

THE WIRE

A JTF Journal

One mission, over 20 commands

JLOTS in full swing

Fair winds, following seas

Rear Adm. Thomas departs JTF



An amazing organization

**Navy Master Chief Petty Officer
Scott A. Fleming**

JTF Guantanamo Command Master Chief

Joint Task Force Guantanamo is an amazing organization, made so primarily by the diligent, enduring efforts of Troopers who understand the mission and execute their roles in it to incredible precision. I believe most of you recognize at some level how thoroughly impressive the collective effort is, but I wonder how many of you actually take a minute to realize the integral part you play in making this machine move. There is undeniable value in widening your lens occasionally ... not to shift focus from your main target, but to capture the essence of your contribution to a phenomenal time and place.

We do an amazing job concentrating on the wolf closest to our wagons – whether it's eliminating a hostile threat, walking a tier or procuring supplies. Training and service doctrine dictate that basic tasks, more than any other aspect of the operation, define success and failure. However, the challenge of interoperability demands an appreciation for the capabilities everyone brings to the fight. This is not exclusively the domain of senior officers gathered around some strategic round-table – it applies to all service members from E-1 to O-10. I'm not suggesting that everyone needs to commit any joint publications to memory; only that you seek an awareness of the assets around you, and identify opportunities to fortify the seams.

How many of you have had the chance to attend the daily Battle Update Brief? It is a fascinating venue. Every move, every third-order effect, every factor in virtually every equation that plays out across the JTF is discussed and dissected before it plays out in the camps. No decisions are made without due consideration for all stakeholders ... you, your battle buddy, detainees, the Joint Task Force, our nation. Yes, some decisions do impact your daily routine, but none are made arbitrarily or absent of meticulous regard for their consequences. It is the consummate example of partnership.

This comes back to knowing the warriors on your left and your right, and to appreciating your part in a bigger picture. Many of you will ascend to fantastic levels of authority and responsibility in your services or organizations. Each promotion will take you a step closer to planning and executing missions that involve colleagues from other components, branches or countries. Here and now, you're already immersed in just such an environment ... countless moving pieces relying on each others' strengths to create an enterprise steeped in integrity, efficiency and transparency.

What attributes do you bring to the JTF that your counterparts and leadership can leverage? Unarguably, good order and discipline stand as the most essential hallmarks we should all strive to embody and instill in our teammates. But, what about service, culture and traditions, technical proficiencies, collaborative energy, or plain old camaraderie? All of those components serve as tangible force multipliers, strengthen our readiness, and perhaps most importantly, solidify the pride you can take to bed every night.

You are part of a legacy ... enjoy the ride ... and continue to do great things. 🎖️



JTF GUANTANAMO

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Navy Rear Adm. David M. Thomas, Jr.

Commander (incoming):

Navy Rear Adm.
Thomas "Tom" H. Copeman III

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Navy Master Chief Petty Officer
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COVER:

**Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class
Brandon Rowe, an equipment
operator with Amphibious
Construction Battalion Two, sets
up a harness used to lift a pontoon
section during the Joint Logistics
Over the Shore exercise, June 9.**

– JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy
Petty Officer 2nd Class Greg Pierot



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. The WIRE seeks to provide maximum disclosure with minimum delay with regards to security, accuracy, propriety and policy. 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 the Document Automation & Production Service with a circulation of 1,000.

Mission complete

■ *JTF Commander passes the baton and reflects on his time at Guantanamo Bay*

**Army Staff Sgt.
Emily J. Russell**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Joint Task Force Guantanamo bids ‘fair winds and following seas’ to Navy Rear Adm. David M. Thomas Jr. in a ceremony held June 19.

With over a year serving as the JTF Commander, Thomas has made significant changes addressing mission critical elements.

“I decided after a couple weeks here that I had three focus areas – security, Trooper quality of service and strategic communication,” Thomas said.

He explained each focus area, emphasizing the importance of safeguarding the JTF from external and internal threat, taking good care of Troopers to ensure they have the “quality training, tools and time they need to do their job correctly,” all while clearly communicating our mission – locally and globally – so everyone understands the direction and mission of the JTF.

“If our Troopers aren’t well taken care of, on and off duty, then the whole mission falls apart,” Thomas said. “They are my main battery; I want to make sure they have balance in their lives.”

One of the challenges Thomas has faced during his tenure was presenting the JTF to the public in a way that clearly communicated the JTF mission and intention.

“The biggest challenge we face is making people believe there is nothing nefarious going on here,” Thomas explained. “In the end, we’re just Americans running an American detention facility safely and humanely, exactly the way the American people would like us to run it.”

According to Thomas, the most important mission now is to keep the conditions of detention out of the debate that rages back home and on the world stage.

“What should we do with the detainees?” Thomas asked rhetorically. “We’ve had some recent movement of the detainees from GTMO and while those policy questions are debated back home, what should we do with the ones who we don’t feel are safe to transfer, or how do we prosecute the ones that we want to bring to justice? Where

should we resettle the [remaining detainees]?”

“We continue to safely and humanely provide the custody of the detainees while they’re here and let the president, congress, the judicial [branch] and citizens come to the proper conclusions and solutions to those policy questions,” Thomas emphasized.

With the “very complex dynamics that go on within the camps,” Thomas’ work to refine the JTF mission has been on-going.

“We’re never done, we continue to refine the plan,” he said. “As things evolve, I discovered some things weren’t as challenging and complex as I thought, and some things were a little more daunting. We always adjust. When I got here, I talked to my predecessor and the various commands that work for the JTF; our mission has evolved over time and it was important to ensure there’s a common understanding [across the JTF].”

Starting at ground-zero, and analyzing some of the base documents are what helped Thomas form his missions and recast it in three simple phrases.

“Mission one [is] our fundamental mission – the safe, humane, legal and transparent care and custody of the detainees,” Thomas said. “Mission two is intelligence collection and the assessment and dissemination to support law enforcement and the Global War on Terror, as well as our force protection here inside the wire, and the detainees themselves. Finally, our third mission is to support the Office of Military Commissions.”

Defining these missions was a very important aspect of Thomas’ job. Simplifying the mission allowed everyone to understand the purpose of our presence here.

With the missions outlined, Thomas and



Outgoing Joint Task Force Guantanamo Commander, Navy Rear Adm. David M. Thomas Jr. – JTF Guantanamo command photo

the members of JTF Guantanamo could make an assessment of the people, training programs, infrastructure and other activities associated with the organization and assess whether they map directly to the mission areas.

“Everyone who serves here serves with honor,” Thomas said. “Being able to assure them that the world will understand what we do is very important to me.”

As Thomas prepares to move on to his next command, he does so with appreciation of the achievements JTF Troopers made throughout the past year.

“I’m extraordinarily humbled by the wonderful work everyone here does, every day,” Thomas emphasized. “I have a great team. I’ve been leading people my entire adult life and I’ve never been so proud to be associated with a group of people and a mission set like we have here. The achievements are not mine; they belong to the people who always rise to the occasion at JTF GTMO.”

Thomas’ next assignment will take him to Norfolk, Va., where he will assume command of an aircraft carrier strike group, Carrier Strike Group 2.

“I get to go back to sea,” Thomas said smiling. “I’m a Sailor and I can’t wait to go back to sea.” ☆



JLOTS; a unique capability

Petty Officer 3rd Class Joshua McGrowan, with the Amphibious Construction Battalion Two, welds a 24-inch pile. The pile will help support the pier that is being constructed during the JLOTS exercise. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Michael Baltz

**Army Sgt.
Michael Baltz**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The Department of Defense integrates military services to successfully complete operations such as Joint Logistics Over the Shore, bringing Navy and Army commands together for the annual exercise. This year the exercise is being conducted at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay.

The mission of JLOTS is to test the capabilities of the transportation command. The capability that JLOTS has is unlike any other throughout the world.

“JLOTS has the ability to move cargo, whether it is combat equipment or humanitarian aide, from a strategic vessel to shore,” said Army Lt. Col. Terry Draper, JLOTS deputy commander.

The JLOTS team, conducting exercises during June, is unloading storage containers from the SS Cornhusker State.

“We have more than 220 containers on board,” Draper explained. “We are simulating movement from the ship to shore.”

The ability to rapidly move cargo from a ship to the shore is a critical aspect in successful military operations. When the ship cannot reach the shore, operations become difficult.

“The ability of JLOTS is critical because it augments the time in which the military can respond,” Draper stated. “The capability expedites things a lot quicker.”

If a natural disaster occurs, JLOTS is able to work toward supporting the area within 48 hours.

“It is a well-planned system,” said Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Brandon Rowe, a crane operator with Amphibious Construction Battalion Two. “It is valuable [to] get stuff from ship to shore with ease.”

JLOTS has constructed a pier that reaches into the harbor. Here, a crane can unload cargo and place it onto the shore. This task not only ensures operations are done in a timely manner; it also conducts the mission on a larger scale.

JTF Guantanamo has assisted JLOTS and works with NAVSTA, which is the host command. Both commands have helped to ensure the JLOTS exercise is a success through transportation and operations support. Last year, JLOTS’ annual exercise was hosted at Camp Pendleton, Calif. and will continue next year in South Korea.

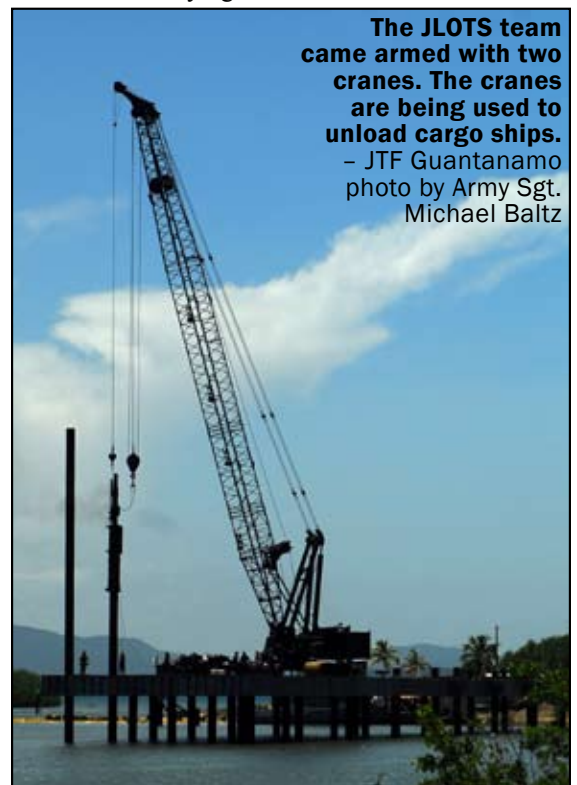
“We have worked really hard to be integrated,” said Navy Capt. Paul Webb, JLOTS commander. “JTF and NAVSTA have been a big help. It only took a few hours for me to get the proper badges and to get everything up and running.”

When working with multiple commands and services, coordination and dedication are extremely important.

“In a joint environment, initiative is paramount to successful operations,” said Army Capt. Shane Lauritzen, Joint Task Force Guantanamo engineering deputy director.

There are more than 20 commands supporting the JLOTS mission. The commands include Navy and Army construction and transportation commands with more than 520 service members.

“[Troopers] have been working extremely hard through the heat and rain,” Draper stated. “They are doing a great job and staying safe.” ☆



The JLOTS team came armed with two cranes. The cranes are being used to unload cargo ships.

– JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Michael Baltz

FOIA provides transparency for the JTF

■ *Civilian contractors respond to information requests*

**Army Sgt. 1st Class
Michael Gholston**
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay is comprised of many elements that may not be apparent in a transparent and seamless environment. Demographics include U.S. Army and Navy military units as well as numerous government agencies and local support departments. In essence, the Joint Task Force is comparable to any city where government infrastructure is the framework that provides cohesion and guidance to achieve objectives.

One of the departments at JTF Guantanamo that is key to mission transparency researches Freedom of Information Act requests. The FOIA office is headed by Mr. Phillip Reilly who returned to Guantanamo after retiring from the Puerto Rico National Guard last year.

“I first arrived April 14, 2007, as a mobilized Army National Guard Judge Advocate General officer. I was basically working with attorneys who were coming to Guantanamo Bay to see detainees. After retiring, I made the decision to come back to head the FOIA office last December.”

Since returning as a civilian, he has handled over 150 FOIA requests that must be expediently processed through numerous channels. When a FOIA request is received, Reilly must determine which divisions might have pertinent information regarding a particular client. Once this is done, he compiles and indexes the documents that are forwarded to U.S. Army Southern Command.

“After all the documents are sent to SOUTHCOM, they are responsible for sending the information to the requestor in the Department of Defense who finally delivers it to the attorney who requested it,” stated Reilly.

The entire FOIA process can be timely, but the initial request must be responded to within a specified time period.

“According to the law we have 20 days to comply,” Reilly explained. “In reality the 20 days are just enough time to reply and say we have information. We will tell the requestor that we have so many pages of documents and give them an estimate of how long the request may take to process.”

Then, it is up to the FOIA requestor to continue with, or not seek further assistance because some requests can involve hundreds and possibly thousands of pages that must be redacted prior to their release. And the cost of this censoring is passed off to the requestor in the form of a written estimate.

Each division or section must redact all of their requested documents. Additionally, if FOIA finds documents that belong to other government agencies, they have to be referred to them for redaction and eventual disclosure.

Working behind the scenes at the FOIA office is a former U.S. Navy yeoman who served on active duty at the JTF Intelligence



Operations Facility from February 2006 through August 2007. As the Assistant FOIA Manager Randy Cothram is responsible for all the systems required to support the facilitation of the mission.

“After receiving the tracker request from SOUTCOM, I am responsible for delegating this down to the unit level and then coordinating status updates for the FOIA manager,” said Cothram.

He also is responsible for coordination with the JTF Staff Judge Advocate’s office as well as handling all computer issues to include scanners, software and hardware support.

Cothram’s formula for success is simple, “I just prioritize to get the job done.”

This year the JTF FOIA office has already received approximately 98 requests, as compared to last year, where approximately 160 requests were processed.

“One of the reasons for the increased requests this year is the announcement of the closure of the detention facilities,” Reilly said. “Another reason is that attorneys want to get as much information as they can before going to court...they use FOIA as part of their discovery process.” ☆

One of the reasons for the increased requests this year is the announcement of the closure of the detention facilities.

– Mr. Phillip Reilly



An MWR maintenance crew works on the batting cages that are scheduled to open July 4. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Michael Baltz



An MWR maintenance worker cuts a pipe as he works on the batting cages. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Michael Baltz

**Army Sgt.
Michael Baltz**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Batting cages will soon be completed at G.J. Denich Gym as Morale, Welfare and Recreation services continue to enhance life for Joint Task Force Guantanamo and Naval Station Guantanamo Bay Troopers.

On July 4, the batting cages are expected to open for everyone to enjoy.

“We started the batting cage project about four years ago,” said MWR director Craig Basel. “It is a lengthy process to acquire the equipment and funding to do the renovation.”

Prices for the batting cage have yet to be set, but will be low-cost for everyone on base.

“The money will go directly back to the batting cages,” Basel explained.

The batting cages, which are being constructed by an MWR maintenance crew, are a unique design. They have a dual pitching machine for each of the five stations. Batters can have a hard ball or softball pitched to them.

“The batting cages are [intended] to improve the hitting skills for those who are avid softball and baseball players,” said Karissa Sandstorm, MWR fitness director.

“It is good recreation and a good way to relieve stress,” Basel added.

Troops are looking forward to it opening.

“I am extremely excited about the batting cages,” Air Force Staff Sgt. Aaron Rule said. “It gives those who are willing to work on batting the opportunity to develop better batting habits.”

MWR is also working toward developing soccer cages, which are similar to the batting cages.

“People will be able to deposit money into the machine, then it will kick a ball to the player, and it is the player’s job to kick it into the goal,” Basel said. “It is to maintain soccer skills and foot skills.”

The construction of the soccer cages is expected to start in early August and they will be located across from the batting cages. 🍀



Another fantastic “Night at the Museum”

**Army Sgt.
Emily Greene**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

What do Egyptian pharaohs, Roman warriors, Abe Lincoln and Amelia Earhart have in common? Why, the Smithsonian, of course!

“Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian” picks up where the first “Night at the Museum” left off. Directed by Shawn Levy, the movie opens with Larry Daley (Ben Stiller) selling glow-in-the-dark flashlights on infomercials. His nighttime adventures at New York’s American Museum of Natural History are a thing of the past since he turned in his guard uniform for a business suit and BlackBerry. However, when his old friends find themselves in trouble after being shipped to Washington he comes to their rescue.

Stiller’s character is a bit more subdued than in the first “Night at the Museum,” leading the viewer to wonder just what makes him so calm in the face of warriors from the dead and a gigantic octopus. However, with so many larger-than-life characters sharing one big screen, Stiller provides the balance needed to maintain order amidst chaos.

The conjuring of so many museum artifacts (many of them actually on display in the Smithsonian) is delightful and often ingenious. Robin Williams makes his appearance as the beloved Teddy Roosevelt, always at hand with good



advice. Owen Wilson and Steve Coogan are back as Jedediah and Octavius, two miniature warriors from different epochs. There are bobble-headed Einsteins, a giant marble Abraham Lincoln, Gen. George Custer (Bill Hader) and a variety of classic paintings, sculptures and photographs.

A memorable performance is given by Amy Adams as Amelia Earhart, the pert red-headed comedic heroine who teaches Stiller a valuable lesson about enjoying life. Her delightful portrayal of the aviation great is energetic and captivating.

Hank Azaria plays a fictitious pharaoh named Kahmunrah, the film’s antagonist. In his effort to take over the world through the use of a magical tablet; the same tablet responsible for the nighttime capers of museum inhabitants. With a heavy British lisp and hilariously dramatic delivery, Azaria keeps Stiller on his toes while maintaining control of villains like Al Capone and Ivan the Terrible.

The plot is somewhat disappointing, in that the original story of father and son reconnecting over their nocturnal museum shenanigans falls by the wayside of the colorful interactions between historical sidekicks. While cute capuchins in a slapping contest are entertaining, the story lacks depth.

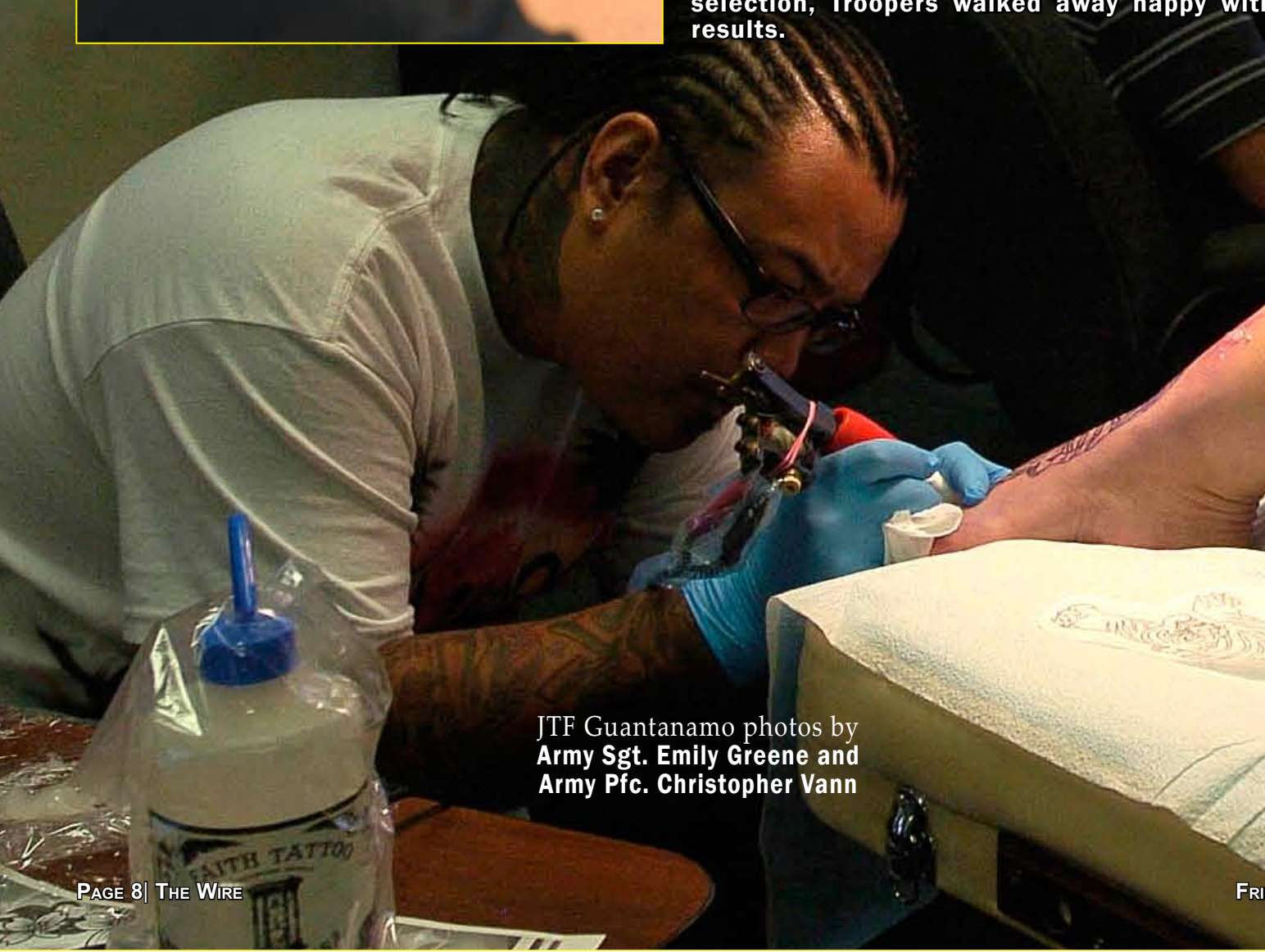
Just as the original “Night at the Museum” reportedly increased attendance at New York’s American Museum of Natural History, so should this sequel make the whole compliment of Smithsonian museums extremely popular among youngsters and adults alike. ★

PG
105 minutes
Rating: ★★☆☆☆

GTMO GETS INKED



This month, Troopers from around GTMO were given a unique body art experience by traveling tattoo artists Tyler, Rich, El Guapo, Miho and Leo. The visiting artists were sponsored by Morale, Welfare and Recreation and provided custom tattoos to service members from Joint Task Force Guantanamo and Naval Station Guantanamo Bay. Requests ran the full range of possibilities; from family names to mythical creatures. No matter the selection, Troopers walked away happy with the results.



JTF Guantanamo photos by Army Sgt. Emily Greene and Army Pfc. Christopher Vann



Tyler works on a tattoo for Army Spc. Brandon Little, Joint Task Force Guantanamo, during the artist's visit here. Little had Tyler tattoo "weight of the world" on his shoulders.



Rich works on a back piece for Marine Lance Cpl. Mario Castro, Marine Corps Security Force Company, this month during the week-long workshop.

Celebrating the Army's birthday

**Army Spc.
Cody Black**
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

It's a scene you won't find in many places throughout the world – Army Soldiers celebrating their service's birthday with members of all the armed forces in attendance.

Soldiers attached to Joint Task Force Guantanamo celebrated the Army's 234th birthday – complete with an enthusiastic rendition of the Army Song – alongside Sailors, Airmen, Coast Guardsmen and the Marines at the Seaside Galley, June 12.

The ceremony started off with a moment of silence remembering those who made the ultimate sacrifice for the freedoms of our country, followed by a benediction from Army Capt. Scott Brill, the Joint Detention Group chaplain.

Army Brig. Gen. Rafael O'Ferrall, JTF Guantanamo deputy commander, launched the celebration with a speech on the Army's distinctive service throughout the years, saying the mission conducted by Soldiers here is just as important as any operation in the Army's long history.

Sam Scott, Pentad Corp. assistant project manager, helped set up preparations for the birthday lunch.

"I like helping out anybody in uniform – Army, Coast Guard, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps – by doing something different on their special day," Scott said.

The event concluded with a cake-cutting ceremony with O'Ferrall, the most senior-ranking Soldier present, and Army Pvt. Levi Arrowood, the most junior Soldier present, to symbolize the past and the future of the Army's history, traditions and heritage.

This year's birthday coincides with the Army's Year of the Non-Commissioned Officer campaign that strives to recognize the important contributions of NCOs throughout the Army.

Army Command Sgt. Maj. Gary Fowler, with the Joint Detention Group, explained that the Year of the Non-Commissioned Officer shows appreciation to NCOs who serve as the backbone of the Army. Since the very beginning, NCOs continue to carry out old and new traditions, while upholding values and developing the new Soldiers enlisting today.

In 234 years, the Army has been involved in 10 wars, beginning with the American Revolution, continuing through the Cold War and now engaged in the on-going Global War on Terrorism.

The actual birth date, June 14, 1775 – more than a year before the Declaration of Independence – is celebrated by all components of the Army, including the U.S. Army Reserve and Army National Guard. ★



Army Brig. Gen. Rafael O'Ferrall, deputy commander of JTF Guantanamo, and Army Pvt. Levi Arrowood with the 525th Military Police Battalion, prepare to cut a cake in celebration of the Army's 234th birthday, June 12, at Seaside Galley. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Cody Black



Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay service members gather to celebrate the Army's 234th birthday at Seaside Galley, June 12. All service members joined together in the singing of the Army song "The Army Goes Rolling Along." – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Cody Black



Rich Green, one of the visiting artists, tattoos the back of Marine Lance Cpl. Mario Castro, Marine Corps. Security Force Company, Naval Station Guantanamo Bay. - JTF Guantanamo Photo by Army Sgt. Emily Greene

GTMO INK

Army Sgt. Emily Greene

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Tattoos mean different things to different people. From marks of family allegiance to a way to express an individual spirit, tattoos can be seen sported openly or hidden away from public view. This month, service members at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay were provided a rare opportunity to get their very own tattoo while serving here.

Morale, Welfare and Recreation sponsored “Tattoos by: Tyler, Rich, El Guapo, Miho & Leo,” a group of tattoo artists from Massachusetts and Colorado who get together once a year to provide tattoos to Troopers at Guantanamo Bay.

Tyler Green and his brother, Rich, have become regular visitors to Guantanamo Bay. They say they enjoy being able to provide their unique services to Troopers at GTMO.

“I’m given the opportunity to help provide a form of stress release for the service members here,” said Tyler. “If they can come to us and spend an hour or two getting tattooed, it is an hour of escape from anything else going on in their lives and the stresses of their job.”

Rich said when he first came to Guantanamo Bay, he expected to do a lot of military-themed tattoos. He said he was surprised to discover otherwise.

“I get the same variety of requests here as I do in the States. There isn’t the expected GTMO or military type of tattoo requested. People want anything from symbols that mean something to them personally, family names or meaningful quotes,” said Rich.

Larry Close is an advanced research technologist with the Joint Intelligence Group, Joint Task Force Guantanamo. He said every tattoo he has is significant to him. The wild cat he had tattooed on his chest

by the visiting artists is made even more unforgettable because he was able to have it done here at GTMO.

“I always say you should get a tattoo you really like; something meaningful to you. It is something you will have to look at for the rest of your life,” Close said.

Army Spc. Brandon Little, a guard with the 525th Military Police Battalion, had “Weight of the World” tattooed on his shoulders.

“All of my tattoos are memorable for me. I can look at my tattoos and they make me think about what is important to me,” said Little.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Nichole Harden, a guard with JTF, received a tattoo of a tiger on her foot, done by El Guapo.

“I’ve been wanting this tattoo for a long time. It makes it even more cool to get it done here in Cuba,” said Harden.

Lance Cpl. Mario Castro, Marine Corps Security Force Company, Naval Station Guantanamo Bay said he had gotten some surprised looks while Rich was tattooing his last name across his back.

“It makes people do a double-take here sometimes. I really like the way my tattoo turned out, but I underestimated the pain. It will be an experience I always remember,” Castro said.

Miho said that while he is in Guantanamo Bay he provides twice the number

of tattoos he does in a normal day at home in Colorado.

“It is worth all the hard work, though. It is an honor to be able to do this for the Troops here,” Miho said.

The entire artistic team said they enjoyed being able to provide their unique services to GTMO Troopers. They said they were already looking forward to future trips to Guantanamo Bay.

“This has been another great experience. Hopefully everyone enjoys their new tattoos and the memories that come along with them,” Tyler said. ☆



Army Spc. Brandon Little, 525th MP Battalion, JTF, sits still as Tyler Green tattoos his shoulders. - JTF Guantanamo Photo by Army Sgt. Emily Greene



Quiet Riot

Members of the 480th Military Police Company conduct riot training, June 16. The MP's maintain their skills by practicing fundamental drills and techniques specific to their mission. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Pfc. Christopher Vann



Before You Tell it to Your Inspector General

Your IG: LTC Acevedo
LCDR Van Poots
Phone: 8339 / 3489

- * Be Sure you have a problem, not just a peeve.
- * Give your chain of command a chance to solve the problem.
- * If IG assistance is needed, contact your local IG first.
- * Be honest and don't provide misleading information.
- * IGs are not policy makers.
- * IGs 'recommend,' and don't order resolution.
- * IGs resolve your case on the basis of facts.
- * Don't expect instant action on your request...Be patient.
- * Be prepared to take "NO" for an answer.

To complain without fear of reprisal is the right of any Soldier, Sailor, Airman, Marine, Coast Guardsman, Civilian, or family member seeking IG help. Problem solving is one of the IG's primary missions.

GTMO Rock Star

**Air Force Staff Sgt.
Brian A. Wright**

474th ECES Contributing Writer

As Army Sgt. Daniel Jaggie strums comfortably at his guitar and sings absorbing melodies into the microphone, the audience is often found entranced with the music – tapping their feet and bobbing their heads – every Sunday night on the patio of O’Kelly’s Irish Pub for “Sunday Night Sit-In with Daniel Jaggie.” Jaggie, a member of Joint Task Force Guantanamo’s 525th Military Police Battalion preventive medicine, has been performing there during the last three months.

Just this month, Jaggie was one of seven Soldiers selected from the entire Army, National Guard and Reserve force to perform with the USA Express Band, a highly deployable and mobile traveling band.

The band, produced by the U.S. Army Entertainment Division, travels throughout the United States and abroad, touring remote military installations, training sites and isolated combat contingency areas. The group is comprised of Army active duty, National Guard and Reserve musicians and singers chosen for their outstanding military performance, attitude, musical ability and versatility.

Jaggie learned about the tryouts from military.com.

“Since then, I was determined to make it into the USA Express [Band],” Jaggie said.

With more than 12 years of guitar playing under his belt, Jaggie immediately put his package together. In addition to the paper work, requests and waivers, Jaggie produced a live recording DVD covering five popular songs which the band plays while on tour.

“I [recorded] a DVD that was made at Camp Justice with [two members of the 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron] Tech. Sgt. Greg Reiss on drums and Staff Sgt. Adam Hensley on bass,” Jaggie said. “You can see the videos on YouTube – just look up my name.”

Jaggie knew he was selected to join the Army elite after receiving an official e-mail from the non-commissioned officer-in-charge of the USA Express Band.

“I ran to the next office and jumped up on my officer-in-charge’s desk screaming, ‘I made it, I’m out of here!’” Jaggie exclaimed.

For the next three-and-a-half months, Jaggie will tour the United States, Asia, Europe and Africa.

“I’m especially excited to see Africa during my tour,” he said.

“I’ve always [been busy with] work or school, so it’s going to be nice to be able to concentrate on playing music without any distractions. Now, playing music will be my only priority.”

Reflecting on his musical career, Jaggie has a hard time pointing to a specific musician who influenced him the most.

“It is hard to say really, it just started out as a hobby and it is [about] my own personal desire for excellence and perfection,” he said.

Sitting with Jaggie and listening to him describe his career in the Army, as well as a musician, reveals that he knows



Army Sgt. Daniel Jaggie plucks his guitar for the last time on GTMO before he tours with the Army USA Express Band. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Brian A. Wright

there is a fine line between arrogance and confidence.

“I’m always the first to point out my own mistakes and flaws, and then try to build from there,” Jaggie said. “I hope to get some exposure, make connections and get my name out there; I can’t wait to see the world.”

To follow Jaggie during his tour with USA Express, visit his two fan-based Web sites at Danieljaggie.com and myspace.com/danieljaggiemusic. ♡

Boots on the Ground

by Army Sgt. 1st Class Steven Rougeau

What does Father’s Day mean to you?

Army Sgt. Ricardo Ortiz-Espada



“It’s a very special day to me, remembering my father for everything he taught me.”

Army Sgt. Jose Rojas



“Just being together with family.”

Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Garrett Coppin



“It’s a day to recognize my father for all the guidance he has given me.”

Air Force Maj. Robert Sullivan



“Father’s Day is a special day set aside to thank my Heavenly Father for giving me an earthly father.”



Where is my dad?

**Air Force Maj.
Robert L. Sullivan**
Deputy Command Chaplain

I asked myself the question, “Where is my dad?” for many years. My mother was a single parent with six children. My father divorced her when I was three years old – I didn’t remember my father when he left. I had no image of him in any of my memories. I recall asking my mom and others, “How did my dad look?” They would say, “Look in the mirror, you look just like him.” This angered me – they didn’t seem to feel my pain.

I wanted a father in my life, just like my cousins and other kids had. Throughout my childhood and early teens, I longed to know my dad, but he was never to be found. I was angry and bitter because he never tried to find me. I only knew a few people on his side of the family, and they didn’t know where he was.

Thank God that I met my Heavenly

Father. When I was 12 years old, I received the Lord Jesus Christ as my Savior. I began a relationship with my Heavenly Father through Him. The Lord reminded me that He loved me, and that I was His son. God provided for my needs and gave me encouragement. He also gave me spiritual dads who helped teach me His word, and what it means to be a man of God.

My mother eventually saw my father one day while in the commissary at Fort McPherson, Ga. Not only had my dad joined the Army, but he now lived up the street from us, and I didn’t know it. When I was a sophomore in high school, I finally met my father for the first time that I could remember. He probably thought it was an accident that he reunited with my mother while shopping, but I believe it was the hand of God – a divine appointment.

Dad never told me that my grandfather was alive. I felt cheated out of a relationship with my grandfather, because I learned about

him only after he passed. Nevertheless, God gave me special grandparents on my mother’s side of the family, who helped raise me. They modeled the love of God in our home. They taught me how to love in spite of painful relationships. They taught me to still love my father despite his neglect.

God did a miracle in my heart and I forgave my dad and began developing a relationship with him. After many bumps in the road and other set-backs over the years, we are friends for life!

God has blessed me with my lovely wife, Anita, and three sons: Robert III, Phillip and Stephen. Now I am a dad and a grandfather. I pray “Lord help me to be the husband and father that You will have me to be.” I love my wife and my sons. And yes, I love my dad too. He is not perfect, neither am I, but I still call him dad. My Heavenly Father gave me grace and taught me how to love and forgive my earthly father. I thank God and honor my father. ✨

JTF CHAPEL SCHEDULED PROGRAMS

Catholic Mass

Sunday: 7 a.m. Confession
7:30 a.m. Mass

Spanish Catholic Mass

Sunday: 5 p.m.
at NAVSTA Chapel

Protestant Worship

Sunday: 9 a.m.

Spanish Protestant Worship

Sunday: 11 a.m.

Bible Study

Sunday: 6 p.m.

Wednesday: 7 p.m.

**West Point
Cadet Carson
Williams and
Army Capt.
Frank Williams
Jr., a member of
Joint Task Force
Guantanamo,
were reunited
during Frank's
deployment. –
JTF Guantanamo
photo by Army
Staff Sgt.
Emily J. Russell**



Rare opportunity, unlikely location

**Army Staff Sgt.
Emily J. Russell**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

For most families, deployments mean time apart with little opportunity to spend time together – if any. However, for one lucky father and son, a deployment to Cuba and a summer job-shadow program is what brought them together – for the first time in over three years.

Army Capt. Frank Williams Jr., a judge advocate general with Joint Task Force Guantanamo Staff Judge Advocate, and his son, West Point Cadet Carson Williams, are finally getting to spend quality time together, professionally and personally.

“He and I have always been very close,” Frank said about his relationship with his son. “We lived in a small town and were pretty much together all the time. I never missed any of his [high school] football or basketball games. [Since] he went to New York and I went to Iraq, we haven’t seen each other for more than six days in the last three-and-a-half years.”

Frank, who re-commissioned into the Army during Carson’s senior year of high school, spent half of the year attending training in Louisiana.

“I didn’t see him during the second semester of my senior year of high school because he was away,” Carson said.

Unfortunately, this was just the beginning of their time apart.

“For my entire freshman and sophomore year in college, I didn’t see him because he left for Iraq,” he continued. “Going into my junior year, we managed to arrange a few days to spend together during the summer of 2008, but we didn’t have much time.”

“I was on orders to come to GTMO last fall and got a chance to attend the Army and Air Force football game with my son,” Frank said. “That was October, 2008.”

After a couple days together, duty called and Frank reported to Guantanamo Bay.

As a cadet now entering his junior year at West Point, Carson had a summer internship to think about, which would take place the following summer, before he entered his senior year.

“My dad asked me, ‘What would you think about coming to [Guantanamo] for your summer detail?’” Carson said. “We worked it out and the officer-in-charge of summer details at West Point told me I needed a letter of approval from my father and the [JTF commander], asking for me by name.”

“They put some pretty serious requirements [in place] for [Carson] to come down here for his summer internship,” Frank said. “We worked through [Navy] Cmdr. [Don] Martin, [SJA director], and he talked with [JTF Commander, Navy] Rear Adm. [David] Thomas, and within a couple weeks, they approved everything. We were shocked and surprised that we were able to do it.”

Within a few weeks, Carson arrived in

Guantanamo Bay. Half his time has been spent job-shadowing the platoon leaders and working with the 193rd Military Police Company and the other half with his father, learning about his job as a Staff Judge Advocate.

“For the past three years, we’ve e-mailed each other and [my dad has] always said, ‘I just can’t tell you about it, you have to see what I do,’” Carson explained. “This opportunity has given me the chance to understand how everything comes together, especially in a joint environment.”

The summer internship program is intended to expose cadets to the various branches – or corps – the Army offers. Upon graduation, each cadet chooses which branch he or she would like to enter.

“I have about four months to decide which branch I’d like to choose,” Carson said. “At West Point they mostly expose you to infantry [corps]. As far as [military police corps or adjutant general corps], I really don’t know. I can definitely see myself in either branch, but I’m still undecided.”

The experience hasn’t been all work. During off-duty hours, Frank and Carson have spent a lot of time catching up.

“We go running together, hit the gym and spend a lot of time talking,” Frank said. “We’ve laughed more in the last week than we have in a long, long time. I really can’t describe how enjoyable it’s been for me to have my son here.” 🌟



Troopers construct a pier during the Joint Logistics Over the Shore annual exercise, June 17. The operation includes more than 20 commands and support from Joint Task Force Guantanamo and Naval Station Guantanamo Bay. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Michael Baltz



Around the

JTF



Air Force Tech. Sgt Emilio Martinez and Air Force Tech. Sgt Kevin Maier, electricians assigned to the 163rd Civil Engineer Squadron, put in wiring for 17 electricity receptacles, June 10. The 163rd CES is on orders to conduct training in support of Joint Task Force Guantanamo. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Pfc. Christopher Vann



Army Reserve Senior Enlisted Leader, Command Sgt. Maj. Leon Caffie speaks to Army, Air Force and Navy Troopers at the Camp America Chapel. Caffie lauded GTMO's combined reserve and guard forces for working outside the traditional roles for which were originally trained. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Richard Wolff