

The WIRE

Dueling pianos

Troopers' eyes are smiling after St. Patrick's Day show



Aiming high

Coast Guardsmen conduct weapons training in mission to protect JTF

Trooper Focus: *The fastest man in GTMO*

COMMAND CORNER

BRIG. GEN. JAMES LETTKO

DEPUTY COMMANDER, JOINT TASK FORCE GUANTANAMO

As we work through the busy month of March, we have much to look forward to. These next several weeks will be very busy here at Joint Task Force Guantanamo on many different fronts.

This month, we can say thank you for a job well done to our Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion (NEGB), which will depart us after many years of dedicated service to our mission and our great nation. The NEGB was comprised of active and reserve sailors from throughout the fleet who came to perform a very important detention mission and, in most cases, perform out of their regular rating. The NEGB was recently relieved in place by the 191st Military Police Company.

A few weeks ago, we saw the relief in place of our Joint Medical Group. Our Quebec wave departed after performing its mission in a superior manner during their nine-month rotation. Our current Romeo wave took over and has had several weeks to learn and develop in performing its critical mission.

This week, we see a lot of new faces as the 177th Military Police Brigade Headquarters deployed to relieve the 191st Regional Support Group as the primary Army component that makes up the JTF Headquarters. The 191st RSG is redeploying after nine months of performing a variety of critical service and support positions and performing magnificently.

This weekend, we also saw the arrival of the 372nd Military Police Battalion, which is replacing the 125th Military Police Battalion as the Joint Detention Group Headquarters. The 125th MP Battalion is redeploying after their nine-month rotation where they performed very well.

Finally, this past month, we saw the departure of the 755th Military Police Company, which was replaced by the 128th Military Police Company. The 755th MP Company

redeployed after its nine-month rotation of providing exceptional external security to our area of operations.

Job well done to all departed and departing units. Thanks for serving as key members of our JTF. It is your contribution, and that from all of the services, that allows the JTF to accomplish our no-fail mission every day, 24 hours a day. As you prepare to depart JTF-GTMO, make the effort to ensure your turnover to your successor is better than what you received.

You have gained the experience and understand the mission. Chances are your successor does not. Take the time and ensure your right seat left seat ride opportunity is maximized. If you are a leader, look within your organization to ensure the transition of your Troopers is well synchronized and in-depth. Your ability to provide a quality transition is paramount to the ongoing success of the JTF.

Welcome, our new units and Troopers. You are now part of a unique JTF whose mission is not like any other mission in the military. Take the time to learn from your predecessor and ask many questions. Before you know it, you will be carrying the torch and will quickly integrate into our JTF as a key member. Take the time to learn the JTF standard operating procedures and policies, as well as the Naval Station Guantanamo Bay rules.

The key to our success remains the professionalism and 'can do' attitude of our team. Your attention to detail, commitment to the mission and your fellow Troopers, and leadership is what enables the JTF to continually perform. Whether you are departing after serving your tour here or just arriving, take pride in the fact that you are part of a one of a kind Joint Task Force that has a no-fail mission and continues to excel in our mission.



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The Wire

Senior Editor
Army Sgt. Jonathan Monfiletto
Assistant Editor
Spc. Raechel Haynes
Layout Editor
Spc. Cody Campana
Copy Editor
Spc. Chalon Huston
Webmaster
Army Sgt. Trisha Pinczes
Photojournalists
Army Sgt. Ferdinand Thomas
Spc. Jessica Randon

Contact us

Editor's Desk: 3651
Commercial: 011-5399-3651
DSN: 660-3651
E-mail: thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil
Online: www.jtfgtmo.southcom.mil/wire/wire.html

JOINT TASK FORCE GUANTANAMO

SAFE • HUMANE • LEGAL • TRANSPARENT

NEWS FROM THE BAY

Hours of operation

Due to sequestration and necessary cuts, Naval Station Guantanamo Bay has changed the hours of operation at several Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs. The new hours were chosen based on hour patron counts and align to when the most active

duty customers used the facilities. Effective March 18 and in place indefinitely, the new hours are as follows: Auto Skills Center, Thursday to Sunday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Marina, Monday to Friday (closed Wednesday) 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday to Sunday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Denich Gym, Monday to Friday 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday to Sunday 10 a.m.

to 6 p.m.; Marine Hill Gym, Monday to Friday 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday to Sunday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Windjammer Pool, Wednesday to Monday (closed Tuesday) 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Marine Hill Pool, Monday to Friday 5 a.m. to 12 p.m. and Saturday to Sunday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Camp Bulkeley Gym, open 24 hours; MWR Community Library, Tuesday to Sunday (closed Monday) 12 to 9 p.m.; Deer Point Liberty Center, Saturday to Sunday 12 to 10 p.m.; Marine Hill Liberty Center, Monday to Friday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday to Sunday 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Tierra Kay Liberty Center, Monday to Friday 12 to 11 p.m. and Saturday to Sunday 12 p.m. to 12 a.m.; Camp America Liberty Center, open 24 hours; Downtown Lyceum, open seven nights a week; Camp Bulkeley Lyceum, open Thursday to Sunday; Ceramics & Wood Shop, Thursday to Sunday 5 to 9 p.m. In some cases, there will be small fees for programs that were once free, such as outdoor recreation trips. The Liberty Program's bowling night will remain free, though pizza and snacks will now be available for sale.

Military spouses

The application period for the 2013 Financial Industry Regulatory Authority Military Spouse Fellowship is now open, and applications are due by midnight on March 31. The program is open to current or surviving spouses of active duty or retired service members. For more information, visit www.saveandinvest.org/militarycenter.

Liberty events

Looking for some fun new activities to fill your free time? Unaccompanied service members can check out this month's Liberty calendar for a variety of fun activities. Upcoming events include Wood Shop Sunday, a disc golf tournament, bowling, night fishing, and a nine-ball pool tournament. For more information or to sign up, call 2010.

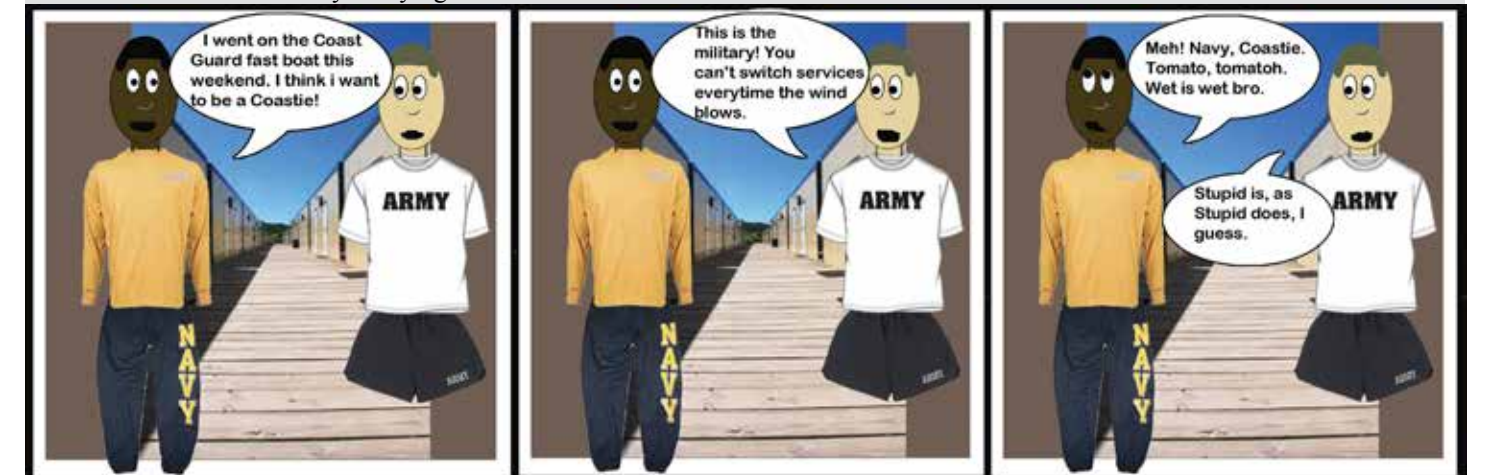
INDEX THE WIRE MARCH 22, 2013

Movie review: Beautiful Creatures	4
Plant nursery	5
New Trooper Chapel	6
Dueling Pianos	8
Coast Guard qualifications	10
Trooper Focus	12
Softball tournament	15

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 1,250.



ONLY AT GTMO by Army Sgt. Brian Godette





By Army Staff Sgt. Michael Davis

There is a common phrase, “You never judge a book by its cover.” Well, the same thing goes for films – you never judge a movie by its poster. This statement holds true for “Beautiful Creatures.” The movie poster doesn’t entice you, nor does its title. However, the film itself is fun, visually attracting and interesting.

“Beautiful Creatures” is a supernatural love story set in the South that tells the tale of two star-crossed lovers: Ethan (Alden Ehrenreich, “Stoker”), a young man longing to escape his small town, and Lena (Alice Englert, “In Fear”), a witch, or rather a scarlet, wanting to escape her expected malevolent destiny. Together, they uncover dark secrets about their families, their history and their town.

Even though the film is based on the first novel in the best-selling series by Kami Garcia and Margaret Stohl, “Beautiful Creatures” has a noticeable “Twilight” feel to it. However, instead of a female falling in love with a male supernatural being, it’s the other way around. Also, opposite of the teen-loving, romantic fantasy film, “Beautiful Creatures” has a decent cast of actors, a witty script and a story line worth following.

The film mainly focuses on the love story, but I thought it wasn’t like the usual puppy-dog love you see in most movies that portray young adult lovers. The reasons why they fell in love and why they wanted to stay together kept my attention. Sure, it might have been their fate that allowed them to fall in love, but just their desire to escape their current reality and make something out of their lives would have enabled their paths to cross eventually.

I thought Richard LaGravenese (“Freedom Writers”), the writer and director, did a good job of showing their love and aspirations as well. He used objects, scenery and people that surrounded them to portray exactly how much they needed each other to go for whatever they wanted in life. For instance, one of the places they always met was near the only road that went in and out of the small town. It was as if they were so close yet so far.

LaGravenese used some of those objects and scenery as familiar images to keep you aware of what was going on with the characters in the film, but he also didn’t give you all of the information in just one scene that would give away the whole story.

The key plot of the film that kept it going forward was what was going to happen when Lena turned 16. She and her supernatural family were born with magical powers, but whether that individual family member was going to turn good or evil happened when he or she turned 16. The males had a choice, but the females didn’t. No matter how good or angel-like the girls wanted to be, they didn’t have a choice in the force they would possess.

Here’s where the real conflict comes in. Besides the Bible-Belt townspeople who disregarded anyone who wasn’t a Christian and the family members who tried to separate the two lovebirds, they were in jeopardy of not having a future together anyway because of the evil Lena might possibly possess. And because of a family curse that involved humans falling in love with scarlets, their love seemed to be heading toward destruction.

Other than the intense, dramatic love scenes, the film possessed a lot of dark magic. It wasn’t an “Exorcist”

type of film, but there were a couple of scenes that will make you jump out of your seat (didn’t happen to me though, I only jumped because of the banana rats in Camp Bulkeley Lyceum). The visual effects, in general, were really good, even though some of the effects may have looked a little cheesy. All I’m saying is it’s very difficult to show fake snow if you’re not using green screen. However, the other visual effects were great and complimented the movie lovely.

The other cast of actors was great in the film as well. Some of the supporting actors were Jeremy Irons (“The Words”), Viola Davis (“Won’t Back Down”), Emmy Rossum (“Poseidon”) and Emma Thompson (“Men in Black 3”).

I think “Beautiful Creatures” would have been another teen romance film you would label side-by-side with the “Twilight” series if LaGravenese had not directed it. Just from the message in “Freedom Writers,” one can tell that he likes to entertain the audience but is more concerned with the content in the film.

“Beautiful Creatures” is not an epic film, but it will definitely surprise you. I give this film three banana rats.



MOVIE REVIEW



Troopers have the opportunity to give back to their community by volunteering at the NAVSTA Morale, Welfare, and Recreation plant nursery, here at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, every Saturday from 7:30 a.m. until around noon. The nursery is run solely by volunteers and through donations. (Photo by Spc. Cody Campana)

GTMO nursery offers volunteer opportunities

Story by Spc. Chalon Hutson

Many Troopers look for volunteering opportunities here at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay for various reasons. What may surprise them to find out is that an opportunity to help out the community, learn a new trade, and be creative is literally just down the road.

Every Saturday, Troopers have an opportunity to volunteer at the NAVSTA Morale, Welfare, and Recreation plant nursery, which is next to the golf course. While volunteering is open to everyone every weekend, the first and third weekends of the month offer an opportunity to receive a free plant. The nursery is currently by volunteers and donations alone. Anyone can donate plants, pots, dirt, materials or anything else that could be helpful.

“[When] we started coming... it was in pretty rough shape,” said Army Master Sgt. Luis Olmo, an operations sergeant with the 189th Military Police Company. “I started becoming one of the lead volunteers, and

by word-of-mouth, more people starting showing up. At the end of the day, this is an open volunteer place.”

The nursery has several ways for someone to help out, whether handling hibiscus plants, turning branches into mulch, planting a flower bed, or performing any other maintenance.

“Now we tell people, if they want to help, we try to pair up people with what they are good at,” Olmo said. “Removing stumps or making a flower bed looks easier than it is, so they can learn these skills while they volunteer.”

Olmo said that the nursery is a very family friendly place. There is not only a large variety of plants but also wildlife, including iguanas, spiders, and insects.

He also said he believes that spending time working with plants can help one relieve stress and wind down from the week. “At the same time, when you plant something and come back the next week, you will see it has grown,” Olmo said.

For some, volunteering at the nursery

started as a way to earn volunteer hours but turned into a habit.

“It doesn’t matter if they are volunteering at the auto craft shop or the nursery or the Iguana Café or helping with the MWR runs. It doesn’t matter as long as they are giving back to the community, and then it gets paid back to them later on,” said Army Lt. Col. Darcy Overbey, commander of the 525th Military Police Battalion. “Some of them have already earned all their volunteer hours, but they keep coming out here because it is part of their routine.”

The nursery is open to the public to come and get a free plant from 8 to 11:30 a.m. the first and third Saturday of the month and is open for volunteers every Saturday from 7:30 a.m. until around noon.

“For somebody that has never been here, they can stop by and see what it’s all about,” Overbey said. “Whether they want to come get a plant, volunteer or make a donation, there is always something that someone can do for the nursery and the nursery can do for them.”

New Trooper Chapel going up



Contractors work on the construction of the new Trooper Chapel, near the Camp Bulkeley Gym recently. The project began in early January to replace the current building, across from the Camp America Post Office, that has sustained weather and mold damage. (Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Michael Davis Jr.)

Story by Army Sgt. Jonathan Monfiletto

A new Trooper Chapel is being built near the Camp Bulkeley Gym at Joint Task Force Guantanamo to replace the Trooper Chapel that currently operates across from the Camp America Post Office.

Construction of the new chapel began in early January, said Air Force Lt. Col. Daniel Zulli, the JTF deputy command chaplain, though Zulli did not have a specific timeline on the new building's completion. He noted the exterior of the building should go up fairly quickly, while the interior – such things as electrical and flooring work – will take longer to complete.

Zulli said the old structure has taken a beating over its existence from a combination of weather and mold, so it is being replaced with a whole new building.

“Basically, it’s a mold-infested health hazard,” Zulli said of the current building. “It’s got the nastiest smell of any building here in JTF, and everyone comments on it when it’s first been opened in the morning.”

While the nearby Seaside Galley and Camp America Liberty Center are of the same building type, so likely of the same era, as the Trooper Chapel, Zulli said he doesn’t understand why the chapel has been more impacted by mold than the other buildings.

“It’s just moisture next to the ocean getting into the system that’s made it real hard to be in [the chapel] when it’s really bad,”

Zulli said. “It’s just pure nastiness.”

The new chapel will actually be a bit smaller than the current building, but the space in each structure will end up being about the same, Zulli said.

The current chapel has two small additions on either end of the building, one serving as a foyer and the other being a storage space.

Both of those aspects will be incorporated into the new structure, which will be about the same size as the main body of the current building.

The new chapel will also have an updated sound board with a streamlined, more efficient system. That will include a projector in the back of the room so that a speaker can see his presentation without having to look behind him.

There will be a little less seating, though the new chapel will include bathrooms, which the current building does not have.

“When you have a blueprint and when you get to the final product may be two different things because of costs,” Zulli said, adding the project has a budget of about \$750,000 with actual costs at about \$600,000 right now. “We can say what we want, but it may not happen because this factor may impact this factor. You have to balance all of the factors out.”

The new chapel will have all new equipment since a lot of the current equipment has been damaged by mold. Zulli said,

however, many of the wooden items, such as the altar and the pulpit, are being cleaned up and will be used when services take place at their new home.

With the JTF Chaplains Office staff rotating out just as often as the rest of the JTF, Zulli said the decision to build a new chapel likely came several rotations before he arrived, meaning construction has been planned for several months.

The command chaplain then probably convinced the JTF commander to invest money in a new chapel, Zulli said. That is a decision he is grateful for, he said, especially with other sections of the base potentially vying for construction money to build new facilities.

“The gym could very easily have said, ‘We need a new gym.’ ... This building could’ve said, ‘We need a new galley.’ ... Well, somebody said, ‘We need a new chapel,’ and they said, ‘OK,’” Zulli said. “That’s a tremendous win for chapel programs. I don’t know how it happened, but I’m glad it did.”

With two months left in his tour at JTF GTMO, Zulli won’t get to see the finished Trooper Chapel, but he is nevertheless excited about its construction and completion.

“I won’t be here to see it. I’d love to,” he said. “I’d love to be here to see the grand opening, but it’s for future generations. I hope we’re designing it well so that it’s everything they need it to be.”

Annual Consumer Confidence Report on the Quality of Drinking Water, U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, March 2013

What is the purpose of this report?

This is an annual report on the quality of water delivered by the U. S. Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay (GTMO). A requirement for this was brought about when Congress amended the Safe Drinking Water Act in 1996. It added a provision requiring all community water systems to deliver a brief annual water quality report to their customers. Included in this report is pertinent information about the source of our water, any contaminants detected and possible sources of contaminants for the calendar year 2012.

What is the source of our water and the basic treatment process?

Our raw water supply is drawn from Guantanamo Bay, approximately 160 feet north of the DESAL Water & Power Plant Compound. This is our “source water” and in our case, it is salt water. The source water is turned into drinking water through a process called “reverse osmosis”. A textbook definition of reverse osmosis (RO) is: The application of pressure to a concentrated solution that causes the passage of a liquid from the concentrated solution to a weaker solution across a semi-permeable membrane. The membrane allows the passage of water (solvent); but does not allow the passage of the dissolved solids (solutes). The RO plant is currently capable of producing about 1.6 million gallons per day. Water produced from the RO plant is transferred to treated water storage tanks before being processed through the water treatment plant. At the treatment plant, water is held in large storage tanks before entering the distribution system to the customer’s tap.

Is our water system meeting the rules that govern our operations?

The quality of drinking water at GTMO is in compliance with the Final Governing Standards (FGS) for Cuba. The FGS establishes monitoring frequencies for possible contaminants and requires us to keep records of all water quality tests. We are in compliance with the FGS.

How can I get involved?

If you have any questions about the quality of water at GTMO or would like more information on the Drinking Water Program at GTMO; please contact Public Works Environmental Office at 4662.

Do I need to take any special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons (such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy; persons who have undergone organ transplants; people with HIV / AIDS or other immune system disorders; some elderly and infants) can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Are there contaminants in my drinking water and why?

Drinking water (including bottled water) may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of contaminants. Their presence does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Contaminants that may be present in source waters include:

Microbial Contaminants: such as viruses and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.

Inorganic Contaminants: such as salts and metals that can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.

Pesticide & Herbicide Contaminants: may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture storm water runoff and residential uses.

Organic Chemical Contaminants: may include synthetic and volatile organic chemicals that may be by-products of industrial processes or petroleum production; and can also come from gas station, urban storm water runoff and septic systems.

Radioactive Contaminants: can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Glossary: The definitions and abbreviations below give a better understanding to the meaning of terms and abbreviations concerning contaminants found in our drinking water as indicated in the table below.

AL: Action Level. The concentration of a contaminant (which, if found to be exceeded) will trigger further treatment or other procedures that the water system must follow to lower the level.

MCL: Maximum (allowable) Contaminant Level. The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water (by regulation).

MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal. The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

mg/L: milligrams per liter, equivalent to parts per million.

ND: Not detectable. A value below the detectable limit by the lab test procedure.

NPDWR: National Primary Drinking Water Regulations: legally enforceable standards that apply to public water supply systems. Primary standards aim at protecting drinking water quality by setting limits on the levels of specific contaminants that can adversely affect public health and are known or anticipated to occur in public water systems.

NSDWR: National Secondary Drinking Water Regulations: non-enforceable guidelines regulating contaminants that may cause cosmetic effects (such as skin or tooth discoloration) or aesthetic effects (such as taste, odor, or color) in drinking water. EPA recommends secondary standards to water systems but does not require systems to comply.

NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units -- a measure of the clarity of water.

Turbidity is measured with an instrument called a nephelometer, which measures the intensity of light scattered by suspended matter in the water.

Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

pCi/L: picocuries per liter -- a measure of radioactivity in water.

Turbidity: A measure of the cloudiness of water. We measure turbidity because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the water treatment system.

Level of Detected Contaminants: Year 2012

Contaminant	Units	MCLG	MCL or Highest Level Allowed	Level Detected (or Range of Detections)	Violations (Y/N)	Typical Source of Contaminant
1. NPDWR (enforceable)						
A. ORGANICS						
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM's)	mg/L	0	0.08	0.08*	No	by-product of disinfection by chlorination
B. INORGANICS						
Copper	mg/L	1.3	AL=1.3	ND – 0.0761	No	corrosion of plumbing; erosion of natural deposits
Lead	mg/L	0	AL=0.015	0.000-0.006	No	corrosion of plumbing; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	mg/L	4	4	0.29 – 2.17	No	water treatment additive which promotes strong teeth; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate	mg/L	10	10	0.26	No	run-off from fertilizer use; erosion of natural deposits
C. MICROBIALS						
Total Coliform	number of positive samples	0	1 positive sample / 40 tests	0	No	naturally present in the environment; human and animal fecal waste
Turbidity	NTU	n/a	1	0.05 – 0.90	No	soil run-off; breakdown of natural minerals and deposits
*One sample met the maximum (allowable) contamination limit of 0.080. Area lines were flushed three retests were taken the highest of which was 0.041.						
2. NSDWR (recommended / non-enforceable)						
Sodium	mg/L	n/a	250	130	n/a	breakdown of natural minerals and deposits
Chlorides	mg/L	n/a	250	135 - 190	n/a	breakdown of natural minerals and deposits
Iron	mg/L	n/a	0.3	0.01 - 0.08	n/a	water distribution pipe corrosion
Sulfate	mg/L	n/a	250	9	n/a	run-off from fertilizer use; erosion of natural deposits
Total Dissolved Solids	mg/L	n/a	500	267 - 381	n/a	breakdown of natural minerals and deposits

Let the Good Times Roll

Story and Photos By Spc. Jessica Randon

St. Patrick's Day weekend is a big weekend whether you're in the United States or here at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay.

The spot to be this past Saturday night was the Windjammer Ballroom for the Dueling Pianos showcase featuring two piano players, Leon Sarao and Elwood Stone.

The atmosphere was great and many people came out dressed in green with plenty of St. Patrick's Day spirit. The ballroom was full of decorations and fun items for the audience to enjoy, including top hats and horns. Not many people were aware of what a Dueling Pianos show was, but as the night took off, many people seemed to be pleased with the performance.

"You're not giving people everything you can unless you interact with them, and that's what I love about this job," Stone said referring to why he enjoys performing dueling shows.

So, what is a Dueling Pianos show? There are two important steps when it comes to having a good show. One, you take two piano players who are usually pretty comical as well as good singers, and then you take a live audience and their requests and plenty of their participation.

The audience members are responsible for requesting any song they want to hear and from any genre. Once you have your request written down, you take it to the stage and set it on one of the pianos. Depending how big of a tip, if any, that you lay down with

your request, the piano players decide when and if to perform it. "You learn to play what the audience wants," Stone said.

Stone went on describing how one request worked out on Saturday.

"Someone gave me a 20 [dollar bill] to play 'Tiny Dancer' by Elton John, then someone gave me a 20 to stop playing it, and that's just how it works," Stone said.

Having such a diverse audience can be tricky at times because you always want to keep everybody happy and ensure everyone is having a good time.

"I love working for the military because there's almost like an unwritten code: Don't go dogging people because of where they're from," Stone said on why it's never an issue for him to perform for service members. "You have to respect where people are from, and that's what the military has always been good about: bringing in people from different cultures and making them get along whether they want to or not"

This show was something new for GTMO. It was different from the usual bands and music artists that visit from time to time, but there's no doubt that the night was a success.

"Overall, the show was what I expected and then some. Sober or not, listening to the two pianists go back and forth, performing their own renditions of songs, was great," said Spc. Michael Lawrence.

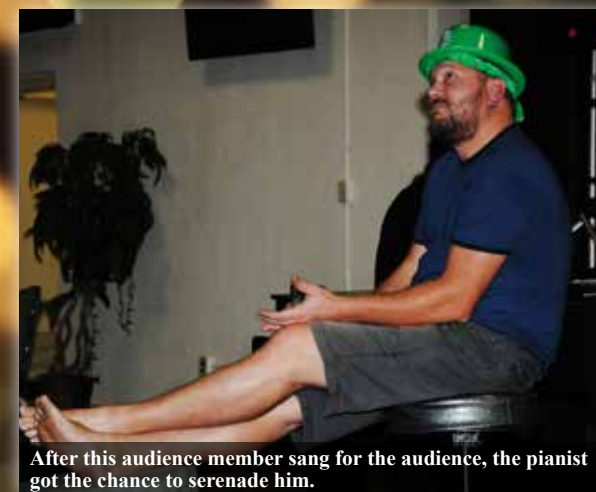
Cheers, laughter and good tunes has St. Patrick's Day 2013 going down in the books as a definite success.



Elwood Stone gets down on the keys.



Audience members become backup dancers during the pianist's rendition of "Baby Got Back".



After this audience member sang for the audience, the pianist got the chance to serenade him.



Audience members show off their St. Patty's day pride.



Audience members enjoy singing along to the tunes covered by the pianists.



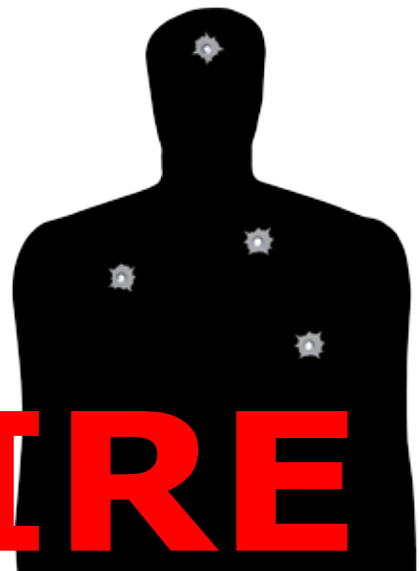
Sarao smiles for the camera while backing up Stone on the keys.



Petty Officer 3rd Class Louis Delk (Left) and Petty Officer 1st Class Christopher Mooty (Right) pose for the camera during Saturday's festivities.

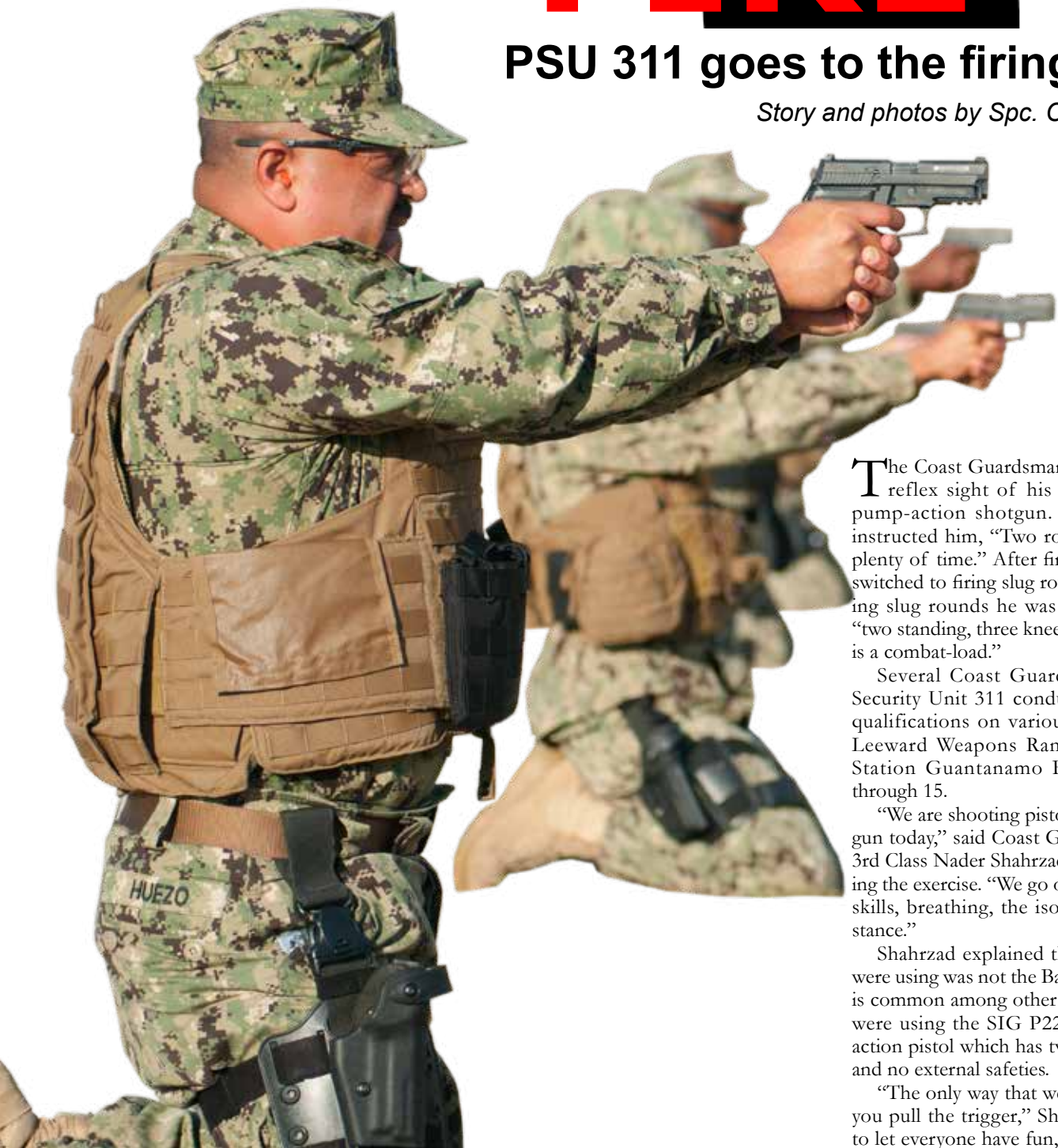
Ready, Set,

FIRE



PSU 311 goes to the firing range

Story and photos by Spc. Chalon Hutson



The Coast Guardsman looked down the reflex sight of his Remington M870 pump-action shotgun. The firing coach instructed him, “Two rounds, 10 seconds, plenty of time.” After firing buck shots, he switched to firing slug rounds. While shooting slug rounds he was instructed to fire “two standing, three kneeling, the last round is a combat-load.”

Several Coast Guardsmen from Port Security Unit 311 conducted semi-annual qualifications on various weapons at the Leeward Weapons Range here at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay on March 13 through 15.

“We are shooting pistol, rifle, and a shotgun today,” said Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Nader Shahrzad, a line coach during the exercise. “We go over marksmanship skills, breathing, the isosceles and weaver stance.”

Shahrzad explained that the pistol they were using was not the Baretta model, which is common among other branches, but they were using the SIG P229DAK, a double-action pistol which has two internal safeties and no external safeties.

“The only way that weapon will fire is if you pull the trigger,” Shahrzad said. “I try to let everyone have fun, but we need to be



Coast Guard Chief Machinery Technician Manuel Huezo, a machinery technician with Port Security Unit 311, qualifies with the SIG P229DAK at the Leeward Firing Range here at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay on March 14.



Coast Guardsmen with Port Security Unit 311 conduct weapons qualifications with various weapons, including pistol, rifle, and shotgun, at the Leeward Firing Range here at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay on March 14.



Coast Guard Machinery Technician 2nd Class Ryan Huffman, a machinery technician with Port Security Unit 311, qualifies with a Remington M870 shotgun, during a weapons qualification at the Leeward Firing Range here at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay on March 14.

safe.”

All of the Troopers had qualified on at least one of the weapons before this exercise, but some were still learning new techniques and everyone worked on improving their skills.

“They have their own personal goals,” Shahrzad said. “I hope they have fun, and aim for a better score.”

Those who fired the pistol shot from various stances, such as kneeling and reactionary stances, from distances of three yards up to 25 yards. They also fired at a silhouette with higher scores closer to center-mass. After firing 50 shots, they had a maximum score of 250, and a minimum qualifying score of 187.

“Our pistol course is interesting because it is fast paced, and there are many different firing positions,” said Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Joel Burkhardt, the weapons officer-in-charge and firearms instructor for

the range during the exercise. He has been a firearms instructor for 20 years.

Burkhardt said he had some very talented marksmen in his group, when it came to the pistol range, and that marksmanship in that region is significant in the Coast Guard.

“In the Coast Guard, our primary weapon is our pistol because of our law enforcement abilities,” Burkhardt said. “All of these guys are reservists, and many of them are law enforcement in the civilian sector.”

After everyone had an opportunity to qualify with the pistol, they all went to qualify on the rifle. Burkhardt said for PSU 311, qualifying on the M16A2 is essential as well.

“We are very pistol-centric. We have some great pistol shooters in the Coast Guard,” Burkhardt said. “For units like this, it is equally as important that they are qualified on the rifle.”

One Coast Guardsman was able to

qualify using the tactical shotgun as well.

“The shotgun is a qualification for our crewman on both buck-shot and slug,” Burkhardt said. The different types of rounds have different purposes, he said. “A slug round is capable of knocking out the engine of a small boat.”

Burkhardt coached Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class Ryan Huffman, a machinery technician with PSU 311, through the various stages of the shotgun course while giving him advice from his personal experience with the weapon.

“I hope that they can work on muscle memory and have retained some of the lessons learned at ranges we have been to in the past,” Burkhardt said. “Really, I also want them to have fun. It’s a nice break from their normal routine to come out and fire some weapons. It serves the purpose of them keeping their qualification, and hopefully it will build some morale.”

Navy Petty Officer Second Class Kevin Hasbun

THE FASTEST MAN IN GTMO

Trooper Focus

Some people have nicknamed you the fastest man in GTMO. How do you feel about that?

“It’s a shock. I don’t consider myself a fast runner in the real world. Maybe I picked up a little speed here, but it’s flattering and a little encouraging at the same time too.”

What events have you participated in here that you have placed first in?

“I did a fun run for the first time in December and I finished that in first place. Two days after that I decided to do the Jingle Bell Run and came in first in that- it was a 5K. Then I did the ten mile trail run and came in first in that one, which was the most difficult run I have ever done in my life. I did the run portion of the triathlon and thanks to the rest of the team we came in first as well.”

(Just days after the interview Kevin also came in first place in the River Gate 15K run)

Do you have a nemesis that you often run against?

“I don’t even think about that. It doesn’t even cross my mind, not because there are no fast people here, but because I’m not really concerned about beating somebody. I’m just running like Forest Gump!”

In my experience, running usually stinks. At the end of your runs do you feel the same?

“At the end of the ten-miler that’s how I felt. Usually it’s a good, but bad feeling at the same time. You feel really good after you run, especially the next morning, but at this point I have gotten used to being really tired afterward. Every time I push myself harder than the last time, it doesn’t feel good initially.”

Most people would compare you to the Flash, but if you were a super hero what would you call yourself and why?

“The Average Joe, because your best performers aren’t always the Globo Gym’ers, but we are just average Joes who decided to run.”

Is there anyone you would like to give a shout out to?

“Friends, family, parish and Katie.”



The WIRE
An award-winning JTF Journal

WEEKLY

PHOTO OF THE WEEK CONTEST

THE WIRE STAFF IS NOW CONDUCTING WEEKLY PHOTO CONTESTS. EACH WEEK THE THE WINNING PHOTO WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE WIRE PRINT AND ONLINE EDITIONS. ENSURE YOU FOLLOW PROPER OPSEC GUIDELINES.

SUBMISSION INFO:

SEND PHOTOS AS JPEGS - 300 DPI - NO LARGER THAN 10 INCHES ON ITS LONGEST SIDE AND NO LARGER THAN 3 - 5 MB IN STORAGE SIZE. NO WATERMARKS ON IMAGES.

ALL IMAGES ARE TO BE EMAILED DIRECTLY TO SGT FERDINAND THOMAS.
FERDINAND.H.THOMAS@JTFGTMO.SOUTHCOM.MIL

Play Ball

Story by Spc. Jessica Randon

Company.

Things heated up quick Saturday morning as the Softball Tournament began. Beginning at eight in the morning teams gathered to show off their best skills on the field and behind home plate as they stepped up to bat.

Overall, the tournament featured 10 teams that all performed fantastically as the day rolled on. But only one team could be called the champions.

The final game of the tournament took place at midnight the following day as the Mercenaries faced off against the Guardians of the 193rd Military Police

In the end, The Guardians became the new softball tournament champions.

“This team’s success is made up of our desire to win and be the best at everything we do,” said 1st Sgt. David Taylor, senior enlisted leader of the 193rd MP Company.

Taylor also shared that this team has been together since summer of last year and since then, they have won multiple championships and plan on continuing the winning streak.

Will they be able to hold onto the title throughout the spring softball season?



Courtesy photo by Mercenaries' team member

“Guardians”

GTMO SAYS...

Who would you cast as the next Charlies Angels?



"Rosario Dawson, Meagan Fox, and Sophia Vegara."
-Spc. Alvin Allen



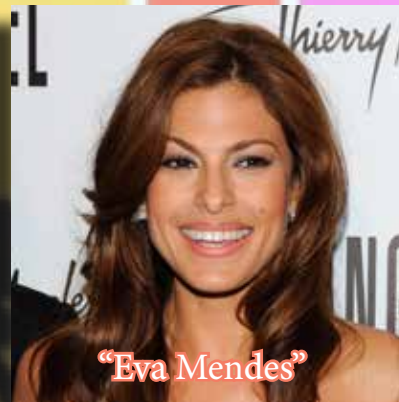
"Eva Mendes, Kate Beckinsale, and Zoe Saldana."
- Petty Officer 1st Class Melissa Crespo



"Scarlett Johanson"



"Rosario Dawson"



"Eva Mendes"

Or...



"Kirstie Alley"



"Darlene Cates"



"Melissa MCarthy"



"Scarlett Johanson, Meagan Good, and Emma Stone."
- Tech. Sgt. Lynn Gutierrez



"Kirstie Alley, Melissa McCarthy, and Darlene Cates."
- Tech. Sgt. Clinton Stallard

"THIS IS SPARTA"

Column By Spc. Jessica Randon

The first time I watched "300," I fell in love with the passion of war. It was that or the overall theatrics of the film, to include the sprayed-on abdominal muscles that every shirtless person in the film seemed to have. Regardless of what specific details drew me in, I couldn't deny the amount of motivation and energy I possessed throughout the movie. So why am I talking about "300?"

While browsing videos on YouTube, I came across this video that was put together to advertise this national race called the Spartan Race. This is a 4.7-mile race, which may not seem too shabby for those of you who participate in the regular runs here on Naval Station Guantanamo Bay. But it's not just any 4.7 miles.

This race consists of multiple obstacles, from wall climbing to low crawling, barbed wires to pools of mud. Sound like boot camp? What about jumping over logs of fire? I knew I'd get you on that one. Yes, real logs lit on fire. For individuals like me, who are 4-foot nothing, jumping over twigs of fire would be daunting.

All obstacle courses are different and definitely dangerous, but what would be a better adrenaline rush than the fear of the unknown?

Sometimes, we tend to lose sight of our own self-worth motivation, our drive to be better versus our drive to simply meet the standard. Instead of shooting for the maximum on our physical fitness tests, we shoot to simply meet the minimal requirements. I am not different, so I decided to go ahead and sign myself up for the

next Spartan Race hitting my home town of Phoenix in February 2014.

By setting my sights on this race, I have given myself a goal, an attainable goal. I have given myself a time limit to meet, and it's for something that I can truly be proud of once completing. Not only that, but I plan on building a team of friends and family to participate in it as well, so it's guaranteed to be a memorable occasion and an awesome time.

Blah, blah, blah, what's the point? The point is that until I found this race I was losing sight of what I truly feel I am capable of. I was losing my motivation and my drive. For you, it may be something different, such as your performance at work. Sometimes you get bored with the same routine, or sometimes you lose the passion behind what you do because you may not believe in or support the ideals.

Regardless of where your lack of motivation or loss of drive stems from, find something to rekindle that flame. Maybe its thinking of someone you love and want to succeed for. Or maybe its the thought of someone who may have misjudged you or possibly think you are incapable and you just want to prove them wrong.

At the end of the day, there's no "I" in team, but without the "M" and the "E," which equals me, the team would not be complete. That means, without giving your whole self to what it is that you are doing, it doesn't matter how many other individuals try to assist. "You" will still be at fault for your own, as well as the "team's" lack of accomplishment. Stay strong, stay motivated and again, from me to you, be you, be true, be beautiful.



Trooper to Trooper

Choose to be positive

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER
JOEL BURKHARDT
PORT SECURITY UNIT 311

Late in 2002, I was a drilling reservist and a member of Port Security Unit 313 out of Tacoma, Wash. I had a fantastic civilian job that I just loved, was newly married and had just bought a wonderful house in a great town. I was living my version of the American Dream.

There was a darkness brewing, though – the Iraq War was looming in the distance. I think everyone knew that eventually it was going to happen, but I chose to ignore that. I really didn't want to go. Then the phone rang. My Port Security Unit was being mobilized and sent to Kuwait, pre-deployed in the event of war. I was devastated. I felt like my entire world was crashing to an end. I was convinced that I would lose my job, my wife would divorce me and my house would not be my house any longer. I didn't sleep for a week and just paced the floor praying for this situation to change. It didn't.

This is when I got my first real attitude check.

My supervisor was an active duty E6, gunners mate first class, and a fantastic leader. He called me and everyone else who worked in the armory a few days before our orders began. He said that he wanted to get us all together for a gut check. I was hoping that GM1 was going to tell me that he didn't really need me to go, that I was free to continue living the dream. What he told us, however, was quite the opposite. He said that all of us were trained for this. In fact, this is what we have been training for. This was an opportunity to test the skills we had learned, and we would play a very large role

in history and will be able to tell our children that we were a part of it. He then explained that our attitude was going to affect our success. "You will be over there for at least six months. You can decide right now what sort of deployment you are going to have. No matter what happens, you will either enjoy it or hate it. I want all of you to decide right now."

The truth to his words was undeniable. This is going to happen: You are going to either be miserable every day or you are going to try to find enjoyment every day. I chose to be positive, and that paid off. Don't get me wrong – Although the choice was easy, the practice was hard and my newfound attitude did not make every day a ball of sunshine and roses. Some days were just plain awful. On those days GM1 would tell us, "This right here is going to be a crazy story!" That would always get us laughing. Bad day reversed! I was able to grasp every moment of that deployment, good, bad or otherwise. Now, what remain are fantastic memories, stories (only slightly enhanced) and friends that I will have for the rest of my life.

Ever since that moment, I have treated every deployment the same way. I know that the friends I will make, the knowledge I will gain and the experience I will have will last a lifetime. I choose to be positive. I choose to surround myself with others who are positive. I accept that not every day is going to be full of unicorns, Santa Claus and rainbows. I know that those hard days are the days that will teach me the most and that those are the



days that build the stories I will tell for the rest of my life.

The choice to be positive is easy for me now, and the only thing that I wonder is why on earth would someone choose to be miserable?

	22 FRI	23 SAT	24 SUN	25 MON	26 TUE	27 WED	28 THU
Downtown Lyceum	The Croods (NEW) (PG) 8 p.m. Jack the Giant Slayer (PG-13) 10 p.m.	Safe Haven (NEW) (PG-13) 8 p.m. Side Effects (R) 10 p.m.	Oz the Great and Powerful (PG) 8 p.m.	Beautiful Creatures (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Parker (Last showing) (R) 8 p.m.	The Impossible (Last showing) (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Hansel & Gretel (Last showing) (PG-13) 8 p.m.
Camp Bulkeley	Safe Haven (NEW) (PG-13) 8 p.m. Side Effects (R) 10 p.m.	The Croods (NEW) (PG) 8 p.m. Identity Thief (R) 10 p.m.	A Good Day to Die Hard (R) 8 p.m.	CLOSED Note: Concessions at Camp Bulkeley are also closed every night until further noticed.	CLOSED Note: Concessions at Camp Bulkeley are also closed every night until further noticed.	CLOSED Note: Concessions at Camp Bulkeley are also closed every night until further noticed.	Warm Bodies (PG-13) 8 p.m.

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

GTMO RELIGIOUS SERVICES

For more information, contact the NAVSTA Chaplain's Office at 2323 or the JTF Chaplain's Office at 2309

NAVSTA MAIN CHAPEL

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

Vigil Mass

Saturday 5 p.m.

Mass

Sunday 9 a.m.

Spanish-language Mass

Sunday 4:35 p.m.

General Protestant

Sunday 11 a.m.

Gospel Service

Sunday 1 p.m.

Christian Fellowship

Sunday 6 p.m.

CHAPEL ANNEXES

Protestant Communion
Sunday 9:30 a.m. Room B

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 2

JTF TROOPER CHAPEL

Protestant Worship
Sunday 9 a.m.

Bible Study

Wednesday 6 p.m.

GTMO BUS SCHEDULE

All buses run on the hour,
7 days/week, from 5 a.m. to 1 a.m.

Bus	#1	#2	#3	
96 Man Camp	:31	:51	:11	
Camp America	:00	:20	:40	NEX :33 :53 :13
Gazebo	:02	:22	:42	Gold Hill Galley :37 :57 :17
NEX Trailer	:03	:23	:43	Windjammer/Gym :36 :56 :16
Camp Delta 2	:06	:26	:46	West Iguana :39 :59 :19
KB 373	:10	:30	:50	TK 1 :40 :00 :20
TK 4	:12	:32	:52	TK 2 :43 :03 :23
JAS	:13	:33	:53	TK 3 :45 :05 :25
TK 3	:14	:34	:54	TK 4 :47 :07 :27
TK 2	:15	:35	:55	KB 373 :50 :10 :30
TK 1	:16	:36	:56	Camp Delta 1 :52 :12 :32
West Iguana	:18	:38	:58	IOF :54 :14 :34
Windjammer/Gym	:21	:41	:01	NEX Trailer :57 :17 :37
Gold Hill Galley	:24	:44	:04	Gazebo :58 :18 :38
NEX	:26	:46	:16	Camp America :00 :20 :40

GTMO Beach Bus Schedule

Saturdays and Sundays only

Location	Run #1	Run #2	Run #3	Run #4
Windward Loop/ East Caravella	0900	1200	1500	1800
SBOQ/Marina	0905	1205	1505	1805
NEX	0908	1208	1508	1808
Phillips Park	0914	1214	1514	1814
Cable Beach	0917	1217	1517	1817
NEX	0925	1225	1525	1825
Windward Loop/ East Caravella	0930	1230	1530	1830
SBOQ/Marina	0935	1235	1535	1835
Return to Office	0940	1240	1540	1840

SAFE RIDE – 84781

PROTECT YOUR INFO!

ALERT Tell your family about OPSEC

Have you talked to your family about OPSEC? Do they know what information needs protection and how to protect it? When was the last time they checked their online privacy settings? Make sure that they know that some information just shouldn't be posted online. Family members are proud of you and want to communicate with you while you're deployed, but make sure when you communicate online or in email that you do it safely. Don't inadvertently give away information that needs to be protected. Keep your family and friends aware of OPSEC. Protect yourself, your family and the mission. Stay safe. Use OPSEC!





APRIL FOOLS

1-Pitch All Night

Softball Tournament

Open to all hands, ages 16 and above

SOFTBALL FIELD at COOPER COMPLEX

Register by March 26 at Denich Gym

Coaches meeting Wednesday,
March 27 at Denich Gym at 1830

FMI, call 2113

March
29 – 30

1900-0600

Awards to the 1st &
2nd place teams!

