

The WIRE

An award-winning
JTF journal



A moment of silence
Veterans Day 2011

CAPT. PATRICK RABUN

CHIEF OF STAFF, JOINT TASK FORCE GUANTANAMO

There have been many memorable college football games so far this season. One of them in particular is worth mentioning because of a lesson it illustrates.

Army-Navy games are always special. But this year's Air Force-Navy game was very exciting. Navy found themselves behind 28-10 in the fourth quarter. Following three very impressive drives (and one unforgettable on-side

kick), Navy tied the score 28-28 to push the game into overtime. What a great comeback! However, the lesson comes from Navy's performance during overtime. After a hard-fought series of downs, Navy scored a touchdown – but was penalized on that play for “taunting” and unsportsmanlike conduct that occurred shortly after the ball-carrier crossed the goal-line. The penalty

How will your actions be remembered? Think of your role at Joint Task Force Guantanamo as being a member of a football team. We are under constant scrutiny. Any irresponsible action by any of us can penalize our team.

resulted in an extra point attempt from 15 yards further back than normal. So instead of an easy “chip-shot” for an extra point, the kicker was obligated to kick the ball at a lower trajectory to get the extra range needed. Lower trajectory kicks are easier to block – and that's exactly what happened: Air Force blocked the extra point attempt. So Navy now led by a score of 28-34. Per College Football Overtime rules, now Air Force got to attempt a score. They were able to also score a touchdown, and then were successful in making the typically easy “chip-shot” extra point – winning the game 35-34.

What will be remembered from this game? If Navy had won, this game would always be remembered as one

of the greatest comebacks in Navy football history. However, now it's just another “L” in the team's season. And although it's not fair to blame a loss on any one play, many fans (including me) will remember the “taunting” as the reason for this tough loss. Despite all the previous great plays and hard effort by the entire team, one player's poor judgment had an undue impact on the outcome. Sadly, I won't remember all the great plays that got Navy into overtime – I'll just remember that Navy lost due to one player's childish action. Think about how your role at Joint Task Force Guantanamo is similar to being a member of a football team. We are under constant scrutiny – not just between the goal-lines, but even in the end-zone and on the sidelines. Any irresponsible action by any of us can penalize our team. JTF Guantanamo was definitely “in the game” on Nov. 7-9 for the arraignment of Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri. It was obvious the world was watching. And every player performed superbly, following the playbook and demonstrating great teamwork – earning a “W” for the team. At the Joint Task Force, we're “in the game” every day. The world is always watching us, even when Commissions events are not in progress. We must stay focused on the mission, with every player executing their assigned roles reliably day-after-day. Each of us is responsible for our actions. We want to be remembered for what we accomplish as a team. How will your actions be remembered?



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Cover: The Marine Corps Security Forces Company flag detail marches on Veterans Day, Nov. 11 at the historic Marine Hill-area parade field. –photo by Mass Communication Spc. 2nd Class Kilho Park

Denich Gym holds Turkey Trot

G. J. Denich Gym will be hosting a Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving morning at 8 a.m.

The trot will consist of a 10K run. Participants can register in advance or sign up on the day of the Turkey Trot. First 150 people to register will receive a T-shirt.

For more information call 2113 or 77262.

Craft Fair at the Windjammer Ballroom

Crafters may sign up at the Ceramics shop. The cost is \$15 per table. Crafters can sign up during normal business hours: Tuesday through Friday, 4-9 p.m., or Saturday and Sunday, 12-8 p.m.

For more information call 74795 or 84435.

Holiday Parade and Concert

A holiday parade and concert will be held Saturday Dec. 3. The parade begins at 6 p.m. and travels from SCSJ to the Downtown Lyceum. The concert begins at 9 p.m. at the Downtown Lyceum.

Parade registration is going on now at MWR Admin, Building 760.

For more information call 4882.

The Reel Rock Film Tour at Downtown Lyceum

Guantanamo Bay Liberty will be bringing the Reel Rock Film Tour to the Downtown Lyceum Nov. 19. The event starts at 4 p.m. with free time on the rock wall. At 5:30 p.m. a rock climbing competition will begin. Climbers must weigh no less than 45 lbs and no more than 250 lbs. The top three climb times will receive awards. There will be free drinks, hot dogs and burgers. The Reel Rock Film begins 7 p.m. For more information call 2010.

For the Holidays: Tree Decorating at the NEX

The NEX encourages all commands and organizations to claim a tree to decorate for the holidays. There are no rules to follow; just claim a tree and decorate. The trees need to be claimed and decorated by Nov. 23. Trees will be judged on Nov. 26 for the most original, most holiday feel, and most “Guantanamo.” For more information or to sign up call Mark Good at 74358.

New JPC Hours

The Joint Personnel Center will now be open from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Customer service hours will be from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. For more information call 8010.

Men's Basketball Playoffs

The final rounds of the men's basketball playoffs will be held at Denich Gym tonight. The first game starts at 7 p.m. and the second game starts at 8 p.m.

The winner of those two games will face off Monday. In this double elimination format, if one of the two teams takes its first loss of the playoffs in the championship matchup, a second and final game will be played on Tuesday at 8 p.m. at Denich Gym.

Remote Control Car Racing at Denich Gym

Guantanamo Bay Liberty will hold its first remote control (RC) car races at Denich Gym Friday at 6 p.m. There will be timed laps with four cars racing on the track at a time. Don't worry about owning an RC; Liberty will be providing cars to use. Competitors can bring their own RC cars if they want. Sodas and water will be provided and there will be prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place.

For more information or to sign up in advance contact Guantanamo Bay Liberty at 2010.

Revised Officer's Club Policy

Beginning Jan. 1, non-direct hired DoD employees will be required to present an Officer's Club Privilege Card to access Rick's Lounge.

For more information call Maggie Luttrell at 2046. To obtain a request form e-mail Marjorie.Luttrell@usnbgtdmo.navy.mil.

Liberty Kayaking at Ferry Landing Beach

Guantanamo Bay Liberty will host a kayaking trip on Thanksgiving. Liberty will provide everything needed to have a great trip including kayaks, paddles, vests, water, and snacks. The trip will begin at Ferry Landing Beach and travel a mile to the cave. Participants can relax and take pictures before heading back to the beach. All fitness levels are welcome as there will be guides to lead the way to the cave and back.

The kayaking trip is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. Thanksgiving.

For more information and to sign up contact Guantanamo Bay Liberty at 2010.

Holiday Mailing Notice

To ensure your letters and packages arrive home in time for the holidays, please mail all items by the first week of December. Parcel post items should be sent immediately.

Please note that the Camp America post office location accepts cash only. When mailing packages, remember completed customs forms will be required.

For more information, call 2369.

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Trooper to Trooper

COMMAND MASTER CHIEF JASON WALLIS

NAVY EXPEDITIONARY GUARD BATTALION

The word mentor is defined as a trusted counselor or guide. To serve as a mentor, the idea of mentorship for most of us in the military defines a process which needs to work for both the mentor and the mentoree.

At various points in our lives, we all identify and seek to learn from, and often emulate, our mentors. They become models for the development of proper problem solving and decision-making techniques; the demonstration of technical skills; developing interpersonal abilities; and providing personal guidance. Mentors and the idea of mentorship have taken on increased awareness in the military today, particularly among junior personnel who are dropped suddenly into new and unfamiliar roles and face the challenge of high expectations, information overload, and little time to learn to become master of all tasks.

The stumbling block in many mentoring relationships is in defining exactly what mentorship means to the individuals involved. The interpretation of mentorship is largely subjective, so the process and contents of this activity need to be defined at its inception for it to be effective for both parties. If there is no open communication between mentors and mentorees, expectations could be set unrealistically on both sides of the relationship, so that frustrations could mount, performance may be affected, and, inevitably, many of the relationships might dissolve unnecessarily.

People with one or more areas which they feel require further development or improved problem solving abilities should be encouraged to identify these areas openly; they should not be perceived as weaknesses to hide and somehow try to correct or improve on their own, but as areas that once developed and refined will help the joint task force to achieve its goals. It is conceivable that some personnel, particularly those lacking confidence, may be seeking some continuance of the training environment, where they received reinforcement and observation on most things they did in the schoolhouse. Others who are extremely independent from the beginning simply need to know that the voice of assistance is but a phone call or yell for help away.

Senior leadership and more seasoned mentors should define how they propose to bring about the transition of new personnel into the practice, what they expect, in terms of feedback, with respect to difficulties new personnel are experiencing, what the ascending



photo by Army Sgt. Saul Rosa
Cmd. Master Chief Jason Wallis (left) instructs Chief Leonard Eugene on the NEGB's unit and personnel issues.

levels of responsibility and challenge for them will be, and who individual or multiple mentors are and when they will be accessible for questions, conversation, and hands on guidance, if necessary. While mentorship is an ongoing process, it should taper off in its intensity and, therefore, is not an endless process.

The goal of any mentorship should be to create an environment that allows everyone to progress as rapidly as possible along the learning curve and mature at their job.

New personnel are generally pleased to have the terms of their mentorship defined, as those requiring more intensive mentorship

see TROOPER next page

Basketball playoffs return to Denich Championship game Monday



Right: Spc. Chris Pelker, forward on team "Vigilant Warriors," passes out of trouble during the team's first round victory over "You Don't Want None." See more playoff action Friday and Monday nights at Denich Gym. -photo by Army Sgt. Saul Rosa

"Vigilant Warriors" gives some insight into the team work factor.

"We try to play and practice as a team as much as we can, but sometimes it's tough because we are made up of three different units that work on all different shifts."

The 525th Military Police Battalion is comprised of the 189th, 193rd and the 107th Military Police Companies. Soldiers from all three companies play on the same team, and don't let unit rivalry get in the way of teamwork on the court.

"As soldiers, we are taught to learn, adapt and overcome obstacles," Jordan said. "We have learned to play with each other because everyone has a natural feel for the game of basketball."

As the playoffs heat up, so does the atmosphere in Denich Gym.

The first game of the playoffs, which pit "Lights Out" against "GTMO...We Have A Problem," was a loud and exciting affair. The two teams treated the boisterous fans to a nail-biter that came down to the final seconds of the game.

The on-court tension was palpable and the people in the bleachers cheered and gasped with every tide-turning play.

The group of faithfuls that attend the "Vigilant Warriors" showdowns add a new element to the playoff aura.

Warriors fans emulate the Cameron Crazies, Duke University fans who outlandishly dress in painted shirts. They organize cheers and try to affect the outcome of the game. They have free throw cheers for the Warriors and well-timed jeers when the opposition is at the foul line.

In one instance, a member of the opposing team tried to outsmart the zealous fans by pump faking a free throw, but it faked out his own team, causing a lane violation. This gave the "Vigilant Warriors" the ball and the vigilant fans reason to get louder.

There is still time to come out and have a good time at the games. Tonight's game at 7 p.m. precedes the championship game Monday evening at 8 p.m. If a team gets its first loss on Monday, there will be a final game on Tuesday night to settle the score.

Gather some friends and come down to Denich Gym for basketball action that won't disappoint.

By Army Sgt. Landis Andrews

The Morale Welfare and Recreation men's basketball regular season schedule is over and the playoffs are in full swing at Guantanamo Bay's Denich Gym.

"The Shottaz" took the top spot of the regular season. This accomplishment earned the team a first round bye, meaning they skip straight to the second round of the playoffs. Civilian contractor Lee Hinton, a forward for

"The Shottaz," said that doesn't mean they will have an easy ride to the finals.

"The biggest thing that can stop us is ourselves," Hinton said. "Teamwork is the main thing we have to focus on."

Hinton added there is another team in the same situation.

"Vigilant Warriors are the same way," the forward said. "They can go really far if they just play together."

Staff Sgt. Ryan Jordan, a center for the

TROOPER cont.

feel that easing into full responsibilities and decision making provides a temporary security net for them and sets a more comfortable level of what is expected during the initial phase of their job. Wording to define mentorship in an employment contract can be captured by defining progressive independent scheduling and responsibilities, defining time and/or

activities spent working directly with other personnel, establishing regular times for meetings during the workweek, scheduling a review or reviews at specific periods over the duration of the contract, when the mentorship activities can be reviewed and tapered off in their intensity as the defined goals progress.



Thanksgiving OPSEC

The Thanksgiving holiday is traditionally a time when three things happen; traveling, eating and shopping! Two of these things need special attention (eating isn't one of them). While traveling, or making plans for leave and travel, remember to use OPSEC to protect your plans and sensitive information (travel dates, leave papers, passport number, military I.D., etc). When shopping in a store or online make sure to use only reputable online sites and be careful when you give your credit card numbers and expiration dates. Identity theft and credit fraud always spike this time of year. Be safe and enjoy the Thanksgiving season. USE OPSEC!

TROOPER FOCUS

By Mass Communication Spc. 1st Class Ty Bjornson

Though her position with Camp America as a lead petty officer is demanding, Personnel Spc. 2nd Class Angela Smalls meets the demands of her job by staying focused and ever-vigilant for time sensitive issues.

Smalls is always thinking about “the big picture” in every task she oversees. In the administrative section, she processes leave requests, evaluations and awards on a regular basis. She is also her unit’s Information Technology Officer and processes computer issues and other related requests.

“There’s no day-to-day (routine),” said Smalls. “We just work to make life easier for our people so they don’t have to come in on their off time to get stuff done.”

Smalls’ diligence in these matters doesn’t go unnoticed.

“(Smalls) is a dedicated professional,” Master-at-Arms 1st Class Alexander Bates said. “She’s a hard worker and one of my top Sailors. She’s on top of her game as far as organization and paperwork and making sure people get the things they need when they need them. She holds the Navy core values of “honor, courage and commitment close to her heart.”

Between the multi-tasking, Smalls has been able to enjoy a few diversions from her duties since her January arrival at Joint Task Force Guantanamo.

“I’ve snorkeled a few times,” she said. “I don’t go alone. I met a lot of interesting people. Even with the turnover, I made

more friends than I thought I would at this place.”

Smalls is nearing the completion of her bachelor’s degree, and graduating would enable to consider pursuing another career.

“I’d like to get started in nursing school,” she said. “I want to continue in the Navy, but I’m also looking forward to doing something else.”

Guantanamo has been just one stop in Smalls’ 11-year-long Navy journey. Along the way, she found many opportunities for professional growth, making contacts and global travel. She urges others to seek the same goals.

“I’ve been really lucky,” she said. “I’ve been everywhere. It’s been nice.”



BULLET BIO

Time in service: 11 years

Hobbies: Working out, swimming, watching “Army Wives” (“because there’s no ‘Navy Wives!’”)

The boss says: “She’s on top of her game.”

Advice to junior Troopers: “Stay focused on your goals and complete what you’ve come to do. Don’t get sidetracked.”

Who did you honor on Veterans Day?



“I honored my grandfather. He was the primary reason I joined. He was a Seabee and served in World War I.”

Aviation Mechanic’s Mate
3rd Class John Fulk



“A friend from high school. He’s in the Marines and has been deployed to Iraq.”

Spc. Rony S. Michaud



“Everyone else who has served. That’s what we all do here.”

Staff Sgt. Joshua Nowak



“My mother and uncle were in the Navy and my grandfather was in the Coast Guard.”

Construction Mechanic
2nd Class Brian Smith

BOOTS ON THE GROUND

MSST Boston gives the wheel to San Diego



photo by Army Sgt. Saul Rosa

By Army Sgt. Saul Rosa

Joint Task Force Commander Rear Adm. David Woods observes the transfer of authority of the United States Coast Guard Maritime Safety and Security Detachment from outgoing commander Lt. Cmdr. Keith M. Utley of MSST Boston to incoming commander Cmdr. Eric M. Cooper of MSST San Diego.

They were awarded for their integrity and upholding the military values. They serve silently and are focused on the mission. They are Semper Paratus. They are the United States Coast Guard Maritime Safety and Security Team Boston and they are handing over the helm to USCG MSST San Diego.

During the past week, MSST Boston worked alongside MSST San Diego and familiarize the new team with the MSST’s unique mission at Guantanamo Bay.

“The big thing for the Coast Guard is making sure we all train the right way and we all train the same way,” added said Petty Officer 1st Class Thomas Clifford.

Clifford, a boatswain’s mate, praised his unit’s successors.

“The Coast Guard is big into standardizing everything, so I know what San Diego is capable of and what they are going to do,” he said.

MSSTs are a rapid response force able to deploy nationwide in response to threats or natural disasters. They usually defend strategic shipping, high interest vessels, and critical infrastructure, but they also provide security to high profile individuals and events such as the Superbowl.

Coast Guard Cmdr. Eric Cooper the commanding officer of Joint Task Force Guantanamo Security Detachment and MSST San Diego, explained that his team were ready for this new challenge.

“The great thing about these teams is that we’re really adaptable, so on the water this is something we do day in and day out,” said Cooper. “We were able to train ahead of time to make sure we are bringing the Joint Task Force the right compliment to support the mission.”

Although it is understood the mission comes first, Clifford suggested the new team invest their free time in taking advantage of everything Guantanamo Bay offers.

“It’s going to be tough; they’re going to be here during holiday seasons,” said Clifford. “But keep your heads up, keep the mission focused and enjoy yourselves while you’re down here.”

With MSST Boston leaving behind a successful tour, it will be up to MSST San Diego to maintain that momentum.

“I just think our mantra in this community of specialized forces is quiet professionalism,” said Cooper. “It’s just going out and getting the job done and supporting the commander with everything he needs and I think that’s what you’ll see from us and what you’ll see from the Coast Guard.”

Rhea of sunshine

By Army Sgt. Landis Andrews

Comedian and actress Caroline Rhea performed a stand-up set for a packed crowd in Downtown Lyceum on Thursday night, the eve of Veterans Day. It did not take long for her to find out this island is not what she expected – it reminded her of the Andy Griffith Show.

“I thought it was going to be this tiny place with good guys over here and bad guys over there,” Rhea said. “But this place looks like Mayberry, with some weird, serious, non-Mayberry twists.”

During her set, she talked about some of the differences of life on Guantanamo Bay.

“I went to KFC yesterday and they told me they were out of chicken,” she complained. “Out of chicken? They told me, ‘It’s on the barge.’ I guess you’re just Kentucky Fried today.”

Another part of the island experience new to Rhea are the \$10,000 speed bumps.

“Those things aren’t iguanas,” the comedian said.

“They are really triceratops.

Everyone here is in denial. The big ones are called tyrannosaurus rex. They are not iguanas.”

Rhea said performing with those animals around made her feel like she did a show in Jurassic Park. But, given the crowd in which she was in front of, she never feared for her safety.

“I felt that at any time, I could be defended by anyone in the audience,” she said. “At the same time, they could defend the country and build a house, because everyone has 45 jobs here.”

Rhea is thankful for the people on this island who answer the call of duty to such an extent.

“I hope I acknowledged the troops enough to say thank you and let them know that this is truly an honor,” she said. “It’s sort of like my way of writing a thank you note – to do a stand-up show.”

Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Les Fuqua has seen Rhea’s stand-up twice and returns the thanks.

“It makes us very appreciative of what they do,” the aviation warfare systems operator said. “They always tell us, ‘thank you for doing what you do,’ but it really is a reciprocal effect for them to come do this for us and it makes us feel good.”

Rhea noticed an abundance of gratitude.

“I feel like we’re in Canada – everyone is saying thank you,” she said. “Thank you? No, thank you. We’re like Canadians who can’t get through the door without saying, ‘After you. After you.’”

The night ended with Rhea showing her thanks, again, by taking pictures and signing autographs for satisfied fans. She put her John Hancock on cards, wine bottles, dollar bills and even the shirts on people’s backs.

“I loved being here and doing this show,” she said, “even though I felt like I had a captive audience.”



By Army 1st. Lt. Amelia Thatcher

For 50 years, the Combined Federal Campaign has raised hundreds of millions of dollars for charitable organizations across the United States and around the world. Just last year, CFC contributors raised \$281.5 million in support of hundreds of charities and foundations.

As part of the CFC-Overseas portion of the overall campaign, Joint Task Force Guantanamo’s goal is to raise \$30,000. In 2010, the JTF raised more than \$25,000.

“You have a chance to give back to the community,” said Air Force Master Sgt. James Reeves.

Reeves, who is one of a dozen JTF Guantanamo CFC coordinators, emphasized the importance of giving even just a little bit to the campaign. So far this year, the average donation per JTF Guantanamo participant is about \$130.

“I’ve given since I’ve been in,” said Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Cesar Guzman. “Eleven years’ worth of \$20 to the Navy Relief Fund adds up.”

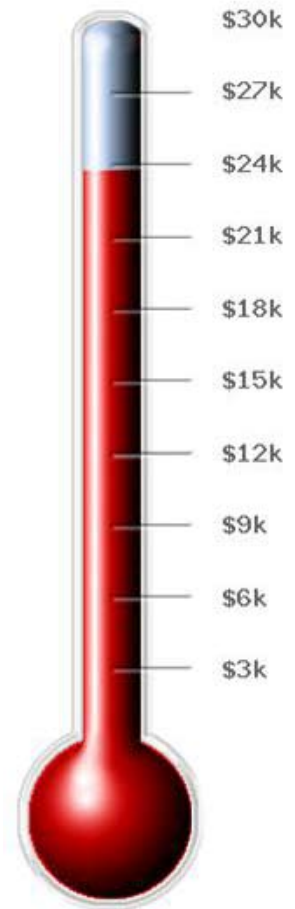
Guzman, an information systems technician, pointed out an important detail included with each organization’s description in the CFC catalog: the percentage of donations the organization doesn’t spend on its mission.

“It tells you the overhead costs,” he said. “I like that because I’m trying to help the cause, not pay for the cause.”

As the only organization permitted to solicit federal employees, to include military members, CFC coordinates fundraising efforts by charities of all kinds. By conducting fundraising efforts just once a year, CFC simplifies the process and makes many otherwise little-known charities available to servicemembers.

With more than 1,800 potential donors across the joint task force, Reeves is enthusiastic for the goal to be met and exceeded.

“You can help someone less fortunate,” Reeves said. “Times are tough.”



With two and a half weeks still to go in the Combined Federal Campaign–Overseas, Joint Task Force Guantanamo has already raised almost \$24,000 toward its goal.

Above: Rear Adm. David Woods, JTF Guantanamo commander and Air Force Master Sgt. Carnita Farve donate to the cause. To get involved, contact your unit CFC coordinator or call extension 9735 or 9734. -photo by Mass Communication Spc. 2nd Class Jon Dasbach



photos by Army Sgt. Landis Andrews
Actress and comedian Caroline Rhea, moments after thanking and praising her Nov. 11 Downtown Lyceum audience, signs a fan’s shirt.

Veterans Day on Guantanamo Bay

Remembering those who served



Photos by Mass Communication Spc. 2nd Class Killo Park
Members of the Navy Rifle Team (top), the Chief's Mess (far right) and the Marine Color Guard (right) stand vigil at the historic Marine Hill parade field Nov. 11.



By Mass Communication Spc. 2nd Class Louis Batchelor

Troopers, veterans and families alike all came together Friday to honor servicemembers from the past and present, at Naval Station Guantanamo's Veterans Day ceremony.

The event was held at the installation's historic Marine Hill-area parade field, and was hosted by the Marine Corps Security Forces Company's Honor Guard.

"We honor the best America has to offer: the men and women in uniform who answered, and continue to answer the call when their nation needs them," said keynote speaker Marine Maj. Winston Tierney, commanding officer of the MCSFC. "They have fought unhesitatingly for their country, that others might know freedom."

Veterans represent a multitude of cultures and have completed a variety of amazing missions together. Servicemembers come from every background and walk of life, as ordinary people coming together to make extraordinary things come to pass.

"As I woke this morning, I felt particularly humbled and a bit overwhelmed," Tierney said. "I look out in the audience today and I see the faces of men and women whose stories I

am familiar with and whose accomplishments amaze me."

Tierney's own combat experience in Iraq helped him underscore the importance of recognizing young veterans and those who were wounded in battle.

"We are currently at war, and I know it is inevitable," he said. "But I am still always surprised when I see a young person with scars, or worse, amputations: the visible signs of their service."

A 92-year-old tradition, Americans give their respect not only to veterans, but their families as well. Tierney thanked the local civilian population for their support and shared sacrifice.

"We owe you, your families, and your loved ones a debt of gratitude for putting our great nation first in your lives, above yourselves," he said. "I cannot think of a greater display of courage and commitment."



Sisters-in-arms going the distance to keep a promise



By Army Sgt. Saul Rosa

To what extent would a trooper go to support a brother- or sister-in-arms? Two sisters were separated by hundreds of miles of land and sea, but a promise brought an Army staff sergeant to Guantanamo Bay to pin on her sister's new rank during her promotion ceremony.

The Abbott sisters joined the military within a year of each other, Rebecca joining the Army and Kelly joining the Air Force. Although they were not close in their youth, through their shared experiences of the military the two became best friends.

"I heard she was joining, and it's pretty ironic because I did my basic and AIT (advanced individual training) in Fort Leonard

Wood, Mo. and she actually attended her tech school down at Fort Leonard Wood also," said Army Staff Sgt. Rebecca. "So we just missed each other."

The Abbotts eventually came to promise one another to pin on each other's E-7 rank.

"We're best friends now, so we just promised each other 'if you made E-7 no matter where you are in the world I'm going to be there to pin you on,'" said Kelly. "I feel really lucky to make that happen."

The process to bring Air Force Master Sgt. Kelly Abbott's sister Rebecca to Guantanamo Bay was not an easy one, but with help from the members of the 146th Civil

Engineering Squadron the process was completed just in time.

"I put it in and tracked it for her. Her sister couldn't get leave until she got the airline approved," said Senior Master Sgt. Scott Wells. "We've been working on this for a month."

Kelly and Rebecca Abbott represent different sides of the same military. Kelly started her career as an active duty Airman and after four years went to the California Air National Guard.

"To be honest I was always broke, I was like an E-4, so I said let me get out of the

see SISTERS next page



photo by Army Sgt. Saul Rosa
Background: Army Staff Sgt. Rebecca Abbott and Air Force Master Sgt. Kelly Abbott at Camp Justice.
Top: Army Staff Sgt. Rebecca Abbott and Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Kirk Rhame pin Air Force Master Sgt. Kelly Abbott's new rank.

SISTERS cont.

military, but then it was hard to find a job and I was on terminal leave, so I joined the Air National Guard," said Kelly. "I thought of it as a temporary plan B type of thing, but my plans have totally changed. I plan on staying in for 20 years now."

Rebecca almost joined the Air Force, but without the guarantee to enlist as a military police officer she decided to join the Army. She enlisted shortly before her sister as a 31 Echo, an internment/resettlement specialist, but after looking into the human intelligence collector military occupational specialty she decided that it was her true calling.

"It was a good decision. The Air Force is very well-known for how well they treat their people and everything, but the Army has its own traditions," said Rebecca. "We have the best of both worlds now. I can tell my Army stories; she'll tell her Air Force stories and it works out well."

Within the military, bonds are made that push troopers to go to the ends of the earth for their brother and sisters-in-arms. In the case of the Abbott sisters, the distance for Rebecca to pin on Kelly's new rank was only a few hundred miles and an ocean.

Through the military, the Abbott sisters have forged a link beyond even their family ties.

"I can't talk to my other sister the way I can talk to her," Kelly said.

Below: Air Force Master Sgt. Kelly Abbott's promotion ceremony featured a special guest – her sister Rebecca. -photo by Army Sgt. Saul Rosa

There when needed: Native Americans answer call of duty

By Col. (Ret.) Gene Kamena

Air War College

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. – Native Americans serving in the military have long been part of one of the largest per-capita ethnic groups in the profession of arms.

Young Native Americans have answered and continue to answer the nation's call of duty for many reasons. Some see it as a rite of passage, while others have been taught service, sacrifice and courage are virtues of value. The Native Americans serving today carry on a time-honored tradition, one continued from the time of the first settlers on this continent to the ongoing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"My people honored me as a warrior," said a Vietnam veteran who is from the Kiowa tribe, according to Naval History and Heritage Command. "We had a feast and my parents and grandparents thanked everyone who prayed for my safe return. We had a special (dance) and I remember, as we circled the drum, I got a feeling of pride. I felt good inside because that's the way Kiowa people (tell) you that you've done well."

They have always been there; they were in the ranks of the military even before we were a country. In the early days of our nation they were our eyes and ears, serving as scouts and guides. The last Indian scout retired from the Army in 1947 at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., according to Naval History and Heritage Command.

Native Americans served in the War of 1812 and as auxiliary troops during the Civil War. Gen. Ely Parker, a Seneca Indian, wrote the terms for Gen. Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865.

Native American scouts served with distinction during campaigns in the western frontier and accompanied Pershing's troops in his pursuit of Poncho Villa in 1916. Teddy Roosevelt recruited Indian scouts, who accompanied the Rough Riders into Cuba during the Spanish-American War.

Despite lack of citizenship status and not having the right to vote, more than 12,000 American Indians served in World War I. More than 600 were assigned to the 142nd Infantry Regiment, seeing action in France. Many were decorated for bravery in battle.

Native Americans who served in World War I secured signal transmissions by using their native language. Joseph Oklahombi, a World War I Code Talker, captured more than 100 enemy combatants during the Battle for Blanc Mont Ridge in October 1918, according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Native American Programs.

More than 40,000 Native Americans served during World War II, this time as American citizens after being granted citizenship in 1924. The now famous Code Talkers proved invaluable when they secured communications in the Pacific theater.

"It was always the warrior who was first in defending Mother Earth," said a Dakota/Lakota veteran, according to Naval History and Heritage Command. "It was his duty to be first. It is a part of traditional values, a part of protecting against any invasion that would endanger the people, our people and the land."

Native Americans have a tradition of serving above and beyond the call of duty. More than 20 have received the nation's highest award for valor, the Medal of Honor, many making the ultimate sacrifice. Still others served and sacrificed with less notoriety; during the opening stages of Operation Enduring Freedom, Army Spc. Lori Piestewa, a Hopi from Arizona, became the first female Native American service member to be killed in action. Not knowing she had been killed, Piestewa's family, tribe and community left their porch lights on to help her find her way home. During her memorial service, Daniel King read the following Oneida Indian warrior saying:

"When you adorn yourself with the implements of war, you are ready to kill. It is only right then you must be prepared to die as well. As Indian people, we know how to face war, we know how to sacrifice, we know how to honor, (and) we know courage. We know how to remember."

November is Native American Heritage month. It is the time for all Americans to honor and remember their service and sacrifice, for they have always been there when needed.





USCG trains on oil spill equipment

By 7th District Coast Guard Public Affairs
United States Coast Guard

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico – Coast Guard Sector San Juan pollution response personnel deployed a Vessel of Opportunity Skimming System (VOSS) out of Coast Guard Base San Juan Wednesday afternoon, during a pollution response training exercise in San Juan Bay, Puerto Rico.

“This VOSS deployment is not a response to real emergency,” said Lt. Kristen Preble, Sector San Juan Incident Management Division chief. “Coast Guard pollution responders at Sector San Juan deploy the VOSS equipment every year to maintain their proficiency in responding to a real oil spill in Puerto Rico or the U.S. Virgin Islands that requires the use of oil skimming equipment.”

The day-long training instruction was delivered by four members of the Atlantic Strike

Force from Fort Dix, N.J.

The VOSS is a self-contained portable oil skimming and storage system capable of being attached quickly to a wide variety of Coast Guard and commercial vessels. Once the VOSS is deployed, it is capable of collecting spilled oil from inside boom installed on the side of the vessel and pumped into an inflatable barge that can store up to 26,000 gallons.

The Coast Guard’s VOSS equipment is strategically pre-positioned at several locations across the U.S. and Puerto Rico is one of those locations. The VOSS may also be transported to a spill site on a single truck or aboard a Coast Guard HC-130 aircraft.

Although the petroleum industry has the primary responsibility for maintaining oil spill response equipment, the VOSS increases the Coast Guard’s initial response capabilities.

Pollution response personnel deployed the VOSS onto the Tug Boat Marianne McAllister from McAllister Towing.

Senate confirms new Army National Guard director

By Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill
National Guard Bureau

WASHINGTON – On Veterans Day comes word of the confirmation of a new director for the Army National Guard, Army Maj. Gen. William Ingram, former adjutant general of the North Carolina National Guard and current special assistant to the Army vice chief of staff.

Ingram’s confirmation occurred during a historic Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on Thursday, the first ever when all six members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff testified to the full committee. The testimony, for which the Joint Chiefs were joined by Air Force Gen. Craig McKinley, the chief of the National Guard Bureau, was on the matter of whether the CNGB should join the JCS.

Senators confirmed Ingram during a brief break after they had reached quorum.

Ingram, who also was confirmed for appointment to the rank of lieutenant general on Thursday, will succeed Army Maj. Gen. Raymond Carpenter, who has served as acting director of the Army National Guard for 29 months, since his appointment by McKinley on May 29, 2009, following the retirement of Army Lt. Gen. Clyde Vaughn.

Ingram will be the 19th director and the third three-star general to fill the position. The first was Army Lt. Gen. Roger Schultz, who served in the role from 1998 until his 2005 retirement. Prior to Schultz, the director was a major general, except for a period in the 1960s when three consecutive directors were brigadier generals. The first director was Army Maj. Gen. Raymond Fleming, from 1948 to 1950.

The director is responsible for formulating, developing and coordinating all programs, policies and plans affecting the Army National Guard and its more than 350,000 Citizen-Soldiers.

Ingram already has almost 40 years of service as an Army National Guard officer. He was the Distinguished Graduate from Officer Candidate School at the North Carolina Military Academy at Fort Bragg in 1972.

His experience includes commanding U.S., United Nations and NATO forces in Croatia, Macedonia and Kosovo; the chairmanship of the Army Reserve Forces Policy Committee; leading roles in homeland security and domestic disaster response and his more than nine-year stint as North Carolina’s adjutant general.



USS Ohio celebrates 30th birthday



By Lt. Ed Early
Submarine Group 9 Public Affairs

BANGOR, Wash. – Thirty years after its commissioning, USS Ohio (SSGN 726) continues to live up to its motto, “Always First.”

Commissioned Nov. 11, 1981, Ohio ushered in a new era of U.S. strategic deterrence as the first submarine designed to carry the Navy’s newest submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM), the Trident C-4. The Ohio-class ballistic missile submarines were built to endure as the survivable leg of the nation’s strategic forces – not just for the Cold War, but for decades to come.

At the start of the 21st century, however, Ohio was called upon to blaze another trail – as the first of four Ohio-class submarines to be

converted to guided missile submarines (SSGNs), carrying the Tomahawk Land Attack Missile (TLAM) and special operations personnel and equipment.

Today, Ohio and the 17 other submarines of her class are in service throughout the world’s oceans - performing not just the class’s intended function of deterrence, but also forging a new path in the areas of special operations and global strike.

“Ohio’s transformation from a strategic deterrent platform to a front-line submarine is awe-inspiring,” said Capt. Dixon Hicks, commanding officer of Ohio’s Gold Crew. “Her capability to put special operations personnel on the beach, or multiple Tomahawks on target at any time, provides our leadership with unlimited options.”

Ohio and the second submarine of the class, USS Michigan (SSGN 727), are homeported at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor. They have been forward-deployed to Guam since 2007. Their sister submarines, Kings Bay, Ga.-based USS Florida (SSGN 728) and USS Georgia (SSGN 729), are similarly forward-deployed to Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean.

Today, with 30 years of service in the books, Ohio is as relevant to the nation’s defense as ever. Its ability to project power and provide forward presence makes Ohio – and its fellow SSGNs – a key component of our nation’s maritime strategy.

“My crew fully understands how important they and Ohio are to defending our nation,” said Hicks.

And Ohio isn’t done blazing trails. This fall, Ohio is one of four submarines in the class which will welcome the first women assigned to submarines.

“In the 30 years that USS Ohio has been in service, she has led from the front at every turn and continues to live up to our motto of ‘Always First,’” said Command Master Chief (SS) Neil Davenport, chief of the boat for Ohio’s Gold Crew. “It’s the efforts and the professionalism of the crew that keeps Ohio ready to answer our nation’s call.”

IN THE FIGHT

Marine aviation key to Afghanistan mission

By Cpl. Brian Adam Jones
2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward)

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – Under the veil of darkness, a team of Marine Corps CH-53 heavy-lift helicopters sped over the Helmand River valley in early October.

Carrying nearly 100 Afghan commandos and their Marine advisors, the helicopters delivered them into the valley, just south of the Kajaki Dam.

The Afghan and American troops were the first coalition forces in a massive offensive, Operation Eastern Storm, aimed at rooting out one of the last insurgent strongholds in the region.

As the southwestern regional command of NATO’s International Security Assistance Force undertakes Operation Eastern Storm, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward) has provided invaluable support in the coalition’s efforts to secure Afghanistan’s Route 611 and ensure peace and economic development in the region.

“Our big support for Eastern Storm was getting [1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment and 2nd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment] into position,” said Lt. Col. Robert B. Finneran, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward)’s future operations officer and a native of Cape Carteret, N.C. “The threat level going into this was unknown.”

But coalition forces have been met with little confrontation, Finneran said.

“I think the fact that we were able to get in with relatively little resistance and establish patrol bases is only going to lead to positive relations with the local populace,” Finneran said.

After the initial insertion of the Afghan commandos and Marine Corps ground troops, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward)’s role has entailed providing resupplies and close-air support missions.

Finneran said much of the Wing’s operations in support for Eastern Storm now comes from AV-8B Harrier attack jets, and UH-1Y Huey and AH-1W Super Cobra helicopters watching overhead.

“We’ve been able to fly and support in any way [the ground combat element has] asked up to this point,” Finneran said. “The Wing’s flexibility to meet the challenges of the ground combat element has been key. We had a very well-synchronized aviation plan.”

Capt. Joseph Fry, an AH-1W Super Cobra pilot with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 267, recently flew one such mission.

Fry, a native of Jacksonville, Ill., said that over the summer he had flown a few missions into the area on which Operation Eastern Storm is focused.

“Almost overnight, the valley turned into a string of Marine-controlled outposts,” said Fry, adding that his recent mission was completely uneventful.

ON THE WING

Close air support protects coalition, defeats Taliban attack

By Staff Sgt. John Wright
455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – F-15E Strike Eagles from the 335th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron and F-16 Fighting Falcons from the 121st EFS dropped more than 9,000 pounds of munitions through severe weather on enemy forces trying to overrun a combat outpost in Paktika province, Afghanistan, Nov. 8.

According to reports, up to 70 Taliban were killed while attacking COP Margah in a large scale coordinated attack. Coalition forces were first alerted to the attack when rocket-propelled grenades began to hit the camp. Shortly thereafter, the insurgents attacked the camp from multiple positions using small arms and RPG fire.

Staff Sgt. Seth Pena, a joint terminal attack controller with the 817th Expeditionary Air Support Operations Squadron, was responsible for calling in close air support when the fighting began. He employed weapons from

Navy F-18s, who were already overhead and then immediately requested a “Dude flight” of F-15s and a “Viper flight” of F-16s from Bagram Airfield.

“I requested the Dudes and Vipers because I needed a lot of ordnance and fast,” Pena said. “RPGs had already hit inside the COP and things were getting serious. There was a large enemy force moving towards us from multiple positions, and we were taking a heavy amount of small arms fire.”

Maj. Todd Dyer, a 335th EFS F-15E pilot, was the flight lead in “Dude 21.”

“We were able to employ precision weapons through the weather, which is one of the benefits of having GPS weapons,” Dyer said.

After the Dude flight dropped their first two sets of munitions, Pena identified enemy personnel in an open area advancing on the COP and called for a 500-pound weapon that eliminated the target.

“My number one mission is to do everything I can to ensure zero coalition casualties and eliminate as many insurgents as possible,”

Pena said. “Where Dude flight dropped the bombs, it accomplished the ground commander’s intent, which makes me feel good.”

Capt. DeShane Greaser, an Army infantry commander at COP Margah, said close air support was critical to the joint fight that day.

“The initial bombs dropped effectively changed the insurgent’s minds about continuing the attack,” Greaser said.

The first bombs dropped had an even more significant impact to Taliban forces than was at first apparent, according to Pena.

“There was a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device heading to the COP, and after the first bombs hit, we got reports that the enemy said, ‘We’re turning around, there are jets overhead.’”

Pena said having fighters overhead provided the ground commanders with tremendous confidence.

At the end of the day, ground forces and close air support assets worked together to kill between 50 and 70 insurgents while sustaining zero coalition or civilian casualties.

Congress OKs bill to assist unemployed veterans

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON – Democrats and Republicans rallied on a rare patch of common ground Wednesday and Congress approved legislation helping government contractors and unemployed veterans, finally giving President Barack Obama the chance to sign the first piece of his \$447 billion jobs bill into law.

The House sent the bill to the White House by an overwhelming 422-0, six days after the Senate passed it 95-0.

Panetta, Dempsey: U.S.-Iraq partnership will continue

Army.mil

WASHINGTON – Iraq and its forces are prepared to cope with the security challenges they will face after U.S. troops withdraw, Defense Department leaders told Congress today.

Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta and Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, described their views on those challenges in testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee.

“Today, thanks to innumerable sacrifices from all involved, Iraq is governing itself,” Panetta said. “It’s a sovereign nation. It’s an emerging source of stability in a vital part of the world.”

The secretary said the United States seeks to continue a relationship with Iraq based on mutual respect and interests.

With the State Department set to lead U.S. efforts in Iraq after troops withdraw by Dec. 31, a structure remains that allows the United States to continue assisting the Iraqi government, Panetta said.

The secretary said countering extremism, reducing internal friction and closing gaps in the country’s external defense capability will be key challenges for the Iraqi government.

Al-Qaida in Iraq and Iranian-backed militant groups remain capable of planning and carrying out periodic high-profile attacks, Panetta acknowledged. But those groups, he added, lack support among the Iraqi people, and Iraq’s counterterrorism forces are among the most capable in the region.

Obama: Asia-Pacific region top priority; proposes six-month Marine rotations to Australia



President Barack Obama and Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard met in Canberra this week, agreeing to maintain an American presence in the Pacific.

Voice of America

CANBERRA, Australia – President Barack Obama says developments in the Asia-Pacific region will largely define the century ahead and that the U.S. presence there is his administration’s top priority.

Obama told Australian lawmakers Thursday that the U.S. is a Pacific power and will always be one. He said the region will have a role in creating jobs and opportunity for the American people and he stressed that any reductions in U.S. defense spending will not come at the expense of that part of the world.

Obama and Australia’s Prime Minister Julia Gillard announced an agreement to maintain U.S. forces on Australian soil.

China reacted swiftly to the announcement in Canberra, suggesting the deployment of U.S. troops to Australia may not be appropriate and should be discussed within the international community.

In his speech, Obama insisted there was nothing inappropriate about the plan. Obama said the U.S. troop presence will provide new opportunities to train with U.S. allies and partners and to respond to a full range of challenges, including humanitarian crises and disaster relief.

He said the United States welcomes the rise of a peaceful and prosperous China and will seek more opportunities to work with

Beijing, including greater communication between each other’s militaries to promote understanding.

The troop deployment deal calls for a force of 200 to 250 U.S. Marines to be based in Australia’s Northern Territory for rotating six-month deployments. The contingent would grow over time to a full force of 2,500 personnel.

In addition, Australia has agreed to facilitate greater use of Darwin air base by U.S. military aircraft, including jet fighters and bombers. The two sides also agreed to boost the use of Western Australia’s Stirling naval base by U.S. vessels.

He also pledged that the United States will act firmly against any nuclear proliferation activities by North Korea. He said the transfer of nuclear material by Pyongyang to others would be considered a grave threat to the United States and its allies.

He said the United States and Australia seek an open international economic system where rules are clear and every nation plays by them.

Later Thursday, Mr. Obama visits Australia’s air base in Darwin, becoming the first U.S. president to do so. He stopped in Australia on the way to Bali, Indonesia, where he and Ms. Gillard will attend the East Asia Summit. The United States as well as Russia will participate in the summit as full members for the first time.



Deployment and depression Recognizing the signs in yourself and others

Feeling the pressure of deployment bearing down upon you? Have you lost interest in activities that you once considered entertaining? Find yourself drinking or smoking more than you did prior to arrival in Cuba? Do you no longer view your job or service as being important? Are you sleeping more or less than you normally do? Is your mood consistently negative, pessimistic, or irritable? If so, depression may be setting in.

Deployments place a wide variety of stressors upon service members. Most of the time, we adapt to these challenges without much difficulty. But in certain stressful situations, where the pressures of deployment may be coupled with difficulty adjusting to separation from family and friends, depression can result.

Depression is an indiscriminate condition that can affect anyone, regardless of age, sex, ethnicity, or social standing. It is also a significant health concern across the world and within the military. Most of us feel sad or lonely at times. Feeling this way is a normal reaction to loss, life’s struggles, or an injured self-esteem. But when these feelings become overwhelming and last for long periods of time, they can indicate clinical depression and keep you from leading a healthy, active life. If left untreated, symptoms may worsen and last for years. Recognizing the symptoms is often the biggest hurdle to the diagnosis and treatment of clinical or major depression. Unfortunately, people struggling with depression may go without diagnosis or treatment for years because they are not able to identify its initial signs.

Physical symptoms of depression are not only personally recognizable, but can be recognized in other people as well. There are signs to look for personally or for friends you suspect might be depressed. Excessive weight loss or gain, perpetual fatigue, and

insomnia are just a few symptoms that might be present. Other classic symptoms of depression can include a loss of focus and concentration, harsh self-criticism, and general feelings of being physically drained with no motivation to do even the most simple of activities (which, in extreme cases, can include basic hygiene). Sometimes, our bodies can develop symptoms of depression in the absence of obvious emotional distress. Frequent headaches, muscle pains, digestive problems, and flu-like symptoms can be indicators of someone suffering from depression.

Classic symptoms of depression can include a loss of focus and concentration, harsh self-criticism, and general feelings of being physically drained with no motivation to do even the simplest activities.

Emotional symptoms are the most obvious that you may experience personally and the hardest to detect in others. Feelings of pervasive sadness, inadequacy, hopelessness and helplessness are the most common. If you feel guilty for no reason and “emotionally drained” most days, you might be depressed. Suicide threats and attempts are an extreme manifestation of depression, but there is always an alternative. Although improving a depressed mood can be difficult, a number of strategies exist that can be used to lessen its symptoms. As the old saying goes, “a healthy body is a healthy mind.” Maintaining an exercise routine, a proper diet, regular sleeping patterns, and avoiding excessive drinking have the benefit of not only preserving physical health but regulating mood.

JSMART offers comprehensive mental health services to meet the needs of military personnel stationed and deployed to Joint Task Force Guantanamo. Should you feel that you require assistance in addressing your mood or any other issue which may be affecting you, JSMART is located next to the Chaplain’s office and near the 525th Military Police Battalion headquarters. Personnel are available to assist in the clinic Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and the 24-hour duty cell phone will always be manned at extension 3566.

Value of the Week: Duty

Fulfill your obligations. Doing your duty means more than carrying out your assigned tasks. Duty means being able to accomplish tasks as part of a team. The work of the Joint Task Force is a complex combination of missions, tasks and responsibilities — all in constant motion. Our work entails building one assignment onto another. You fulfill your obligations as a part of your unit every time you resist the temptation to take “shortcuts” that might undermine the integrity of the final product.



PUSS IN BOOTS

By Mass Communication Spc. 1st Class Ty Bjornson

“Puss in Boots” is an animated delight chronicling the adventures of Puss in Boots before his encounter with Shrek in “Shrek 2” (2004). This particular “yarn” is the background story on how Puss came to don his hat, saber, boots and his status as a crusading outlaw with a heart of gold.

Actor Antonio Banderas reprises his popular role as the voice of Puss. This time, director Chris Miller tones down the adult overtones and risqué humor present in the “Shrek” pictures. “Puss in Boots” is more of a straightforward family adventure. It is also somewhat less of a comedy than the “Shrek” films, relying more on the story and great visuals. I suspect a few edits to this PG rated fare would bring it into the G rated realm.

This highly colorful tale (or “tail”) opens with Puss escaping the certain doom of a night’s mischievousness. He’s on a quest to find magic beans he has been looking for since kittenhood, which in turn will lead him to a great kingdom in the clouds ripe for plunder. This leads him to an amusing confrontation with the deviant Jack and Jill (Billy Bob Thornton and Amy Sedaris) who have the beans in their possession, and a new rival known as Kitty Softpaws (Selma Hayek) who has an agenda all her own.

It’s not long before we meet Humpty Alexander Dumpty (Zach Galifianakis) and learn of the bitter childhood connection between Humpty Dumpty and Puss in Boots. At their last encounter many years ago, an altercation stemmed in one “having had a great fall” (as you may have heard) and the banishment of Puss from the town of El Ricardo, resulting in the subsequent origin of a wrongfully-accused swashbuckling champion of good although his paws might be “a little sticky” from time-to-time.

Puss always felt ashamed that his mother Imelda (Constance Marie) believed him to have turned to a life of crime and now seeks to redeem himself. Meanwhile Humpty Dumpty, who was once Puss’s brother, continued to descend into a life of greed and develop a deep anger towards Puss in Boots.

Puss, Humpty and Kitty Softpaws forge an uneasy alliance and they are off on a mission of financial gain and to restore Puss’s El Ricardo community standing and

his mother’s faith in him.

Along the journey, the audience is treated to grand visuals that are extremely vivid with details and color. Truly, this is a fanciful (or maybe a “Fancy Feast”!) delight for the eyes. The visual points of interest include the pilgrimage through a desert, the climb (if it can be called as such) up a magical beanstalk, the sky kingdom and its garden with golden eggs.

“Puss in Boots” has fun with the characters, always keeping the atmosphere cheerful. A prime example of this is the dance-off between Puss and Kitty at the feline-only dance-club named “The (G)litter Box” (where the G in the neon lettering is always on the fritz) complete with a musical number that is fresh, upbeat and engaging with a multitude of interesting visual gags ensuing in the background. This sequence is custom designed to keep viewers dialed-in and smiling.

The “Puss in Boots” story presented here is entirely its own creation. It bears no real ties to the original seventeenth century “Puss in Boots” fairy tale by Charles Perrault. The only commonality between the two is the name, physical characteristics and personality of Puss. Beyond that, the film studio behind this picture, DreamWorks SKG, took

extensive creative liberties with the material and decided to have fun with not one, but multiple fairy tales and assorted fairy tale characters to create a fresh movie for today’s audiences for mass consumption. It works.

Though not as original as the first two “Shrek” pictures, which pioneered the way for this movie and a multitude of other “sophisticated” animated fare that has dominated multiplexes the last decade, “Puss in Boots” delivers the goods. It’s a fun, light-hearted time at the movies. Nothing more and nothing less.



GTMO Quick Reference

Bayview Club - 75605
Wed.-Fri. 11 a.m.-8 p.m.
Sun. & Holidays 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Bowling Center - 2118
Mon.-Fri. 6-11 p.m.
Fri. 6 p.m.-12 a.m.
Sat. 1 p.m.-12 a.m.
Sun. & Holidays 1-11 p.m.

Caribbean Coffee - 77859
Mon.-Sat. 6 a.m.-10 p.m.
Sun. 1-10 p.m.

Jerk House - 2532
Sun.-Thu. 5-9 p.m.
Fri. & Sat. 5-10 p.m.

KFC and A&W Express - 75653
Daily 11 a.m.-10 p.m.

MWR Liberty Centers - 2010
Mon.-Thu. 11 a.m.-12 a.m.
Fri. 11 a.m.-1 a.m.
Sun. 9 a.m.-12 a.m.
Sat. & Holidays 9 a.m.-1 a.m.

Library - 4700
Mon.-Sat. 8 a.m.-9 p.m.
Sun. & Holidays 12-9 p.m.

Pizza Hut - 77995
Mon.-Thu. 11 a.m.-9 p.m.
Fri. 11 a.m.-11 p.m.
Sat. & Sun. 12-9 p.m.

Windjammer Cafe
Mon.-Thu. 11 a.m.-9 p.m.
Fri. 11 a.m.-10 p.m.
Sat. 5-10 p.m.
Sun. 5-9 p.m.

Windjammer Club - 77252
Fri. & Sat. 5 p.m. - 2 a.m.

Windjammer Sports Bar
Mon.-Thu. 5-9 p.m.
Fri. & Sat. 5 p.m.-2 a.m.
Sun. 5-9 p.m.

Safe Ride - 84781

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

Vigil Mass
Saturday 5 p.m.
Main Chapel

Mass
Sunday 9 a.m.
Main Chapel

Catholic Mass
Saturday 5:30 p.m.
Troopers Chapel

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

Gospel Service
Sunday 1 p.m.
Main Chapel

GTMO Bay Christian Fellowship
Sunday 6 p.m.
Main Chapel

Protestant Worship
Sunday 9 a.m.
Troopers' Chapel

GTMO Religious Services

General Protestant
Sunday 11 a.m.
Main Chapel

Islamic Service
Friday 1:15 p.m.
Room C

Jewish Service
Friday 7 p.m.
Chapel Annex

LDS Service
Sunday 10 a.m.
Room A

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

United Jamaican Fellowship
Sunday 11 a.m.
Sanctuary B

Liturgical Service
Sunday 10 a.m.
Room B

Church of the Sacred Well
Call x2323
for information

	18 FRI	19 SAT	20 SUN	21 MON	22 TUE	23 WED	24 THU
Downtown Lyceum	Tower Heist (NEW) (PG-13) 7 p.m. Killer Elite (NEW) (R) 9 p.m.	No movie: Reel Rock Film Tour 7 p.m. Warrior (last showing) (PG-13) 9 p.m.	What's Your Number (NEW) (R) 7 p.m.	Contagion (last showing) (PG-13) 7 p.m.	Moneyball (PG-13) 7 p.m.	I Don't Know How She Does It (PG-13) 7 p.m.	Puss in Boots (PG) 7 p.m.
Camp Bulkeley	What's Your Number (NEW) (R) 8 p.m. Moneyball (PG-13) 10 p.m.	Tower Heist (NEW) (PG-13) 8 p.m. Killer Elite (NEW) (R) 10 p.m.	Contagion (last showing) (PG-13) 8 p.m.	I Don't Know How She Does It (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Warrior (last showing) (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Abduction (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Drive (R) 8 p.m.

Call the movie hotline at 4880 or see the MWR GTMO Facebook page for more information.

photo by Chris Hileman

Background: Gamenowinink Lodge #555 rehabilitated the old Boy Scout Camp near the Villamar housing section, with the help of Joint Task Force volunteers and the 474th ECES Prime BEEF. Much of the campground, including this bridge, had previously been overgrown to the point of impassable.



photo by Mass Communication Spc. 2nd Class Kilho Park
Commanding General, II Expeditionary Force and Commander, United States Marine Forces Africa, Lt. Gen. John M. Paxton (left) and Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Security Force Company, Maj. Winston S. Tierney at the Marine Corps 236th birthday celebration Nov. 11.



photo by Mass Communication Spc. 2nd Class Kilho Park
Master-at-Arms Seaman Shaunie Colley walks across the entry of the hangar bay during her patrol as flight line rover at the Naval Station Guantanamo Bay air terminal.



photo by Mass Communication Spc. 2nd Class Kilho Park
Coast Guard Maritime Safety and Security Team - Boston said farewell Nov. 14 to Joint Task Force Guantanamo and handed off their post to MSST - San Diego.