

# THE WIRE

The official publication of  Joint Task Force Guantanamo

## *Keeping an eye on quality*

Food inspection team ensures food safety

## *Double trouble*

Twin Troopers cause double-takes



***Dashing through GTMO***

# AROUND THE BAY

AND IN OUR PAGES



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357th MP Company receives some holiday cheer from home



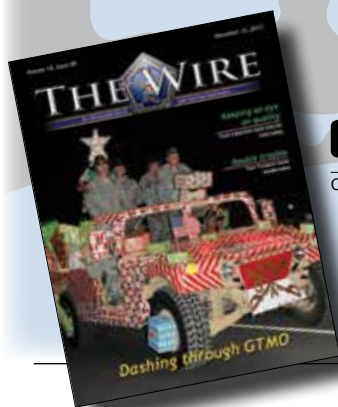
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## Cover Story

Cover photo by Spc. Lerone Simmons

Santa Claus comes to the little town of Guantanamo Bay, ushers in the holidays  
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## BAY WIRE REPORT

### A festival of lights at night



The 2013 Marina Boat Parade will take place Dec. 14, starting at dusk. The parade is free to enter and is open to all ages with a valid boater's license.

Residents can decorate their own boats or rent one from the marina. Decorating begins at noon and lights will not be provided.

For more information call ext. 2345.

### Got Shots?

Whether you are a seasoned professional, or someone who just likes to take pictures, the GTMO Photo Club is looking for new members. Open to adults, 18 years-old and up, you can begin your journey at [facebook.com/GTMOPhotographers](https://www.facebook.com/GTMOPhotographers).

### New food service meal rates

Effective Jan. 1, 2014, meal prices at the galleys will change. Breakfast and night meal will be \$2.55, while lunch and dinner will be \$ 4.65.



**MOTIVATOR**  
OF THE WEEK

**Pfc. Andrew Brown**  
591st Military Police Company

**Pfc. Ernesto Camacho**  
93rd Military Police Battalion

### Sushi Night!

Say *Sayonara!* to the galley and venture out to the Bayview Club to whet your appetite for authentic Japanese sushi on

**Friday, Dec. 20, 7:30 p.m.**



*Bayview Club*  
ext. 75604

**CORRECTIONS** Please report all corrections to [thewire@jftgmo.southcom.mil](mailto:thewire@jftgmo.southcom.mil)

The following information was printed incorrectly in the Oct. 4 online issue of the Wire

**Page 8:** In Sgt. Cassandra Monroe's story on the BSCT training, Army 2nd Lt. Thelma Teal is the personnel officer for Headquarters and Headquarters 525th Military Police Battalion



# THE WIRE

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The Wire is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. It is produced by the JTF Public Affairs Office to inform and educate the Troopers of JTF-GTMO. The contents of The Wire are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Departments of the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines or Coast Guard.

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# Religious Services

## NAVSTA Chapel

**Catholic Mass**  
Mon.-Thur. 5:30 p.m.  
Saturday 5 p.m.  
Sunday 9 a.m.

## Protestant Services

General Protestant  
Sunday 11 a.m.  
Gospel Worship  
Sunday 1 p.m.

## Chapel Annexes

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

**LDS Service**  
Sunday 10 a.m., Room 19

**Islamic Service**  
Friday, 1:15 p.m., Room 2

**Seventh Day Adventist**  
Friday, 7 p.m., Room 1  
Sabbath School: Saturday 9:30 a.m.,  
Room 1  
Sabbath Service: Saturday 11:00 a.m.,  
Room 1

## JTF Trooper Chapel

**Protestant Worship**  
Sunday 6:40 a.m.  
Sunday 9 a.m.  
Sunday 7 p.m.

# Transportation Schedules

## Bus #1, 2, 3:

**Camp America** - :00, :20, :40  
**Gazebo** - :01, :21, :41  
**Camp America NEX** - :02, :22, :42  
**Camp Delta** - :04, :24, :44  
**Camp 6** - :07, :27, :47  
**TK 4** - :13, :33, :53  
**JAS** - :14, :34, :54  
**TK 3** - :15, :35, :55  
**TK 2** - :16, :36, :56  
**TK 1** - :17, :37, :57  
**CC** - :19, :39, :59  
**Windjammer/Gym** - :22, :42, :02  
**Gold Hill Galley** - :24, :44, :04  
**NEX** - :26, :46, :06  
**NEX Laundry** - :27, :47, :07  
**C Pool** - :30, :50, :10  
**Downtown Lyceum** - :31, :51, :11  
**NEX** - :33, :53, :13  
**Gold Hill Galley** - :35, :55, :15  
**Windjammer/Gym** - :37, :57, :17  
**CC** - :40, :00, :20  
**TK 1** - :41, :01, :21  
**TK 2** - :42, :02, :22  
**TK 3** - :43, :03, :23  
**TK 4** - :44, :04, :24  
**Camp 6** - :50, :10, :30  
**Camp Delta** - :53, :13, :33  
**HQ Building** - :55, :15, :35  
**Camp America NEX** - :57, :17, :37  
**Gazebo** - :58, :18, :38  
**Camp America** - :00, :20, :40

## NEX Express Bus

9:55 a.m. - 7:55 p.m.  
Every hour at the stated times

**Camp America** - :55, :48  
**TK 1** - :05, :36  
**Denich Gym/Windjammer** - :11, :31  
**Gold Hill Galley** - :14, :29  
**NEX** - :16, :27  
**Downtown Lyceum** - :17, :25

## Beach Bus

### Sat. and Sun. only - Location #1-4

Windward Loop  
9 a.m., 12 p.m., 3 p.m., 6 p.m.

**East Caravella**  
SBOQ/Marina  
9:05 a.m., 12:05 p.m., 3:05 p.m.

**NEX**  
9:08 a.m., 12:08 p.m.,  
3:08 p.m., 6:08 p.m.

**Phillips Park**  
9:14 a.m., 12:14 p.m.,  
3:14 p.m.

**Cable Beach**  
9:17 a.m., 12:17 p.m.,  
3:17 p.m.

**Windward Loop**  
9:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m.,  
3:30 p.m.

**NEX**  
9:25 a.m., 12:25 p.m.,  
3:25 p.m., 6:25 p.m.

**SBOQ/MARINA**  
9:35 a.m., 12:35 p.m., 3:35 p.m.

**Return to Office**  
9:40 a.m., 12:40 p.m., 3:40 p.m.

# JOINT TASK FORCE GUANTANAMO



SAFE



HUMANE



LEGAL



TRANSPARENT



# New IG team is here for Troopers

**By Lt. Col. Jerrie Muir**

*Inspector General, JTF-GTMO*

The new Joint Task Force Guantanamo Inspector General team, Master Sgt. Michael Rose, assistant inspector general, and Lt. Col. Jerrie Muir, inspector general, is here



*Lt. Col. Jerrie Muir*

to support command teams and assist Troopers.

The IG uses Army Regulation 20-1, Inspector General Activities and Procedures, as its operational guide to assist the JTF-GTMO family.

Our goal is to help Troopers accomplish the mission. A major portion of the IG workload is to provide assistance to Troopers who have a request for information or a complaint. The IG recommends you give your chain of command an opportunity to help you with

your questions and, or complaints before you seek our assistance.

When you decide to seek assistance from the IG during

your normal duty hours, notify your chain of command that you are leaving your place of duty. After duty hours, Troopers can visit the IG without notifying their supervisors.

When you visit with the IG, we will determine how we can best assist you and we may ask that you complete a DA Form 1559, Inspector General Action Request. We will not intentionally disclose your identity, without your consent, outside the IG channels or our directing authority. You should bring any applicable documentation (emails, orders, sworn statements, etc.), names and phone numbers of people you have sought assistance from before coming to the IG, and be prepared to tell the IG what you want us to do.

In addition to assisting Troopers with issues and complaints, the IG also conducts teaching, training, inspections and investigations.

If you need to contact your IG team, please call Master Sgt. Rose at ext. 8339, or ext. 84734. You can also contact Lt. Col. Muir at ext. 8550, or ext. 84736. The IG Office is located in Building 1451.

## TROOPER TO TROOPER

# Remembering what matters this holiday season

**By Chief Petty Officer Stephen McLellan**

*LCPO, Joint Medical Group*

For many Troopers of Joint Task Force Guantanamo, this is their first Christmas Holiday Season in a deployed status. While Thanksgiving away from home may bring a Trooper down, Christmas is likely a tougher time for many. This is the time, more than any other throughout the year, to think about what you have rather than what you don't.

I am saddened I won't have the privilege of opening presents with my son on Christmas day this year; however I am beyond grateful I have the bigger privilege of being a father at all. As your fellow Service member, I ask that you remind yourself, now more than ever, what a privilege it is to wear a uniform and represent our country. An honor only 1 percent of the U.S. population can relate to. I wonder



*Chief Petty Officer Stephen McLellan*

if you have ever asked yourself how many of your high school classmates ever had the chance to serve on the island of Cuba or even step foot on the island in any capacity?

When a Trooper seems to lose his or her way, there are many resources available that most are familiar with aboard GTMO: including JSMART and our strong Chaplain Corps which serve all branches. Regardless of the resources, I would hope that my fellow Troopers serving here will take a moment to look at yourself in the mirror while in uniform and remind yourself of the pride you had when you first earned the right to wear the uniform of whichever branch you serve. Pride is the ultimate motivator and esprit de corps is the greatest thing we can share; why should your pride and comradeship be any less at this time of year?

I urge you to reach out to the people

you share barracks with and people you work with and wish them happy holidays with a nod. Even better, reach out to a person you don't have the chance to work with or share barracks with and wish them season's greetings. That person you wish happy holidays to may be having a bad day today. You may be the one struggling this time next week and someone you may not know well can pick your spirits up when you least expect it.

I recall spending Christmas 2004 sleeping outside a five-ton truck in the middle of a cold Iraq winter. I started to feel depressed and homesick briefly before a feeling took me over. I suddenly felt enormously proud of the people I was with and extremely fortunate to be in the company of some of the finest people I will ever know. As you go forth, standing tall aboard GTMO over the next few weeks of the holiday season, I respectfully suggest you draw on a phrase that many of us are familiar with: "Pain is Temporary, Pride is Forever!"

# 357th gets holiday cheer

*MPs receive bulk care packages to make the season bright*



Army Sgt. Jake Barbieri, military police, 357th Military Police Company, Joint Task Force Guantanamo, reads a card that he received as part of a holiday care package at Camp America, Dec. 6.

**Story and photos by Spc. Lerone Simmons**

*Staff Writer, thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil*

“Who wants this “Glamour” magazine?” shouted Army Master Sgt. David Hiebert, noncommissioned officer in charge of the Behavioral Health Unit and member of the 357th Military Police Company assigned to Joint Task Force Guantanamo, Dec. 6.

“I do, I do,” replied Army Sgt. Carla Baron, administrative noncommissioned officer, 357th MP Co.

Baron hustled over to the pickup truck that held numerous care packages and received a brand-new edition of one of her favorite magazines.

This joyous occasion was thanks to mass amounts of care packages that were shipped to GTMO for deployed members of the 357th MPs on behalf of various organizations back in the U.S. for the holiday season.

“This makes me feel like I’m at home, and it’s also great to know that people care,” said Baron. “For a moment, you almost forget about everything else. I really appreciate this and would like to say thank you to those that took the time to care,” she said.

Smiles and excitement swept over the group that gathered around the small truck as they opened each care package. Some Troopers were left speechless.

“This is my first deployment, and I haven’t had anything like this before,” said Army Sgt. Jake Barbieri, military police, 357th MPs. “This heart-warming gesture is a big morale booster for us.”

For the unit’s leadership, the morale boost was important for the MPs who work long days supporting the detention operations at Joint Task Force Guantanamo.

“This has a huge impact on Soldier’s morale and we absolutely appreciate it,” said Hiebert. “It’s great to have support from the states, especially from people that we might not even know.”

“We’d like to thank everyone for your continued support and love,” he said. “You don’t know how many hearts you’ve touched.”



Army Sgt. Carla Baron, an administrative noncommissioned officer for the 357 Military Police Company, Joint Task Force Guantanamo, raises her hand for a magazine from a care package Dec. 6, at Camp America.

## Calculate the risk

Risk is the probability an adversary will gain knowledge of your Critical Information and the impact it has if the adversary is successful. When there is a **THREAT, VULNERABILITY and IMPACT**, you will have risk.

Remember these equations:

**THREAT (X) VULNERABILITY (X) IMPACT = Risk**  
**PROBABILITY (X) IMPACT = Risk**

Are you at higher risk than you think?



## Don't just print it and forget it

Have you ever grabbed your copies from the printer or copy machine to find someone else’s work still sitting there? Common printing areas are frequented by people coming and going.

You can prevent unnecessary information disclosures by clicking “print” and immediately retrieving your documents. Don’t let them sit at the copier or printer for extended periods of time.

Remember to use the appropriate printer for the classification level of your document and grab your work right away.

Information Assurance



# Changing Strides...

*one unit assumes authority while another welcomes a new commander*

## 66th Military Police Co. assumes duties

By Spc. Lerone Simmons

Staff writer, [thewire@jftgtmo.southcom.mil](mailto:thewire@jftgtmo.southcom.mil)

Three months after finding out about their deployment to join Joint Task Force Guantanamo at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, the Soldiers of the 66th Military Police Company stood before the JTF leadership, unfurled their guidon and officially assumed duties as the newest MP company assigned to the JTF, Dec. 5.

The 66th MPs are assigned to detention operations which supports the JTF's overall mission of providing safe, humane, legal, and transparent care of the detainees here.

"We're excited for this mission – especially in this joint environment," said Army Capt. Lindsey Gerheim, commander, 66th MP Co.

"My Soldiers and leaders bring a great deal of professionalism and different personalities to the table, and every day is a great day to be in command of this unit," she said.

Gerheim said she intends to "create an enduring system for other units to come, by building on past successes of units

prior."

For Army Sgt. 1st Class Robert Knight, platoon sergeant, 66th MP Co., said recent pre-deployment training was crucial to the unit's understanding of the mission and overall commander's intent.

"Our training allowed us to be proficient with individual and collective tasks, which will allow us to perform well here," he said.

Both Gerheim and Knight agree that aside from Soldiers doing their duties, they should also take advantage of the opportunities that GTMO provides.

"I tell them to enjoy GTMO as much as possible, get some volunteer hours, and learn more about other services," he said.

His message was well received by Army Pfc. Brandon Taylor, military police, 66th MP Co.

"I plan to get as much experience as possible, save money, and get in the best shape of my life," he said.

"We're well prepared for this mission and are very proud to be here," he said. 🇺🇸



Photo by Spc. Lerone Simmons/The Wire

Army Capt. Lindsey Gerheim, commander, 66th Military Police Company, Army 1st Sgt. Robert Oaks, company first sergeant, unfurl the unit guidon, held by Army Pvt. Corey Hunt, military police, during an assumption of authority ceremony, Dec. 5, at Denich Gym.

Army Lt. Col. Darcy Overbey, commander of the 525th Military Police Battalion, transfers the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 525th MP Bn., guidon to Army Capt. Keith Douglas, signifying the change of command during a ceremony, Dec. 6.



## HHC says goodbye to Archbold, welcomes Douglas to command

**Story and photo by Sgt. Cassandra Monroe**

Staff Writer, [thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil](mailto:thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil)

Soldiers with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 525th Military Police Battalion, Joint Task Force Guantanamo, formed-up together to give their commander, Army Capt. Gregory Archbold, their honors as he left them during a change of command ceremony, Dec. 6, at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Army Lt. Col. Darcy Overbey, the 525th MP Bat. commander mentioned the Soldiers of the HHC provide continuity throughout the change of command, ensuring that the rest of the battalion Soldiers are taken care of. She also mentioned the accomplishments of the support company.

"They're the glue that holds everything together," she said. "It seems like just yesterday Capt. Archbold assumed command. When I think about what the headquarters and headquarters company has accomplished, it seems impossible that it was only nine months ago. Under Capt. Archbold's leadership, HHC provided excellent support to the Troopers assigned to the 525th and JTF-GTMO. He expertly molded them into an excellent group of vigilant warriors."

Known for his booming voice of power, Archbold, who is moving on to Fort Gordon, Ga., thanked his Soldiers and his colleagues, expressing his appreciation for their time spent together. He expressed how his time in command was used to help mold his Soldiers.

"One of the best things about being in command is to be able to watch Soldiers grow and change for the better," he said. "Spartans, you are the backbone of this battalion."

Army Capt. Keith Douglas is now the new commander of the HHC for the remainder of his deployment. 🍷

SPORTS  
FEED

## Mercenaries *take home the win*

**By Staff Sgt. Lorne Neff**

Staff Writer, [thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil](mailto:thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil)

The Mercenaries, a softball team comprised of players from around U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, won the coed softball playoffs, Dec. 6, at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The Mercenaries won three straight games to make it to the championship game before dropping their first game 22-18, to The Gladiators. The Mercenaries won the second game, 11-7, of the double-elimination tournament, and took home the trophy.

"They came out swinging and really shocked us the first game, going up 14-0, and we were like, well ok, we really need to get our game going," said Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class Kyle Joseph, team captain for The Mercenaries.

The Gladiators lost early in the playoffs to The 'Ricans before steamrolling through the losers bracket to play in the championship game.

"I made a few coaching changes and switched a couple of our players around," said Joseph. "Their left-handed hitters were absolute beasts. I think they had three of them and they were great hitters and their pitcher was great."

The Gladiators made the playoffs along with nine other teams from the regular season, but were one of two teams that finished undefeated, along with the GTMO Latinos.

The Mercenaries defeated the GTMO Latinos in the playoffs and the Gladiators knocked the GTMO Latinos out of the losers bracket on the way to the championship showdown with the Mercenaries.

"It was great seeing all the hard work done by both our guys and girls. We couldn't have done it without our girls, they were with us all season," said Joseph. "When we needed them, they came up with big stops and big base hits. It being a

coed team, they were our rock and heart and we wouldn't have done it without them." 🍷



# Dashing through the GTMO streets

## JTF helps kick off NAVSTA holiday festivities

### Staff Report

Spc. Lerone Simmons, Staff Sgt. Lorne Neff and Sgt. 1st Class Gina Vaile-Nelson contributed to this story

Joint Task Force Guantanamo helped U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay kick off the 2013 holiday season with a base-wide celebration that included a parade and concert Dec. 7.

The guest of honor and grand marshal of the parade, Santa, said he came down from the North Pole to remind residents that he's always got his eye on GTMO, and to pass out some candy and holiday spirit from his sled.

"I'm here to spread good cheer here at Guantanamo Bay," he said.

The good cheer is exactly what Morale, Welfare and Recreation hoped to provide to base residents and JTF Troopers. While most of the U.S. is blanketed in snow, temperatures have remained in the high 80s here on the island.

"At first it was different without the snow, but over the years we grew accustomed to the holiday season at GTMO," said JoAnn King, a procurement technician with the Public Works Department, NAVSTA.

JoAnn and her husband Donald, have served and lived onboard GTMO off-and-on for the last 20 years.

"Everyone puts in a lot of effort, and we really enjoy and appreciate that," she said.

They both enjoy the annual traditions that the holiday festivities bring.

More than 30 floats from commands

and organizations across GTMO, many of them JTF, entered in this year's parade. Each group decorated its own float.

Air Force Staff Sgt. Donald Stamps, 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron, Base Engineer Emergency Force, who coordinated the BEEF's float, said he enjoyed the camaraderie between Troopers to finish the float.

"Everybody's got this twist on how to do this and how to do that and it all just came together," he said. "In my mind, I did not picture it being this good after we finished. I'm really pleased with the way it turned out."

As the floats made their way down Sherman Avenue, Christmas Tree Hill lit up for

the first time this year once Santa passed the tree.

At the end of the parade, at the Downtown Lyceum, Anthony Ruptak and his Midnight Friends played a concert for the base, hosted by Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

"This is by far the most important venue we could have, playing for the most important people in the world," said Anthony Ruptak, lead singer of the band.

"I met someone that said he hadn't heard live music in a while and by us being here, it reminded him of home, this made our visit worthwhile," he said. ❖



Photo by Spc. Lerone Simmons/The Wire



Photo by Sgt. Darron Salzer/The Wire

Spc. Joshua Kent, wheeled vehicle mechanic, 3rd Squadron, 89th Cavalry Regiment, assigned to Joint Task Force Guantanamo, helps to put the final touches on a Humvee, wrapped in gift paper and adorned with presents, before the holiday parade.





Photo by Sgt. Darron Salzer/The Wire



Photo by Sgt. Darron Salzer/The Wire



Photo by Sgt. Darron Salzer/The Wire

Anthony Ruptak and his Midnight Friends, an Indie-folk rock band from Colorado, play a show for the naval station community as part of the 2013 Morale, Welfare and Recreation Holiday Concert, Dec. 7, at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Anthony Ruptak, lead vocalist and guitarist, said it was an honor to play for Service members at GTMO.

# KEEPING OUR FOOD SAFE

*Veterinary food inspectors on the job at GTMO*

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Lorne Neff  
Staff Writer, [thewire@jftgtmo.southcom.mil](mailto:thewire@jftgtmo.southcom.mil)

Before you take your first bite of food, it's been examined, inspected and verified as edible by a team of Army food inspectors, assigned to Guantanamo's Vet Clinic. And while you may not typically think of the vet clinic when you think of your food, the inspectors play an important role in keeping your food safe for consumption and you healthy.

"We actually look at the food all the way through the process of getting it on the island, to the stores, to the point where you're eating it," said Army Sgt. Todd Whitehead, veterinary food inspector.

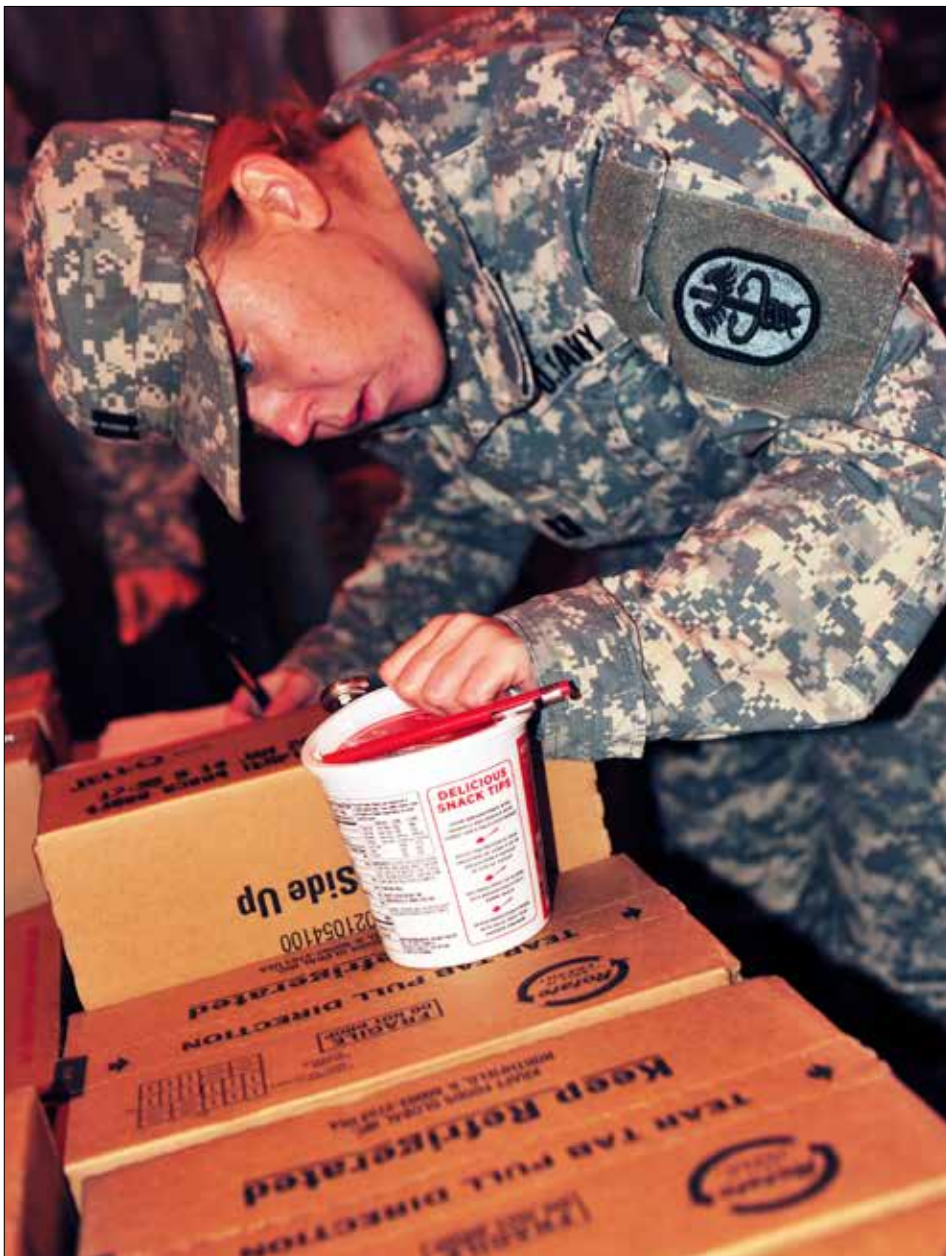
The process starts when the food arrives either by air, as produce does twice a week, or by barge every two weeks.

"We have 33 facilities that we inspect," said Army Sgt. Eddie Valentin, another veterinary food inspector assigned to GTMO.

The facilities include the galleys, restaurants such as the Bayview and Jerk-House, the fast food restaurants on base,

the commissary part of the Navy Exchange and the mini-marts. Valentin said the team inspects the commissary twice-per-day, checking two different areas and conducts two walkthroughs of the produce daily.

"We have a great relationship with commissary personnel and with the manager," said Valentin. "It helps us address any issues that we may have and it makes things easier. We give daily updates and we are just an extra set of eyes providing the services that we have agreed to provide to



Army Capt. Emily Pearman, officer in charge of Veterinary Medicine, inspects food off the barge, Nov. 21, at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Food inspectors, inspect 33 facilities on base each month to ensure base residents and Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers consume safe and healthy foods.

them."

Making sure base residents and JTF Troopers can purchase quality, safe foods is important said NEX

manager Barbara Johnson.

"They make sure we are providing the best quality produce that we can and product for our customers," she



# VA warns of phone scam

## Staff Report

[thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil](mailto:thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil)

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is warning Service members of a marketing scam targeting callers who try to reach the VA's call National Call Center or GI Bill Call Center.

Officials reported this month that a marketing company has established two fraudulent phone numbers that differ from the two VA call center numbers by one digit. Customers who dial the fraudulent number by mistake will hear a prompt that offers a gift card in exchange for personal information. Once the information is obtained, the caller may even be transferred to a legitimate VA phone number.

The VA reminds Service members that it will never ask for personal credit or banking information over the phone. In any case, before giving personal sensitive information, Service members and their family members should ensure the identity of the person or company they are talking to.

The VA has notified law enforcement authorities to address this situation, and will provide additional information and guidance as necessary.

Look for the VA on Facebook, and follow for updates. ☺



Army Sgt. Eddie Valentin, veterinary food inspector, talks with Capt. Emily Pearman, officer in charge of veterinary medicine, before inspecting refrigerated food that arrived on the barge on Nov. 21.



We have a great relationship with the commissary personnel and with the manager.

— **Sgt. Eddie Valentin**

*Veterinary food inspector, GTMO Vet Clinic*



said.

“If its expired or going to expire, we give them a call and they come down and inspect it and make sure it’s all right or if it needs to be destroyed,” said Johnson “They are the eyes and ears for our product.”

The team also looks at operational rations that are used during hurricanes or in the towers for personnel who can’t visit the dining facilities.


Both inspectors said they are proud of what they do and know they are helping the community.

Whitehead said the job is rewarding.

“I enjoy staying out of the spotlight but knowing the efforts of what I do is helping families serve safe food, and helping Troopers, knowing the food they get is at the highest quality is good” said Whitehead. ☺




Army Sgt. Todd Whitehead, veterinary food inspector assigned to Guantanamo, inspects refrigerated food that arrived on the barge on Nov 21, at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Food inspectors, inspect 33 facilities on base each month to ensure food quality meets federal standards for consumption.



### Phone numbers to be avoided

**800-872-1000**  
(the VA National Call Center number is 800-827-1000)

**888-442-4511**  
(the VA GI Bill Call Center number is 888-442-4551)



# GTMO's library, a place to find entertainment

Story and photos by Sgt. Cassandra Monroe

Staff Writer, [thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil](mailto:thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil)

Some look forward to the weekend as a time to catch up on seasons of their favorite television show, others look at it as time to curl up and get submerged into the characters and plot of a good book. Either way, Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers have options for their entertainment, and those options start at the library.

Amy Roumell, library supervisor, said the library offers nearly 19,000 books, 330 audio books and 2,900 DVDs, all for visitors' use after a simple checkout. There are also many magazines residents can read in-house.

The library offers books of different genres; from cooking, to fantasy, to classic fiction and nonfiction novels, to young-adult books. As far as DVDs go, the library offers movies and countless seasons of television shows. The library also offers the use of public computers, a fax machine, and is a Wi-Fi hotspot.

Although there are a lot of books available, the library is more than just a place to check off your reading bucket list. It offers community-centered projects and other activities for Guantanamo's youth.

"We have a few kids' programs held here to include story time every Friday afternoon at 1600, with crafts that go along with the book," said Roumell. "Most months we also have a craft program, holiday parties, as well as summer reading programs. There is no sign up or registration, you just show up."

Roumell and her staff keep track of how many visitors come in each day to use the library's services. For fiscal year 2013, the

library had 122,000 guests.

"That's something I'm very proud of, that's a huge number of people," said Roumell. "I like knowing that we're a facility that people want to use. That's our whole purpose for being here, is to provide people with something that they want. It's nice to know that we seem to be doing that."

However, one thing the library is not in need of is more books or volunteers.

"If there are books in good condition, we tend to put them out with our free books," said Roumell. "We suggest donating books to the thrift shop, but only if they're in good shape."

If you're interested in checking out items from the library, there are just a few simple rules: DVDs may be checked out three at a time for three days. Patrons may check out as many books as they would like for 30 days. Although the library doesn't charge late fees, Roumell suggests renewing books through a phone call or email; making life easier for Troopers and residents.

"We renew everything once, as long as no one has a hold on it," she said. "If they just call and ask to renew it, I'll do it."

Roumell also suggests taking use of the library email because it's an easier way for people to get the answers they need without having to leave their rooms or work place.

"People can use it to renew book, or they can ask our staff questions," she said.

To get in touch with library staff, call extension 4700 or email [library@gtmo-mwr.org](mailto:library@gtmo-mwr.org).



With nearly 19,000 books, 330 audio books, 2,900 DVDs, and many magazines available for use, the library is one place for Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers to unwind and relax with a good book or video. There is also free public Wi-Fi, as well as various community events available.

# “No gun, no shell, no demon in hell, will break this bond called

## *my brother”*

- Author unknown

Story and photos by Sgt. David Bolton

Copy Editor, [thewire@jftgtmo.southcom.mil](mailto:thewire@jftgtmo.southcom.mil)

Going through life can be rough at times; this is not new. Having someone there to lean on as we travel our life's road can make these difficult times easier to bear. Family members can provide much of the support Troopers rely on for those hard times.

It is rare that a Trooper will be deployed with a family member; it is even rarer that they will be deployed to the same place. But it's even more rare that the siblings are deployed together, to the same place, at the same time and are identical twins. Somehow, some way, Corey and Justin Duplechin, both Army specialists assigned to the 2228th Military Police Company, were able to hit the jackpot and landed at Guantanamo Bay together.

But being at GTMO wasn't the first time these two ended up at the same duty location at the same time. 'The Twins,' as they are known, actually shipped out to Basic Combat Training due to a snafu in the paperwork.

"Somebody higher up saw the last name, same area and thought it was just a duplication," said Justin. "They thought it was a misprint."

Through the trials and tribulations of infantry school, Justin said they were fortunate to be in the same company.

"Luckily I had my brother, I had a shoulder to lean on and he had a shoulder to lean on," said Justin.

Unfortunately, all that glistens is not gold. Once the drill instructors found out they were twins, all bets were off for trying to ruin their brotherhood, said Corey.

"Our DIs realized 'we have one-in-a -million chance to ruin these guys.'" said Justin. "They called us Thing 1 and Thing 2, Ying Yang, and Wonder Twins. They even prompted us to use twin telepathy to find each other in land navigation."

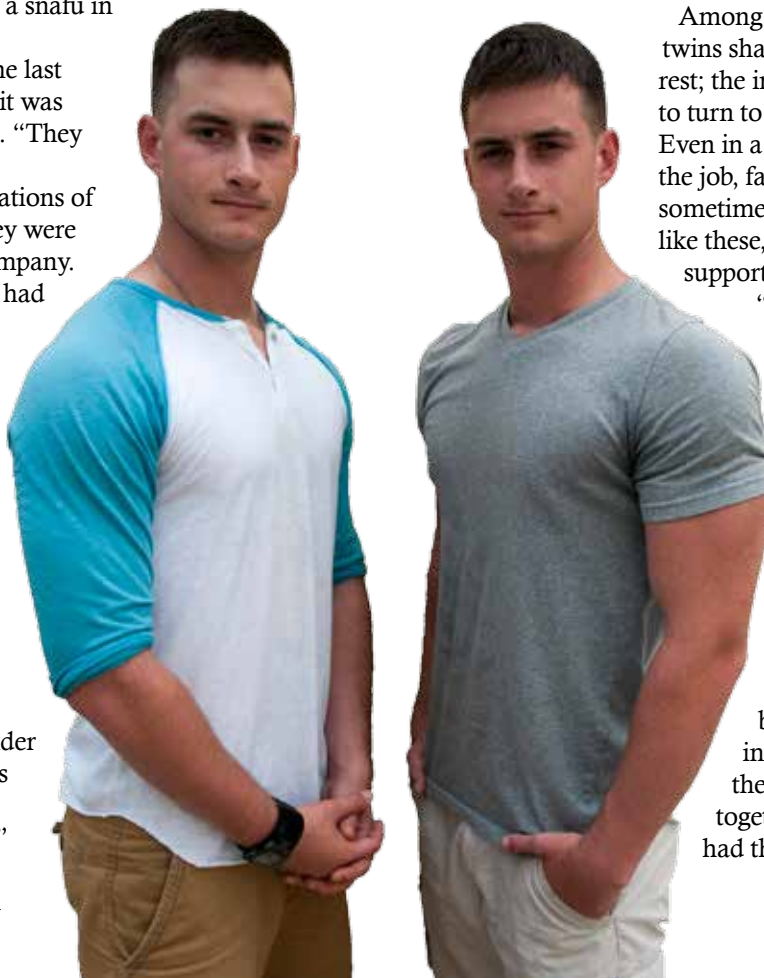
"Twin telepathy does not exist," said Corey. "The Wi-Fi

signal wasn't good enough so we had to cancel that account."

Although the twins were singled out for their unique disposition as adults, growing up was something altogether different. They embraced the fact that they looked alike and were often engaged in pulling some kind of prank on their parent's friends.

"Mom and dad would bring friends over who didn't know we were twins," said Corey, "and we would run around the house and they thought we were really fast."

"There were a lot of practical jokes that went on," said Justin. "We used being a twin to an advantage to prank and to have fun; it was eventful and never stopped being fun, even today."



Corey said despite the fact the twins enjoyed, and exploited, their mirrored childhood, being raised in a loving family meant more to them than any prank either could come up with.

"It was very bonding," said Corey. "We come from a small, tight-knit family. Growing up and becoming an adult, it was fun. To have a family like that, it was a blessing."

The bond between the twins has molded itself into a special relationship where, although there is no telepathy, a common sense and understanding about things and each other leaves little to be voiced.

"If I think something, he's gonna think almost the exact same thing, so it's kind of like 'what's the point of having a conversation?'" said Justin.

Among the many commonalities the twins share, one stands out above the rest; the importance of having someone to turn to when the going gets rough. Even in a place like GTMO, the stress of the job, family, friends and finances can sometimes seem insurmountable. In times like these, it is important to have that support to help sustain a person.

"We thought we were close, then we deployed," said Corey.

"At certain points during the deployment it's great to have family, especially a twin.

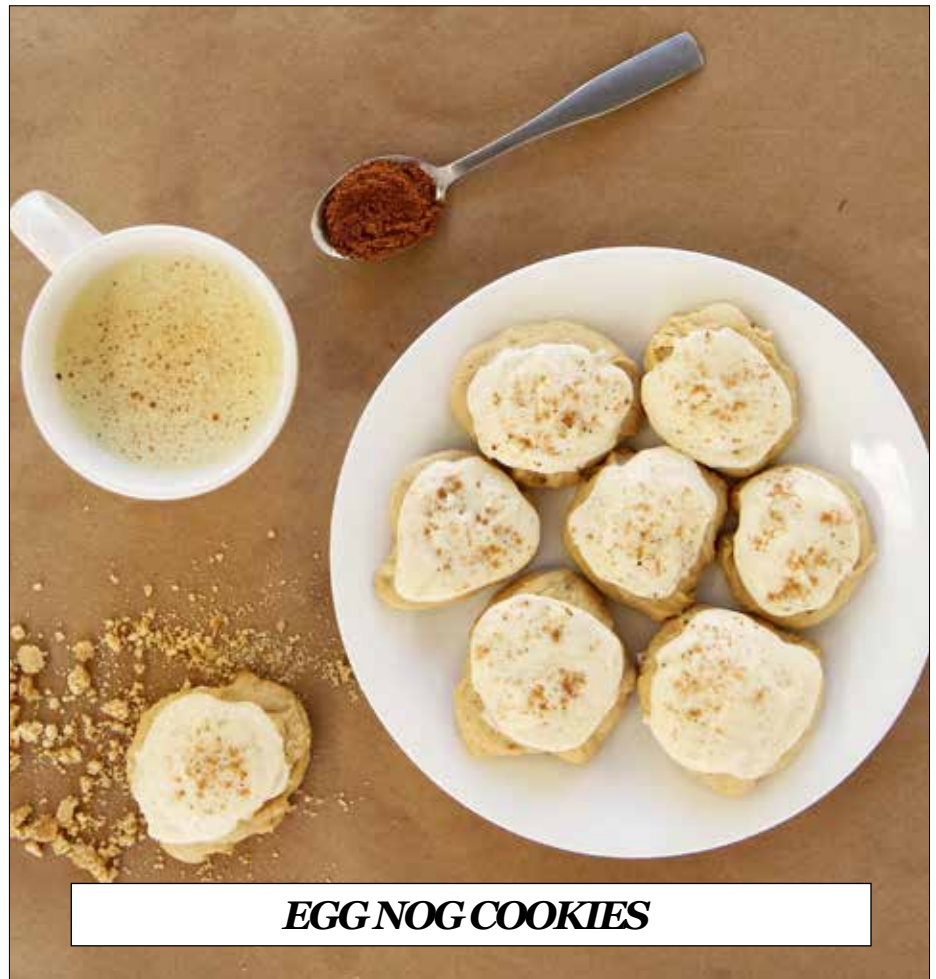
Having someone like that, you find out how much you really need them and how much easier it is to have someone that close to you that makes things a lot better."

"Really the thing we've learned is how close we can be," said Justin. "To have blood in the same place, going through the same thing, it brings people together. A lot closer than you really had thought possible." 🍷

# Meals with MONROE

It's the holiday season, and Egg Nog is everywhere, and I'm okay with it! (I know for a fact that I've already gone through three cartons of the stuff.) This recipe, adapted from [www.cookingclassy.com](http://www.cookingclassy.com), is so good, even egg nog haters will like it. The crumbly cookie itself is full of holiday spices and paired with the egg nog icing, it's sure to be a festive treat for any holiday party.

**For the cookies:** Preheat oven to 350 F. In a mixing bowl, whisk together 2-1/4 cups **flour**, 2 teaspoons **baking powder**, 1/2 teaspoon **salt**, 1/2 teaspoon **nutmeg** and 1/2 teaspoon **cinnamon**, then set aside. In a large bowl, whip together 3/4 cup **butter**, 1/2 cup **granulated sugar** and 1/2 **brown sugar** until pale and fluffy. Mix in 2 large **egg yolks** one at a time, blending just until combined after each addition. Mix in 1 teaspoon **vanilla extract**, 1/2 teaspoon **rum extract** and 1/2 cup **egg nog**. With mixer set on low speed, slowly add in dry ingredients and mix just until combined. Scoop dough out by the heaping tablespoonfuls and drop onto parchment paper lined baking sheets, spacing cookies 2 inches apart. Bake in preheated oven for 10 - 12 minutes. Allow to rest on baking sheet several minutes before transferring to a wire rack



**EGG NOG COOKIES**

to cool. Cool completely then frost with Eggnog Frosting and sprinkle tops lightly with nutmeg.

**For the frosting:** In the bowl, whip 1/2 cup butter until very pale and fluffy. Add in 1/2 teaspoon rum extract, 3 tablespoons eggnog and mix in 3 cups powdered sugar. Add additional eggnog to reach desired consistency. Spread on the cookies (sometimes it helps if you freeze the icing just a little first, you know how this GTMO heat is). Sprinkle ground nutmeg and cinnamon on top of the frosted cookies.

*(Side note: I froze some of these too and they still tasted just as good as new once they thawed out.)*



**p.s.**  
**(one last thing)**

I want to hear from you! Did you try my recipe and loved it? Did you try my recipe and hated it? Well... that's too bad but email me anyways! If you have a recipe you'd like for me to try, **contact me!** [cassandra.l.monroe@jftgmo.southcom.mil](mailto:cassandra.l.monroe@jftgmo.southcom.mil)

# Chaplain's WORD OF THE WEEK

ext. 2218



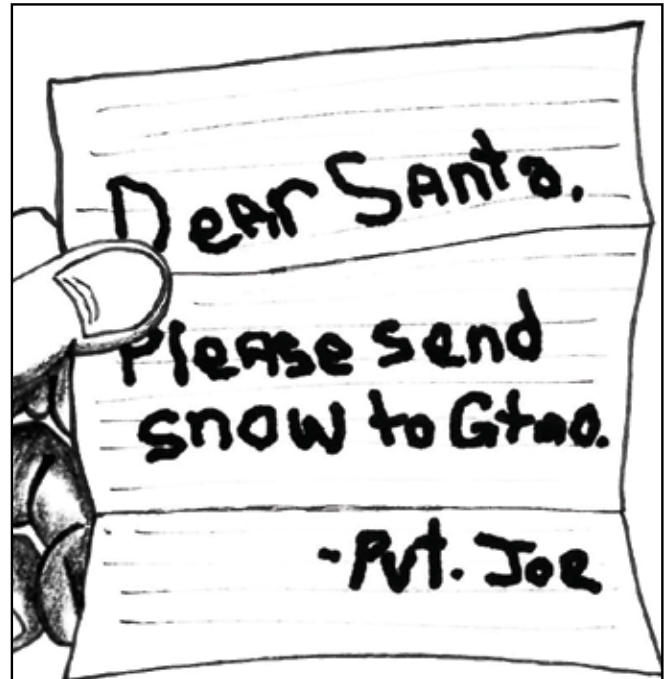
## "Rivalry"

Go Navy, beat Army! Or if you prefer, Go Army, beat Navy! This football game is a nice rivalry on the playing field. However, at the end of the game and no matter who wins, we are all on the same team. One team, one fight; brothers and sisters in arms for a common cause.

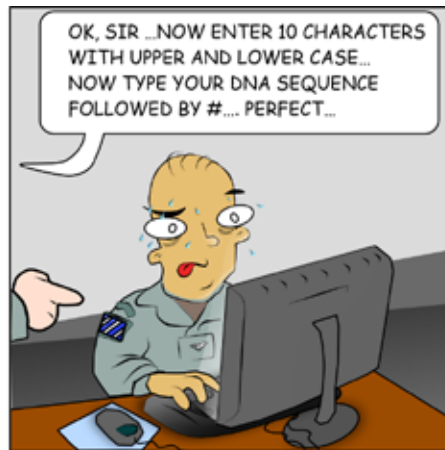
Photo by E.J. Herson/DVIDS

# THE DOWNSIDE UP

by Sgt. Darron Salzer



# THE BAY by Rizzo



# Now Showing!

at the Downtown and Camp Bulkeley Lyceums

Call the Movie Hotline at ext. 4880 or visit the MWR Facebook page for more information  
**Stay classy, GTMO! No ALCOHOL or TOBACCO at the Lyceums!**  
 LS = Last Showing

	13 FRIDAY	14 SATURDAY	15 SUNDAY	16 MONDAY	17 TUESDAY	18 WEDNESDAY	19 THURSDAY
CAMP BULKELEY DOWNTOWN	<b>The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (New)</b> PG13, 7 p.m. <b>Delivery Man (New)</b> PG13, 9 p.m.	<b>Tyler Perry's A Madea Christmas (New)</b> PG13, 7 p.m. <b>The Best Man Holiday (New)</b> R, 9 p.m.	<b>Free Birds (LS)</b> PG, 6 p.m. <b>About Time (LS)</b> R, 8 p.m.	<b>Carrie (LS)</b> R, 7 p.m.	<b>Escape Plan (LS)</b> R, 7 p.m.	<b>Ender's Game (LS)</b> PG13, 7 p.m.	<b>Last Vegas (New)</b> PG13, 7 p.m.
	<b>Tyler Perry's A Madea Christmas (New)</b> PG13, 8 p.m. <b>The Best Man Holiday (New)</b> R, 10 p.m.	<b>The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (New)</b> PG13, 8 p.m. <b>Escape Plan (LS)</b> R, 10 p.m.	<b>Last Vegas (New)</b> PG13, 8 p.m.	<b>Lyceum closed</b> Note: Concessions at Camp Bulkeley are also closed every night until further notice.	<b>Delivery Man (New)</b> PG13, 8 p.m.	<b>Lyceum closed</b> Note: Concessions at Camp Bulkeley are also closed every night until further notice.	<b>Carrie (LS)</b> R, 8 p.m.

## Elves Gone Wild!

Keg toss, root beer pong, flip cup, dizzy bat  
and marshmallow shootout



Thursday, Dec. 12, 7 p.m.  
Marine Hill Liberty Center



## Ornament Painting

Sunday, Dec. 15, 1-4 p.m.  
Ceramics Shop

# Free Throw Competition

Liberty

Friday, Dec. 20, 7 p.m.  
at Denich Gym

during the MWR Holiday Basketball Tournament

Winner receives \$100 NEX Gift Card.  
For more information call ext. 2113



Old Glory flies over the entrance to Guantanamo Bay over by McCalla Airfield in this photo by Matthew Roberts.

PHOTO OF THE WEEK