

# THE WIRE

A News Magazine



**Seabees Construct our World**  
**Office of Military Commissions**  
**Fire Prevention Week Observed**



# APFT evaluates Soldier's fitness

By Army Sgt. Maj. Angel Alvarado

Joint Detention Group Sergeant Major

In the mid 20th Century Soldiers who were unprepared for the physical demands of war were sent to battle. The early days of that war were nothing short of disastrous, as U.S. Soldiers were routed by a poorly equipped, but well-trained, army. As the U.S. Soldiers withdrew, they left behind wounded comrades and heavy loads of valuable equipment their training had not adequately prepared them to carry.

If we fail to prepare our Soldiers for their physically demanding wartime tasks, we are guilty of only paying lip service to the principle, 'train as you fight.' Our physical training programs must do more for our Soldiers than just get them ready for the semiannual Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT).

The physical fitness training program is divided into three phases: preparatory, conditioning and maintenance.

The preparatory phase helps both the cardio respiratory and muscular systems get used to exercise, preparing the body to handle the conditioning phase. The work load in the beginning must be moderate. Progression from a lower to a higher level of fitness should be achieved by gradual, planned increases in frequency, intensity and time. To reach the desired level of fitness, Soldiers must increase the amount of exercise and the workout intensity as their strength and endurance increases.

The maintenance phase sustains the high level of fitness achieved in the conditioning phase. The emphasis here is no longer on progression. A well designed, 45 to 60 minute workout (including warm-up and cool-down,) at the right intensity, three times per week is enough to maintain almost any appropriate level of physical fitness.

The Army has too many types of units with different missions to have one single fitness program for everyone. Many Soldiers are assigned to duty positions that offer little opportunity to participate in collective unit physical training



programs. Fitness requirements are the same for these personnel as for others.

Although it is not the heart of the Army's physical fitness program, the APFT is the primary instrument for evaluating the fitness level of each Soldier. It is structured to assess the muscular endurance of specific muscle groups and the functional capacity of the Cardio Respiratory system. Soldiers with reasonable levels of overall physical fitness should easily pass the APFT. Those whose fitness levels are substandard will fail.

Soldiers who fail the APFT must receive special attention. Designers of weight loss and physical training programs for overweight Soldiers should remember this: even though exercise is the key to sensible weight loss, reducing the number of calories consumed is equally important. A combination of both actions is best.

DoD Directive 1308.1 requires that "Those personnel identified with medically limiting defects shall be placed in a physical fitness program consistent with their limitations as advised by medical authorities."

AR 350-15 states, "For individuals with limiting profiles, commanders will develop physical fitness programs in cooperation with health care personnel."

## JTF-GTMO

### Commander:

Navy Rear Adm. Mark H. Buzby

### Joint Task Force CMC:

Navy Command Master Chief  
Brad LeVault

### Office of Public Affairs:

**Director:** Navy Cmdr. Rick Haupt: 9928

**Deputy:** Army Lt. Col.

Edward Bush: 9927

**Supervisor:** Army 1st Sgt.

Patrick Sellen: 3649

## The Wire

### Executive Editor:

Army 1st Lt. Kevin Cowan: 3596

### Editor:

Army Staff Sgt. Paul Meeker: 3651

### Assistant Editor:

Army Sgt. Scott Griffin: 3594

### Layout and Design:

Army Sgt. Jody Metzger: 2171

### Staff Writers:

Army Sgt. Sarah Stannard: 3589

Army Spc. Shanita Simmons: 3589

Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class

William Weinert: 3592

## Contact us:

Base Information: 2000

Public Affairs Office: 3651 or 3596

From the continental United States:

Commercial: 011-53-99-3651

DSN: 660-3651

Email: [TheWIRE@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil](mailto:TheWIRE@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil)

**ONLINE:** [jtfgtmo.southcom.mil](http://jtfgtmo.southcom.mil)

## ON THE COVER:

**Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 40, AKA 'The Fighting Forty,' make repairs to the flightline on the leeward airstrip. (Photo by Navy Seaman Kenneth Johnson)**



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 700.

# Future of OMC promises changes for JTF



**Army Col. James Vandegrift, JTF liaison to the Office of Military Commissions, discusses the future of the JTF mission with Navy Cmdr. Kimberly Evans.**

**Story and photo by Army Spc. Shanita Simmons**

Joint Task Force Guantanamo  
Public Affairs Office

The role Joint Task Force (JTF) Guantanamo plays in the Military Commissions process will continue to evolve as leadership shifts and a new legal complex heightens demands on command support staff.

When Military Commissions scheduled for November begin, JTF staff members will continue with their mission of providing support to the Office of Military Commissions (OMC) personnel before and after a detainee's trial. However, the construction of the new Expeditionary Legal Complex will mark the first of many changes in how commissions are conducted here. To accommodate the new complex that will house two courtrooms, administrative offices and

a media center, Army Col. James Vandegrift, JTF liaison officer to the Office of Military Commissions, said a stand alone command will likely be established to replace the two-man team currently providing day-to-day support.

"This stand alone command will have its own dedicated personnel. Therefore, we will no longer have to pull Troopers from various sections to augment the commissions staff. This ensures the normal operations of JTF will not be interrupted during the commissions process," said Vandegrift.

From the moment OMC personnel arrive, JTF staff members are tasked with various support responsibilities ranging from coordinating travel to fulfilling requests for office space, cellular phones, computer services and transportation. In addition to conducting the day-to-day operations of maintaining

equipment and personnel, Vandegrift mentioned assistance from other JTF personnel is crucial to accomplishing their mission.

"Every directorate or command of the JTF provides support when the OMC is here. We work with the internal and external security, the public affairs staff who provide escorts and JTF personnel who provide logistical support," said Vandegrift.

During a commission hearing, OMC personnel usually work within three main sections. The Convening Authority office acts as a central command that houses the courtroom security, court reporters and the clerk of the court. Vandegrift added that his staff is responsible for ensuring the internal and external security forces are in place to transfer detainees from detention facilities

***Continued on Page 13***



# Hollywood Seabees maintain tradition of building greatly

By Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class  
William Weinert

Joint Task Force Guantanamo  
Public Affairs Office

President John F. Kennedy once said, “The American, by nature, is optimistic. He is experimental, an inventor and a builder who builds the best when called upon to build greatly.” A fine example of optimistic, experimental and innovative Americans are the Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 40. The Seabees of NMCB 40 arrived in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, from their home port of Port Hueneme, Calif., in August and since their arrival have maintained the Seabee tradition of building greatly.

The term ‘Seabee’ originated during World War II, as slang for the initials CB which stood for Construction Battalion, which they were originally labeled.

Known as the “Hollywood” Seabees because of their west coast locale, NMCB 40 is one of four Seabee units stationed in California. Another five are located in Gulfport Mississippi, making up the nine active duty battalions.

Since World War II, the brave men of NMCB 40 have upheld the Seabee motto, “Construimus, Batuimus.” The motto translates as, “We Fight, We Build,” which seem simple words but say it all. The “Fighting Forty,” as they came to be known, have embodied these words since their inception.

The Fighting Forty fought and built in the South Pacific in World War II. They shed blood and sweat with Marines in the jungles of Vietnam. They built temporary cities in the desert during Operation Desert Storm and they built shelters and raised the spirits of the needy in Somalia during Operation Restore Hope. They worked along side the Army in the hostile zones of Bosnia-Herzegovina in support of Operation Joint Endeavor and served bravely in support of the Global War on Terror. The brave members of the Fighting Forty built and fought with all of



**Seabees of the Fighting Forty repair a damaged section at the Leeward Airport on Thursday, Oct. 11. (Photo by Navy Seaman Kenneth Johnson)**

the armed services in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

The mission of the Seabees has always been to build, on any terrain, in any condition and then to defend what they build.

“Usually, we work in a wartime environment in support of Marines and all of the other services,” said Seaman Kenneth Johnson, the NMCB 40 public affairs representative. The Fighting Forty’s time here has been a peaceful period, in contrast to their last mission in Balad, Iraq. This allows them to devote more of their energy to building.

Maintaining a constant Seabee presence in Guantanamo, the Servicemen of NMCB 40 are here on a six month rotation. When not deployed, these Sailors devote most of their time to training. They work to earn various licenses to operate equipment and train on new building methods; they learn new skills and hone current ones. Their training takes place not only in a classroom or on a job site, but also on a simulated battlefield to develop their

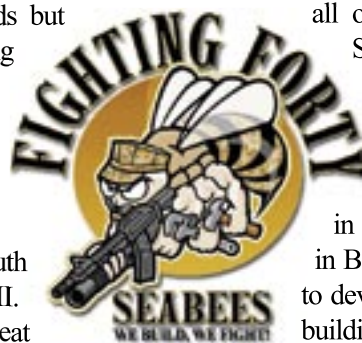
fighting skills. They train to be the total package of construction warriors.

“We train so we can defend and support ourselves,” said Johnson.

Currently, the Fighting Forty is constructing a new pre-engineered building near the leeward airstrip which will accommodate a new firehouse. “We prepared the site by building forms, setting up the reinforcement bar and pouring the concrete,” Johnson said. He also commented on various other projects the Seabees of the Fighting Forty are involved in saying, “We’re building a bridge across the Guantanamo River.”

To aid the mission of Joint Task Force Guantanamo, the Fighting Forty plans to be involved in projects that benefit the JTF such as rebuilding a retaining wall on Cable Beach that was damaged by the hurricane and building a new observational deck on Windmill Hill. Johnson also commented that if there are any other projects the JTF needs a hand with, “We’re always willing to help.

“Wherever there’s a need to build, we build it,” he said, illustrating the Seabees purpose and showing their willingness to get a job done.



# Area fire department marks National Fire Prevention Week

## Guantanamo chief offers safety advice

**Story and photo by Army Sgt. Sarah Stannard**

Joint Task Force Guantanamo  
Public Affairs Office

In only three and a half minutes, the heat from a house fire can reach over 1100 degrees Fahrenheit. Rooms which are not even on fire can easily exceed temperatures of 300 degrees, while smoke could cause the house to be completely dark within four minutes – even with every single light on.

Fires cause more damage and more casualties in the U.S. than all other natural disasters combined, but they are often called ‘silent disasters’ as they rarely generate the same publicity as any one of these other catastrophic events.

Though the occurrence of major fires here is limited, no community is entirely safe from these potentially fatal events. Teaching a communities’ children to be fire-aware can be the first step toward an effective fire prevention program, said Dwayne Gordon, firefighter for the Guantanamo Bay Fire Department,

In conjunction with National Fire Prevention Week Oct. 7-13, Guantanamo Bay’s firefighters took to the streets to educate both Servicemembers and their children about fire hazards and emergency escape plans.

There has not been a ‘total loss’ structure fire here since the 1980s, a statistic which Fire Chief John Mabbitt credits to the Naval Station’s forward thinking. “We have a good fire prevention program,” Mabbitt said, commenting that small residential fires here are often caused by neglect.

The U.S. Fire Administration reported in 2006 that 25 percent of residential fires across the country are caused by unattended-cooking accidents. On this same token, it is estimated that perhaps as many as 90 percent of residential-structure fires here are started in that same way. Toaster ovens and cooking ranges pose high threats if left alone and can be infinitely more dangerous if they are being operated by unsupervised children. Keeping all small appliances unplugged when not in use and buying only products labeled as having been tested in independent laboratories will help to ensure a home safe from fire.

Based on data from the U.S. Fire Administration’s National Fire Incident Reporting System and the National Fire Protection Association’s (NFPA) annual fire experience survey, they estimate that candles ignite approximately 20,900 home fires and cause an average of 200 non-firefighter deaths per year. Those serving in Guantanamo Bay are, again, not immune to these fires. As such, burning candles in barracks buildings is prohibited, said Mabbitt.

For those residents in whose quarters open flames are



**Dwayne Gordon, firefighter for the Guantanamo Bay Fire Department, hands out material to children promoting fire prevention and awareness Saturday, Oct. 13. Teaching children to be fire-aware is the first step towards effective fire prevention.**

allowable, it is necessary to keep candles on sturdy holders and wicks trimmed to one-quarter inch. Also remember to cease using candles which have burned within two inches of their base and never leaving a flame unattended.

Residents here should also be very wary of camp and bonfires, especially during dry months. Though danger of fire is currently low, persons building outdoor fires must have proper permits and meet size requirements.

With Halloween activities just around the corner, the fire department also warns against costumes, wigs and props not specifically labeled fire retardant. Residents should be aware of regulations governing the use of candles in jack-o-lanterns, and ensure they are kept clear of dry vegetation around base housing.



# Once-cold Rockies now hot for World Series



The Colorado Rockies celebrate with the National League championship trophy after winning Game 4 of the National League Championship baseball series against the Arizona Diamondbacks, 6-4, to advance to the World Series, Monday, Oct. 15, 2007, in Denver. The Rockies won an amazing 21 of 22 games and Matt Holliday received the NL Championship Series MVP award. (AP Photo by Eric Gay)

**By Army 1st Sgt. Patrick Sellen**

Joint Task Force Guantanamo  
Public Affairs Office

For the first time since the team's inception in 1993, the Colorado Rockies are going to the World Series. As much a story of getting to the World Series for the first time, the Rockies have taken that and parlayed it into one of baseball's all time best team stories. At the beginning of this season the Rockies were hardly a blip on anyone's radar, but the October blizzard that is the Colorado Rockies managed to catch everyone's attention.

At the All Star break, the Rockies were mediocre and six games behind the San Diego Padres in the National League (NL) West. On Sept. 15 the Rockies were in fourth place behind the the Padres, the Arizona Diamondbacks and the Los Angeles Dodgers. One week later, the Rockies had won seven in a row but only moved to third in the division, still five games back and 2 1/2 games out of the wild card spot.

By the 29th, the Rockies had won 12 out of 13 games, but could not win the division. They needed another win and a Padres loss to

force a one-game playoff for the wild card. As fate would have it, that's exactly what happened. In what was arguably one of the most exciting baseball games in recent memory, the Rockies scored three runs in the bottom of the 13th inning off of Trevor Hoffman (baseball's all time leader in saves) to seal the final playoff spot.

Now the winners of 14 out of 15 and headed to Philadelphia, the Rockies were hot but would still turn up the heat. The Rockies swept the Phillies in three games with a different hero every night. Now the winners of 17 out of 18, the Rockies broke out the brooms again by defeating the Diamondbacks in four games. Matt Holliday received the National League Championship Series MVP from a squad full of team heroes.

With the exception of Holliday and Todd Helton, this team is made up of young, virtually unknown players who all know their roll and play it well. The Rockies have a solid lineup top to bottom and a pitching staff that has shut down opponents in a staggering fashion.

Winners of an amazing 21 of 22

games heading into the World Series the Rockies have their well-oiled machine primed and ready to go. The Rockies have eight days to rest and prepare for the Series, where a win would be an incredible finish to one of baseballs most memorable tales.



Arizona Diamondbacks pitcher Micah Owings reacts after the Colorado Rockies achieve their victory and first ever shot at the penant. (AP Photo by David Zalubowski)

# TEAM HONOR BOUND RUNS ITS WAY TO GLORY



**Army Sgt. 1st Class Roberto Serrano, Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Alexander Europa, Army Sgt. Rafeael Rivas, Army Spc. Wilfredo Turell Army 1st Sgt. Patrick Sellen and Army Spc. Luis Gonzales stand with Army Brigadier General Cameron Crawford to recognize their effort in a cake cutting ceremony, at the Seaside Galley, Friday, Oct. 12. The ceremony recognized the outstanding performance of Team Honor Bound's performance at the Army Ten Miler Sunday, Oct. 7, in Washington, D.C..**

***Story and Photo By Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class William Weinert***

Joint Task Force Guantanamo  
Public Affairs Office

Track star Jesse Owens once said, "I always loved running... it was something you could do by yourself, and under your own power. You could go in any direction, fast or slow as you wanted, fighting the wind if you felt like it, seeking out new sights just on the strength of your feet and the courage of your lungs." These words are exemplified by the triumphant runners of Team Honor Bound; they used the strength of their feet and the courage of their lungs to proudly represent Joint Task Force Guantanamo in the Army 10 Miler in Washington Oct. 7.

The Army 10 Miler is a race which has been held annually for the past 23 years. Each year up to 26,000 military runners, from commands around the world, descend upon the city to trek a course through the nation's capital. The race, which begins at the Pentagon, takes runners

on a tour of many of our national treasures such as the Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument, the Capitol building and ends back at the Pentagon.

The Army 10 Miler is the largest 10 mile race in the country and the second largest in the world.

In order to take part in the race, all runners had to compete in a qualifying race. Here, the qualifying race took place in May and slotted those who were chosen to represent the JTF. In that race twenty-three runners tried out for a slot on Team Honor Bound. Only the top seven finalists were chosen.

The Troopers who distinguished themselves enough to become part of Team Honor Bound and participate in the competition were Alexander Europa, Luis Gonzales, Rafeael Rivas, Larry Thomas, Wilfredo Turell, Patrick Sellen and Roberto Serrano.

Team Honor Bound demonstrated their talent both as a team and individually at the big race. As a

united effort, they finished ninth in the open team category and 24th out of the 500 teams that finished the race. Individually, each member held very respectable times. Wilfredo Turell completed the 10 mile course with a time of 59:44, finishing 87th overall. Rafeael Rivas completed the race with a time of 1:01:19, granting him second place in his age category.

"From a personal standpoint, I am very satisfied with my performance; and from the team standpoint, I could not be prouder," said 1st Sgt. Patrick Sellen who finished with a time of 1:06:58, placing him in the top 400 runners.

"I feel that that my performance was excellent and that I was able to support our team while representing Guantanamo," said Sgt. 1st Class Roberto Serrano, having completed the course with a time of 1:13:29, placing him in the top 1000 runners.

Both Sellen and Serrano look forward to participating in any future races that take place here.



# Navy Celebrates its 232nd Birthday



Servicemembers from Naval Station Guantanamo and Joint Task Force Guantanamo come together to celebrate the Navy's 232nd Birthday at the Navy Ball Oct. 13.



Photos by Lupe Beltran and Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class William Weinert





# Celebrating the Navy's 232nd Birthday

Provided by the Navy Office of Information

*"Happy Birthday Shipmates ... From our humble beginning with six frigates more than 200 years ago, we have become the most dominant and influential naval force ever to sail the world's oceans. We ensure freedom of the seas, project power in support of national interests and support allies and partners around the world. We are at once powerful, yet compassionate when reaching out to others in need."*

**– Adm. Gary Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations**

The United States Navy was formed October 13, 1775, when the Continental Congress passed a resolution to acquire the first two warships. Now, 232 years after the Continental Congress voted to commission a "swift sailing vessel" with "ten carriage guns" and an appropriate "number of swivels," the United States Navy has become the most dominant and influential naval force to ever set sail on the world's oceans.

## It is our Sailors... Cornerstone of success for generations to come ...

- It is the Sailor serving as an individual augmentee in support of the Global War on Terror; the Sailor serving on humanitarian missions bringing hope and healing to thousands; and every Sailor and Navy civilian deployed around the world and serving right here at home that keep our fleet on a steady course today.
- From deterring aggression to protecting sea lanes to projecting power ashore to offering humanitarian assistance to victims of natural disasters, the efforts of every Sailor is vital to the security of the United States
- The Navy is only as good as the people who train, maintain and operate the fleet that the nation has built. It is our Navy total force who shoulder the burden and make the sacrifices that have made this success possible.

## Navy's mission is continuously evolving to face new threats, challenges and opportunities ...

- From protecting our newly earned independence and defending our coasts against pirates to disabling IEDs and rendering humanitarian assistance, the Navy has evolved, transformed and adapted to the challenges of each new era.
- We must balance in our ability to win the peace with the capability to deliver credible combat power as deterrence. It is because of our credible combat strength that we are able to deter regional conflict and promote stability.
- While today's Navy is dedicated to keeping our homeland safe and the world's sea lanes open and free, we must be able to meet the broad spectrum of missions that ensure economic stability and global maritime security.

## Global environment is changing... The maritime environment essential to our way of life ...

- Today's uncertainty and threats are unique. They are caused, and perpetuated, by new challenges brought on by the unstoppable, unrelenting pace of globalization — the notion that the world's nations and people have become, and continue to grow, more interdependent.
- 70 percent of the world is water, 80 percent of the world lives on or near the coastline and 90 percent of our commerce sails across it. Any disruption in that chain caused by instability has a direct impact on American quality of life.
- The growing human population is moving closer to coastlines and into urban centers and, as a result, people are moving goods around the world by sea more than ever before.

## Status of the Navy (as of Oct. 9)

| <u>Navy Personnel</u>             | <u>Sailors "Boots on Ground"</u><br><u>in support of OIF/OEF</u> | <u>Ships, Submarines &amp; Aircraft</u> |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| <b>TOTAL Active duty:</b> 339,355 | <b>TOTAL Sailors "BOG"</b> 14,938                                | <b>TOTAL deployable</b>                 |
| <b>Officers:</b> 51,748           | <b>Iraq</b> 6,487  | <b>ships/subs:</b> 279                  |
| <b>Enlisted:</b> 283,204          | <b>Bahrain</b> 2,792   | <b>Ships/subs</b>                       |
| <b>Midshipmen:</b> 4,403          | <b>Afghanistan</b> 1,458   | <b>underway:</b> 150 (54%)              |
| <b>TOTAL Reserve:</b> 115,427     | <b>Kuwait</b> 2,231  | <b>Ships forward</b>                    |
| <b>Selected Reserves:</b> 58,736  | <b>TOTAL Sailors</b>   | <b>deployed:</b> 123 (44%)              |
| <b>Individual Ready</b>           | <b>deployed*</b> 11,730  | <b>TOTAL Operational</b>                |
| <b>Reserve:</b> 56,691            |  | <b>Aircraft</b> 4,000+                  |
| <b>Reserves Mobilized:</b> 5,758  |  |   |
| <b>DoN Civilians:</b> 176,758     |  |   |

\*on ships, subs, squadrons, ground, etc. in support of OIF/OEF



# Majid Khan Meets With Private Attorney At Guantanamo

*Department of Defense Release*

The Department of Defense today will grant access for a civilian defense attorney to meet with Majid Khan, a Pakistani national and one of 15 high value detainees held at the detention facility in Guantanamo Bay.

Khan is an alleged Al Qaeda operative with direct connections to the United States, having lived and attended high school in the Baltimore area. Khan also has direct connections to Khalid Sheik Mohammed (KSM), whom he has referred to as his uncle. KSM allegedly selected Khan as

an operative for a possible attack inside the United States and tasked him with researching the poisoning of U.S. water reservoirs and the possibility of blowing up gas stations.

Khan has reportedly had links to Al Qaeda operatives and facilitators, some who assisted him with false travel documents to re-enter the U.S. illegally, and involved him in a discussion of smuggling explosives into the United States using the New York office of a Karachi-based textile business.

Khan exemplifies the significant

and genuine threat that the United States and other countries face throughout the world.

Under the Detainee Treatment Act, each detainee at Guantanamo is entitled to have his enemy combatant designation reviewed by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. Providing review of such determination in a nation's own domestic courts is an unprecedented protection for captured enemy fighters in the history of warfare.

There are approximately 330 detainees currently at Guantanamo.

## CFC an opportunity to move the world forward

*By Navy Chief Petty Officer  
Jose Castilla III*

2007 CFC-O Community/Area  
Project Officer

It's that time of year again – not tax time – but that other time Uncle Sam asks federal employees for some hard earned money. This time, however, it's voluntary – this time we get to decide how it's spent. The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) gives all federal employees an opportunity to make a world of difference by supporting charitable organizations of our own choosing. It's an opportunity to move the world forward.

The key ingredient in any successful charitable endeavor is not money, but rather an abundance of inspiration. Guantanamo Bay has that abundance of inspiration. It comes from the special sense of community most, if not all, of us share as Guantanamo residents. Where else can you motor down the road for five minutes and waive to three or four friends? A close friend who served a tour 'behind the wire' (now a command master chief deployed on a flat-top) told

me no fewer than 20 people have approached her to share stories about Guantanamo Bay. It's obvious; the Guantanamo bond endures – even thousands of miles from here, on a flat-top, somewhere in the big blue sea.

Our 2005 CFC was oriented around the central theme, 'No Man is an Island' borrowed from the English poet John Donne. In 2007, 'The American Way' will echo last year's theme, and also the inspirational change of command speech delivered by Rear Adm. Harry Harris, the then outgoing Joint Task Force Guantanamo commander, last May. For those of you who missed it, he explained, we go to such great lengths to

ensure humane and culturally sensitive treatment of our detainees for no other reason than it's the American way.

I know many of us have taken pause to ponder what it means to be a citizen of the United States

and examine our own definition of 'The American Way.' Challenged to perform our duties, even when faced with adversity, the decision to serve our great nation is not always an easy decision to make.

Giving to charity, however, is an easy choice to make. We, as U.S. citizens, have a proud history of helping those in need. So, I ask each one of you, who'll be handed a pledge card this year to not only consider giving, but also capitalize on the opportunity to reflect on what 'The American Way' means to you. For, how else will our American way prevail against those who attack it, if not by the strength we give it every day with our deeds.







# The Kingdom: It's like CSI, but in Riyadh

By Army Sgt. Scott Griffin

Rated: R

Joint Task Force Guantanamo  
Public Affairs Office

Running Time: 110 minutes

The Kingdom, directed by Peter Berg ('The Rundown') and produced by Michael Mann ('Miami Vice,' but also good movies like 'Heat,') starts off with a bang ... literally. A massive, earth-rending explosion kills over 100 people in a Western housing compound in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. To track down the terrorist killer, four FBI specialists (Jamie 'Muscles' Foxx, Jennifer 'I'm Sorry About Elektra' Garner, Jason 'The Funny One' Bateman and Chris 'Chris Cooper' Cooper) are given five days in-country to investigate the attack.

Once at the scene, Berg spends a great deal of time showing us the differences between Saudi Arabian and Western cultures. American crime solving methods – kind of a CSI-Riyadh – are thwarted by Muslim traditions and swarthy, toothy American politicians (Jeremy 'Yeah, It's A Wig' Piven) looking to offend none while appeasing all. They soon find an ally in Saudi Police Col. Al-Ghazi (Ashraf Barhoum). The only competent Saudi looking to solve the crime, he's still got to answer to his obstructionist boss. Al-Ghazi manages to help the Feds wangle their way through foreign politics to finally get a line on the nefarious villain.

As for the much-hyped 'last 30 minutes' of the film: Yeah, it's that good. Shootings and chases and kidnappings, oh my. Frenetic and violent, Garner's solo "battle within a battle" will get viewers clapping and cheering – probably not the best time for that bathroom break.

The actors all do their jobs well and the directing is captivating. The audience is there, experiencing every moment of brutal violence that stops just short of over-the-top gore. The opening attack and the closing action will have viewers' heads spinning well after the closing credits. But the best parts of the film are the chilling moments in between such scenes that show a society crippled by repression: Muslim victims can't be touched by the Feds attempting to investigate the crime while young children are schooled for a future of murder.

The script has its preachy, klunky dialogue, but the film doesn't beat the audience over the head with its message. If anything, this is an entertaining action film with a message that will effect viewers and leave them thinking when they exit the theater ... or walk back from the Lyceum. Depends on whether or not you're one of those Feds with the fancy SUVs. They do get the best toys.

Rating: ★★★★★

## WEEKLY WEATHER FORECAST

Weather forecast provided by [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com)

### Saturday, Oct. 20

Highs in the high - 80's, and lows in the mid-70's.



**Isolated T-Storms**

Sunrise: 6:57 a.m.  
Sunset: 6:34 p.m.  
Chance of rain: 30%

### Sunday, Oct. 21

Highs in the high - 80's, and lows in the mid-70's.



**Isolated T-Storms**

Sunrise: 6:58 a.m.  
Sunset: 6:33 p.m.  
Chance of rain: 20%

### Monday, Oct. 22

Highs in the high - 80's, and lows in the mid-70's.



**Scattered T-storms**

Sunrise: 6:58 a.m.  
Sunset: 6:32 p.m.  
Chance of rain: 60%

### Tuesday, Oct. 23

Highs in the high - 80's, and lows in the low - 70's.



Sunrise: 6:58 a.m.  
Sunset: 6:32 p.m.  
Chance of Rain: 30%

**Scattered T-storms**

### Wednesday, Oct. 24

Highs in the mid - 80's, and lows in the low - 70's.



Sunrise: 6:59 a.m.  
Sunset: 6:31 p.m.  
Chance of Rain: 20%

**Scattered T-storms**

### Thursday, Oct. 25

Highs in the mid - 80's, and lows in the low - 70's.



Sunrise: 6:59 a.m.  
Sunset: 6:30 p.m.  
Chance of Rain: 60%

**Scattered T-storms**

### Friday, Oct. 26

Highs in the mid - 80's, and lows in the low - 70's.



Sunrise: 6:59 a.m.  
Sunset: 6:30 p.m.  
Chance of Rain: 60%

**Scattered T-storms**



There are also two separate sections that house prosecutors and defense attorneys. Vandegrift's staff works with military and civilian attorneys from around the world to ensure they have the resources and facilities necessary to adequately prepare their cases.

"JTF does all it can to meet the needs of the OMC. We try to attack problems from a customer service viewpoint. They are here for a limited time, so we try to do whatever we can to make their stay pleasant," said Vandegrift. "We try to do what is necessary to support OMC personnel while they do their job, so they can perform to the high expectations set by others."

Vandegrift, deployed here for 21 months, will leave his post in November. Although supporting individuals during a trial can be taxing, Vandegrift noted the mission here was a perfect fit for him since he is a retired Maryland State Trooper.

"I am very familiar with the state and local court systems. I have dealt with attorneys

throughout my career, and I have worked on the staff of the Superintendent of the Maryland State Police where I interacted with the governor and his cabinet secretaries," he said.

As the former commander of the Maryland Army National Guard's 29th Division Support Command, Vandegrift added that he developed an understanding of the importance of anticipating problems and resolving them in a timely manner. Once his tour here ends, Vandegrift plans to return to Maryland where he will retire after serving 34 years in the Army. Although his military career has taken him to various places during peace and wartime, he expressed pride in being apart of an essential mission aimed at fighting the Global War on Terrorism.

"I feel I am doing something that is extremely important and vital," he said. "I am trying to put the best foot forward on behalf of JTF to provide the support that is necessary for this mission to be completed."



**"Dirt boys" from the 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron prepare to lay a permanent foundation for Guantanamo Bay, Cuba's new military commissions courtroom expected to be completed early next year. Using plattes developed by the 883rd Red Horse team, the 474th broke ground on the project Sept. 11. (Photo by Army Sgt. Sarah Stannard)**

## Boots on the Ground

*By Army Sgt. Jody Metzger*

**"What kind of experience did you hope to have while serving with the Joint Task Force?"**

**- Army Sgt. 1st Class  
Norma Guevara**



**I hoped to meet new and different kinds of people.**

**- Marine Capt.  
Manuel Carpio**



**The opportunity to work in a joint environment.**

**- Army Spc.  
Carlos Rivera**



**I was just hoping to have a good time and a nice deployment.**

**- Army Cpl.  
Jaime Diaz**



**I thought it would be a challenging and new experience.**

# All you need is love

**By Army Chaplain (Cpt.) Y.J. Kim**

525 Military Police Battalion Chaplain

About four decades ago, John Lennon penned the song “All you need is love.” Can love truly conquer all? In our present time, love seems too simple a solution. It seems what we really need is more technology, more knowledge, more manpower, anything but more love.

What does Scripture tell us about love? John 3:16 states, “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” This verse encapsulates the entire Bible in one verse and is the abstraction of the whole Christian doctrine. This sentence shows God’s depth of love for mankind, that He would sacrifice His one and only son, Jesus Christ.

It might be easy to love your spouse, your children, your parents and your friends, but what about loving some who is antagonistic against you? Before the cross, Jesus had already told His disciples, “Love your enemy” (Matthew 5:44). Hearing it is one thing, but showing it practically and doing it rings a different tune. How can we love our enemies?

The world’s attitude and practice toward an enemy

is to give him the same as he gives – to exact revenge. It is not wrong to repay the people as they did because we know, “man shall reap whatever he sows.” However, we should not exact a revengeful attitude in our hearts toward the enemy. Let God take vengeance. He will do it how and when it pleases Him.

***Loving people is not always going to be easy. It requires tremendous effort, patience, and sacrifice.***

The human heart is not as powerful as it seems. Even though this contemporary world does not seem to exhibit this kind of love, we should not trivialize the greatness of love that was shown on the cross over 2000 years ago. We should strive to show that kind of selfless love in our daily lives. Love is the hardest lesson to learn, yet the most rewarding. And as one of the greatest singing legends, the King of Rock n’ Roll once sang, “Oh yes, I’ve a lot o’ living to do; A whole lot o’ loving to do.”

Each life is to be loved, and no one showed us how to love as our creator did.

## Compassion gives strength to leaders



**By Army Sgt. 1st Class Richard Bush**

525 Military Police Battalion

Compassion, allows us to be stronger leaders by allowing us to better understand the needs and emotions of peers and subordinates. This is important because without compassion we would not think about the causes and effects of our decisions, and our Soldiers and Sailors would suffer.

Compassion allows us to be more aware of what another person is going through and the problems that he or she may be having. This, I think, is especially important considering the jobs that we do as Soldiers and Sailors, as well as the task that we do on a daily basis within the camps.

“By compassion we make others’ misery our own, and so, by relieving them, we relieve ourselves also”

– *Sir Thomas Browne, English Physician, Philosopher and Writer (1605 - 1682)*



# JTF Admin Specialist provides support and encouragement



**Story and photo by Army Sgt. Jody Metzger**

Joint Task Force, Guantanamo Bay  
Public Affairs Office

As long as Sgt. Edna Torres can remember she wanted to be a part of something that helped other people and her community. The police force was her first step. In 1984, she joined the Puerto Rico Police Force in hopes of doing just that.

Although she received great satisfaction working for the police, Torres wanted to reach for more and found it in the Puerto Rico Army National Guard. She joined the 92nd Separate Infantry Brigade in 1999. She currently serves as a vital link to Operation Enduring Freedom as the direct assistant to Command Master Chief Brad LeVault.

Torres, An administrative clerk, has found a great sense of herself she had not previously known. The Joint Task Force mission has pleased and surprised her and she has learned

a great deal using new administrative techniques.

If you ask her when she feels happiest, she would say, ‘helping people’. “In my job here, I help Troopers by finding a way to get their family down here to Guantanamo Bay. When I see them smiling, I feel like it’s all worth it,” said Torres.

To those working with her here, Torres is known as a tenacious individual. No one knows this valuable trait more than her boss, LeVault. Once given an assignment, explained LeVault, she

does everything in her power to get it done and accomplish the mission. “She has a logical and reasonable demeanor making her a calming factor in all situations,” he said.

At the beginning of her career as a police officer, Torres started out patrolling on horseback. She served there for years, racking up an excellent arrest record and winning over many in the department with her professional attitude.

Approached by a tactical unit, Torres joined a stellar force that focused on dangerous missions. “The training was physically hard and consisted of rappelling, formations and training on how to react to dangerous individuals and situations,” she said. Army Basic Training was simple by comparison.

As a police officer, Torres recognizes herself as a proud protector and sometimes a ‘social worker’. She is seen as a defender for broken, battered and abused victims and found a home within the sexual assault department.

Her advocacy for the rights of others, both victim and perpetrator, has earned her respect within the ranks of both the police force and the military.

Though her work as a sexual advocate leads Torres to deal with the many horrors of child abuse, rape and molestation, she feels fulfilled because of the help she can give to those in desperate need. “Each case I work on is different; each experience of being able to help that person in need is all the reward I am looking for as a police officer,” she said.

Not only does Torres have to care for and protect the victim, she also has to arrest *and* protect the rights of those accused — a mission she describes as difficult for many. As a woman working as a detective for sexual advocacy it is easier, explained Torres. “The guys can do it, but it’s harder for them,” she said. “They get emotional and aggressive towards the criminal. Even though that person has just raped somebody or abused a child, you still have to read them their rights,” said Torres. “It is very hard.”

Torres admits that the job is emotionally trying and sometimes finds herself in tears. “Every day I say I hate it, and some days I say I hate the system. We usually give more rights to the sexual assaulter than to the victims,” said Torres. Though that realization is a hard one for Torres, she drives on because her caring for others is more important.

Sometimes, Torres explained, you have to go the extra mile to care for the victims. “I get a sense of satisfaction that I was there when they needed me. I cry with them and help the victims let their pain go. It is good for them to see that you are compassionate and understanding of what they went through,” Torres said. “When you see that smile and you grasp them close to you — for me, it gives me all the motivation in the world.”

# AROUND THE

# JTF



▲ Navy Lt. Danielle Riordan receives the Defense Meritorious Service Medal during a Joint Intelligence Group awards ceremony at the Intelligence and Operations Facility here on Oct. 10. (Photo by Army Spc. Shanita Simmons)



▲ Rear Adm. Mark Buzby, Commander of Joint Task Force Guantanamo, marks the kickoff for the Combined Federal Campaign Monday, Oct. 15, at the Gold Hill Galley. The CFC is a fundraiser, conducted annually, which allows federal employees to contribute money to charities of their own choosing. (Photo by Army Spec. Shanita Simmons)



◀ Sailors from the First Class Association and the Chief Petty Officers Association went pin for pin at the Marblehead Lanes Bowling Center to participate in a friendly competition, Friday, Oct. 12. (Photo by Army Sgt. Jody Metzger)