know that they have a squared away noncommissioned officer who instills discipline and pride in them on a daily basis.

I have lost count of how many Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines I have initiated the greeting of the day to as they walk by me around Guantanamo Bay. I learned in basic training that when passing someone of a higher rank than you, you give the greeting of the day and they should respond back.

“I have told my Soldiers past and present that I would not ask them to do anything that I am not willing to do or have not done in the past.”

I am not only addressing this issue to our lower ranks but also to our seniors. It would not hurt for our senior ranks to initiate the greeting of the day. I have told my Soldiers



past and present that I would not ask them to do anything that I am not willing to do or have not done in the past. I regularly give the greeting of the day to anyone I walk by

no matter if they are subordinate, peer, or senior. After my five minutes of lecturing, I point out that not only is this military courtesy, but it is also being polite.

How many times does a piece of trash get walked by before being picked up and put in the proper disposal can? This is another simple custom (and common sense action) which often goes by

the wayside. Again, it is something I learned in basic training, and I continue to train not only my Soldiers but my kids on it as well.

These are just two simple customs and courtesies among many others. By applying just these two, we are not just keeping basic discipline among our Soldiers, but teaching them for future leadership. Young Troopers, if you want to prove yourself to your supervisors and seniors, go back to the basics and practice what you were trained to do. Young leaders, you need to take a few minutes out of your busy and hectic work schedule to train and teach our young Troopers customs and courtesies and the importance of practicing them.

Assist, protect, defend our conch!

By Army Maj. Jon Powers

The incredible, edible, musical, decorative Queen Conch.

It has been a while since we saw anyone coming out of the ocean with a conch in their catch bag. Good thing too, since Queen Conch are protected in Guantanamo Bay waters from March 1 through to May 31.

With the season now reopened, some new divers on the island may be looking forward to bringing home their first gastropodean prize. We know we can eat them, display their shells and even make a horn recognized by the United States Coast Guard as an official naval signaling device. But how much do we really understand about this amazing animal?

Conch live throughout the warm Caribbean Sea from depths of 1 to 70 feet, yet can descend as deep as 500 feet. They are common on sand flats and grass beds. Prime conch hunting grounds exist offshore from any GTMO beach as well as in the bay.

Every Caribbean island participates in some sort of blackout period to restore the conch shell population. They have to.

Because of the importance to local economies, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) lists Caribbean Queen Conch as “species that are not necessarily now threatened with extinction but that may become so unless trade is closely controlled,” according to Appendix II (www.cites.org).

Contrary to rumor, our local blackout does not specifically coincide with conch mating season, since conch mate continuously throughout the summer and fall. In relation to other Caribbean islands’ regulations, Guantanamo is generous with its rule of three months “no-take” and a limit of one adult conch per diver per day.

Conch Facts

- The Queen Conch (*Strombus gigas*) is a marine snail or gastropod (Latin for belly-foot).
- The heavy shell, formed by the buildup of calcium carbonate, is glossy pink, orange, or yellow on its interior and reaches its full size at around 3 years of age. Adults can be recognized by the flattened lip or “fan” that flares away from the shell. The shell continues to thicken throughout the conch’s life.
- Queen Conch are “right-handed.” Looking at the pointed crown, the spiral shell coils to the right.
- They can grow to 12 inches and 5 pounds and reach sexual maturity in about 3 to 5 years.
- Queen Conch can live 40 years, but the normal life span is estimated at between 20 and 30 years.
- Conch may wander for miles foraging on algae, sea grasses, sand, and dead material. Tagging studies show that queen conch may travel up to 1 mile in a 2-month period and more than 700 yards in a week.
- Queen Conch blood contains hemocyanin, a copper containing molecule. When the hemocyanin interacts with oxygen during the process of respiration, it turns blue, making queen conch “bluebloods.”
- Egg cases are gelatinous tubes that can contain as many as 400,000 embryos. Tube strands of from 70 to 120 feet in length may be produced at a rate of five feet per hour.
- Embryos emerge after 4 to 6 days as larval veligers, traveling great distances among sea currents for the first few weeks. They start their development after settling to the ocean floor. Few survive to adulthood, instead becoming food for many other ocean organisms.
- Adult queen conch are eaten by loggerhead sea turtles, horse conch, and humans.
- The edible meat comes from the single, long foot common to all snails.

Facts from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Background photo by Army Maj. Jon Powers

Many of the countries which harvest conch rely on the income brought in from the export of conch. Those local governments have banned scuba as a means for collecting the Queen Conch to protect the commercial value of their conch fields and retail shell sales. Conch are an important food source to many of the locals and they have fished conch for generations. For instance, Taino Indians use the conch for tribal tools, musical instruments and many use the shells for decoration.

It is the variety and value of conch which have placed them in such danger. From

coffee tables to cold conch salads all around GTMO, our attraction to conch is evident. But without care and good stewardship, we may find that measures like those in Key West are needed. In Florida, it is illegal and punishable by time in prison to take a conch from the ocean.

Simply said, GTMO loves its conch. It is up to each of us to protect this animal by strictly adhering to the rules and letting others know that you intend to do your part to keep our conch population healthy.

ONE ADULT (9” from fan to point) CONCH PER DIVER PER DAY!



PROTECT YOUR INFO! PSEC ALERT

Keep your personal life personal

How many times have you seen someone online share places they have “checked into”? Social Media can be a great tool for staying connected with friends and family while you’re deployed, but there is a limit to what you should put online, especially when it comes to your personal life. Telling the online community your whereabouts at all times by “checking in” at places might not be the best idea. Especially if your smart phone does it automatically. Make sure you know what you’re sharing online and what the settings on your mobile devices are. Stay safe. Think before you post. Use OPSEC.



WE MUST re: information assurance PROTECT THIS CAC

Hi, I’m Gert the IA Buzzard. When I’m not out flying circles in the desert I’m making people aware of Information Assurance. I have been hearing all kinds of talk about a big IG Inspection coming up. One of the big inspection items is unattended CAC cards. You know, if the inspectors find an unattended CAC, your account gets disabled and you have to retake the IA training, not to mention your leadership might make you a tasty little morsel for me! So make sure every time you leave your workstation you take your CAC with you. Ok, I’ve got to go: I got a tip on a squished iguana I need to go check out.

Zombie

Bub the Zombie



Focus

—the boss says

“Bub’s been responding so well that I let him live... But is he alive or dead? Well, that’s the question nowadays, isn’t it? Let’s just say I let him continue to exist.”

By Pvt. Loren Cook

Very little is known of Bub the Zombie’s life. What we have instead are guesses based on behaviors he has exhibited during his unlife.

It is possible that Bub was an actor named Sherman Howard in life, but that is conjectural at best.

During the zombie apocalypse, Bub was captured by the Army and used in behavioral studies. A scientist named Dr. Matthew Logan was studying zombies in an (ultimately successful) attempt to condition their behavior. Logan had great success conditioning Bub, whom he named after his father.

Bub showed signs of human behavior—he recognized an Army officer and saluted him; he stripped down and reassembled a pistol; he leafed through a book, although he was unable to read it; he attempted to apologize after scaring someone; and he showed emotional responses while listening to music.

It is very likely Bub served in the military

during his life, and he continued to serve in his unlife by calmly cooperating with Dr. Logan. Bub was directly responsible for many breakthroughs in Logan’s work.

Unfortunately, Logan was also a metaphor for man’s inhumanity to man, and could only achieve his breakthroughs in studying the inhuman by sacrificing his own humanity. As punishment for his ways, Logan was killed by those whom he was trying to save.

When Bub found Dr. Logan’s body, his reaction vindicated Logan’s work. Rather than feasting on the body, he cried over it instead (to the extent crying is possible for a zombie, anyway).

Bub then sought vengeance on the man who had killed his only friend. Bub found the killer as he was running away from a ravenous horde of mindless zombies, and shot him with a pistol, slowing him down enough that he was caught by the zombies. Bub then abstained



from the ensuing feast; he had acted from a desire for revenge and not from hunger.

That was the last anyone ever saw of Bub. No one can say whence he wandered afterward.

What we do know, from Bub’s example, is that even as humans became more savage during the zombie apocalypse, zombies became more human.

Bullet Bio

Hobbies: Listening to classical music, field stripping and reassembling firearms, vengeance

Time since death: Unknown

Advice to junior zombies: “Think! You may be a zombie, but you don’t have to be a mindless zombie!”

ZOMBIES ON THE GROUND

What motivates you to rise from your grave and hunt the living?



“BRAAAAAAINS!”

Area zombie



“BRAAAAAAINS!”

The living-impaired Yeoman 3rd Class Jade Fitzwater



“BRAAAAAAINS!”

The late Master-at-Arms 3rd Class Robert Schmidt



“I hate the living, with their pulses and their rap music and their reality TV. Also, BRAAAAAAINS!”

The not-at-all-well Army Pvt. Loren Cook

NEGB, JTF Troopers assume new titles, responsibilities at frocking ceremony

By Mass Communication Spc. 3rd Class Brian Jeffries

Recently the results for the Navy-wide advancement exam were released, and this week Joint Task Force Guantanamo and Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion (NEGB) Sailors were frocked, proving their success.

Unlike other branches of service, Navy enlisted personnel put on the rank and assume responsibilities beyond their actual pay grade. It’s considered an honor to be a part of the Navy’s longstanding tradition of frocking.

Those frocked at the ceremony included Seaman Brian Jeffries, who advanced to Petty Officer Third Class; Petty Officers Third Class Thoran Evans, Mark Fierro, Kenneth Maldonado, Jason Matias, Zachary Hackert, Matthew Downing, and Kevin Owens, who advanced to Petty Officer Second Class, and Petty Officer Second Class Patrick Craven, who advanced to Petty Officer First Class.

“I’m just very happy to be frocked,” said Petty Officer 2nd Class Jason Matias. “I would like to get paid (as E-5), but I’m very proud to wear my new rank,” he added.

Sailors’ pay grades catch up about 1-6 months after frocking, depending on how well they do on the exam. The waiting time serves as a probationary period and even though one advances, if nonjudicial punishment comes into play, a Sailor could easily lose two pay grades.

“I’m not really too concerned about having to go through a probationary period,” said Petty Officer 2nd Class Mark Fierro. “It makes it mean that much more to wait.”

Though these newly-frocked Sailors will not yet receive the monetary raise, they have assumed the title and increased responsibility in their selected advancement and continue to serve the Navy as leaders in their respective fields.

The advancement exam is administered every six months (March and September) and results come out about three months later.

Above: Sailors wait to be frocked during a frocking ceremony at the Bayview June 6. Though they must wait for their pay grades to catch up, Sailors have long considered the additional responsibilities as “frockees” to be an honor. —photo by Mass Communication Spc. 1st Class Ty Bjornson



Super Troopers

Congratulations to the newly-frocked Troopers who recently received commander’s coins!

ET1 Craven
IT2 Downing
PS2 Evans
MA2 Fierro

OS2 Hackert
MC3 Jeffries
AZ2 Matias
YN2 Owens



Warrior Six



Signing Off

Story by Staff Sgt. Lewis Hilburn
 Photos by Staff Sgt. Lewis Hilburn and
 Mass Communication Spc. 2nd Class Joshua Hammond

On Thursday, Troopers and civilians of Joint Task Force Guantanamo gathered for the change of command of the Joint Detention Group. Col. Donnie Thomas handed over his command to incoming commander Col. John Bogdan.

They watched as Thomas passed the JDG guidon to Rear Adm. David Woods, commander of the JTF, who then handed it off to Bogdan, signifying the change of command.

“(Thomas) has done a lot of great things here,” Woods said, describing him as his “go-to guy” when the admiral assumed command of the JTF nearly one year ago.

Woods lauded Thomas’ “steady, firm, confident, quiet leadership that we have all seen as his hallmark.”

Those in attendance saw the passion that drove Thomas every day as he fought back tears during his farewell speech. Above all, he thanked his fam-

ily who proudly served and supported him, the Troopers, and civilians, family members of the brigade, the community and the nation every day. “Your commitment and dedication is often unsung, but never unappreciated,” he said.

“I have learned a lot during this assignment and have many takeaways. However, my single greatest takeaway is that I have served with heroes,” he said. “Heroes who post watch 24/7 in the towers, maverick patrol, QRF (quick reaction force) and at our access control posts fully prepared for the unlikely.”

Thomas was also proud to serve with the people behind the scenes as well. He stated that the assistance of the service members and civilians in charge of finance, logistics, human resources, and medical helped his Troopers inside the camps maintain focus on the mission.

This was vital according to him: “Every action in the camps is dissected or scrutinized intensely. One second too soon can be seen as causing a situation, while one second too late can be seen as failure to prevent a situation.”

Thomas quoted former President Ronald Reagan: “Some people live an entire lifetime and wonder if they have ever made a difference in the world,” he said. “The Troopers of JDG do not have that problem. You have made a difference in our nation and our world and I am proud to have served with you.”

During his first speech as JDG commander, Bogdan spoke with conviction.

“I promise to strive for excellence in all that I do, and ask only the same in return,” he said, adding that he looks forward to working with his new shipmates and is confident that this will be a memorable experience.



Left: Sgt. Maj. Callie Lever hands the Joint Detention Group guidon to outgoing commander Col. Thomas during the change of command ceremony June 7.



Top: Col. Donnie Thomas exits through the sideboys while departing command of the Joint Detention Group.

Bottom right: Rear Adm. David Woods, Col. John Bogdan, and Col. Donnie Thomas render salutes as the colors pass by during the change of command ceremony June 7.

Surviving Disasters:

from zombies
to hurricanes
JTF is ready.

By Army Sgt. Saul Rosa

As zombies overran the Downtown Lyceum last week, many Joint Task Force Guantanamo residents fled to their rooms in the Cuzco Barracks or went back to the Tierra Kay housing area. To the Naval Station's relief, the film "Zombieland" sedated the undead hordes and the crisis was over as night fell.

In the film "Zombieland," the protagonist Columbus creates a list of rules to follow in order to survive in the post-apocalypse zombie infested world. However, many of the rules can be applied to real emergencies that residents of Guantanamo Bay face such as hurricanes.

The Rules (abridged):

7 "Travel Light"

Columbus advises traveling light, carrying only the most essential supplies. When facing either a hoard of the undead or the wind and rain of hurricane, what you carry on you will be a major factor in your safety.

In the event of a natural disaster, J3 has put together a packing list that every resident of Guantanamo Bay should have.

12 "Paper Towels"

When facing the undead, things can get pretty dirty and that's why Columbus advises all survivors to bring along paper towels. In the case of natural disasters, Troopers need to be aware of personal hygiene and have the appropriate items available.

22 "When in doubt, know your way out"

As the minority in a zombie world, having a safe escape route can prove valuable when things go wrong. Escape routes can prove just as valuable in a natural disaster, but in addition to knowing where to go it's important to know when to go.

Fortunately, there's already a system in place for Guantanamo Bay residents. J3 has designated certain areas as safety zones for Troopers to go when alerted by the siren system.

There are five different siren wails that Troopers should be aware of.

Pulse Wail – General alert to signal Troopers turn on channel 4 for TV or tune the radio to FM 103.1 or FM 102.1 for additional information. This tone is intended as a non-emergency alert.

Alternate Wail – Signals Troopers to take cover. Return to quarters and stay put until further notice. This tone is for a non-immediate threat.

Wail – Signals Troopers to take cover and that immediate threat is inbound. Return to nearest secure location and take cover. This alert will be used when immediate danger threatens such as a tornado or hurricane.

Pulse Steady – Signals all Recover Disaster teams to report to duty. All non-essential personnel remain in Quarter.

Steady – Signals all clear and to resume normal activities.

29 "The Buddy System"

Ever notice zombies don't attack each other? Columbus notes that current thinking supports zombies have a herd instinct which prevents them from attacking each other. Troopers can use this thinking to help each other during emergencies or natural disasters.

When facing an undead horde or the eye of hurricane, being prepared and following safety guidelines is the best way to ensure your safety.



Hurricane Packing List	Quantity
Rolls of toilet paper	2
Flashlight with batteries	1
Packs of baby wipes	1
Trash bags	5
First aid kit	1
Personal hygiene supplies	as needed
Pillow	1
Blanket	1
Towel	Optional
Snacks/juices	3 days
Books/magazine	1
Playing cards	1
Important documents	as needed
Prescription medication	as needed
Gortex gear	1
Extra clothing	1

50
AMMO

100%
HEALTH

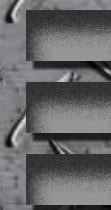
1 2 3
4 5 6
ARMS



FEATURE

FEATURE

15%
ARMOR



INVENTORY

THIS WE'LL DEFEND

Servicemember's letters from Vietnam to be returned to family

By Jennifer Hlad
Stars and Stripes

HANOI, Vietnam — On the day he died more than 40 years ago, Army Sgt. Steve Flaherty carried with him a stack of letters he'd written but not yet sent to loved ones back home.

In one, addressed to his mother, he grimly detailed the brutal battle he was fighting just before his death.

"We couldn't retrieve the bodies of our men or ruck sacks and when we brought air strikes, jets dropped napalm and explosives that destroyed everything that was there," he wrote.

After he was killed on March 25, 1969, the letters were taken from him and used as propaganda by Vietnamese forces during the war. Now, Flaherty's family will finally receive his last written words.

Vietnamese Minister of National Defense Gen. Phung Quang Thanh gave the letters — along with two other sets of letters that may have belonged to other American servicemembers — to Defense Secretary Leon Panetta on Monday. In return, Panetta presented the diary of a Vietnamese soldier, which had been taken after a firefight in March 1966 by an American Marine.

The historic exchange of documents at the Vietnamese Ministry of National Defense underscores how the relationship between

the two countries has progressed in the 17 years since the normalization of diplomatic relations, said George Little, acting assistant secretary of defense for public affairs.

"It is a reflection of the priority the United States places on people-to-people ties with Vietnam," Little said.

Flaherty, of Columbia, S.C., was serving with the 101st Airborne Division in northern South Vietnam when he was killed, according to background information provided by the Department of Defense. Panetta's office will work with the U.S. Army casualty office to present the letters to Flaherty's surviving family.

The horrific accounts of fighting in the unsent letters are different from anything he had ever sent home, his sister-in-law said.

"We knew he was in a dangerous area, but in all his communications he always tried to be upbeat," said Martha Gibbons, of Irmo, S.C.

The situation must have been terrible, because Steve, a star athlete who enlisted in the Army rather than try to pursue a professional baseball career, wouldn't complain or shrink from a challenge, said his uncle, Kenneth L. Cannon, of Prosperity, S.C.

"He was quite a person, and his death devastated all of us," said Cannon, 80, a Korean War veteran who served in the Navy.

In one unsent letter to someone named "Betty," he wrote that he and his unit had "dragged more bodies of dead and wounded

than I can ever want to forget" and that rocket-propelled grenades and machine guns tore his rucksack. In another letter to his mother, he wrote he was going to take R&R and didn't care where, "so long as I get a rest, which I need so badly, soon."

In another letter, to a "Mrs. Wyatt," he wrote that his company and Alpha Company "lost a total of 50 men in fierce fight. Our platoon leader was killed and I was the temporary platoon leader until we got the replacement. Nothing seems to go well for us but we'll take that ridge line."

Flaherty, of mixed Japanese-American ancestry, was adopted from an orphanage in Japan in the 1950s, where he had been befriended by his eventual brother, Ronald Flaherty, who was serving in the Army there.

"Ron's mother made him a deal. She would legally adopt him but Ron would be primarily responsible for him," said Gibbons, who later married Ronald Flaherty and became something of an older sister to Steve.

The family doesn't know who'll take possession of the trove of letters now, but Cannon said he expects the family will soon gather to read them.

"It means a heck of a lot to have them," he said. "I don't know what he had on his mind when he wrote those, and I don't know who they're addressed to. But whether they're to me or to any member of my family, I want to see them."



Quit being a baby when you wake up

By Spc. Ryan Hallock

When you wake up in the morning, Pooh," said Piglet at last, "what's the first thing you say to yourself?"

"What's for breakfast?" said Pooh. "What do you say, Piglet?"

"I say, I wonder what's going to happen exciting today?" said Piglet.

Pooh nodded thoughtfully. "It's the same thing," he said.

The Wake up

Contrary to its counterpart, "the fall asleep," waking up each morning can be a daunting exercise; possibly the only exercise all day for some. Waking up in a sour mood like a baby who has been woken during the middle of the night is the setup for a bad day. Waking up this way is asking to be called a baby. You're not a baby, are you?

Babies wake up crying and whining about everything that is wrong instead of appreciating everything that is great. Whether your alarm goes off at 5 a.m. for physical training or 7 a.m. for chow, another beautiful day awaits all those willing to consider it so.

Each day is more precious than the last. Each is another chance to make up for lost time, accomplish a goal, and be more grateful than you were yesterday. So if life is so great, why is it so tempting to be a grump in the morning? Many factors contribute to the botched wake up. Despising work, despising working out, being away from loved ones, or earning junior enlisted pay can all be attributed to waking up unmotivated.

Despising work

You wake up and you hate work. There is no quitting in the military so forget about hating work. If you have exhausted all possibilities of improving your situation at work then think about the cushiness of your job. Think about all the opportunities the military offers, most notably college. Every day leaders are encouraging Troopers to pursue their education. If you have no love for your current occupation, learn a new one. Think about the sweet pay and benefits. Think about the beach.

Despising working out

You wake up and hate working out. The military is working out so forget about being a fat body and embrace being a hard body. Physical training makes you sexy. Physical training adds years on to your life. Physical training gets you promotion points. Find ways around what you hate about it and embrace the suck. Think about breakfast cake.

Being away from loved ones

Possibly the toughest challenge during a deployment is dealing with being separated from friends, family, and loved ones. Skype can never replicate or replace a big kiss, a little kiss, or a big hug. It can help though. If you have you a smart phone find some Apps like "Draw Something" and "Whatsapp" to connect with those who you miss the most. Think of our brothers in arms in Afghanistan and how their families feel during their deployment when you start to get down on this deployment.

People are different and their reasons for waking up grumpy are tailored to their



lives. Waking up in a sour mood can determine the rest of your day. It can also be contagious, so if personal reasons don't tip the scale to waking up fresh and positive, think of those around you and how your attitude can affect friends, family, and even people you don't like. Be cool.

Waking up happy and ready to "seize the carp" is like having your cake and eating it too. It's a cake wake up. Eating cake is euphoric and so is waking up, especially after getting the proper amount your body needs to function without much error. So wake up with a smile on your face, put on some music as you get ready for PT, and start the day like a champion!

"What day is it?" asked Pooh.

"It's today," squeaked Piglet.

"My favorite day," said Pooh.

Vietnam opens sites to joint POW/MIA investigators

By Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

HANOI, Vietnam — The Vietnamese government will open three areas to help resolve the fate of Americans missing in action from the Vietnam War, DOD officials said here today.

Following a meeting at the Defense Ministry, Vietnamese Defense Minister Phung Quang Thanh announced his government would allow American personnel to examine three areas once off limits.

Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta thanked the Vietnamese leader for all the support Vietnam has provided over the years. The Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command's

Detachment 2 based in Hanoi has conducted 107 field searches for Americans missing in Vietnam. The Vietnamese government has fully supported these efforts with personnel and information, said Ron Ward, a casualty resolution specialist with the detachment.

The three sites Vietnam opened to exploration are in the central part of the country. The first site is in Quang Binh province and involves the crash of an Air Force F-4C Phantom II jet in 1967 with two personnel aboard. Detachment specialists located the site in 2008, but now they will be allowed to examine it, Ward said.

The second site is in Kontum province and involves the loss of an Army private first class

in January 1968 during the Tet Offensive.

The third site is in Quang Tri province and involves the loss of a Marine F-4J Wild Weasel aircraft. One of the crew of two punched out of the aircraft and was rescued.

Panetta said these efforts are important to troops serving today, because they know the military means that it will leave no man behind.

To date, the command has repatriated and identified 687 remains in Vietnam. A total of 1,284 Americans remain missing. Of these, 586 cases are in the category of "no further pursuit" — meaning there is conclusive evidence the individual perished but it not possible to recover remains.

ONLY AT GTMO by Mass Communication Spc. 1st Class Ty Bjornson



Men in Black 3



Movie Review

PG-13
106 min.



actually a decent continuation.

The movie opens with the escape of the intergalactic criminal Boris the Animal (Jemaine Clement, “Dinner for Schmucks”) from his 40-year incarceration in the Lunar-Max Penitentiary. He is one volatile, mean and ugly hombre. He is also the last survivor of his conquering race of Boglodites that destroy worlds. He was put on ice in 1969 by Special Agent “K” (Tommy Lee Jones, “Captain America”) at Cape Canaveral during the Apollo 11 launch. In the pursuit, Boris lost his left arm and swore revenge on Agent K at all costs.

The plan Boris has is a fairly simple one: he will go back in time to the events that lead to his apprehension and kill Agent K. To do so would have a catastrophic effect on the future. In the original timeline, Agent K is also responsible for placing a special global shield on the tip of the Apollo 11 module that was activated in orbit to protect Earth from the imminent invasion of the Boglodites. Without Agent K to put the shield in place the world is in one heck of a predicament.

Boris the Animal has a run-in with Agents K and his partner Agent J (Will Smith, “I am Legend”) before time-traveling to the past. His parting words to K are “You are already dead. You just don’t know it yet.” How prophetic, as the timeline is changed the moment Boris goes back. The only person unaffected by the changes is Agent J. He is aware of the timeline changes. He did not change with it because he is believed to have been present

at the events in 1969. Therefore, we have a time paradox, and it is now necessary for Agent J to venture to the past.

“Men in Black 3” has fun with time-travel on several fronts, the best one involving meeting the younger Special Agent K in 1969. He’s played by Josh Brolin (“True Grit”) who was made to look like actor Tommy Lee Jones. That’s easy enough to do with a little make-up and combing his hair a certain way. Brolin stands out in the role by his posture, mannerisms and speech patterns. He is so uncannily like Tommy Lee Jones in his performance. Allegedly the film’s director Barry Sonnenfeld (who directed all the movies in this series) shed tears of relief during Brolin’s audition. Having Brolin cast is better than any of the over-the-top special effects that could have made Tommy Lee Jones look younger.

An interesting addition to this picture is the alien Griffin (Michael Stuhlbarg, “Hugo”). He is one of the most likeable and engaging characters I’ve seen in years in the movies. Griffin, like Boris, is the last of his race and living on Earth. He dresses like the video camera kid from “American

see MOVIE page 15

MOVIE from page 14

Beauty” (1999) and the youngsters from “South Park” (1999). He is able to envision the futures of various possible outcomes which he sees in his mind. He is humble and wise as he delights in the simple things, like the outcome of a baseball game that hasn’t happened yet. How he aids Agents K & J in their mission is one of the movie’s charms.

Like its predecessors, “Men in Black 3”

is special effects laden, mostly involving the various alien races that reside on Earth in hiding. They are creative in appearance and at times surprising in their individual functions. Take Boris the Animal for instance. He is symbiotic with parasitic creatures that live in his palm. Too weird. In keeping with the other films, this one is heavy with goo. Whether it is an alien being splattered or simply goo oozing out of them, the “MiB” movies love their goo. I’m not sure why these

movies adhere to this prerequisite. No doubt there is some marketing “goo”-ru behind this.

“Men in Black 3” is a fun popcorn movie. It is light and easy to get into. “The Big-Budget Will Smith Fantasy-Summer-Movie” for 2012 is a gooey good time. By the film’s closure there is new light shed on the K and J dynamic. It’s unexpected and touching. A third movie in a series seldom has originality and heart. This one does.

By Mass Communication Spc. 1st Class
Ty Bjornson

After 16 years, we are still experiencing a particular Hollywood trend. I will call it “The Big-Budget Will Smith Fantasy-Summer-Movie.” Sorry for coming up with such a long name for this trend, but it sure seems to ring true, doesn’t it? Since 1996’s “Independence Day”, there have been many summers like what I just described. Back then, I did not realize Will Smith would have that kind of staying power. Here we are 15 years after the original “Men in Black” film hit multiplexes and Will Smith is still going strong.

The “Men in Black” film series is loosely based on an early ‘90s comic book series about a secret government organization which monitors supernatural phenomena, alien activities and safeguards against alien threats. These premises must have been in vogue in the early ‘90s, as at the same time there was a television series similar in structure that had the tagline “Trust No One” (that show also had a “foxy” redhead for additional sex appeal). For the “Men in Black” films, the supernatural angle has been dropped in favor of staying focused on alien matters only.

“Men in Black 3” is an unlikely sequel. The other two “MiB” movies were self-contained adventures and the interest of a third installment really wasn’t in demand. The good news is “Men in Black 3” is

**NAVSTA
Main Chapel**

Daily Catholic Mass
Tues.-Fri. 5:30 p.m.

Vigil Mass
Saturday 5 p.m.

Mass
Sunday 9 a.m.

General Protestant
Sunday 11 a.m.

Gospel Service
Sunday 1 p.m.

Christian Fellowship
Sunday 6 p.m.

Iglesia Ni Cristo
Sunday 5:30 a.m.
Room A

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

LDS Service
Sunday 10 a.m.
Room A

Islamic Service
Friday 1 p.m.
Room C

GTMO Religious Services

JTF Trooper Chapel

Intense Spiritual Fitness Power Lunch!
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Thursdays 11-11:30 a.m.
JTF Command Chaplain’s Office

Protestant Worship
Sunday 9 a.m.

Bible Study
Wednesday 6 p.m.

For more information, contact the JTF Chaplain’s Office at 2305.

For other services, contact the NAVSTA Chaplain’s Office at 2323.

	8 FRI	9 SAT	10 SUN	11 MON	12 TUE	13 WED	14 THU
Downtown Lyceum	The Three Stooges (NEW) (PG) 8 p.m. Dark Shadows (PG-13) 10 p.m.	Snow White and the Huntsman (NEW) 8 p.m. (PG-13) Men in Black 3 (PG-13) 10 p.m.	American Reunion (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Mirror Mirror (last showing) (PG) 8 p.m.	Wrath of the Titans (last showing) (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Battleship (PG-13) 8 p.m.	The Lucky One (PG-13) 8 p.m.
Camp Bulkeley	Snow White and the Huntsman (NEW) 8 p.m. (PG-13)	The Three Stooges (NEW) (PG) 8 p.m.	The Lucky One (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Wrath of the Titans (last showing) (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Mirror Mirror (last showing) (PG) 8 p.m.	The Hunger Games (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Dark Shadows (PG-13) 8 p.m.

Call the movie hotline at 4880 or see <https://intranet/movies.html> for more information.



By Sgt. 1st Class Kryn Westhoven

The Guantanamo Bay community filled the Downtown Lyceum on Tuesday and Wednesday night to consider the “No Zebras, No Excuses” program, which educated everyone in attendance to “notice” and prevent sexual assaults and harassment.

The 90-minute presentation featured skits including a Jeopardy-themed segment to bring the message to the audience in a thought-provoking and engaging show.

Between the skits performed by the ten recent college graduates, speakers were featured including Steve Thompson, director of sexual aggression services at Central Michigan University. After his first interaction with a victim, Thompson went from a career of coaching college football to devoting his professional life to working with victims of sexual assault.

The name “No Zebras, No Excuses” comes from how a herd of zebras will watch as one of their own is attacked and killed by a lion. This inaction is what the program looks to correct.

In one skit, this lack of action comes from friends, and portrays a male service member who drugs a girl’s drink as a friend watches. Later, a room full of friends, after seeing the girl’s condition, lets that same guy take her home where she is assaulted.

Sexual assault happens to one out of three female service members, a higher rate than the general population. Approximately 25 percent of American women will suffer some sort of sexual assault or harassment.

This is not just an issue for women, as it will happen one out of six male service members.

The program looks to instill what they call Bystander Intervention Philosophy 101 and in order to reduce incidence of sexual assault Troopers must do three things. First, notice the behavior, and then interpret what they are witnessing, followed by purposeful action.

The solution to preventing sexual assaults is black and white: don’t be a Zebra.



NO MORE ZEBRAS