

# The WIRE

**Navy SecDet rains  
on 525th's parade,  
wins Pig Bowl in  
first appearance**



*End of an era:  
GTMO's last two  
Cuban workers  
retire, cross gate  
one last time*

*Trooper Focus:  
Spc. Ardell Henderson*

# COMMAND CORNER

**COL. JOHN BOGDAN**  
COMMANDER, JOINT DETENTION GROUP

**T**radition: the handing down of beliefs, legends, customs, from generation to generation; a long-established or inherited way of thinking or acting.

The holidays are all about family and traditions – just like the military. We are steeped in traditions that create and identify the culture of each unique service. Just like Troopers in the individual services, the tradition of service to nation is rich in American families. My parents were children of Polish immigrants, so our tradition of service began when the first members of my family landed in America.

My grandfather was an infantryman with the 319th Infantry Regiment, part of the American Expeditionary Force in World War I. My father, who spent 30 years in the Navy, was drafted during World War II and served with the U.S. Navy in the Pacific. I continued our fledgling tradition on June 6, 1983 when I raised my right hand and enlisted in the U.S. Army. As I was contemplating services, I recall my father saying, “You don’t have to join the Navy just because I was in the Navy. Service to nation is important. We owe it to all Americans to do our part to protect, defend, and improve our Nation.”

Four years later, my brother Jim continued the fight as a Marine assigned to 1st Marine Division in Desert Storm. Today, my son Jake is the latest addition in a long line of similar family stories, as he serves with the 1st Ranger Battalion. It is quite amazing to see four generations of military members giving selflessly for the nation that we love so dearly.

Then there are the families, over a century in my family alone, keeping up the fight at home supporting their Warriors as they come and go from the battlefields of the world. As I consider this, I am overwhelmed

by the thought that my family tradition is but a tiny piece of the greater whole. We serve with all of those who serve our nation, the millions of men and women before and after us, the multitudes of families doing their part to support us in our quest. Some people don’t understand our tradition and ask why, what’s the big deal? To that I can only partly explain the raw emotion that wells up inside me when I think of the fact that less than one percent of our great nation has ever raised their hand and sworn to protect and defend it.

It brings to mind when I was talking to the mother of a Soldier in my battalion who was killed in combat. As I fought back tears, I told her what an amazing and selfless young man he was. She said, “He was doing what he loved with people he was proud to be with, doing what he was supposed to be doing.” And she could live with that! Amazing, truly awe-inspiring.

I am inspired to walk among the ranks of such great patriots every day of my life. We do this because we believe in our nation, because we are called to serve. Being a Soldier, a Sailor, an Airmen, a Marine, isn’t a job – it’s a calling, a calling as divine as any. You were called to be a part of something unique and timeless, a tradition as old as the medieval knights and Roman legions that we draw many of our current traditions from even today.

So, no matter what your motivation was to join, today you serve among the very best that our nation has to offer. We are all part of this living and growing tradition of service.

Why do you serve? What’s your story? Share your story, your tradition, with your brothers and sisters in arms and with the rest of the nation so they might better appreciate the true meaning of tradition.



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**Cover:** The Navy SecDet team members gather around the trophy they earned for winning the 525th Military Police Battalion Pig Bowl on Saturday afternoon in the team's first appearance in the quarterly competition. This quarter, the competition was an Ultimate Frisbee tournament with teams playing games in a single elimination format. Photo by Spc. Brian Godette

# JOINT TASK FORCE GUANTANAMO

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# NEWS FROM THE BAY

## Motorcycle course

Have you ever wanted to ride a motorcycle? It may seem difficult to learn, but Naval Station Guantanamo Bay has a solution. The NAVSTA Safety Office is offering the Basic Rider Motorcycle Safety Course to all GTMO residents. For more information or to sign up for the course, contact the Safety office at 4655.

## Reservations

Preparing for parties and events can be very stressful. Wouldn't it be nice to not have to worry about the big stuff? The Bayview and the MWR have you covered. They can provide tables, bounce houses, catering, or DJ equipment. For more information or to make your reservation, contact Ging at 75604 or 84414.

## Birthday Extravaganza

The National Guard is celebrating its 376th birthday! The National Guard Birthday Committee is hosting the National Guard Birthday Extravaganza at Phillips Dive Park on Friday. The party starts at 4 p.m. This is a free event for all National Guard personnel. Come out and celebrate 376 years of military history.

## A new way to dance

Want to learn salsa? Lessons are held every Saturday at the W.T. Sampson Elementary School gymnasium. There is a beginner class from 7 to 8 p.m. and an intermediate class from 8 to 9 p.m. For more information, contact gtmosalsa@yahoo.com or 84093.

## A new way to bowl

Want to liven up your bowling experience? Come out and enjoy all-new Cosmic Bowling, now playing at Marblehead Lanes Bowling Center every Friday and Saturday night from 9 to 11:30 p.m. The scene features new cosmic lights and sound system, and attendees can request music on four new big screens. The \$13 cost includes two and a half hours of bowling and a shoe rental.

## Lyceum re-opened

After Hurricane Sandy's visit, the Camp Bulkley Lyceum sustained some damage. Lengthy repairs have been finished, and the lyceum is now open for business. Call the movie hotline for current listings at 4880.

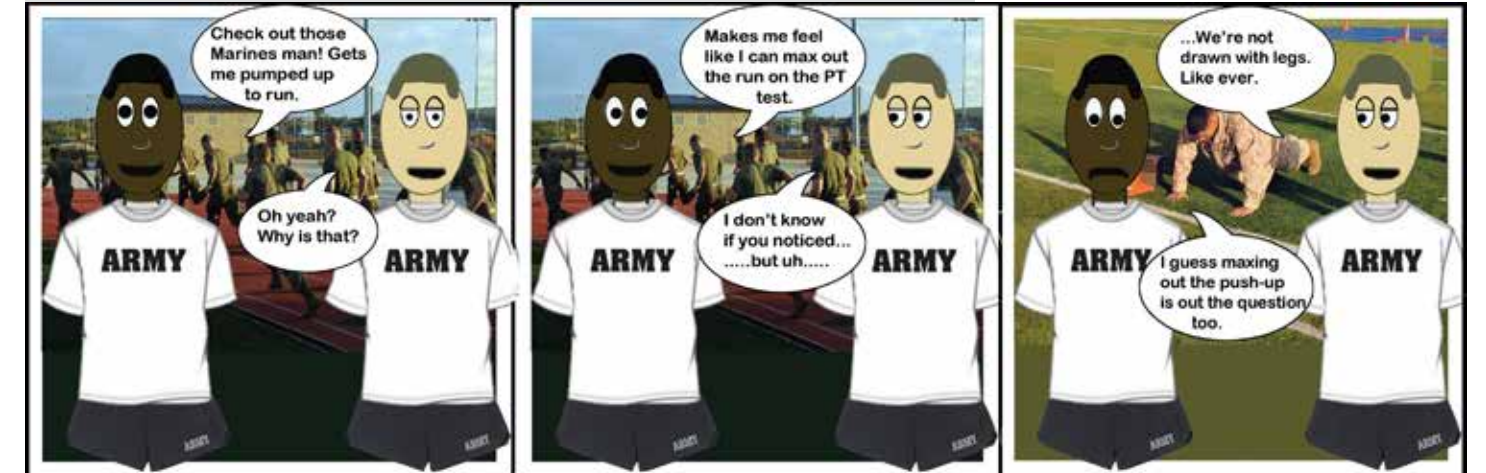
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The WIRE is the official news magazine of Joint Task Force Guantanamo. It is produced by the JTF Public Affairs Office to inform and educate the Troopers of JTF Guantanamo through news, features, command guidance, sports and entertainment. This DoD news magazine is an authorized publication for the members of the Department of Defense. Contents of The WIRE are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or Joint Task Force Guantanamo. It is printed by Defense Logistics Agency Document Services with a circulation of 1,200.



## ONLY AT GTMO by Spc. Brian Godette



## Movie Review

R  
139 min.

# FLIGHT



By Army Staff Sgt. Michael Davis Jr.

Robert Zemeckis is back on the scene, or rather back behind the camera, and has recently directed another serious and character-driven film since “Cast Away.” Not taking any seriousness away from “A Christmas Carol,” “Beowulf,” and “The Polar Express,” but the tone of his new movie “Flight” says it brought out the true filmmaking artist in him as once seen in “Forrest Gump.”

In Zemeckis’ new action-packed drama, Academy Award winner Denzel Washington stars as Whip Whitaker, a seasoned airline pilot who miraculously crash-lands and saves almost every soul on board after a mid-air malfunction. However, his heroism quickly becomes questioned when alcohol is found in his system from a blood sample and an investigation is established.

The synopsis alone is intriguing, but there is so much more to the plot of this film. “Flight” has Zemeckis’ stamp printed all over it with his “Back to the Future” quirky comedy and his “Forrest Gump” dramatic tone of music. However, he does exhibit a different and bit of a dark art in this film I’ve never seen him create before that I think like it.

The first scene of the film is set in a hotel room revealing a nude female, Katerina Marquez (Nadine Velazquez, “War”), getting dressed and Whip waking up and answering a phone call from his ex-wife. They discuss matters regarding their son, who he hasn’t seen in years. Trying to recover from a hangover, Whip and the now half-dressed Katerina, whom we later learn is one of his plane’s stewardesses, have minimal flirtatious conversation. He then sniffs a line of cocaine to wake up and sober up before he goes to fly SouthJet flight 227.

Just as he snorts and lifts his head, the camera jerks back in the same motion and we see Whip looking up facing the camera followed by a loud high beat style of music.

The next shot shows him walking with dark sun glasses on, as if everything is fine, before he boards the plane.

What a great way to introduce the characters and show what type of person Whip is. In that scene alone, I thought the lighting and camera composition choices were good. There weren’t a lot of close-up shots to emphasize the naked female, like most movies do, and the lighting wasn’t too bright in attempt to showcase Denzel Washington, the star actor.



With the collaboration of John Gatins, the writer, and Zemeckis’ directing skills, the rest of the film blossomed through the acting and dialogue, allowing you to ‘get personal’ with every single character who had a line, even if you didn’t agree with their views.

Whether it was Whips’ other stewardess, Margaret Thomason (Tamara Tunie, “Missed Connections”), and her religious views and love for her son Trevor, or Ken Evans (Brian Geraghty, “Hurt Locker”), his co-pilot’s, frantic moments in the middle of the mid-air plane catastrophe, or even the guy Whip meets in the stairwell who is dying from cancer but just wants to smoke a cigarette with Whip, they all displayed such moving performances where you could relate them to someone you know. John Goodman (“The Artist”), Whip’s drug dealer Harling Mays, and Bruce Greenwood (“Super 8”), Whip’s friend and union representative Charlie Anderson, were also great

supporting actors in the film

All of the actors were good, but to me, Denzel takes the spotlight with his amazing performance throughout the film. He has played many roles in many films, but this time he plays the role of a man who has fulfilled his dream of flying airplanes but has a major drinking problem. It wasn’t a regular staggering, slurred speech, drunken role either. His acting abilities added to his character’s bio of a man who had an addiction, a denial issue and a serious problem.

His alcoholism interfered with his affectionate relationship with Nicole (Kelly Reilly, “Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows”), a recovering heroin addict who he met in the stairwell with the guy who has cancer, his bonding with his son, Will (Justin Martin, “The Soloist”), and his career that may end with possible jail time. This film was definitely character driven.

I found it funny because Don Cheadle, who played the role of his lawyer, Hugh Lang, and who tried his hardest to keep Whip sober, was the drunken character in “Devil in the Blue Dress,” the last movie he and Denzel played in together.

On top of the great acting, Zemeckis used great shots to tell stories within the actual scenes that were going on. I can tell that his directing has progressed over the years, and I can also tell he put a lot into this film besides the fact that it was three years since he directed his last film.

Another sub-plot that I enjoyed about the movie that added to the great shots, plot and character development was the spiritual messages that were in it. The contrast between Whip’s lustful addiction and his miraculous action of saving many lives allowed divine content to be in the film, causing Whip to struggle within himself and to arouse questions in the other character’s lives in regard to the catastrophic event.

To me, the film has Oscar buzz written all over it from the director’s artistry I mentioned earlier. I definitely give “Flight” four and a half banana rats.



## Gold Hill to close for renovations

Story and photos by  
Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone

Have you ever taken a moment while standing in line at the Gold Hill Galley to see what kind of floor you’re standing on?

The Gold Hill Galley, also known as the Iggy Cafe, has serviced Sailors, Soldiers, Airman, Marines, and Coast Guardsman for the better part of 40 years with their daily meals and a place to relax after a long duty day. Since 1971, when the Galley was constructed, the red tile floor has seen better days. Starting Wednesday, the Naval Station Guantanamo Bay eatery will commence a complete renovation of its red tile floor. The multi-million-dollar project is funded by Naval Facilities-Southeast Region to renovate and upgrade energy efficiency at both the Leeward and Gold Hill Galleys. The decision to move forward with the renovations was a collaboration between Naval Station commander Navy Capt. John Nettleton, Joint Task Force Guantanamo commander Rear Adm. John W. Smith and JTF deputy commander Army Brig. Gen. James Lettko.

The Gold Hill renovation is the last-half of the total project that began with the Leeward Galley, which is now in the final completion stage.

The Leeward Galley was selected because of its smaller service area and thus was the test project to ensure that if there were any flaws in the application of the flooring that it would be addressed then.

According to Navy Chief Warrant Officer Kevin Clarida, naval station food service officer, the funding for the project is for the sustainment of the quality of life for the military personnel and employees that it serves.

“For health reasons, we are required to close the galley while repairs are being made,” Clarida said. “The amount of dust particles

and vapors from the epoxy flooring that will get into the air ducts prevents us from keeping the Galley fully operational.”

So, what kind of flooring will one see while standing in the serving line when the Gold Hill reopens on Jan. 27?

“The project is subcontracted through the Burns, Roe and DCK Corp. here at



Food service management and project personnel at Gold Hill Galley are, from left, Chief Petty Officer Robby Thompson, Mary Alber, J4 assistant site director, Navy Chief Warrant Officer Kevin Clarida, and Cmdr. Michael Funnye, J4 director.

Gauantamo Bay,” said Mary Alber, J4 assistant site director. “They will pour an epoxy type of floor that will be seamless, preventing water damage and repair for approximately 15 to 20 years.”

You may be asking yourself, what does that

blue meal card you hold get you now?

Answer: a new place to dine for breakfast, lunch and dinner (no mid-rats) on the Naval Station side.

While renovations are under way, meals will be transported from the Leeward Galley to a make-shift dining room in the Windjammer Ballroom. The first 350 bearers of the meal card and a military ID will be served a balanced, nutritious meal consisting of two entrees, potatoes or rice, and choice of two vegetables and a dessert. What you won’t find are deli selections or short order items. The days of buffet-style are temporarily over.

If you’re a non-card holder with cash, Morale, Welfare and Recreation will also augment meals in the Windjammer with a \$7.99 buffet-style meal. All meals will be eaten on-site with no carry-outs. Normal business hours will continue to apply for dining times.

The project is expected to be finished in the first three weeks, with the last week to ensure that the new flooring is secured and no problems exist.

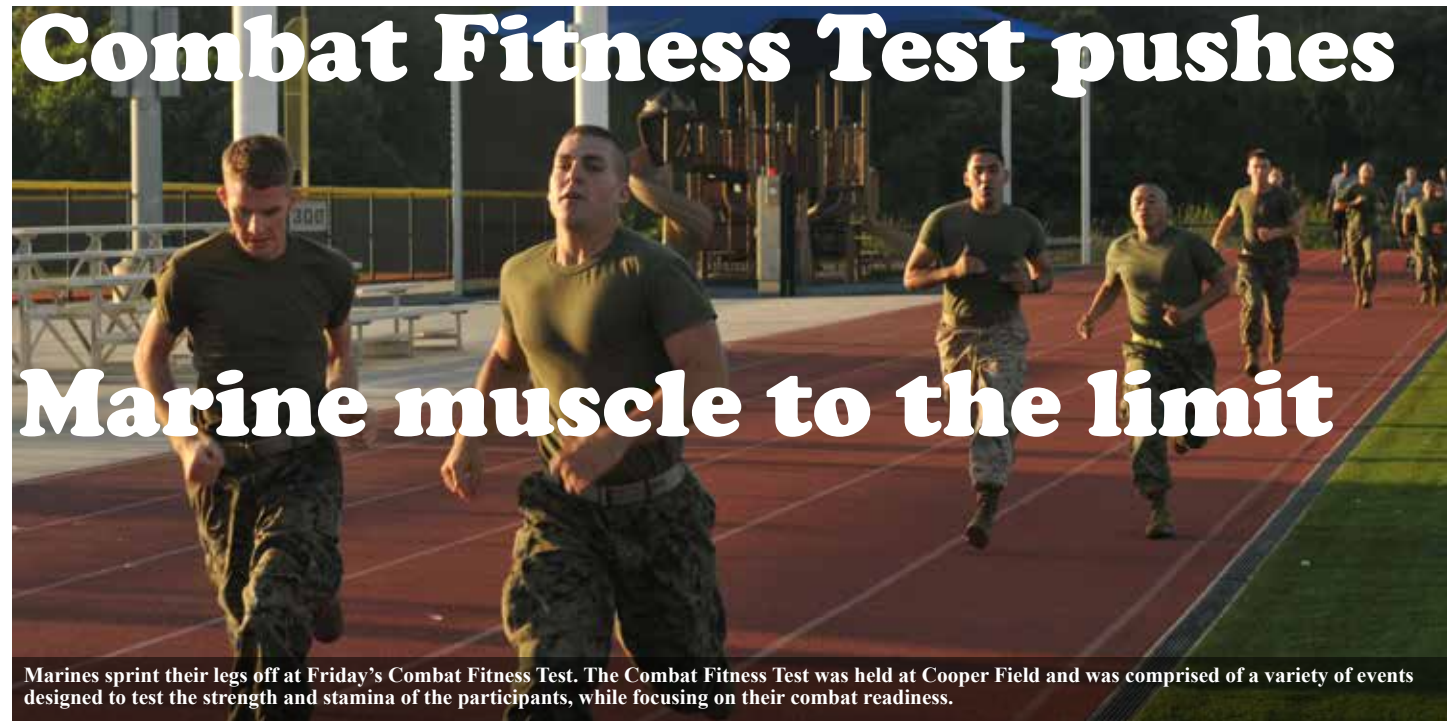
In addition to the new flooring, energy-efficient windows and entry doors will also be replaced.

The decision to close Gold Hill for



# Combat Fitness Test pushes

# Marine muscle to the limit



Marines sprint their legs off at Friday's Combat Fitness Test. The Combat Fitness Test was held at Cooper Field and was comprised of a variety of events designed to test the strength and stamina of the participants, while focusing on their combat readiness.

Story and photos by Spc. Brian Godette

**W**arriors, Gladiators, Devil Dogs! Just a few nicknames used to describe those who serve in the Marine Corps, just like those who serve here at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay. Ensuring that all Troopers are physically fit to meet the needs of the military is a crucial aspect in military life and in maintaining combat readiness.

On Friday morning at Cooper Field, Marines gathered alongside a few Airmen, Sailors and Coast Guardsmen to conduct their semi-annual Combat Fitness Test.

"This is the Combat Fitness Test that the Marine Corps requires us to do," said Marine 1st Sgt. Jonathan Martin, senior enlisted leader of the Marine Corps Security Force Company. "It consist of running 880 meters, 97 ammo can lifts, and then running maneuver under fire, which is 100 yards down and back, all the way from zig zagging in between cones to carrying individuals and then carrying two 30lb ammo cans followed by a grenade toss."

Troopers were dressed in combat uniform, minus the blouse and hat, ready to take on the upcoming test with high aspirations.

"Our goal is for every Marine to score a first class on the CFT, and that would be achieving a score of 270 or above out of 300 on the CFT," Martin said.

The Marines on the field not only had the look of readiness, but they are continually

trained to be so according to Martin.

"The Marine Corps requires us to do physical training (PT) five days a week in which we incorporate combat fitness training," he said

The amount of training and testing done



Marines put their strength to the test during the ammo can lift, another of the combat-oriented tests held during the Combat Fitness Test on Friday at Cooper Field.

by the Marines not only adds to their physical durability and combat readiness, but it helps when going for promotions as well. For junior Marines, the points add to their eligibility to be promoted and for senior

Marines and officers, it helps when going up for boards.

One by one, each Marine, as well as the other Troopers taking part in the CFT, pushed their bodies to the limit and gutted through each event. The most impressive performances came from the final event – maneuver under fire.

The event, which started off at 7 a.m., reached its third event around 8 a.m., with clear skies and a brighter sun heating the field and Troopers. The coned course was laid out previously, as a walkthrough of the course was detailed to the participating Troopers.

Two at a time, Troopers would start from one end of the field, blouses back on at this point, in the down front leaning rest position. On the signal of go, they popped up and sprinted a distance before dropping and low crawling to another marker where they would then high crawl. Up from that position, they zigged and zagged through cones that led them to a mock fallen Marine, whom they had to drag a distance before initiating a fireman's carry and sprinting them back towards the start point to safety.

Done, right? Negative.

Once safely releasing their fallen comrade, the Troopers pick up two 30-pound ammo cans and sprinted once again through the cone course, finding themselves at a placed grenade that was

to be thrown accurately enough into a designated area. While the grenade is in the air, three push-ups are done and the Trooper then zigs his way back to the original starting point in this timed course. HOO-RAH!

New Year's

# ROCKIN' RIDGELINE

## Mountain Biking Race

### January, 5 2012



# 0900-1100

## Ridgeline Trail

**Register by Jan. 2, 2013 at the Marina  
Race starts at the parking lot across from the BOQ  
and ends by Tierra Kay Housing.**

**This is an individual, time based race that will  
encompass the entire Ridgeline Trail.**

**1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place finishers receive a prize.**

**This is a FREE event, open to riders of all ages**

**FMI, call 2345**

5 on 5  
**HOLIDAY  
HOOPS**



FREE,  
All Hands  
16+

**2 DAY TOURNAMENT**  
Dec. 21-Dec. 22 | 7 pm  
Denich Gym Indoor Court

**REGISTER YOUR TEAM**

(5 players on the court & up to 5 subs)

By 12/14 at Denich Gym

Coaches Meeting: Dec. 19, 5:30 pm, Denich Gym

**Liberty Half Court Shoot-Out Competition**

(Available to unaccompanied, active duty)

**Food & Refreshments Provided**



**Awards distributed at conclusion of tournament**



FMI, call  
2113/84569



GTMO  
says  
farewell to  
remaining  
Cuban  
workers

Naval Station Guantanamo Bay's last two Cuban commuters, Harry Henry and Luis LaRosa, cut their cake following a retirement ceremony honoring their nearly 120 years of combined service to the base and U.S. government. Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Justin Ailes

Story by Kelly A. Wirfel  
Naval Station Guantanamo Bay Public Affairs Officer

Harry Henry and Luis LaRosa, the last two Cuban commuter Naval Station Guantanamo Bay employees, were honored during a retirement ceremony Dec. 14.

As dawn breaks each morning, these two employees take a cab from Guantanamo City, Cuba and make the hour-long commute to the naval station's Northeast Gate. At the gate, the workers are stopped and checked by the Cuban frontier brigade, after which they pass through a gate beneath a sign that says "Republica de Cuba."

They then walk across a 50-yard open stretch, divided by a painted white line that demarcates Cuban and American territory. At the second gate, marked "U.S. Naval Base, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba," U.S. Marines exchange the workers' Cuban identification cards for naval station badges.

LaRosa is then given the keys to a blue Ford truck and drives approximately eight miles to drop off his co-worker before ending his commute at the Cuban Community Center, where he serves as a maintenance man. They repeat this same process at the conclusion of each day.

"This is all just routine for us, but sometimes you feel like you are living in two worlds," Henry said. "They are two systems any way you look at it. But we are used to it."

Their unique commute is quickly drawing to an end. The two will cross through the gate one last time Dec. 31.

Both men brought their wives and family

members to the base for Friday's ceremony, the first time the families have been able to visit the installation.

GTMO's commanding officer, Navy Capt. J.R. Nettleton, welcomed the retirees and their families at the event.

"I would like to take a moment to recognize some of our special guests. First and foremost, to our retirees and their families, you have given so much to this base and are truly part of the Naval Station Guantanamo Bay family," Nettleton said. "Your years of dedication and support will always be honored and remembered here."

The guest speaker, Cuban-born retired Cmdr. Carlos Del Toro, honored the two in his speech.

"It is often the case that the first to achieve success is often the one who receives the recognition. Today we honor two different but equally important individuals. The last of a breed – a duo of hard-working Cuban commuters venturing day-in and day-out, across no-man's land and through fenced borders to go to work every day," Del Toro said. "To Mr. Henry and Mr. LaRosa, your distinguished career is cherished by those of us who have come to know you as peers and friends. We wish you wonderful retirement. You've earned it. Congratulations. Muchas felicidades."

Following Del Toro's speech, Nettleton and Navy Capt. Kevin Head, the commanding officer of Naval Supply Systems Command Fleet Logistics Center Jacksonville, presented Henry and LaRosa with the Meritorious Civilian Service Medal and their retirement

certificates. Nettleton then presented the "walking stick" to both men. The passing of the walking stick is a tradition that was started by the commuters in the 1960s, and the walking stick has been passed along to the most senior commuter throughout the years.

These men have not only served as government employees, they have also served as an important conduit for the Special Category Residents, often referred to as "Cuban Exiles," who fled Cuba in the late 1950s and were permitted to settle on the base. Many of these "exiles" communicate with their family members who remained in Cuba by passing messages and pictures to Henry and LaRosa, who then deliver it to their family members.

Henry began working on the base at the age of 17 and throughout his long and distinguished career held numerous positions to include duplication equipment operator, property supply clerk and stock control clerk before being assigned to his final position as a supply technician. When he officially retires on Dec. 31, Mr. Henry will have served a total of 61 years, eight months and one day to the U.S. Government.

LaRosa began working on the base in 1957 and held numerous positions to include a bodyworker, plumber, sheet metal worker, maintenance man and most notably as a welder. When he officially retires on Dec. 31, he will have served 53 years, 10 months and 10 days to the U.S. Government.

"Retiring is bittersweet," La Rosa said. "I have a lot of pieces of my life here. My heart is sad about leaving, but I know it is time."

# Pig Bowl heats up friendly competition



The Pig Bowl champions, the Navy SecDet, pose for a team photo after a hard fought win. The Navy SecDet team was the only Navy team in the competition and appeared in the Pig Bowl for the first time, but they really brought their A-game to Saturday's Pig Bowl and took home the trophy.

Story and photos by Spc. Brian Godette

This isn't your grandfather's Frisbee. It's time for Ultimate Frisbee, and the championship trophy is on the line. On Saturday morning, hundreds of Troopers occupied Cooper Field ready to build morale and wage war – war of the Frisbee – in the 2012 Pig Bowl.

"This is the Frisbee football competition, and it's a tradition for military police organizations to have what we call a Pig Bowl," said Army Sgt. Maj. Michael L. Baker, sergeant major of the 525th Military Police Battalion. "For this one, besides the battalion, we reached out to our Navy friends, security forces like the masters-of-arms here, to compete also for the coveted 525 trophy."

So this is how it works: Several teams compete in a bracketed tournament with single game eliminations. Each team plays two periods of football-style Frisbee, gaining one point per score in the end zone, a huge team effort seeing as movement with the Frisbee in-hand is limited. The teams

battle it out in back-to-back games until the championship game, in which the winner is



Army Lt. Col. Darcy Overbey presents the Pig Bowl trophy to a Navy Lt. Nicholas Pecci, a Navy SecDet team leader.

crowned and takes home the trophy.

Excitement can barely describe the feeling on the field at 8 a.m., when the individual companies got into military formation with their representing guidons blowing in the wind in front of them. Baker introduced Army Lt. Col. Darcy L. Overbey, commander of the 525th MP Battalion, who gave the opening remarks.

Spectators filled the bleachers, the concession stand opened for business and music from the field speakers carried the already abundant energy, keeping the crowd and players amped.

With the field cleared of all teams and opening remarks closed, the call for the first game came over the speakers. It was HHC versus 193rd, and they sprinted onto the field. It was a close game, full of highlight grabs and amazing teamwork. The 193rd Frisbee team fell short to HHC in a nail biter game with a final score of 7-6.

"I'm feeling pretty good. 193rd has about twice as many people as we (HHC) have, so it feels good to beat them," said Army Master Sgt.



Competitors leap for the frisbee during Saturday's Pig Bowl. Competitors came from every rank and played like pros.

Fredrico Kirksey, an HHC team member. "We have a small team, but we have good cohesion and we're together, so it will definitely motivate us and push us into the next round."

The games continued at intervals of approximately 45 minutes per game. Soldier after Soldier stepped up onto that field, from junior enlisted to officer, competing and having fun together.

The biggest surprise came when the Navy SecDet team took the field against the 189th. The Navy, who appeared for the first time in the 525th MP BN Pig Bowl games, was viewed as that – newcomers.

"This is an invitation that was given to us by Sgt. Maj. Baker, and he invited us out to the Pig Bowl, which you guys do every quarter, and he said we will get that invitation every quarter and we're here," said Chief Petty Officer Eduardo Perez, a Navy SecDet team member.

"Good competition and at the same time we're here to have fun with other

assisted services," Perez said. "It's awesome. These guys are enthusiastic about being out here and being invited to something you guys have had going on for a long time. It's great and builds that relationship on base."

The Navy team not only went on to win that game but to advance another round, finding themselves playing in the championship game in their first time participating.

The championship game became more of a suspenseful build up with HHC versus

SecDet. It was on, and the Navy team came out the gate strong, putting up several unanswered points. Petty Officer 2nd Class Benjamin Jaster led much of the offensive charge for the SecDet team. The yellow headband he sported could be seen at the receiving end or the starting point of several Navy touchdowns.

The game was looking all Navy going into the half, but a resurgent HHC team came back strong in the second half and brought the game within one point. Unfortunately for HHC, the Navy team collected themselves as well, widening the scoring gap slightly and holding off for the victory and championship title.

All teams formed up on the field at the end, and the Navy SecDet was awarded the 525th MP BN trophy.

Baker and Overbey both thanked all participants for what turned out to be a great day of fun, competition, and team unification.

The Navy victory is a good way to continue to have the Navy and other forces continue to come out and participate in team building functions, according to Baker.



The winning team shakes hands with their opponents after the championship game at Saturday's Pig Bowl. The Pig Bowl was hosted by the 525th MP Battalion at Cooper Field, and the event is put on quarterly by the 525th.

# Spc. Ardell Henderson

Supply  
specialist

supplies  
God's word



# Trooper Focus



Story and photos by  
Army Staff Sgt. Michael Davis Jr.

“Are we learning together? Are we growing together?” As a Trooper working alongside other service members in this joint environment here in Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, who wouldn’t want to adhere to such questions?

These motivating, encouraging, and stimulating questions are attributed to Spc. Ardell Henderson, a unit supply specialist with the 193rd Military Police Company. His military occupational specialty allows him to supply material items to his company, but his higher calling as an evangelist and teacher allows him to supply spiritual values to whoever wants it. He is Spc. Henderson to some, but Minister Henderson to many others.

“I’ve been preaching and teaching for 11 years,” Henderson said.

Initially a minister of music, Henderson didn’t always think he was called to preach and teach. It wasn’t until he and other ministers were watching a T.D. Jakes preaching video and a fellow minister told him that he could see him preaching.

“We were at a brotherhood meeting watching the T.D. Jakes video, and he just looked at me and said, ‘Brother Henderson can you picture yourself doing that?’ I started laughing, I was like, no I couldn’t see myself,” Henderson said.

That same minister said he saw him beside his wife preaching in a big stadium in front of thousands of people.

That big stadium has yet to come, but his preaching and teaching have been delivered throughout his military career.

Not taking away from a chaplain’s duties of ministering to military personnel, Henderson said he had the opportunity to help them spread God’s word to the armed forces community.

“I’ve been very fortunate everywhere I’ve gone. Whether overseas, deployed, or state-side, I’ve been very fortunate to work with a lot of chaplains that have allowed me to do that,” Henderson said.

Now at GTMO, Henderson has the opportunity to work with Navy Lt. Larry L. Jones, a naval station chaplain, with his mission of spiritually edifying the community.

“It’s always helpful to a pastor and very encouraging to have someone that is very capable of carrying the word of God, understand the word of God and teach the word of God so that people can receive the message,” Jones said.

Jones also said he and Henderson are common in regards to having the same enthusiasm and passion to share their belief in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

“We have a like spirit and the same heart when it comes down to making sure people understand the scriptures and that they’re walking in the fullness of the scriptures and



to have him here has been such an enhancement to not just my life but to our services as well,” Jones said.

Jones’ and Henderson’s constant smiles give away their spiritual satisfaction and happiness.

“It is probably the most enjoyable thing I’ve ever done in my life,” Henderson said, explaining how he feels about teaching and preaching the word of God. “Every single time that I get the opportunity to do it, it’s like the first time. It’s something that I love to do because for me, according to what I believe, it’s my opportunity to let God function and do what he wants to do in me and through me for the people.”

Even though Henderson is in charge of the choir and loves to sing and play the piano

at the Sunday afternoon Gospel service, he has had the opportunity to preach as well.

He teaches every Thursday at the chapel annex, room 17 at 6:30 p.m., where he expresses more of his passion and enthusiasm.

Just as energetic as a football coach toward his players, or as rigorous as a drill sergeant is toward his new Troopers, Henderson teaches his class with vitality and is full of life.

“We not only have a different person but a dynamic person, in personality, in energy, in passion, and that all adds to the package of preaching,” Jones said. “People think it’s just the word, but the delivery of the word has an impact as well.”

“Are we learning together? Are we growing together?” Henderson asked in the middle of teaching his Life in the Word Bible Study class.

Henderson said he thanks God for allowing him to have a demeanor that allows people to feel comfortable enough to ask for spiritual edification and guidance not only in his class but outside as well.

“They want to come talk to me about their different issues. Some of them ask for prayer, some of them who have never heard me preach or teach or anything, never attended any function that I’ve been blessed to lead, will still come with that because, I believe, they understand that there is something different about me, and according to what I believe, I know that’s nothing but the Lord, got nothing to do with Henderson at all,” he said.

Despite his many years of preaching and teaching, he is very modest but feels one’s spiritual development or growth is important. He said he is learning himself every time he preaches and teaches.

“I think it’s one of the most instrumental and effective tools that God uses to establish some of the most basic principles of himself and his word amongst his people. This enables believers, whether young or old, to live more disciplined, more powerful, more victorious lives than what they may have experienced in the past, so I think it’s extremely vital and it’s fun,” Henderson said.

**Does your organization have some advice or information it's trying to put out to the rest of JTF Guantanamo?**

**Is your organization having trouble getting the message out or knowing where to put it so others will see it?**

**Why not put it in**

# **The WIRE?**

**The Wire staff is now seeking submissions from JTF and NAVSTA organizations interested in sharing some advice or a message with Troopers.**

**Articles will appear in the order they are received, weekly in The Wire. This week's article on page 17 is from the Fleet and Family Support Center, for example.**

**For more information contact Army Staff Sgt. Michael Davis Jr. or Army Sgt. Jonathan Monfiletto**

## *And they're off!*

### **Runners compete in GTMO MWR half marathon**

A total of 51 runners - 46 men and five women - start off down Sherman Avenue in a half marathon sponsored by Naval Station Guantanamo Bay Morale, Welfare and Recreation on Saturday morning. Air Force Lt. Col. Elmer Norvell (no. 237) won the event with a time of (X).

Story and photos by Army Sgt. Jonathan Monfiletto

Up before the sun on Saturday morning, 51 runners took off from the bus stop across from the Navy Exchange with the command of "Get ready, get set, go!" as part of a half marathon hosted by Naval Station Guantanamo Bay Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

The starting line was at the bus stop, and the finish line was in the parking lot of the Downtown Lyceum. In between was a 13-mile challenge for 46 men and 5 women that was eventually won by Air Force Lt. Col Elmer Norvell.

Before the participants got on their way, MWR Fitness Coordinator Dennis Anthony went over the race course with them. Starting from the bus stop, they would run down Sherman Avenue to Knob Hill, and then from Knob Hill they would go to Kittery Beach Road.

From Kittery Beach Road, they would run to Recreation Road, past the Windjammer and the edge of Cooper Field, and then down the road that leads past the Cuban Club to the Downtown Lyceum.

Once there, Anthony said, runners would be able to see a race volunteer directing them into the parking lot and toward the finish line.

"Then you'll be home," Anthony said.

Norvell was the first runner home, clocking in with an official time of 1 hour, 39 minutes at the finish line well ahead of his competition. Such is usually the case for the Base Emergency Engineer Force (BEEF) commander dubbed "The Marathon Man" for his hobby of running marathons and even 100-mile ultra-marathons.

"I feel great," he said, noting he runs 7 to 15 miles every day depending on his

schedule. "I do this every morning ... I could run this course again."

He said he was shooting to run the 13 miles in one hour, 30 minutes – on track for a three-hour marathon – but came in just a few minutes above that mark. There were nine people in front of him at the beginning of the race, then just one by the fifth mile, and finally he was the leader by the eighth mile.

"I never saw anybody after that," Norvell said. "I'm glad we had aid stations or I would've thought I was lost."

The longer races are to his advantage, he said. When he first got to GTMO, the races were eight miles or less and he was getting beaten. However, he said, most people fall off after 10 miles, so once the races got longer, he just started winning them all.

"We've got some fast guys here, though," Norvell said, adding a mild temperature that reached just 66 degrees when he crossed the finish line kept the all of the runners refreshed. "I am loving this cool weather."

Norvell pointed to Anthony's creativity in coming up with the race routes, which Anthony said are made in the week leading up the race just by getting out in car and checking out the roads around GTMO.

"The goal is always a different route. As a runner, I know it gets boring running the same route all the time," Anthony said, pointing out GTMO hosted four-mile run in March and added a mile each month leading up to Saturday's half marathon. "We could just add a mile to the route. That would be easy, but it wouldn't be fun."

Aiming for perfection every time, Anthony said it took him and the MWR crew six tries before figuring out a good route for the half marathon. Soon, they'll be setting a course for GTMO's first-ever marathon, which is slated for April.

While Anthony said one half of one percent of people run marathons – meaning about 20 to 25 people for GTMO – he said he expects a field of about 50 because people at GTMO always seem willing to try something new.

"I've had a lot of people tell me they're excited about the marathon," he said. "There are not very many bases that have a marathon right on the base."

Also coming up for MWR-sponsored events are a triathlon in February and a 15-kilometer run in March that will coincide with the Gate River Run in Jacksonville, Fla., the country's largest 15K that serves as the USA 15K Championship.

Anthony said he has run the Gate River Run the past 10 years, and now he has been in contact with its directors to get t-shirts, medals and other items for those who participate in the GTMO version.

"They'll have us live on the Jumbotron there, and we'll have them live on the TV here," he said. "We'll both start at the same time."

As far as Saturday's half marathon, there was just one thing wrong with the event that otherwise went off without a hitch, Anthony pointed out.

"I was just sad this morning that I wasn't out there chasing anybody," he said. "As race director, you don't get to run these."

On the other hand, Norvell has participated in every race since he arrived at GTMO and he has enjoyed having that recreational opportunity, as have the Airmen he leads.

"I love it. I think this is great, not just for me but for my guys," he said, noting that one Airman lost 30 pounds by taking advantage of the opportunity to run, work out, and eat right. "That's a testament to what you can do at GTMO if you put your mind to it."



# Ugly Christmas Sweaters Abound

Story and photos by Army Sgt. Trisha Pinczes

Miles from home, in a land far away, was a night to dress up in sweaters of old. The Ugly Christmas sweaters worn carried on a tradition started in Vancouver, BC Canada Christmas 2002 where the party of all parties is held every year. As it grew even larger throughout the years now over 1,000 people attend the annual night said to be the “biggest and boldest eyesore ever witnessed.” Trademarked to the original fathers of the “Ugly Christmas Sweater Party,” here at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay on a warm winter’s night, the tradition carried on. While many could not obtain an ugly Christmas sweater in time, others made sweaters and even polo shirts into perfect abominations

with cut out placemats, Christmas ornaments, garlands and even books.

“With not much else to do on a weekend here, why not make an ugly sweater and wear it to the Windjammer,” said Avery Gadberry, a Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class working with the Joint Task Force. “We even went as far as to get a large group of us to wear the one-size footie pajamas one weekend; it’s the little things you do here that keep it fun.”

While many didn’t participate due to an unexplained shortage of ugly Christmas attire here at GTMO, those that did certainly enjoyed themselves, including the winner of the contest Chris Stitt who is visiting his parents while on leave from Virginia.

“I had to wear this sweater,” he said. “It’s the ugliest one EVER.”



Participants Petty Officer 3rd Class Avery Gadberry and Petty Officer 2nd Class Ashley Debrowski show their Christmas spirit in ugly sweaters.



First Lt. Christopher Beruty and Capt. Thomasina Scudere, Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay officers, decorated polos in lieu of sweaters with placemats and towels.



The winner of the ugly sweater contest, Chris Stitt, who is visiting his parents while on leave from Virginia, completed his ensemble with homemade touches such as the Nutcracker book fastened to the back, garlands and other Christmas decorations.



By Lara M. Tur,  
Education Services Facilitator, Fleet and Family Support Center

As we continue to count down the shopping days this holiday season, here are some helpful hints to assist in creating cost-effective strategies from Military Saves.

1. See what’s in your supply drawer: You may have more wrapping paper, ribbons, unused cards and gift boxes stored away from last season than you realize. Use up those holiday supplies first to trim down the amount you’ll have to buy this season.
2. Understand how layaway programs work: An old holiday standby is store layaway programs, which have re-emerged this holiday season, allowing consumers to put items on hold at the store and pay for them over time. Before deciding to use layaway, know the payment schedule and read the fine print. Be realistic about how these payments will fit into your spending plan and what you can really afford. Understand the layaway policy, including time between payments and schedule of payments, service fees, late and cancellation fee policies, and refund and exchange policies.
3. Be smart about gift cards: The rules today

significantly restrict gift card expiration dates and fees compared to several years ago, but those who give or receive a gift card should still read the fine print. If you get a gift card, use it sooner rather than later to avoid forgetting about unused balances on the card or forgetting about the card altogether. If you still have gift cards you received from others last year, use them to shop this year. It’s a smart way to reduce your out-of-pocket expenses.

4. Pay attention to the return policy: Some stores have tighter policies. Pay attention to the return policy when you make a purchase. Keep receipts and note time limits, restocking fees, and other factors that may affect your recipient.

5. Find some low- or no-cost ways to celebrate: Adding a few changes can ease the strain on your spending budget. For example, draw names to limit the number of people for whom you purchase gifts. Give homemade items. Make your own gift wrap. Organize a potluck rather than trying to make, and pay for, the entire holiday meal.

Additional tools and resources regarding these ideas (and other financial tools) can be found at [www.militarysaves.org](http://www.militarysaves.org).

# Trooper to Trooper

## A leader of IMPACT

MASTER SGT. FREDRICO KIRKSEY  
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT NCOIC  
HHC, 525TH MILITARY POLICE BATTALION

Often, when one thinks of leadership in the Army, the famous words “BE, KNOW, DO” come to mind. The Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard all have their own set of unique words to define leadership. Although the definitions slightly differ for each branch of service, one fact remains true regardless of the branch. Our armed forces strive to continuously display the very essence of leadership in all that we say and do. Troopers utilize the military definition of leadership to formulate what it means to be a leader in our own words. To me, a leader is a person of great IMPACT. A leader of IMPACT has the ability to Inspire Many People to Accomplish Collective Tasks.

A true leader is a person of action, so there are two verbs in this acronym IMPACT. The first one is the word Inspire. Inspiration is one of the greatest keys to effective leadership. So, how does a good leader inspire? First of all, they must set the example – someone who leads from the front and allows his actions to speak louder than (or just as loud as) his words. Secondly, the leader must show a true concern for the well being of Troopers. I often say, “People don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care.” This simply means that being eager to share a wealth of knowledge is of little use if others are not as eager to listen. There’s usually a greater tendency for Troopers to earnestly listen to someone who they feel truly cares about them personally. Something as simple as remembering a birthday or attending a special event can speak volumes. Actions such as these will motivate Troopers through a source of inspiration, not dictation. Always remember that there is a difference between being in charge and

leading.

The second verb in this acronym is the word Accomplish. In the military, our primary goal is to protect and defend our great country. To accomplish this goal, it is absolutely vital that we maintain a mission-focused mindset. That focus comes from our leader’s ability to provide clear direction. Leaders develop plans for the accomplishment of each objective with the understanding that successful execution will require motivated and disciplined troops. In today’s military, motivation can be provided when leaders are willing to answer the “why” questions of their troops. These questions are



***There’s usually a greater tendency for Troopers to earnestly listen to someone who they feel truly cares about them personally ... Actions such as these will motivate Troopers through a source of inspiration, not dictation. Always remember that there is a difference between being in charge and leading.***

not an attempt to be disrespectful or challenge authority but rather an attempt to receive a better understanding. Answering questions and addressing concerns will help Troopers realize their level of importance and instill a sense of purpose in them. It is that very purpose that will compel them to increase their level of performance and execute the mission with the highest standards of professionalism.

Leaders are placed in a privileged position to IMPACT others in a positive manner. We must take full advantage of this opportunity when it comes to our Troopers. The ripple effect will produce a new generation of outstanding leaders able to carry our military into the future and ensure that we remain an elite fighting force. So, what kind of an IMPACT will you have as a leader?

	21 FRI	22 SAT	23 SUN	24 MON	25 TUE	26 WED	27 THU
<b>Downtown Lyceum</b>	Jack Reacher (NEW) (PG-13) 7 p.m. Man with the Iron Fists (NEW) (R) 9 p.m.	Lincoln (NEW) (PG13) 7 p.m. Skyfall (PG13) 9:30 p.m.	The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG13) 7 p.m.	Wreck It Ralph (PG) 7 p.m. Cloud Atlas (R) 9 p.m.	Rise of the Guardians (PG) 7 p.m. Flight (R) 9 p.m.	Alex Cross (last showing) (PG13) 7 p.m.	Paranormal Activity 4 (last showing) (R) 7 p.m.
<b>Camp Bulkeley</b>	Man with the Iron Fists (NEW) (R) 7 p.m. Fun Size (PG13) 9 p.m.	Jack Reacher (NEW) (PG-13) 7 p.m. Lincoln (NEW) (PG13) 9 p.m.	Cloud Atlas (R) 7 p.m.	Alex Cross (last showing) (PG13) 7 p.m.	The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG13) 7 p.m.	Paranormal Activity 4 (last showing) (R) 7 p.m.	Flight (R) 7 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.

## GUANTANAMO BAY BUS SCHEDULE

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

Camp America :00 :20 :40  
Gazebo :02 :22 :42  
NEX Trailer :03 :23 :43  
Camp Delta 2 :06 :26 :46  
KB 373 :10 :30 :50  
TK 4 :12 :32 :52  
JAS :13 :33 :53  
TK 3 :14 :34 :54  
TK 2 :15 :35 :55  
TK 1 :16 :36 :56

West Iguana :18 :38 :58  
Windjammer/Gym :21 :41 :01  
Gold Hill Galley :24 :44 :04  
NEX :26 :46 :16  
96 Man Camp :31 :51 :11  
NEX :33 :53 :13  
Gold Hill Galley :37 :57 :17  
Windjammer/Gym :36 :56 :16  
West Iguana :39 :59 :19  
TK 1 :40 :00 :20

TK 2 :43 :03 :23  
TK 3 :45 :05 :25  
TK 4 :47 :07 :27  
KB 373 :50 :10 :30  
Camp Delta 1 :52 :12 :32  
IOF :54 :14 :34  
NEX Trailer :57 :17 :37  
Gazebo :58 :18 :38  
Camp America :00 :20 :40

### PROTECT YOUR INFO!

## ALERT Complacency...

1. Self-satisfaction, especially when accompanied by unawareness of actual dangers or deficiencies.
2. A feeling of being satisfied with how things are and not wanting to try to make them better.

Keep your eyes wide open and your head on a swivel. Fight complacency!

Protect sensitive information. Use OPSEC!

# SAFE RIDE – 84781

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