

Volume 13, Issue 30

Friday, June 1, 2012

The WIRED

An award-winning
JTF-7
magazine

Carrying fallen comrades
Memorial Day 10K

Carmen Deedy
Coming home

Battleship
Hit or miss

A full-page photograph of two divers in a clear blue underwater environment. They are both wearing black wetsuits and scuba gear. A thick rope runs vertically through the center of the frame. The diver on the left is positioned higher and is holding onto the rope with both hands. The diver on the right is lower and also holding onto the rope. Bubbles are visible around them, suggesting they are breathing. The overall scene is serene and focused on the divers' activity.

SUDDS

Returns to GTMO

COMMAND CORNER

CAPT. W. ANDREW DOCHERTY

CHIEF OF STAFF, JTF GUANTANAMO

Taking care of our people is one of our top priorities. Whether it's making sure everyone has shelter during destructive weather or preventing destructive behavior, there are actions we can take to help ensure our team members stay safe.

Destructive Weather

Today marks the start of hurricane season, so Joint Task Force Guantanamo needs to be ready to respond on short notice if a destructive weather system develops and heads our way. We're currently at Condition of Readiness (COR) V – meaning readiness for the arrival of weather with winds exceeding 59 mph within 96 hours (COR IV is 72 hours prior, COR III is 48 hours prior, etc). Larger and stronger storms will also require

us to correspondingly take more significant steps to increase safety for our personnel and reduce damage to our facilities. Anyone who's been through a hurricane knows that even a Category 1 or 2 storm, with winds of up to 110 mph, will be an incredibly destructive force against the expeditious construction of many of JTF's housing units, office buildings, and storage facilities. We need to be ready because of that vulnerability.

If a destructive storm approaches, each of us will be assigned preparation-related tasks in accordance with our Destructive Weather Plan – until 24 hours prior to the storm (COR II), when all roads will be closed and all personnel will be required to remain in their pre-assigned shelter locations. Before the storm, commands and directorates will be issued shelter assignments, and

the mayor/warden system will be used to ensure we maintain 100% personnel accountability throughout the event. Once you're at your assigned shelter location, it will be essential that you remain in place; all hands are reminded to build your fly-away hurricane basket now, with extra clothes, hygiene items, prescription medication, snacks, etc. to last up to three days. J4 will ensure all shelter locations are stocked with water, Meals

Ready to Eat, and cots.

Destructive Behavior

Despite efforts to educate, train, lead, and mentor, JTF is still faced with the very real and very destructive threat of sexual assault. In the past few months alone we've had All Hands briefings by Rear Adm. David Woods, "Sex Signals" training, newcom-

ers' briefs, many hours of unit-level training, and engaged leadership at all levels. Anything other than zero assaults is unsatisfactory. We can – and we will – get better at protecting Troopers – our most important asset – and punishing those who perpetrate this criminal behavior.

Next week (June 5 to 6) we will hold two very important sexual assault prevention training sessions called "No Zebras/ No Excuses" at the Downtown Lyceum. Among other topics, this training will provide an understanding of bystander behavior and what they can do as individuals to reduce incidents of sexual assault. This training is mandatory for all personnel not on watch. All of us have a role in preventing sexual assault and there are no valid excuses for missing this training.

Taking care of our people is one of our top priorities, and there are actions we can take to help ensure our team members stay safe.



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JOINT TASK FORCE
GUANTANAMO

SAFE • HUMANE • LEGAL • TRANSPARENT

NEWS FROM THE BAY

Guantanamoian Idol!

Do you long for the roar of a cheering crowd? Got an interesting talent? Show it off at "GTMO's got Talent!" You can even show it off to Simon, Randy and Paula... impersonators, anyway.

Auditions are scheduled for June 2 from 5-9 p.m. at the teen center, next to Marblehead Lanes. Semifinals and finals are scheduled for 6-8 p.m. June 3 at the Downtown Lyceum. Jovany Javier, a semifinalist from Season 10 of American Idol, will hold a meet-and-greet at the auditions and host the semifinal and finals, in addition to performing.

So start on the road to GTMO stardom and sign up! This free event is open to all ages and acts! For more information, call 77230.

Don't mail lithium batteries

Customers may not mail or receive electronic devices containing lithium batteries, including equipment with non-removable batteries, to or from any APO, FPO, and DPO offices.

For more information, call 2156.

Relax!

Learn to do as Frankie Goes to Hollywood did before you, and relax. The Fleet and Family Support Center is holding a stress management class June 5 from 2-4 p.m at the FFSC building. For more information, call 4153.



Join a bowling team!

Talent show

The Burns and Roe Leaders League is hosting "Kabayan Nights," a talent show featuring singing contests, live bands, good food and more.

The talent show is scheduled for June 2, from 8 p.m. to 12 a.m. at Mabuhay Garden. For more information, call 90548.

Health fair

The U.S. Naval Hospital will hold a Summer Public Health Fair in the NEX Atrium. The fair is scheduled for June 3 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The fair will provide information on health and safety issues.

Night golf

Don't enjoy golfing during a nice, sunny day? The Yatera Golf Association is sponsoring a night of glow-in-the-dark golf June 16.

Sign up at the NEX Breezeway June 2 and 3 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for \$25.

Cart and glow-in-the-dark golf balls are included.

Let's go bowling, dude

The summer bowling league at Marblehead Lanes will have a meeting June 4 at 6 p.m. to organize the Monday Night Mixed Fun League. Teams consist of four bowlers. Individual bowlers are invited to fill out teams. For more information, call 2188.

Leeward bicycle ride

Do you love to ride your bicycle? Eager to see some parts of the base you don't normally get to see? Looking for a bit of exercise on a Saturday morning? Go on a pleasant cycling ride from Marine Observation Post 20 to Marine Observation Post 03! Meet at Marine Hill White House tomorrow at 7 a.m. Transportation to Leeward is provided.

For more information, call Staff Sgt. Tucker at 2643.

Varsity Blues

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

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

For more information, call 2113.

Track meet

MWR will hold a track meet June 9 at 7 p.m. Registration is free and open to everyone 13 and up. The first 25 to register receive a free T-shirt. Register by June 6 at Denich Gym.

For more information, call 2113.

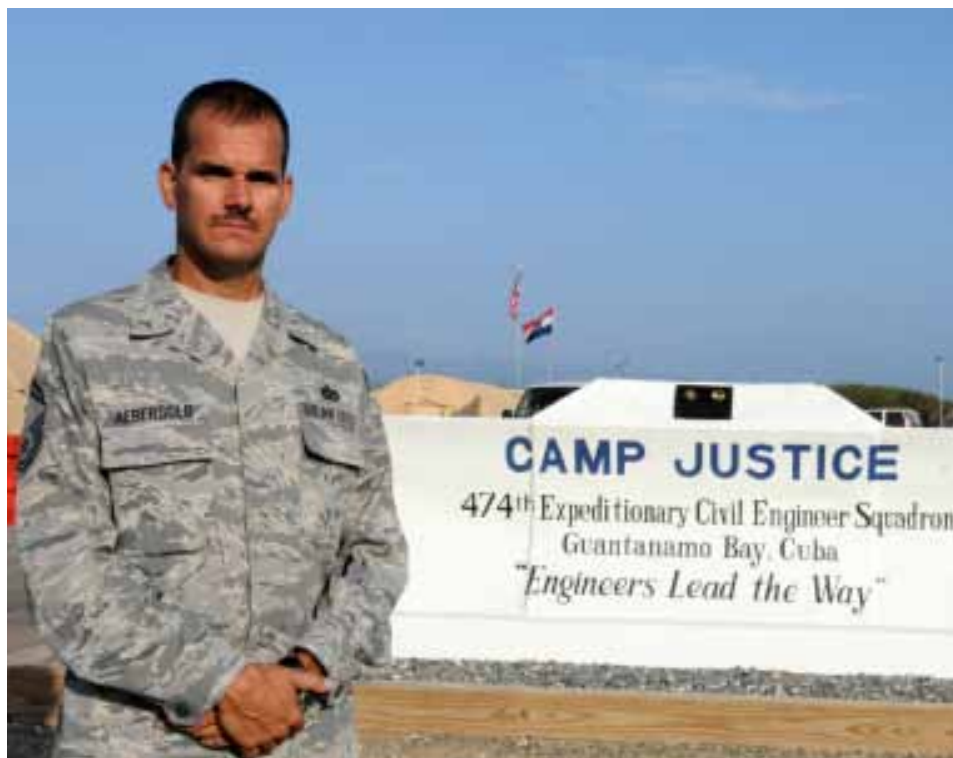
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The WIRE is the official news magazine of Joint Task Force Guantanamo. It is produced by the JTF Public Affairs Office to inform and educate the Troopers of JTF Guantanamo through news, features, command guidance, sports and entertainment. This DoD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

Trooper to Trooper

Encouragement in the Workforce



SENIOR MASTER SGT. ROBERT AEBERSOLD
BEEF SENIOR ENLISTED LEADER

The definition of “encourage” is to give support, confidence or hope. We can all remember a time when we were encouraged more than we were talked down to. When we apply this definition to situations at work, we increase morale, give Troopers a vote of trust and confidence, foster more cooperation, and we spur one another on toward good deeds. At the same time, an encouraging word motivates Troopers

with courage, confidence, and hope. I have heard the saying “one word of encouragement in times of failure is worth more than one hour of praise after success.” What Troopers need more than anything is a person to come alongside them in those times of failure or mistake and encourage them for their efforts. This will keep their self-confidence intact, even though they may have failed. When they know there is someone who truly cares in their corner to urge them on, they will strive to do their best in all situations.

At some time we have all acted strong or tough to mask our negative emotions and reactions from a mistake or slip-up we have made. This is when we need to help our Troopers persevere. Whether it is a high five with a “good job!” or just a smile with a handshake, they will believe that they can achieve great things. Seize the opportunity given and make the most of the moment by boosting and lifting that Trooper back up. This does wonders for their self-confidence in any future situations they’ll encounter.

Here are a few ways to be an “encourager” on duty. Recognize Troopers who, after making a mistake, improve their efforts. Reassure those Troopers after a setback or failure with a simple pat on the back or a “that’s not the first time that has happened.” Be a positive influence all the time. Accept Troopers as they are. Encourage them and let them know you notice their efforts. Last and maybe most complimentary, if you see someone doing an excellent job, send a note of commendation to their supervisor making them aware of the hard work you have witnessed from their Trooper.

Once you have put these techniques into practice, offering encouragement will be more natural. The encourager receives the benefit, as well as the encouraged, of seeing the value in making others feel good. The more you practice the better you will get, and more than likely it will spark a positive environment. Sooner rather than later you will be comfortable offering encouragement and will find other avenues to help one another succeed.

Open wide and say wow!

GTMO dentist’s career takes second chance on active duty

By Sgt. 1st Class Kryn P. Westhoven

Many words can describe the first impression of Cmdr. Bruce Green, Navy Dental Corps. Calming would be one of them. Calm is a word not generally associated with dentistry; anxiety might come to mind first.

It is anxiety that breeds fear as you lie on your back staring at the ceiling of the Joint Trooper Clinic. A masked man with a bright light on his forehead approaches with tools most would think should not be in a mouth.

Dr. Green knows of this psychological anguish from his youth. It formed the foundation of how he practices dentistry. You could say the tooth pain he experienced as a child has allowed the JTC to gain an excellent dentist.

“I knew there had to be a different way of doing this [dentistry], and I have spent my entire career trying to find a little bit of a different way,” said Green. “I think it has to do with my own personal mindset, to treat patients as I would like to be treated.”

Green graduated Louisiana State University in 1988 and entered private practice in New Orleans, a city he has called home since he was six years old. He wanted to join the military coming out of LSU, but family issues prevented him from fulfilling his dream of serving on active duty. So he opted for part-time blue and joined the Air Force Reserve.

Drilling at the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base in New Orleans for 11 years is where Green got his first taste of Navy dental services. After years of lamenting not having served full-time, Green’s wife told him if he was serious about working as a full-time Navy dentist then he should sell his practice and join active duty.

In 1999 Green sold the comforts of a successful dental office and began working as a contract dentist for the naval support activity.

“Probably the greatest risk in life is never having taken one,” commented Green on his move towards his dream of serving full-time in uniform.

Since he was already drilling with them, Green asked the Air Force about entering active duty. He would be met with disappoint-

ment as he was told he was “too old” to join. He shared that disappointment with his Navy boss, who told him to give the Navy a try. Within an hour a recruiter was at his desk.

“This was the absolute last minute I could do this,” said Green. “If I missed this opportunity, I would never have it again.”

So in 2001, at age 46, Green made the jump into active duty.

“I don’t look at the Navy as a second choice; that is not the case,” said Green. “I wanted to serve; I really wanted to serve.”

This began a new career that has included three years in Okinawa, Japan, whereupon he deployed to Iraq with the 3rd Marine Corps Logistics Group.

“I always had the deepest admiration for the Marine Corps and I got to live that part of my dream,” he said.

Green was back in New Orleans as the dental department head at Naval Air Station in Meridian, Mississippi when he got the call from the director of dental services at Pensacola Naval Hospital. The Navy dentist attached to the JTF had broken an arm, and Green headed to Guantanamo Bay in December 2010 to finish the three months left on his assignment.

Once he returned, Green told his supervisor that JTF was a “really necessary mission” and several months later that same director recalled that conversation. Green was back on a rotator in September 2011 for a nine-month deployment.

“A lot of my mission is caring for patients that have some minor dental problem crop up during their stay,” said Green, who believes dental care is a quality of life concern. “People need to be reassured that their dental health is not deteriorating.”

Green sees exams, fluoride treatments and dental cleanings as very important. He is proud that with a limited staff at the Joint Trooper Clinic dental office they can offer those preventive services.

Green’s chair-side manner shines when he provides a play-by-play description of what he observes during the examination.

“I just felt like even I in the past had been guilty of not educating my patients, not explaining to my patients in terminology that

everybody will understand,” said Green.

“Explain while working and answer a question later” is Green’s motto.

“Patients are more at ease and are more motivated,” said Green, adding they understand why to use certain oral hygiene techniques, especially flossing.

“People fear the unknown,” said Green, who believes the discussion is an important element. “Yes, they may still be a little fearful, but not so much.”

Green is proud of his tour as leaves the island tomorrow.

“I kind of get misty-eyed,” he said as he spoke about people he worked with and the privilege to provide health care services to Troopers serving here. “I feel like one of the luckiest men on the planet... I wake up every day knowing that for me, I have the best job in the world.”

And that job is getting better for Green as his next assignment is dental department chief aboard the U.S.S. Eisenhower. Being underway is another experience on his to-do list.

“If you do what you love for a living, you will never work a day in your life and that is me,” Green said. “I am living that. I live that life daily; I really do.”



PROTECT YOUR INFO!
PSEC ALERT

Keep work at the workplace

Do you have a notebook in your pocket that has information about work? Things like watch rotations, important phone numbers or people to notify in the event of an emergency? How about a copy of our standard operating procedures? This information is important to know and studying it can help you to remember. This information is sensitive so it’s better to read at work and commit it to memory rather than write it down or take a copy with you. The less information you take from the workplace, the less likely it could end up in a trash can, dumpster or be disclosed to people without the need to know. Use OPSEC and keep sensitive work documents at the workplace.

Super Troopers

Congratulations to the Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers who recently received commander’s coins!

SSG Nickles
LS1 Winegar
LS2 Refalo

Trooper Focus

Staff Sgt. Anthony Anderson



—the boss says

“Staff Sgt. Anderson is a great Trooper because he never gives up and keeps striving to get the job done.”

By Spc. Vanessa Davila

Staff Sgt. Anthony Anderson has lived in the same small Missouri town his entire life. He is the third generation owner of the salvage yard his grandfather opened about 60 years ago. There is nothing wrong with being a simple man and Anderson doesn't seem to have an issue with being perceived that way but behind the relaxed, soft-spoken man is a smart businessman.

“There's a lot involved in the business. You've got to know a whole lot of stuff, not just only the different types of metals you have to ship out,” Anderson said. “People; you've got to know people.”

The businessman has been with the Missouri Air National Guard since 2010 but before that he was with the Army National Guard for almost 10 years. He has been on several deployments and he says the hardest thing about it all has been being away

from his family. Anderson is a through-and-through family man. Everything he does always ties back to his family somehow; including his business.

“I like being able to plow my own route. The harder you work the better you're going to be off. You're relying on yourself and not anybody else. I worked in a factory for two years...I can be more family oriented and take time off when I want [now],” said Anderson about going from working for someone to being his own boss.

Anderson left his wife with the task of running the business while he is here at Guantanamo. He said she is doing a great job.

“She didn't know anything about the metals and stuff, but she graduated from college with a business degree,” said Anderson about his wife. “She's handled it pretty well. She's



taken it far and beyond what I've done.”

Anderson plans to do his 20 years with the military and he also plans to stay in business. Will the salvage yard be inherited by the next generation? It's up to the family man's children. Anderson said he won't pressure them to take over; it will be their decision.

Bullet Bio

Hobbies: Duck hunting, drag racing, spending time with family

Time in service: 11 years

Advice to junior Troopers: “Keep up on your CDCs (Career Development Courses). It will help you advance in whatever job field you're in.”

BOOTS ON THE GROUND

If you could make a movie, what would it be about?



“I'd make ‘The Real World: GTMO.’”

Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class
Mariah Brown



“An action movie like ‘The Expendables.’”

Pvt. 1st Class
Yenixa Rivas



“I'd make a superhero movie.”

Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class
Vanessa Perez



“A sci-fi flick where the Army fights some sort of space creature.”

Pvt. 1st Class
Caleb Velez

Carrying the fallen

Georgia National Guardsmen honor fallen comrades in Memorial Day 10K

By Pvt. Loren Cook

Honoring the fallen for Memorial Day takes many forms: placing flowers on graves, attending services in the cemetery, lowering the national flag to half-mast until noon, and so on.

Here at Guantanamo Bay, MWR observed Memorial Day in typical GTMO fashion by holding a 10k race. In recognition of Memorial Day, parts of the course were lined with flags honoring Marines, Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors, and Coast Guardsmen who have died in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Army Sgt. Major Callie Leaver, command sergeant major of the Joint Detention Group, went a step further in observation of Memorial Day. She and four other Georgia National Guardsmen pinned cards to themselves, honoring their fallen comrades.

Each card had a picture and a short biography of the Soldier being honored.

“I saw it being done at the 9/11 run last year, and I thought it was a good

idea. Since we're here in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, we decided to carry cards honoring those from the Georgia National Guard who have died in Afghanistan,” Leaver said.

Although the cards were light, those who wore them bore the heavy burden of remembering those who had made the ultimate sacrifice.

Army Sgt. Larissa Pillay, an intelligence analyst with the 170th Military Police Company, was eager to honor the fallen during her run and carried two cards; one pinned in front and one in back.

“I was excited to be able to honor somebody that gave their lives for all of us,” said Pillay. “It's important that we don't forget about those who gave their lives.”

Leaver also carried two cards. One honored a Soldier who wasn't in the Georgia National Guard, but whom she knew.

“Spc. Ryan King was a family friend,” Leaver said. “His parents went to church with me, and I knew him before he ever joined the military.”

King, a native of Dallas, Ga., was

killed in a fire in Kunar Province, Afghanistan, in 2009. He was 22 years old.

“Ryan's mother called me immediately after the casualty officer told her,” Leaver said. “I was at least able to stand by her and hold her hand during the rough times.”

For Leaver, the dead being honored at Memorial Day are much more than American flags next to old gravestones. They are men and women who had lives and families.

“If Ryan were alive today, he would have run in a race like this. He was a great young man,” said Leaver. “He always wanted to be a Soldier, and he died doing what he wanted.”

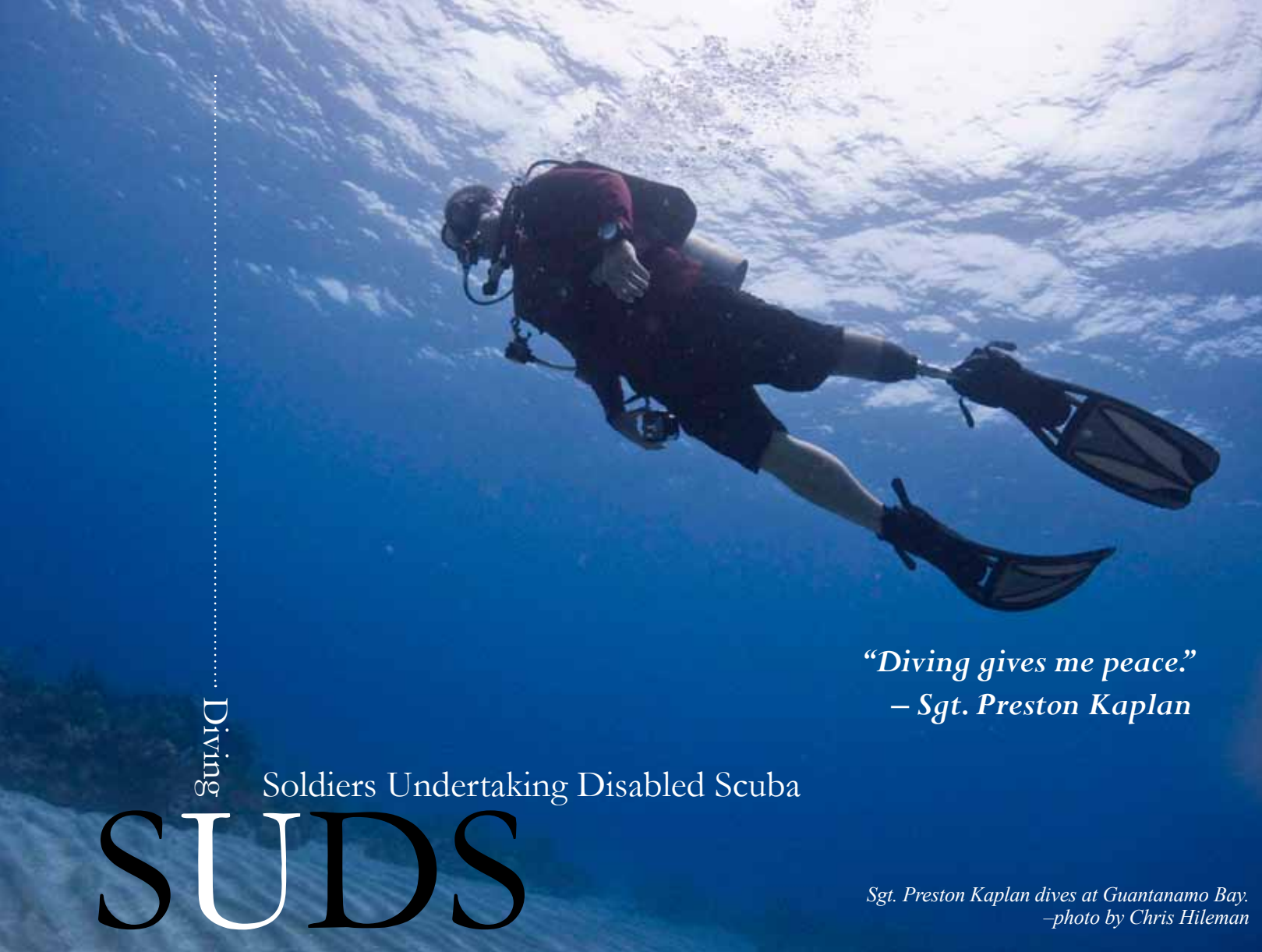
So while Memorial Day is a great day for seeing family and friends, having barbecues, and enjoying a three-day-weekend, that is not its purpose.

“It's not just a day for barbecues. I think everyone should take at least a moment on Memorial Day to think about those who sacrificed so much, and sometimes everything, to give you the freedom you enjoy,” Pillay said.

“It's great to be able to enjoy some quality time with your family and eat some good food, but it's very important to remember the meaning of Memorial Day,” Leaver said. “This is the time to remember those who have fought for our freedom, and the family and friends who were left behind.”



Left: Sgt. 1st Class Undrey Bostic, Army 1st Lt. Luis Mendez, Army Sgt. Major Callie Leaver, Army Sgt. Larissa Pillay, and Sgt. 1st Class Joshua Conwell pose with cards honoring fallen comrades from the Georgia National Guard. —photo by Pvt. Loren Cook



Diving

SUDDS

Soldiers Undertaking Disabled Scuba

*“Diving gives me peace.”
– Sgt. Preston Kaplan*

*Sgt. Preston Kaplan dives at Guantanamo Bay.
–photo by Chris Hileman*

By Mass Communication Spc. 2nd Class
Kilho Park

Cpl. Eric Bard: “I’ve been waiting for this moment for a very long time. I’m a little nervous right now, but I think it’s more my excitement than anything.”

Me: “Eric, it’s gonna change everything you know about diving. It’s not the pool, that’s for sure. It’s gonna blow your mind. Have fun, brother.”

Eric: “That’s what I’m hoping for.”

Bard self checks his buoyancy control device (BCD) as a determined Marine would check his body armor and weapons before leaving the wire, dons his swim mask, takes a few heaping breaths of air from his regulator, gets some final words of encouragement from an instructor and gives his prosthetic swim leg one final tug for good measure.

Big plunge... he’s in the drink. He floats to the bubbly surface in the azure waters of Phillips Dive Park, turns around and touches

his head with his hand, signaling that he’s good to go, and then swims to the team of divers waiting for him.

With that, the Soldiers Undertaking Disabled Scuba (SUDDS) 2012 tour officially got underway in Guantanamo Bay.

The SUDDS team arrived on May 24 and were greeted by the GTMO community with a welcome dinner at the Bayview Officer’s landing. The five day trip had a purpose for seven wounded warriors. The dives started Friday morning and didn’t end until Monday afternoon. Each day had two scheduled dives at certain dive areas in GTMO: Phillips Dive Park (twice), Blue Beach and Cable Beach.

For the wounded warriors it was the opportunity to get open water dive certified, for a few it was a chance to get their advanced open water certification, and for one it was for his rescue diver certification. But for all it was a chance to forget about what ails them. In diving terms: to decompress.

Water is the great equalizer...

Depending on their injuries, swimming, let alone diving, is a very difficult process to manage for these wounded warriors and their instructors.

“We learned as we went along, each person is different,” said Pat Duffy, one of the SUDDS instructors who flew down with the team. “It’s about buoyancy and trim, being able to move through the water and the basics of swimming that is easy for you and me.”

But once the students adapted to the water and got a better handle on the basics of scuba: the challenge of being in a zero-gravity environment, they embraced and used it for more than just breathing underwater.

“These are people who want to move through their injury and get on with the rest of their lives,” said Duffy. “The move from a fundamental to a therapeutic aspect gives them a sport to participate in and the confidence that they take with them for the rest of their lives.”

For some SUDDS members, being in the water is like a second home.

Staff Sgt. Brett Graveline, who suffered spinal and neck injuries in a controlled Chinook crash in Iraq in 2009, grew up around the water.

“I love the water, it’s relaxing,” he said. “To sit there and float, it’s very peaceful and no one is down there to bother you.”

Graveline, who recently found out that he has severe and degenerative nerve damage in his spine, was finally cleared by his doctor and just started scuba diving last month.

“When I was underwater, I never thought about my problems at all,” he said.

Sgt 1st Class Jeremiah Gursuch, who lost his leg in 2011 when he stepped on an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan, spent his summers at his grandparent’s lake as a child, so he’s always up for a dive.

“Being underwater for an extended period of time, it’s a dream come true,” said Gursuch.

While appreciative of his ability to dive, he also has other reasons for diving.

“It helps me keep calm, meditate, relax,” said Gursuch. “Plus it’s a physical sport itself. It helps me get back into shape, back into life.”

Genesis...

SUDDS was started in 2007 at Walter Reed National Medical Center in Bethesda, Md. by John Thompson, its founder and current president.

“I went to go see my wife who was working at Walter Reed for lunch one day, and I met all these men and women suffering through all these injuries. It was a gut check for me,” said Thompson.

So Thompson, a former Army National Guardsman and scuba instructor, decided

to become a volunteer at the American Red Cross at Walter Reed. “They asked me what my background was and I told them I was a dive instructor, so they put me in the aquatic therapy pool,” he said.

After being in the pool with the wounded warriors, Thompson started thinking about how to incorporate scuba into the rehabilitation regimen. After speaking with the chief physical therapist (who happened to be a certified diver), she agreed to give Thompson’s idea a shot and SUDDS was formed.

A community is like a ship; everyone ought to be prepared to take the helm....

From the moment the SUDDS team touched down on the flight line to the final night of their going away dinner and certification awards party, the GTMO community came out in droves to provide assistance and show their support.

“The outpouring of support we see is amazing as is the generosity in donations, time, food, and many other ways,” said Chris Hileman, board member of Reef Raiders Dive Club (GTMO’s dive chapter). “It’s the community that helps make these visits possible and the great success that each one is.”

Aside from the hundreds (too many to put an official number on) who put in their personal time, Joint Task Force Guantanamo, U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, the GTMO Boy Scouts, the Chief Petty Officer’s Goat Locker, the Red Cross, Reef Raiders, Ocean Enterprises, Guantanamo Bay Spouses

Club, Island Mechanical Construction and the Maytag Aircraft Corporation all had a hand in making this trip a success.

“We don’t get this type of support anywhere else we go,” said Thompson. “This is our eighth trip down here. It’s the signature trip and the one everyone wants to go on because we get the most support.”

So why don’t we go, somewhere only we know...

Eight dives in four days, with all the local and civic support needed, and in the end the SUDDS team were a tired bunch but still had smiles from ear to ear. So congratulations to:

CPT David McRaney, USA – Rescue Diver Certified

SGT Preston Kaplan, USA – Advanced Open Water Certifications and training in underwater photography and diver propulsion vehicles

CPL Charles Stringer, USMC – Advanced Open Water Certifications and training in underwater photography and diver propulsion vehicles

SFC Jeremiah Gursuch, USA – Open Water Diver Certification

SSG Rubin Gomez, USA – Open Water Diver Certification

SSG Bret Graveline, ANG – Open Water Diver Certification

CPL Eric Bard, USMC – Open Water Diver Certification

This Memorial Day weekend took on a whole new level of meaning of why we honor those who sacrifice their lives and limbs for our nation’s way of life. There is a saying in the Navy when someone does something well and / or above and beyond the call of duty (and this applies to our SUDDS brethren and staff along with the entire GTMO community):

Bravo Zulu. Job well done.



*Left: Volunteers assist Cpl. Eric Bard after his dive at Blue Beach.
Top: Team SUDDS at Blue Beach.
Right: Open water students prepare to descend on their first dive at Phillips Dive Park.
–photos by Mass Communication Spc. 2nd Class Kilho Park*





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—photos by Army Sgt. Saul Rosa

FEATURE

“When someone says, well what’s freedom, it’s a philosophical discussion which is fine to have in places where one can have those discussions without fear of repercussion. My answer to that is, you know what, everyone has a different definition of freedom, but I can tell you what freedom isn’t. I can go down a list of things that freedom isn’t and I can tell you right now that what’s on the other side of that fence isn’t.”

By Spc. Vanessa Davila

Last week, 51-year-old Cuban-born writer and storyteller Carmen Deedy set foot on Cuban soil for the first time since the tender age of three when she fled Cuba alongside her parents. It was a momentous occasion for the naval station. It’s not often that award winning writers grace Guantanamo Bay. Deedy visited the high school, middle school and elementary school the day before the curtain went up on her one night only, one woman show. She entertained the students with her stories of growing up Cuban in Decatur, Ga.

The full weight of Deedy’s meaningful trip was realized the afternoon before her show on her visit to the Cuban Community Center where the last remaining Cuban residents of Guantanamo Bay anxiously awaited her arrival.

“When I got here, I had a few people ask me ‘how do you feel?’ and I thought ‘do not ask me, I don’t want to talk about it! I don’t know; if I knew I’d tell myself; how can I tell you!’” said Deedy. “This afternoon when I was with those old people: that was when I felt like I was home.”

If the Cuban residents had any doubt about how Cuban Deedy could still be she quickly squashed any doubts through a retelling of her favorite stories about growing up with her mom. She had the residents in stitches within minutes and I soon realized why – her Cuban mother is similar to my Colombian mother, and better yet, similar to all our mothers.

“Good storytelling really is not about culture; it’s about experience. Culture is a very specific way to categorize a person,” said Deedy. “But experience is universal. If I have a Cuban mother who embarrasses the fool out of me when I am in public and I am eight years

old, you could be from Peoria and go ‘oh my God that’s my mother!’”

Halfway into Deedy’s visit with the Cuban residents, the laughter subsided and melancholy dominated the room for a while.

Through tears, Deedy told the residents, “El aire libre tiene olor diferente,” to which many of the residents cried and nodded in gratitude for her understand of their plight. Translated, the words mean “free air has a different scent.”

Afterward, she became the audience when each resident recounted his or her story to the master storyteller. More tears were shed but they were more sweet than bitter. Many of the residents hadn’t spoken to other Cubans, besides themselves, who understood their predicament.

Before they said goodbye to one another, one of the residents dared Deedy to recite Cuba’s national anthem, sure that the longtime Americanized writer didn’t know it. Deedy met the Cuban woman’s challenge and began to sing. The residents couldn’t help but join in and soon they were all singing, some in tears once again.

Deedy performed to an almost-packed crowd of 228 on Friday night and received a standing ovation. I saw her at the Soggy Bottom Regatta the following day, taking in what final things she could of her native land before her plane took off.

“I want to come back,” Deedy said “I want to work with those high school kids... I want to teach those kids to tell stories because one of the things that I feel like they have to deal with - I know because I was a refugee - is a sense of displacement - of every where is home and nowhere is home. All of that carries with it a tremendous burden of story.”



ON THE DECK



Obamas host female submariners



By Lisa Daniel
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama yesterday welcomed the Navy’s first contingent of women submariners to the White House as part of a busy Memorial Day schedule.

The 24 young women visited the White House, along with Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta, Navy Secretary Ray Mabus, and Navy Adm. Mark Ferguson, vice chief of naval operations, as part of a “Joining Forces” initiative. The first lady and Dr. Jill Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden, started the Joining Forces campaign last year to rally Americans to honor, recognize and serve military families.

As part of the meeting, the first lady

accepted Mabus’ invitation to serve as the sponsor of the future USS Illinois (SSN 786), a Virginia-class submarine -- the Navy’s newest class of attack submarine -- being built in Groton, Connecticut and Newport News, Virginia. Illinois is expected to join the fleet in late 2015.

In sponsoring USS Illinois, Obama joins a tradition of first lady sponsorships of Navy submarines. First Lady Laura Bush is USS Texas’ (SSN 775) sponsor and christened it in 2004; First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton is USS Columbia’s (SSN 771) sponsor and christened it in 1994.

“As sponsor, the first lady will establish a special link to Illinois, her sailors, and their families that extends throughout the life of the submarine,” a White House press release

says.

“It’s an honor and a privilege to serve as sponsor of the USS Illinois,” the first lady said yesterday. “I’m always inspired by the service and sacrifice of the men and women of the Navy, as well as the families who support them. This submarine is a tribute to the strength, courage, and determination that our Navy families exhibit every day.”

“Naval tradition holds that a sponsor’s spirit and presence guide the ship and her crew throughout the life of the ship,” Mabus said. “Illinois and her crew are blessed to have such a wonderful sponsor and I am grateful Mrs. Obama accepted my invitation to serve as sponsor for this submarine.”

The first lady also serves as the sponsor for the recently commissioned Coast Guard Cutter Stratton, based in Alameda, Calif. The ship is named after Captain Dorothy Stratton, the director of the Coast Guard Women’s Reserve during World War II where she oversaw 10,000 enlisted women and 1,000 commissioned officers.

In 2009, Mabus announced that for the first time in U.S. Navy history, women would be assigned to the operational submarine force.

The 24 women who met with the president and first lady were accepted into the Navy’s nuclear submarine program after completing intensive training. They are serving on ballistic and guided missile submarines throughout the Navy.

JlATF reports success in aggressive counterdrug effort

By Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

KEY WEST, Fla. – The interdiction of a drug-trafficking speedboat carrying almost 5,000 pounds of cocaine with a street value of more than \$363 million played out like a motion-picture thriller.

The action followed a carefully choreographed script, from the moment U.S. Customs and Border Protection pilots spotted the speedboat El Kike on May 6 from their P-3 Orion aircraft. They passed the mission to USS Nicholas, a guided-missile frigate patrolling the region with an embarked U.S. Coast Guard law enforcement team. Nicholas dispatched a helicopter to track the speedboat,

while maneuvering into position to intercept. El Kike’s crew, recognizing their plight, jettisoned half of their cargo, then adjusted course and hit the throttle toward Colombia.

Nicholas followed, while calling on the USS McClusky, an Oliver Hazard Perry-class frigate, and the Colombian navy ship ARC 20 de Julio operating nearby for assistance. McClusky launched a helicopter to maintain surveillance, diverting El Kike it into Colombian territorial waters, where the Colombian navy intercepted it.

“With the help of some friends, we accomplished what we set out to do: disrupt the drug trade,” said Navy Cdr. Stephen Fuller, Nicholas’ commanding officer. “Interdictions are challenging, but with the help of

McClusky, [U.S.] Customs and the Colombian navy, we executed a successful operation.”

It was latest in a recent string of operational successes for the Joint Interagency Task Force South and its regional partners since they kicked off an aggressive counterdrug effort earlier this year.

Last year alone, JIATF South facilitated the interdiction of 117 metric tons of cocaine, Michel reported.

“We are the most efficient cocaine removal organization that I am aware of, by far,” Michel said. “The taxpayer gets a huge bang for the buck down here, through the interdiction of cocaine, the protection of our neighbors, the stability of the hemisphere and the protection of our citizens on the street.”

How to get spiritually fit

By Navy Capt. Bradley Thom,
JTF Command Chaplain

What shape are you in? How ‘fit’ are you? One of the most common objectives Troopers have when arriving in Guantanamo Bay is to get ‘fit.’ “I’m going to get in shape.” Or, “I want to be fit as a fiddle when I leave GTMO.” That is a pretty admirable goal, but let’s slice it and dice it.

In 2010 the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Adm. Mike Mullen, signed the CJCS Instruction on Total Force Fitness. In it, eight areas of Soldier Fitness are identified. They are social, environmental, medical, spiritual, psychological, behavioral, nutritional and physical. To be “in shape” and balanced one might consider all of these forms of fitness. For the purpose of this column the focus will be only on spiritual fitness.

How does one assess spiritual fitness? A couple of different readings might help us. For instance there is one reading that says, “He leads me beside still waters” depicting a serene and peaceful place in life. In that case someone would be spiritually fit and doing well. Another ancient reading suggests the opposite, “Out of the depths I cry to you.” That writer is calling out from a rather dark station in life. Like those writers we all have our times of joy, elation and peace. Going in the opposite direction, we can also encounter periods when we experience a significant amount of pain and anguish which in some instances may lead to despair and possibly anger. Rather than being “spiritually fit,” that person is

depleted and drained. Signs of that might be a lack of purpose, immoral behavior and disrespect of beliefs.

Chaplains cannot prescribe ibuprofen and tell their client life will be better tomorrow. Rather, chaplains and their enlisted associates are equipped to listen. They do so with complete confidentiality. You can talk with one of our uniformed professionals by visiting them or calling their office. By making the appointment to see a chaplain you’re taking a step toward spiritual

health. Following the appointment, you will be in a significantly improved station in life. While you may not find a religious experience among the host of services offered, discussing your particular situation with a chaplain will be helpful. So while you’re in GTMO give consideration to getting fit this year, not just physically but spiritually as well. Get acquainted with one of your JTF chaplains and allow them to guide you in your quest to get fit: spiritually fit.

What if you’re no rel pref?

By Army 1st Lt. Amelia Thatcher

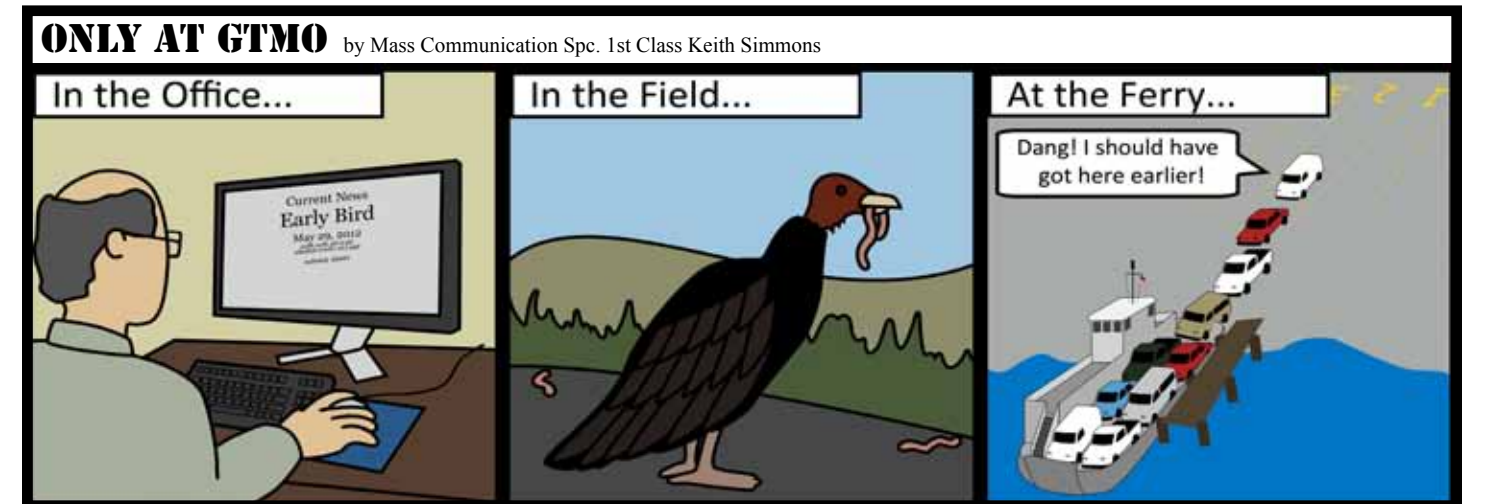
Chaplain services are available to all Troopers and members of the military, regardless of religious affiliation. However, as a young nonreligious Soldier I often felt left out from having this as a useful resource. It appeared to me that those of us who did not ascribe to any particular faith had fewer options should we ever have to seek counseling.

A few years prior to commissioning as an officer, I enlisted as a military police Soldier. This was at a time where the “surges” into Iraq were ramping up and our military occupational specialty was in high demand. In fact, Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) had to stand up an additional MP training battalion at Fort Leonard Wood to meet the need for MPs. While all of us new recruits were well treated and well taken care of, sometimes it seemed like the few hours of weekly religious services and “personal reflection time” weren’t viewed

as a priority. Even as I left the Military Police Corps for the officer “dark side” and public affairs, I still asked myself: would I ever be able to get the guidance I needed without the pressure of a particular religious angle?

The answer is an emphatic yes. Chaplains dispense spiritual advice, which doesn’t necessarily have to be religious. I soon learned I didn’t have to worry about discrimination against my abstention from a structured belief system, and could still discuss the intricacies of life without feeling like a conversion class was imminent.

I have found each and every one of Joint Task Force Guantanamo’s chaplains to be personable, receptive, tolerant, and open to discussion of all things, spiritual and temporal. They are an invaluable asset to the JTF. Every command across the military should be so lucky as to have a spiritual support staff so willing and able to assist service members from all faiths – or lack thereof.



PG-13
131 min.

BATTLESHIP



By Mass Communication Spc. 1st Class
Ty Bjornson

It never ceases to amaze me how Hollywood studios attempt to turn anything into a movie. This includes theme park attractions, toys, video games and board games. In the case of “Battleship,” it is the latter. Can a board game be successfully adapted into a full-length feature? A better question: when it comes to Hollywood taking your hard-earned dollar, does it really matter if the movie is good or not? I ask this rhetorically.

“Battleship,” budgeted at over \$200 million, has all the elements of a summer blockbuster movie. Many films like this can also tank and sink film studios. The recent box-office bomb “John Carter” fiscally hurt its studio, Disney, and resulted in the resignation of their studio head. I only bring this up to show you what “Battleship” is up against, and I’m not talking about aliens with missiles.

The characters of “Battleship,” like the film’s premise, are also set up like pieces on a board game grid. The movie opens with the gifted slacker Alex Hopper (Taylor Kitsch, “John Carter”) trying to impress the attractive Samantha Shane (Brooklyn Decker, “What to Expect When You’re Expecting”). She is the daughter of Admiral Shane (Liam Neeson, “The Dark Knight Rises”), the commander of the U.S. Navy Pacific Fleet and the boss of Alex’s brother Stone (Alexander Skarsgard, “True Blood”). In a last ditch effort to become productive, Alex is persuaded by his brother to join the U.S. Navy.

Fast forward a few years and Alex (referred to as “Hopper”) is the tactical officer onboard the destroyer USS John Paul Jones. He is still something of an embarrassment to Stone, who is now the commanding officer of the USS Sampson. While in preparation for the international joint fleet exercise RIMPAC (Rim of the Pacific), Hopper finds himself in hot water with Admiral Shane, and Hopper’s future in the Navy is in doubt.

Lo and behold, alien spacecrafts crash land in the Pacific Ocean, smack dab in the middle of the RIMPAC exercise! They are belligerent, with the intention of conquering Earth. The alien spacecraft generates a dome-like force field keeping outside interference away. Trapped inside the force field are a handful of ships from the RIMPAC exercise. They take action against the alien threat.

Hopper’s group decides to use weather buoys to track the underwater movements of the aliens with a grid. Hmmm, this tactic reminds me of a particular board game.

There are things in “Battleship” that do not make sense. I fail to understand why a raft with about three Navy personnel, under the protection of the gun-toting Gunner’s Mate 2nd Class Raikes (Rhianna), would speed over to an alien craft the size of 20 aircraft carriers to “assess” things. That’s like a mosquito visiting a heavily armed rhinoceros. Why anyone would leave the ship to do this and what they thought they could achieve is beyond me. What did I miss here? Also confusing me was why the alien ships land in the Pacific Ocean during RIMPAC. Why

didn’t they land in Washington D.C. or at the Kremlin or somewhere like that? It must have something to do with the satellite dishes in Hawaii that can broadcast into deep space. Oh. Well then, never mind...

Apart from likable characters and the main action, “Battleship” actually has a few nice sub-plots. The best one involves Samantha and the amputee Army Lt. Col. Canales (Gregory D. Gadson). He has mechanical legs and he is reluctant to learn how to use them. Samantha coerces him into a nature hike in rural Oahu when the alien invasion takes place. How he rises to the challenge of having to take on a reconnaissance mission to obtain information about the aliens and how he overcomes the adversity of his new handicap is nice to watch.

The original “Battleship” board game did not have aliens floating around the Pacific. It was a watered-down naval strategy game. My hunch is that for the film version, aliens became the bad guys for two reasons. Reason one: Aliens sell movie tickets. In the wake of the financial successes of the “Transformers” movies, making the baddies resemble and mimic the ones from “Transformers” guarantees teenage filmgoers will have a built in interest in “Battleship.” Reason two: It might not be politically correct to portray a given nation or other groups engaging in an all-out battle with the Pacific Fleet with the goal of world conquest. I should point out that “Battleship” could have been a period piece set during World War II, which would have

see MOVIE page 15

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been more naval and true to the board game. Oh wait, that might not generate the kind of ticket sales from the teens unless there are aliens on the screen. I guess I can rule out a post-GTMO career in movie marketing. There is a nifty tie-in to WWII during the last third of the movie which is definitely a crowd pleaser.

Director Peter Berg (“Friday Night Lights”) deserves credit for taking this material and making it as fun as possible for a screen adaptation. Still, the movie is nothing more than bubblegum. It is also funny to note that the leading man in this film is named Taylor Kitsch. The word “Kitsch” is a derogatory German word meaning tawdry, vulgarized, or pretentious art, literature, etc, usually with popular or sentimental appeal. I

think it’s ironic that Mr. Kitsch is the lead in both “Battleship” and “John Carter.” I’ll just leave it at that.

“Battleship” is only somewhat satisfying. I think the script and the editing needed one more polish. Though it is a light and breezy film, the clichés and formulas in it have been done better in other films. That and there are better “kitsches” out there.

**NAVSTA
Main Chapel**

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

Vigil Mass
Saturday 5 p.m.

Mass
Sunday 9 a.m.

General Protestant
Sunday 11 a.m.

Gospel Service
Sunday 1 p.m.

Christian Fellowship
Sunday 6 p.m.

**GTMO Religious
Services**

**JTF Trooper
Chapel**

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

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

LDS Service
Sunday 10 a.m.
Room A

Islamic Service
Friday 1 p.m.
Room C

**Intense Spiritual
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Study the Book of
Romans with
Chaplain Chouest
Thursdays 11-11:30 a.m.
JTF Command
Chaplain’s Office

Protestant Worship
Sunday 9 a.m.

Bible Study
Wednesday 6 p.m.

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

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

	1 FRI	2 SAT	3 SUN	4 MON	5 TUE	6 WED	7 THU
Downtown Lyceum	Men in Black III (NEW) (PG-13) 8 p.m. Cabin in the Woods (NEW) (R) 10 p.m.	No Movie: Stage prep for GTMO’s Got Talent Semifinals and Finals	No Movies: Enjoy GTMO’s Got Talent!	No Movie: Stage prep for “No Zebras, No Excuses” sexual assault awareness training	No Movie: “No Zebras, No Excuses” sexual assault awareness training	No Movie: “No Zebras, No Excuses” sexual assault awareness training	Lockout (NEW) (PG-13) 8 p.m.
Camp Bulkeley	Lockout (NEW) (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Men in Black III (NEW) (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Cabin in the Woods (NEW) (R) 8 p.m.	21 Jump Street (last showing) (R) 8 p.m.	John Carter (last showing) (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Battleship (PG-13) 8 p.m.	American Reunion (PG-13) 8 p.m.

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



*Navy Capt. Kirk R. Hibbert, commanding officer of Naval Station Guantanamo Bay and Cmdr. William Rabchenia, executive officer of Naval Station Guantanamo Bay honor the fallen during a Memorial Day Ceremony held at Cuzco Wells Cemetery.
-photo by Army Sgt. Saul Rosa*