



# The WIRE

## FIRST PLACE WARFIGHTERS

525TH SOLDIERS BRING  
THE FIGHT FROM GTMO  
TO THE REST OF THE MP  
WORLD AND LEAVE AS  
CHAMPIONS

CAPT. W. ANDREW DOCHERTY  
CHIEF OF STAFF, JTF GUANTANAMO

How will you leave your mark at Joint Task Force Guantanamo when you depart?

Whether you know it or not, every one of us will in some way leave an enduring legacy when we board the rotator for our redeployment flight home. Your legacy might be within the JTF mission space of detention operations, intelligence, or support to the military commissions. It might be in the personal or professional development

of a fellow Trooper, the continuing spirit of volunteerism with the myriad of causes on the base, or the athletic prowess or exemplary sportsmanship you demonstrated during intramural sporting events. Legacies don't need to involve major facilities' changes, game-changing policy shifts, or monuments erected to preserve your unit's role for posterity. They are often much more subtle than that, involving incremental improvements to mission effectiveness, efficiency, quality of life, and the fundamental ways that we take care of our people. We all have the ability to make

***We all have the ability to make an impact in so many different ways that we often lose focus on just how important your day-to-day input on the "little things" can be. Each action you perform and every decision that you make sets an example for someone else to either emulate - or avoid.***

an impact in so many different ways that we often lose focus on just how important your day-to-day input on the "little things" can be. Each action you perform and every decision that you make sets an example for someone else to either emulate - or avoid.

Our rotational nature means that we are constantly in a state of evolution, getting better at some things and possibly slipping

in others. We grow through our successes, learn from our mistakes and move on. We rely on our leaders at every level across the JTF to hold on to the gains and pass on the hard-learned lessons, so we aren't forced to re-learn them again when the next rotation replaces us. We also rely on leaders at all levels to ensure that JTF-GTMO maintains the "legacy of success" that has characterized our ability to excel in the execution of our mission despite adversity on so many fronts.

Like all months, September has been marked with a great deal of turnover. Also like all months, the units and the individuals that we are losing will leave a series of indelible marks across the landscape of our operations. The huge turnover of Air Force personnel across the staff will create a temporary void as seasoned leaders depart and new ones step into the breach to take their place; but in much the same way as is reflected in turnovers across the JTF, the new team will be stepping into an organization forever changed for the better by those who have come before us. The professionalism, pride, and engaged leadership these departing Troopers demonstrated throughout their tours has markedly improved the culture and the climate of our entire organization. As a result of their actions - in the workplace, on liberty, and at scores of command and non-command sponsored events - the JTF is more mission effective and a better place to work.



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## NEX/MWR Customer Appreciation Weekend

This will be a massive celebration of epic proportions as the Naval Exchange teams up with Morale Welfare and Recreation to show their appreciation for the best customers in the world!

The Kelly Bell Band will perform Friday at the Tiki Bar from 9-11 p.m. They will perform again Saturday at the Windjammer from 9-11 p.m. The band will also sign autographs Saturday at the NEX from 1:30-2:30 p.m.

New Balance will hold an athletic shoe clinic Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the NEX.

A 5K race will be held at the NEX parking lot Saturday, beginning at 7 a.m. Once the store opens at 9 a.m. the fun really starts, including door prizes, a Humvee pull competition, autograph sessions with celebrity chefs, good food, and prize drawings, including trips to Las Vegas and New York and a \$2,000 NEX gift card.

The martial arts group Sideswipe will perform at the NEX Atrium from 12-1 p.m., followed by an autograph session until 1:30 p.m. The band will perform again at the Windjammer later tomorrow evening from 7-8 p.m.

Sunday's festivities will kick off with the MWR fishing derby from 7 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Marina. Prizes will be awarded to the men and women who catch the largest snook, barracuda, and shark. Other attractions that day include a dance competition and multicultural performance at the NEX Atrium and a

## Softball tournament!

MWR will host a free tournament at Cooper Field Columbus Day weekend, Oct. 6-8. The tournament is open to all hands, but those interested in competing should register by 7 p.m. tonight at Denich Gym. A coaches meeting will be held Oct. 3 at 5:30 p.m.

The top two teams will receive an award. For more information, call 2113.

## Don't get eaten alive!

As the bites on my legs can attest, all the rain we've been having has created ideal mosquito breeding conditions.

If you'd like to see fewer mosquitoes, drain as much standing water as you can, turn over unused containers that can collect water, and do not disturb any mosquito trapping equipment that might be in use.

You can also avoid being outdoors at dawn and dusk, wear pants and long-sleeved shirts, and use insect repellent containing DEET.

Mosquitoes can leave more than itchiness. They are also vectors for West Nile virus. If you experience headaches, body aches, and have numerous bites, call 72944. Your health could depend on it!

## Free swimming lessons

MWR will offer free swimming lessons for active-duty service members beginning Oct. 1. Lessons are held Monday from 6:30-7:30 a.m. at the Windjammer Pool.

For more information, call Tony at 84968 or Raymond at 2205.

## The Craft (not starring Neve Campbell)

Want to learn something new during your time at GTMO? Why not pottery? MWR offers a basic pottery class Oct. 11 for \$40, and an advanced class Oct. 25 for \$50. Both classes are at 7 p.m. at the ceramics shop and include clay, tools, and instruction. No registration is necessary.

After you've made something nice in pottery class, why not paint it? MWR has that covered too! Go to an airbrush class Oct. 6 at 2 p.m. or Oct. 9 at 7 p.m. and you'll have the skills you need to paint your pottery or even airbrush a rad design on your GTMO special! No registration is necessary, but the class costs \$20 and includes instruction, paint, tools, and one piece of pottery to paint.

For more information, call 74795.

## Rock the Vote

The Military Postal Service Agency provides free expedited ballot delivery and ballot tracking to your local election office. Please stop by the office to have 11-DoD applied to your absentee ballot.

For more information, call the Post Office at 2156.

## Safe Ride!

Out drinking? Thinking about driving? Think again!

Put the keys down! Save your life, the lives of others, and your career.

Call 84913/84781.



Learn to swim!

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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 1,200.

# Trooper to Trooper

## The Right Decision

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER  
GREGORY CRAMER

MARINE SECURITY DETACHMENT  
WATERSIDE CHIEF

Like all the other Armed Forces, the U.S. Coast Guard has a distinct set of core values. Honor, respect, and devotion to duty; these are the words we instill in our members since the day they step off the bus for basic training. These words can be interpreted in many different ways. Respect can be seen as your views towards peers, superiors, and the nation we serve, or as the way people view you and the uniform you represent.

I believe at one point or another, we have all made a decision or two that we wish we could take back, whether it be in our personal life, or job related. This is nothing to be ashamed of – we are human after all. It is what you learn from your mistakes that matter. How did you get into that situation? What could you have done to prevent it? How will you use that experience to help out others in the future? These are things you must take away from mistakes, and have the courage to not repeat them.

Why courage? There are many different types of courage. It takes courage to go into battle, to face down a determined enemy, no matter the odds. It also takes courage to make the responsible choices in life. To make an unpopular, but correct, decision among your

peers, to do the right thing no matter what people's views of you will be, to have the will to stand up for others who cannot defend themselves, and to look after your crew through the easy and tough times.

Far too often we see and hear of our fellow service members making poor decisions that put their careers, families, and sometimes, lives in jeopardy. And when you look back into the decision making process that put them there, almost certainly in every situation things could have been avoided simply by the member having the courage to ask for help, or a co-worker, friend, or supervisor stepping in when they knew someone needed help. Whether it is calling a taxi or friend when you've had too much to drink, seeking help through the many family advocacy programs, or simply asking for assistance through your chain of command, have the courage to look after yourself and your fellow service members.

Webster's dictionary defines fortitude as "having the strength of mind that enables a person to encounter danger or bear pain or adversity with courage." So the next time you find yourself questioning your actions, rushing to judgment of others, or simply doing

something stupid, have the fortitude and morale courage to look deep within yourself and make the right decision. As Ambrose Redmoon once stated, "Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the judgment that something else is more important than fear."



## Fire Prevention Week coming to GTMO

Story by Clifford Foley  
Naval Station Guantanamo Bay Fire Marshal

Fire Prevention Week was established to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire, the tragic 1871 conflagration that killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres. The fire began on Oct. 8 but continued into, and did most of its damage on, Oct. 9, 1871. The cause of the fire remains undetermined, though many theories and urban legends have been made since the fire.

While the Great Chicago Fire was the best-known blaze to start during this fiery two-day stretch, it wasn't the biggest. That distinction goes to the Peshtigo Fire, the most devastating forest fire in American history. The fire, which also occurred on Oct. 8, 1871, roared through northeast Wisconsin, burning down 16 towns, killing 1,152 people, and scorching 1.2 million acres before it ended.

Historical accounts of the fire say that the blaze began when several railroad workers unintentionally started a brush fire while clearing land for tracks. Before long, the fast-moving flames were whipping through the area "like a tornado." It was the small town of Peshtigo, Wis., that suffered the worst damage. Within an hour, the entire town had been destroyed.

Those who survived the Chicago and Peshtigo fires never forgot what they'd been through; both blazes produced countless tales of bravery and heroism. But the fires also changed the way that firefighters and public officials thought about fire safety. On the 40th anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire, the Fire Marshals Association of North America decided that the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire should henceforth be observed not with festivities, but in a way that would keep the public informed about the importance of fire prevention. The commemoration grew incrementally over the years. So on Oct. 9, 1911, FMANA sponsored the first National Fire Prevention Day.

In 1920, President Woodrow Wilson issued the first National Fire Prevention Day proclamation. For more than 80 years, the National Fire Protection Association has officially sponsored and selected the theme for the national commemoration of Fire Prevention Week, honoring the anniversary




of the Great Chicago Fire and using the event to increase awareness of the dangers of fire. Every year since 1925, the President of the United States has signed a proclamation pronouncing a national observance on the Sunday-through-Saturday period in which Oct. 9 falls. Fire Prevention Week is the longest running week-long safety education campaign for which all presidents since President Coolidge have issued formal proclamations.

When President Calvin Coolidge proclaimed the first Fire Prevention Week, Oct.

4 through Oct. 10, 1925, he noted that in the previous year some 15,000 lives were lost to fire in the United States. Calling the loss "startling," President Coolidge's proclamation stated, "this waste results from conditions which justify a sense of shame and horror; for the greater part of it could and ought to be prevented... It is highly desirable that every effort be made to reform the conditions which have made possible so vast

See Fire Prevention on Page 6



re:  
government phones

### Don't misuse your JTF phone!

Hi, I'm Gert the IA Buzzard. When I am not out cruising for fresh roadkill from last night, I am out educating the JTF about Information Assurance. Did you see the crime scene smorgasbord of banana rats out at the side of the road by J3? While I was there having some fine dining, I ran into Clete, and he showed me his new Android phone he picked up from one of the Troopers. Well actually it was a fly-by, but anyway, he told me that the Trooper was making long distance calls on it. He had taken the SIM Card out of his JTF Phone and put into his personal phone. Exchanging your JTF SIM card and putting it into your personal phone is not just a Telecom violation; it's also misappropriation of government equipments and assets. This is all chargeable under UCMJ and federal law. Not only can you be charged, but you can lose your security clearance and have to pay restitution to the government for your personal phone usage. From what I understand there are a lot of people in the JTF abusing the cell phones. So remember to only use your JTF Phone for official business and not for personal use. OK, got to go, I'm heading to a meeting of the JTF scavenger association. Seems some conch filed a complaint about us being in the ocean and invading his space, who would have thought? That's what happens when I have a guest writer! Until next time...



**Fire Prevention from Page 5**

a destruction of the national wealth.”

Every year since 1957, Fire Prevention Week is observed with a new theme, and this year's Fire Prevention theme is “Know 2 Ways Out.” The U.S., Canada, and all DoD facilities across the globe observe Fire Prevention Week. Remember these factual statistics and safety practices when you're at home:

**Home Fires**

In 2010, 85 percent of all fire deaths were caused by home fires.

**Escape Planning**

Develop and practice an escape plan. “Have 2 Ways Out” from each bedroom and living space. Establish a meeting place. Never go back into a burning building.

**Smoke Alarms**

Carbon monoxide is a “silent killer.” Never disconnect detectors. Test monthly. Replace batteries every six months or when chirping. Every bedroom and level of a home should have a smoke detector.

**Home Fire Sprinklers**

Sprinklers are highly effective because they react so quickly in a fire. They reduce the risk of death and injury from a fire by dramatically reducing the heat, flames and smoke produced, allowing people time to evacuate the home. Never tamper with any part of a sprinkler system or close a shut-off valve.

**Cooking**

Cooking equipment is the number one leading cause of home fires and associated

injuries and was tied with electrical fires for the third leading cause of home fire deaths. Unattended cooking is the leading cause of these fires. If you must leave the cooking area, turn off the stove range and move the food to a cooler spot. Keep pot and pan handles out of the reach of children while cooking. Avoid overheating foods, especially oil. If a fire starts, use a lid cover to place over the fire to smother it. Never use water or a wet rag on grease fires. If the fire is too large to cover, use an ABC dry chemical fire extinguisher.

**Heating**

Heating equipment is the second leading cause of all reported home fires and home fire deaths, particularly during the cooler months. Never leave equipment unattended. Keep equipment at least three feet away from any combustible materials such as furniture, draperies, desks and trash cans. Portable space heaters should be UL-listed with an automatic shut-off safety device such as a tip-over switch and a thermostat. Never use extension cords and plug it directly into a wall outlet.

**Smoking Materials**

Smoking is the number one leading cause of home fire deaths. Avoid smoking while lying down on a bed or recliner when you're tired so you don't fall asleep with a lit smoking device. Always dispose of the “cherry” or “butts” in a non-combustible receptacle or ashtray. Ensure the smoking device is extinguished and cooled.

**Electrical**

Electrical fires are tied with cooking

fires for being the third leading cause of fire deaths in home fires. Extension cords and non-surge protected power taps are for temporary use only. Avoid overloading these power distribution devices. For permanent use and for protecting certain equipment, use surge suppressors or have a certified electrician install additional outlets. Avoid overloading wall outlets and breakers. Equipment should be in good operating condition with no exposed wires. Always follow the manufacturer's recommendations.

**Housekeeping**

Keep your home clean and avoid being a “packrat.” Clean dryer lint traps and electrical stove ranges from grease and food build-up.

**Candles**

Keep candles clear from draperies and at least a foot away from all other combustibles. Candles should be placed on a solid, stable and non-combustible surface. Keep candles, matches and lighters out of reach from children. Alternatives to fire lit candles are battery operated candles. Use a candle warmer in lieu of a lit wick, or simply use a plug-in air freshener. Candles in bachelor quarters are not authorized to be lit.

The NAVSTA Guantanamo Bay Fire Department extends its invitation to all base personnel and families to join us to observe Fire Prevention Week 2012.

Check out the roller for scheduled events, and for more information on fire safety tips, call 4179 or 4611 or visit the Fire Administration Office.



PUT DOWN THE PHONE

**6,000 DEATHS** and over half a million injuries are caused by distracted drivers every year

**1 in 20** car crashes in the US are linked to cell phones

Cell phone distraction causes **2,600 DEATHS** and 330,000 injuries in the United States every year

# Warfighter Competition champs get hero's welcome back at GTMO



Soldiers from the 525th Military Police Battalion climb out of a chartered boat at the ferry landing Tuesday afternoon after returning to Naval Station Guantanamo Bay following their victory in the Military Police Warfighter Competition at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. The Soldiers were welcomed back and cheered on by a group that included officers from the 525th, fellow 525th Soldiers and some family members. Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Michael Davis Jr.

Story by Army Sgt. Jonathan Monfiletto

**R**angers have Best Ranger. MPs have Warfighter. Every MP knows Warfighter.”

That’s how Sgt. 1st Class James Farish described the 2012 Military Police Warfighter Competition, held recently at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and won this year by a team from Joint Task Force Guantanamo’s very own 525th Military Police Battalion.

Farish, the battalion S4 non-commissioned officer in charge and the team’s coach, and four other Soldiers from the 525th, received a hero’s welcome on Tuesday afternoon as they set foot back at the ferry landing on the windward side of Guantanamo Bay. The team landed back at GTMO after flying from Fort Leonard Wood and bringing home the trophy following the end of the competition.

Approximately 30 people – officers from the 525th, fellow 525th Soldiers and even a few family members – greeted them with crisp, hearty claps and loud, enthusiastic cheers. The victors emerged from a chartered boat, paraded down the pier and met their welcoming party.

They were swarmed with hugs, high-fives and a multitude of well-wishes before boarding a bus decorated for the celebration.

The bus, painted green and decorated with the team members’ names on one side and “2012 Warfighter Champions” on the other,

led a convoy of personal vehicles around GTMO. Each team member was dropped off at his respective housing area before the bus wound up at the 525th headquarters at JTF GTMO.

Besides being the first time the 525th won the Warfighter Competition – or even placed, for that matter – the victory also represents the first time in the competition’s 17-year history that it was won by a team made up of 31E Soldiers, or internment resettlement specialists, Farish said.

“It was a very unique team this year,” he said, noting the team, like its battalion, is comprised of both active duty Soldiers who are stationed at GTMO and reservists and National Guardsmen who are deployed here. “It [winning] feels pretty amazing.”

The competitive team included driver Pfc. Roman Gutierrez, from the 314th MP Co., gunner Spc. Danny Aoun, also from the 314th, and team leader Sgt. Brandon Walker, from the 189th MP Co. Pfc. Austin Hunsaker traveled with the team as an alternate member.

Sgt. Luke Klein and Sgt. Nathan Rupprecht also trained with the team but were unable to make the trip because of a lack of funding.

“We’ve kind of made history this year,” said Walker, who made his third appearance in Warfighter. “I’m still in shock. It hasn’t hit me yet. I’ve been trying for three years and finally won. Third time’s the charm I guess.”

Winning Warfighter puts the Soldiers of the 525th among the greatest soldiers of the MP corps, Gutierrez said.

“To be part of it makes me feel special,” he said. “It’s awesome. It’s good stuff. I remember my drill sergeants used to speak about Warfighter.”

Farish called selecting the team “the hardest decision of my life in the military” when training started at the beginning of June.

“Lo and behold, it was the winning team,” he said of the team he helped put together. “It was definitely a grueling competition, and the best team represented won, the best overall, the most well-rounded.”

Scoring for the four-day competition started as soon as in-processing began at 5 a.m. on the first day and continued until the final day, Farish said. Right after they arrived and in-processed, teams were hustled straight to the first competitive event – transition firing with M16 rifles, 9 mm handguns, and M26 shotguns.

Warfighter tested both the physical and mental capabilities of the Soldiers with events that included an oral board for NCOs and a written test for junior enlisted Soldiers, tests of basic Soldier skills including evidence collection, route reconnaissance and first aid, an intense physical training test, a 15.7 mile ruck march, a timed confidence course, a combatives tournament and other competitions.

“During the ruck march was where we



Sgt. Luke Klein shows off the trophy the 525th team received for winning Warfighter. Photo by Army Sgt. Jonathan Monfiletto

really separated ourselves. We passed about 17 teams,” Farish said.

He added that the toughest part of the competition was the fact that there was not a schedule of events. Teams were told of events when they were about to happen.

“During the competition, you never know what’s next,” Farish said. “You just don’t know. It could be something crazy.”

The team placed first in reflexive firing, second in the ruck march, second in basic Soldier skills and second in the combatives tournament, among other honors. Individually, Aoun won the gunners bracket in the combatives tournament, taking all five fights, while Walker won two fights and lost in the third, and Gutierrez won his first fight but lost his second.

Aoun said he won his bracket despite not being certified in combatives going into the tournament.

“I pretty much beat guys up based off of heart and soul,” he said. “That was huge.”

While other teams begin training for Warfighter between six months and a year before the event, Farish said the team started its preparation just three months in advance. That put the team at a disadvantage compared to its opponents, but they were put further behind with a lack of resources for their training – performing land navigation on the golf course, using a room at Tierra Kay for room clearing, and practicing



A group of Soldiers and Sailors celebrate the arrival of the 525th Soldiers back at the ferry landing at GTMO, cheering and clapping for the Warfighter champions. The group formed a receiving line to welcome the Soldiers after they exited the boat. Photo by Army Sgt. Jonathan Monfiletto



Master Sgt. Mary Polke, of the 525th, high-fives Sgt. 1st Class James Farish, the battalion S3 non-commissioned officer in charge and the Warfighter team’s coach, while other Soldiers cheer on. Photo by Army Sgt. Jonathan Monfiletto



Pfc. Austin Hunsaker, who served on the team as an alternate, makes his way through the receiving line and greets his well wishers. Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Michael Davis Jr.

movement to contact on the paintball course.

Marines stationed here offered use of their confidence course and assistance with radio and weapons training, while Troopers from the Joint Troop Clinic hosted medical training lanes for the team. Other venues for practice were not as easy to obtain, Farish said.

“Getting places and areas to train was difficult. I’m proud of these guys for coming in and winning with limited resources,” he said. “We were big-time underdogs. ... It means a lot to be able to beat teams that have those advantages.”

The teammates even brought their own expertise into training each other – Klein taught combatives, Rupprecht assisted with weapons training, Walker brought his experience, and Hunsaker and Aoun helped with weight training and nutrition.

That expertise helped pave the way to victory. Being the best prepared team heading into the competition was another key to winning, Aoun said.

“The easy part is the competition. The hardest part is the train-up and preparation,” he said. “It’s all about the preparation. We know that. We voiced that.”

The 31 other teams hailed from Army bases in Germany, Italy and South Korea, as well “the big name posts” such as Fort Leonard Wood, Fort Bliss and Fort Jackson. The 525th team may have had fewer

resources than those teams, but Farish said the team earned its victory on character.

“Those Soldiers had the most heart out there,” he said. “When it came time to quit, there was somebody there to push them. ... The Soldiers were definitely self-motivating.”

The team members are so self-motivating, Farish said, that working out at the gym was the first thing they wanted to do after being announced as the winners of the competition.

He also credited the Soldiers’ camaraderie and closeness for allowing them to train 14 to 15 hours a day, six days a week with no problems.

“They bonded together as a team,” he said. “We never had any issues. That was definitely a big thing.”

Walker agreed, noting the team members spent every meal together and even hung out on their one day off.

“The team cohesion was by far the best I’ve ever had in three years,” he said. “That was what made us win. ... It was a whole team concept when it came to the competition.”

Instead of resting on their laurels, the 525th Soldiers are already looking toward participating in a competition in which they are not qualified to take part but in which they are nevertheless willing to prove their character again.

“They want to do Best Ranger next,” Farish said. “That says a lot for them.”

# OKTOBERFEST 2012

GTMO Style



Story and photos by Spc. Raechel Haynes

Most of the people I've asked about Oktoberfest don't know much about its history. What do you think of when you hear the word Oktoberfest? Beer, bratwurst, and leiderhosen?

Believe it or not, it all started with a royal wedding over two centuries ago on October 12, 1810, with the marriage of Crown Prince Ludwig I to Princess Therese of Saxony-Hildburghausen. The Crown Prince invited the entire city of Munich to celebrate with him. The field where they first celebrated Oktoberfest was renamed for the princess and still bears the name of Theresienwiese.

The original Oktoberfest involved feasting and horse racing, but that's changed over the years. They no longer have horse races and the crowds are much larger, sometimes numbering in the millions. Modern Oktoberfest is almost like a large county fair, including rides and an agricultural show every three years.

When most people think of Naval Station Guantanamo, they think of chain link fences, guard towers, and security cameras - but Oktoberfest? On Saturday night MWR transformed the Windjammer Ballroom into a German beer hall.

GTMO's Morale Welfare and Recreation

worked to make their Oktoberfest as close to the modern Oktoberfest as possible. This was a real challenge since the German Oktoberfest traditionally lasts for 17 days. MWR accepted the challenge and managed to squeeze as many Oktoberfest traditions as possible into four hours.

"We try to celebrate all different cultures and traditions," MWR Marketing Coordinator, Brittany Hanna said. "Oktoberfest is celebrated in the States as a large event, so we thought we would bring it to GTMO."

GTMO's Oktoberfest included performances by the Swinging Bavarians from Florida, German food, and the main staple of any Oktoberfest, German beer.

"Oktoberfest is a time to get together and celebrate," MWR Community Activities Director, Steven Prestesater said. "Be with friends, be with family. It just happens to be that here in GTMO we celebrate with steins that are free, lots of food, beer, yodeling, and lots of Chicken Dance."

The MWR partnered with the Swinging Bavarians to bring real Oktoberfest activities to GTMO. The Swinging Bavarians band is mainly comprised of the Schoenfeldt family and some close friends from the German American Club. The band is led by their Kappellmeister or band leader,

Bill Schoenfeldt. Bill started the band 27 years ago, and Oktoberfest is one of their most popular events. With 40 years worth of musical and dancing experience, they brought a great deal of authenticity and enthusiasm to this event.

"The Swinging Bavarians really get into it and if you've ever been to Germany, and have seen a German band perform, it's very similar," said Hanna. "They'll get people [on the dance floor] and interact with the audience which is really great."

Among the activities on Saturday night were costume classes, a yodeling competition, and traditional German dances.

"By no means have I ever yodeled before or am a practitioner, but it went extremely well," Marine Cpl. Tyler Truesdale shared. "I had an outstanding time. It would be awesome if we had something like this every month of the year."

This event was not just for a specific set of people. This was an All Hands event, where everyone from deployed service-members to families were welcome.

While it may seem odd to celebrate Oktoberfest in Cuba, the MWR worked hard to make this an event to remember. Prestesater said that Oktoberfest will be an annual event, and MWR hopes to outdo themselves next year.



Guests enjoy performances by the Swinging Bavarians. This is the second time the Swinging Bavarians have performed at GTMO's Oktoberfest. Oktoberfest was held Saturday night at the Windjammer Ballroom.



A band member plays a solo on the cowbells.



Two band members perform a traditional German dance.



Guests receive a free beer stein with the purchase of a German brew.



Guests join the band on the dance floor for the Chicken Dance.



Bill Schoenfeldt leads the band in an Oktoberfest song.

# Trooper Focus



Story by Spc. Vanessa Davila  
Photos by Army Staff Sgt. Lewis Hilburn

He takes in the lights and the cameras as he slowly breathes in.

As he breathes out, a woman yells “ACTION!”

A quick breath back in, and on the out he mumbles something to a man across the room.

The man across the room yells back at the mystery man.

The mystery man’s face speaks a thousand words without his lips ever mumbling another word.

As a single tear makes its way down mystery man’s left cheek, a woman yells “CUT!”

End scene.

Those who perform feel best on the stage, in front of the cameras, or strumming their instrument on a corner of West Hollywood, all in the name of being artists. Performance: it is an act very familiar to Coast Guard Seaman Larry McGhee. Performance and not acting because the guy doesn’t just act; he began dancing and playing instruments as a young boy, and that evolved into singing, and singing evolved into acting. There will always be a special place in his life for his first love though.

“With dancing I had the ability to be able to reach people a lot more,” said McGhee. “I also started dancing at my church back home, and that within itself took on a whole other meaning and a whole other level...It became more of a healing kind of thing for other people. After, they would just say ‘I felt so much better. I felt so moved to see you put so much passion and intensity in dancing.’”

Unfortunately the Brad Pitts and Jaime Foxxes of the world only make up a miniscule fraction of the industry and the title of struggling dancer, singer, or actor just wasn’t paying enough of the bills.

“Joining the military was, more or less, for being able to take care of my family,” said McGhee about his decision to join the Coast Guard in 2005. “[My mom was] a single parent taking care of both me and my brother. It felt good to be able to help her out, and it also felt extremely good to be able to provide for my daughter.”

Just because McGhee became a Coast Guardsman doesn’t mean that he stopped being an artist. Performance has been running through McGhee’s veins since he was a child.



There have been many highs in his artistic career even if they were also “almosts.”

“In 2003, I went to audition for American Idol and I didn’t make it. I didn’t even make it past the cattle call,” said McGhee. “I sang for the judges and everything, and they were just all like ‘you know you have a really nice voice, but you’re just not what we’re looking for right now.’”

Even though McGhee didn’t make it on Idol, he used the judges’ comments to better himself. He realized he lacked self-confidence and went about improving his vocals and gaining some of that confidence he knew was missing.

McGhee is like an energetic ball of positivity. The bad and the ugly don’t seem to make a dent anywhere in him. It can’t be easy being a high school student and dancing ballet.

“I skipped football camp in order to go to dance camp to better myself,” said McGhee. “Towards the end of dance camp I went back to my school to try to talk to my football coach, and he was just like – it was one of the most hurtful things that I had ever heard – ‘look, you have two options. You either come out here and play football or go dance and be a faggot.’”

He didn’t let the encounter stop him from doing what he loves. Over the years McGhee has gotten close to getting his break. His “almost” biggest break came a few months ago, before he deployed to Guantanamo Bay. McGhee was schedule to start filming a movie directed by a guy named Quentin Tarantino and starring a pair of actors you might have heard of: Leonardo DiCaprio and Jaime Foxx. “Django Unchained” would probably have been his BIG break. He earned a “featured extra” roll, but unfortunately the start date kept getting pushed back and then it was time for McGhee to deploy to GTMO.

The same way McGhee didn’t let his American Idol experience stop him; he didn’t allow this missed opportunity to negatively affect him. When McGhee heads back home to New Orleans he plans on getting right back into the grind. In the meantime he is trying to enjoy his time at GTMO as much as possible. You can always find him at O’Kelly’s Wednesday night karaoke sessions. You might also remember him from the GTMO’s Got Talent competition not too long ago. He came in second place and who knows what could have been if he hadn’t forgotten the words to the song in his final performance.

# McGhee

# Unleashed

Iguanas eat plants, not table scraps.



STOP Feeding Iguanas



NAVSTAGTMOINST 1710.10B-section 5.b  
The feeding, keeping, or breeding of iguana or other lizards, hutia, chickens, snakes, pigeons, or feral cats and dogs, is strictly prohibited.

# Where The Wild Things Grow

Story by Army Sgt. Trisha Pinces  
Photos by Army Sgt. Dani White

The scent of damp earth hangs heavily in the air as insects hum making their way from one leaf to the next. The visitors, volunteers and iguanas all share a labyrinth of paths that lead to every corner of the plant nursery.

Relaxing and therapeutic, the nursery at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba displays a variety of vivid colors, scents, and textures that tell of the care and attention it receives from volunteers every week.

With old personnel departing and new personnel arriving constantly, the nursery is lucky enough to have a consistent caretaker in Donald Lloyd, the lead volunteer who has donated over eight hours of time at the nursery every week for the past five years.

"When we first came in, it was a mess with leaves everywhere and trees down," Lloyd said. "We've done a lot of work to try and improve this place."

Lloyd has nursed many plants back to health that were dying; it's incredible to see them today. Overflowing from its pot, one such plant steadily creeps up, out and around in all directions, as it forms new branches making for a stunning showcase.

"This plant was only a foot tall and dying when I got here, and now it's over seven feet tall," he said. "The chance at seeing something grow is just incredible."

The garden provides an escape and a memorable experience for those at GTMO who battle with being away from home and



Donald Lloyd, the caretaker of the plant nursery, explains upcoming plans for the garden to volunteers.

their families.

"One of the prime things in GTMO is to keep busy or you'll go stir crazy," Lloyd said. "The nursery gives everyone an activity to do if they need to get out."

Many GTMO residents use the nursery as a place to unwind after a long or stressful workday.

"A while back there was a translator from the camps, and he used to come here after working a night shift and do some work around the nursery and then just sit and relax in the rocker before he headed off to bed," Lloyd said. "He said it was the greatest therapy."

Another great aspect of the nursery is the opportunity for volunteers to get to know people that they not have met otherwise.

"Getting to meet people that work in other areas on base, that are civilians or from different branches, really makes it feel more like a family," said Army Master Sgt. Luis Olmo-Jimenez, a member of Joint Task Force GTMO and volunteer at the nursery.

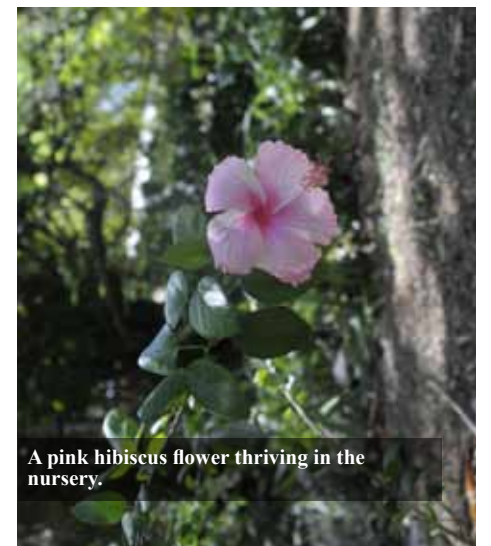
Being on a relatively small island for a long time can often cause a "groundhog day" effect. Olmo said watching something grow gives you a sense of accomplishment, making every day a new day.

"When you grow something it's almost like when you have a child," Olmo said. "You feel that innate sense of responsibility to take care of them."

The nursery is helping service members, civilians and contractors make their living



Army Master Sgt. Luis Olmo-Jimenez takes cuts of Cuban basil as he plants new sprouts.



A pink hibiscus flower thriving in the nursery.





**Joint Task Force Guantanamo**

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# Resumé Building

## Service members prepare for civilian world

Story and photo by  
Army Staff Sgt. Michael E. Davis Jr.

Standing tall and looking good is a motto that Troopers abide by, no matter what branch of the military you're in. However, appearance alone doesn't get the job done. Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Coast Guardsmen and Airmen all know that their professional evaluations are pertinent to career advancement. But do they know what they will need after they finish serving their country? Resumés are an essential tool in the civilian world; they can display what a high speed Trooper you were and what skills you have to offer.

Soldiers and Sailors took the first step in improving their resumé writing skills at a resumé building class offered by the Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC), Sep. 25.

“Our main goal is to get service members and their families ready,” said work and family life specialist, Angel Holland. “We get them ready to find a job, start the job search process, start the resumé process and just the employment process as a whole.”

Holland said the class she teaches allows the Troopers and their family members to feel prepared and confident enough to submit their resumé and assured that they have covered all of the aspects stated in the job announcement.

Learning how to build your resumé is a valuable skill to know. Resumés are great marketing tools when leaving active duty and can put you in the right direction toward getting that job you want.

There are three different types of resumé formats: a chronological format that lists a chronological review of employment history starting with your most recent job, a functional format that is organized by skills and functions clusters (employment omitted), and a combination/hybrid/chrono-functional format that is a combination of the two formats previously mentioned.

According to Holland, writing a great objective statement, summary of qualifications, experience bracket, and education and training section can increase your chances in a competitive job field.

“This resumé class can help me achieve my goals by pretty much [summarizing] my career in a [nut]shell,” said Petty Officer 3rd Class Ollie A. Howard. “All of the classes

writing down Transferable Skills and putting in your Accomplishments.

Resumés are great tools, but they should never stand alone. A resumé is only half of what an employer uses to measure his professional opinion about you. A cover letter is needed to fill that void.

A cover letter is a letter written to an employer that provides additional information. It is a way of creating a positive impression regarding your personality, goals and chances of succeeding on the job.

Larry Rinehart taught the cover letter portion of the class. Rinehart is also a work and family life specialist at the FFSC.

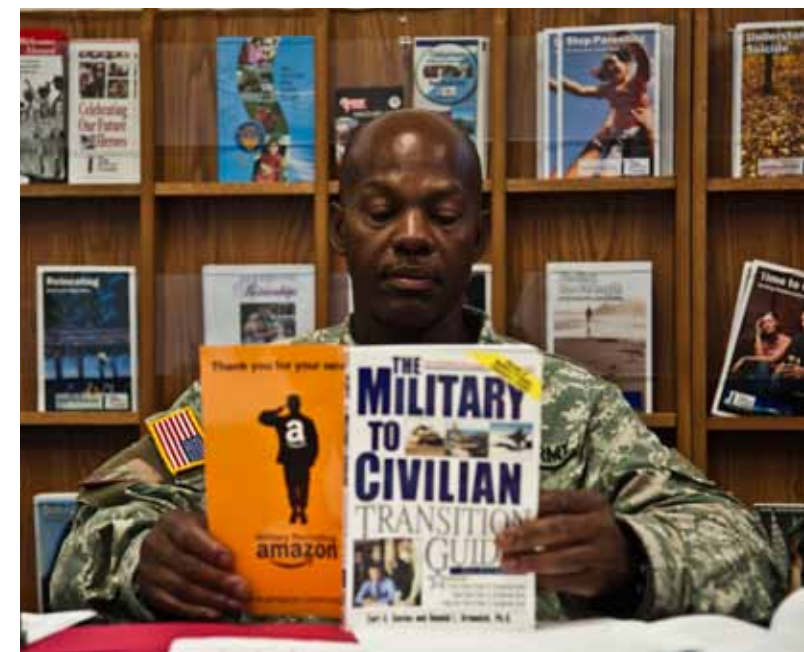
According to Rinehart, a cover letter usually has four basic parts: the identification, the statement, the selection and the request. The identification tells the employer why you are writing, the statement relates your specific skills and abilities, the selection states why you are the right person for that particular position, and the request emphasizes what you want your reader to do for you.

“It's been a while since I've done a cover letter, so that part of the class was definitely a good help for me,” said Army Sgt. Bill Allen with the 525th Military Police Battalion, Headquarters and Headquarters Company.

Allen said he is getting out of the Army and he took the workshop because he needed help improving his resumé. He will now have the knowledge to add a cover letter to it.

The resumé building workshop is offered through the Family Employment Readiness Program (FERP), but Holland said most of the people who take the class are service members.

“I thought this class was very informative and up to date,” Howard said. “I'm getting ready to get out and turn to a new chapter in my life, so this was a great class for me, and I think that anybody in my situation who is thinking about or is about to get out needs to take this class.”



that I've taken that are provided by military medicine are what I'm looking to get into when I get out.”

Howard has gained valuable skills in his 13 years of service with the Navy; skills that are useful in the civilian world.

Holland said she believes veterans already leave the military with certain qualities and skills that will also make their resumé stand out.

“If you're a veteran and you write your resumé right, you have the ability to show that you've grown professionally, you've moved up and you're able to show that progression through your resumé,” Holland said.

Holland told the Troopers to give their resumés some muscle and suggested they use the acronym FAKTSA. She spoke about Focusing on the objective, being aware of your resumés Appearance, using Keywords,



By Army Pfc. Loren Cook

After two weeks of guest movie reviews, your regular (Hal) film critic has returned, newly promoted in the Army and into the ranks of fatherhood. Perhaps I'm still mellow from witnessing the birth of my son, but rather than reviewing the seemingly action-packed "Savages" this week, I decided to turn my critical eye to "Moonrise Kingdom."

"Moonrise Kingdom" is director Wes Anderson's seventh movie. Anderson is known for making quirky movies such as "The Life Aquatic," "Rushmore," and "The Royal Tenenbaums" that win prestige in the hearts and minds of film critics but don't convince too many members of the general public to see them. This movie, following in its predecessor's footsteps, is being very well-received by critics and is the highest-grossing movie Anderson has made to date. Is it worth the praise? Read on!

The movie is set in the idyllic fictional island of New Penzance, an island off the New England coastline, late in the summer of 1965. We are informed very early by the narrator that the island will be hit by a hurricane very soon, causing massive flooding.

The movie's title sequence introduces us to Suzy Bishop, (12-year-old Kara Hayward in her film debut) an odd 12-year-old girl who lives with her parents and brothers in a lighthouse on the coast. She rarely speaks to her family and always has her nose in a book or her makeup-accented eyes to a pair of binoculars.

At Camp Ivanhoe, we meet the authoritarian Scout Master Ward (masterfully played by Ed Norton, "The Bourne Legacy"), in charge of a group of "Khaki Scouts of North America." During breakfast, Sam, the least popular Scout, doesn't come out of his tent. When Ward investigates Sam's tent, he finds that Sam has escaped using Andy Dufresne's technique from "The Shawshank Redemption," and left a note

resigning from the Scouts. He has also stolen survival gear and is on the lam.

Ward notifies the island's police, led by Captain Sharp (a subdued Bruce Willis, "The Expendables 2"). Sharp calls Sam's (foster) parents, who don't want him back. Neither Sharp nor Ward knew that Sam was an orphan, and it's clear that Ward now wishes he had treated him more kindly. Ward goes back to his troop of Scouts and organizes them into a search party. After Ward is out of sight, the boys turn it into a posse instead, arming themselves with whatever makeshift weapons they can find.

Finally, we meet Sam himself (12-year old Jared Gilman in his film debut), a bespectacled, coonskin-hat wearing, pipe-smoking boy, as he uses the outdoor survival skills he has learned in the Scouts to cross the island. Suzy, meanwhile, has stolen her little brother's record player, grabbed some books and her kitten, and gone to meet him. Apparently, the two have been exchanging secret love letters for some time and are now running away together.

The two young lovers continue traveling the island, trying their best to avoid the search parties now searching for Suzy as well. When the Khaki Scouts find them, Suzy's latent anger issues are essential in driving them off. With the Scouts momentarily thwarted, the two reach a secluded inlet, set up camp, and awkwardly discover French-kissing and male biological reactions resulting from French-kissing.

Eventually, they are found by the expanded search party, now consisting of Sharp, Ward and the rest of the Khaki Scouts, and Suzy's parents (played by Frances McDormand, "Fargo," and Bill Murray, "Zombieland"). Suzy is taken home and Sharp takes Sam until he can figure out what to do with him.

A call to Social Services (Tilda Swinton, "The Chronicles of Narnia") is fruitless, revealing Sam will likely be put into an orphanage. Sharp offers to take the boy in until Social

Services can arrive to take Sam.

Back at Camp Ivanhoe, the other Khaki Scouts do some hard soul-searching and realize they were wrong to mistreat Sam. The Scouts resolve to help him run away with his love!

Will the Scouts be successful? Will Sam be taken to an orphanage? Will Suzy's anger issues ever be resolved? What will happen to Suzy's adorable kitten? Is Social Services really the name of Tilda Swinton's character? What will happen when the hurricane comes through? Watch "Moonrise Kingdom" to find out!

"Moonrise Kingdom" is a movie that has received masses of positive reviews, earning it a very high rating on the reviews aggregate site rottentomatoes.com, but if you read the reviews, you will find that most of the reviews are positive but not gushing with praise. This is approximately how I feel about it too.

I liked the cinematography. The movie was set in the '60s, sure, but it also looked like it was shot during the '60s.

There's a lot of star power on display in the cast of this movie, with Bruce Willis, Ed Norton, Tilda Swinton, Frances McDormand, Harvey Keitel, and Bill Murray. All of these actors turn in solid performances. Of course, the movie hinges on the performances of 12-year-old actors Gilman and Hayward, who did very well for their film debut.

I enjoyed "Moonrise Kingdom." I thought it was a cute movie, (especially when Suzy's kitten was onscreen) but not overly so. It was a good movie, but not great. It was a funny movie, but not hilarious. You'll chuckle, but you won't outright laugh very often.

Is it worth your time? I think so. It's only 90 minutes long, so if you want to go see a movie that's a little different, I have no qualms with recommending you see "Moonrise Kingdom."

ONLY AT GTMO by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Brett Custer



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Mass  
Sunday 9 a.m.

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

General Protestant  
Sunday 11 a.m.

Gospel Service  
Sunday 1 p.m.  
Christian Fellowship  
Sunday 6 p.m.

Chapel Annexes

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Room B

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Room D

LDS Service  
Sunday 10 a.m.  
Room A

Islamic Service  
Friday 1 p.m.  
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KB 373 :10 :30 :50  
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JAS :13 :33 :53  
TK 3 :14 :34 :54  
TK 2 :15 :35 :55  
TK 1 :16 :36 :56  
West Iguana :18 :38 :58  
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NEX :26 :46 :16  
96 Man Camp :31 :51 :11  
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Windjammer / Gym :36 :56 :16  
West Iguana :39 :59 :19  
TK 1 :40 :00 :20  
TK 2 :43 :03 :23  
TK 3 :45 :05 :25  
TK 4 :47 :07 :27  
KB 373 :50 :10 :30  
Camp Delta 1 :54 :14 :32  
IOF :54 :14 :34  
NEX Trailer :57 :17 :37  
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Camp America :00 :20 :40

|                 | 28 FRI  | 29 SAT  | 30 SUN                                      | 1 MON  | 2 TUE   | 3 WED                                       | 4 THU                                   |
|-----------------|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|
| Downtown Lyceum | Step Up Revolution (NEW) (PG-13) 8 p.m.<br>Moonrise Kingdom (PG-13) 10 p.m. | Trouble with the Curve (NEW) (PG-13) 8 p.m.<br>Savages (R) 10 p.m.          | Trouble with the Curve (NEW) (PG-13) 8 p.m. | Madea's Witness Protection (Last Showing) (PG-13) 8 p.m. | Seeking a Friend for the End of the World (Last Showing) (R) 8 p.m. | The Dark Knight Rises (PG-13) 8 p.m.        | Step Up Revolution (NEW) (PG-13) 8 p.m. |
| Camp Buikley    | Trouble with the Curve (NEW) (PG-13) 8 p.m.<br>Savages (R) 10 p.m.          | Step Up Revolution (NEW) (PG-13) 8 p.m.<br>Moonrise Kingdom (PG-13) 10 p.m. | Step Up Revolution (NEW) (PG-13) 8 p.m.     | Moonrise Kingdom (PG-13) 8 p.m.                          | Madea's Witness Protection (PG-13) 8 p.m.                           | Trouble with the Curve (NEW) (PG-13) 8 p.m. | The Dark Knight Rises (PG-13) 8 p.m.    |

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