

THE WIRE

A JTF Journal



PSU 305

Improved Work Environment

Calling All-Hands

Army FORSCOM

Relationships

**Navy Command Master Chief
Edward Moreno**

Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion

Growing up I truly valued relationships with my family, friends and people I felt a personal connection with. Looking back, I did not consciously work hard on building trust, confidence and respect in these relationships; it just seemed to happen naturally. That has not always been the case in my professional life, however, where building relationships required greater effort. But in both cases, the three bedrock principles behind every successful relationship were trust, confidence and respect.

In my experience, the absence of trust, confidence and respect has been the primary culprit in what tears down personal or professional relationships. Often there is no single cause, only general erosion over time from lack of attention. Managing relationships takes time and effort but the payoff is enormous. When we have the *courage* to build relationships on these principles via action and word, it reinforces this goal.

A key benefit in living to build relationships is being driven to take 100 percent responsibility for ourselves and the building of alliances outside of the relationship of your individual focus. When we do it right, we discover these principles strengthen and grow other relationships.

When we build trust in a person it promotes confidence and this confidence results in respect. The cycle continues as long as we work at it. When we break the cycle it strains the relationship and can even destroy it. No matter what direction you relate these three principles to, it just works. No matter where you are in the "chain of command" or in a personal relationship, if we communicate and focus, we inevitably see a change for the better. We also identify why things are not working well, personally or for the organization we serve. We get better at solving and preventing problems.

Individual *commitment* – this is the responsibility part...

- Self awareness and assessment. Really get to know what makes you tick. Figure out your faults and what motivates you. We can better ourselves and build on our strengths. Realizing who we are helps us with others and builds understanding and credibility.

- Diversity. This is more than just race, color, religion, or gender. We are different: the way we think, how we look, where we come from, our education and how we were raised. No two people are the same, not even identical twins. Life experience affects who we are, and we need to do our very best to appreciate the differences in people – value and respect everyone.

- Take 100 percent responsibility all the time. This applies to our jobs, duties, personal and professional relationships. No more excuses or pointing fingers at the other guy. We build trust when there is 100 percent responsibility for all of us, 100 percent of the time.

- Embrace personal growth. Read often, and outside your specialty. Setting expectations, sustaining excellence, experience your own success as well as team success are possible if we are committed to the required time and effort. Confidence grows with knowledge, experience and a track record of success.

Trust, confidence and respect are essential to any relationship. We need to be conscious of this when dealing with others and holding ourselves to the same charge. After 24 years of service to our country, it is my opinion no one is better at relationships than the women and men of the United States Armed Forces. You sacrifice so much, so others can be safe and enjoy what freedom breeds. Your personal and professional example is extraordinary.

It is a distinct *honor* and privilege to serve you as the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion Command Master Chief. ★



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COVER:

U.S. Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class Jason Hixon, an electronics technician deployed here with Port Security Unit 305, performs routine maintenance on his Viper patrol boat by removing, cleaning and reinstalling different components. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Erica Isaacson



The WIRE is the official news magazine of Joint Task Force Guantanamo. It is produced by the JTF Public Affairs Office to inform and educate the Troopers of JTF Guantanamo through news, features, command guidance, sports and entertainment. The WIRE seeks to provide maximum disclosure with minimum delay with regards to security, accuracy, propriety and policy. This DoD news magazine is an authorized publication for the members of the Department of Defense. Contents of The WIRE are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or Joint Task Force Guantanamo. It is printed by the Document Automation & Production Service with a circulation of 1000.

Improved work environment



PSU 305 received new Response Boat Small - Charlie boats at Ft. Eustis, Va., and have been testing them to ensure they will work for everyday missions.

Army Spc. Megan Burnham

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

When Port Security Unit 305 arrived at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay to begin their six-month deployment, they brought more than just their standard equipment for the mission.

Since the current Transportable Port Security Boats are nearing the end of their service life, a new and improved model, called a Response Boat Small - Charlie, will become the platform in maintaining security of Guantanamo Bay.

“You can get approximately eight to 10 years out of a hull before it needs to be replaced,” said Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Donald Wassler, boat division chief. “So [the Coast Guard Deployable Operations Group] made some modifications to the existing hull-type they have in production now to better suit the [Outside Continental United States] mission.”

PSU 305 was picked to test the RBS in Ft. Eustis before deploying to Guantanamo Bay. The unit received the boats last May and began a three-month study to test their viability and see if they would work on a day-to-day basis.

“We took them underway and ran them through different scenarios and drove them



When out on patrol, the crew can sit in shock mitigating seats that relieve stress on the kness as well as stay cool in the air conditioned cabin.

to different areas,” Wassler said.

The boat crews have been getting familiar with the handling of the vessel and completing the qualifications necessary to put it in everyday use.

“We are waiting for replacement parts like radios, radars, bilge pumps and parts for the motor,” Wassler said. “So if something breaks, we have the parts on hand to fix them.”

There are many factors that make the RBS more desirable to man than the TPSB. The greatest difference is how the RBS has an enclosed cabin that will provide more safety against the elements out on the water. Also, the cabin allows four crewmembers to sit in shock-mitigating seats to provide better crew comfort.

“It’s a more agile boat and the crew isn’t standing for their whole watch,” Wassler said. “There’s safety seats that keep the crew buckled in place so when they’re doing tactics, there’s not a risk of falling overboard.”

Other benefits include heating and air conditioning inside the cabin that help the crew stay comfortable and alert while patrolling the waters in the hot and intense Guantanamo Bay weather.

“Some crew members were intimidated driving the boat for the first time,” Wassler added. “But once they got on it and saw how much it takes the strain off of their knees, back and neck, especially on rough seas and on the range, it made a huge difference.”

The unit hopes to have the boats in use sometime in February so all crew members can enjoy the benefits of the new boats. Until then, they will continue to uphold the Joint Task Force mission in keeping the bay secure. 🇺🇸

The current situation



Army Lt. Gen. Joseph F. Peterson spoke to Soldiers during a brief trip to Joint Task Force Guantanamo during an All-Hands Call Jan. 27 at the Windjammer Ballroom. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Carlynn Knaak

Army Staff Sgt. Gretel Sharpee

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Army personnel from Joint Task Force Guantanamo gathered at the Windjammer Ballroom Tuesday afternoon for an All-Hands Call with Army Lt. Gen. Joseph F. Peterson, deputy commanding general/chief of staff, U.S. Army Forces Command.

Peterson, along with Maj. Gen. Ronald S. Chastain, deputy commanding general Army National Guard, U.S. FORSCOM, visited JTF in an effort to meet Soldiers in all areas of their command.

FORSCOM is the largest command in the Army and the Army's Force Provider to joint combatant commanders worldwide, according to the FORSCOM mission statement.

"You are the hammer," said Peterson. "When our Soldiers, Sailors, Airman and Marines land on a continent and show that flag that you now wear on your right shoulder – that means something."

In a 50-minute brief, Peterson explained the Army's current strategic environment and what it takes to staff, supply and train for the Global War on Terrorism.

Through discussing the basic elements of what it takes to train, supply and deploy a unit, Peterson emphasized the challenges the U.S. military faces and has faced during this war.

Right now, active-duty Soldiers can expect to have 12 months between deployments, and National Guard and Reserve can expect

to have up to two years. During that time it is expected that Soldiers will attend training and advancement courses and use the last half of the time training on mission essential tasks in preparation for deployment.

During that time units also need to add personnel and receive the equipment they will need to accomplish their mission.

"It takes every single Soldier in uniform to do the mission we have today," Peterson stressed.


Peterson noted that the U.S. Army predates the United States by more than a year.

"It took a great Army to establish a great nation, and nothing has changed," he said. "It still takes great Soldiers and leaders like you to do it." 🇺🇸



Navy Rear Adm. Dave Thomas greets Peterson upon his arrival at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay.

Marching in memoriam



A military police soldier participating in the Bataan Death March try-out marches up Sky Line Drive as the sun just begins to rise above the tree line. Soldiers of the 525th who participated in the try-out marched 15 miles around Guantanamo Bay, Jan. 23.

**Army Spc.
Megan Burnham**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Imagine being taken prisoner and treated in a most inhumane manner. Imagine marching 75 to 100 miles through rough jungle terrain while receiving limited food and water with bare minimum rest periods. Imagine seeing a battle buddy fall from starvation, dehydration or wounds and not being able to help them up.

This is the type of treatment Filipino and American Soldiers received in World War II when they became prisoners of war in 1942. The POWs were forced to march through the Bataan jungle in horrible conditions because the Japanese soldiers were not prepared or willing to safely transport or properly feed the approximately 76,000 POWs.

To commemorate those veterans and those who lost their lives, the Army Reserves Officers' Training Corps Department at New Mexico State University began a memorial march in 1989 called the Bataan Memorial Death March. The annual event is held at the White Sands Missile Range, N.M. where participants march the 26.2 mile route over hilly desert terrain. This year the 20th Annual Bataan Death March will be held March 29.

This is the second year that the 525th Military Police Battalion will participate in the event, and already the unit conducted

the Bataan Death March try-out Jan. 23 to determine who would make up the five-person team.

"I like the fact that we have the opportunity and the Joint Task Force command supports it," said Army Sgt. Maj. Donald Troxler. "This will comprise long-term benefits that will have our Soldiers being a part of history, being able to remember what our WWII warriors did, being able to meet them and being able to represent our battalion."

To allow everyone the opportunity to participate in the Bataan Death March, numerous categories were made available so teams as well as individuals could sign up. The main distinguishing category is whether teams or individuals want to participate in a light or heavy division. The light division requires the minimum weight to be carried where the heavy division is where participants have to carry at least 35 pounds. Other categories include military, civilian, all-female, all-male and co-ed teams.

This year, the representatives from the 525th will be competing in the co-ed light team with the team wearing their complete Army Combat Uniform with a filled Camelbak.

"We identified that we wanted to allow all warriors the opportunity to participate, therefore we elected the co-ed category," Troxler said.

The 26 Soldiers who signed up for the



A Soldier approaches the last stretch of the 15-mile route to the finish line of the Bataan Death March try-outs at Kittery Beach. The road to Kittery Beach was the roughest terrain that participants had to march upon.

try-out had done so for many different reasons.

"I'm doing it to represent my company and represent the Army here at JTF Guantanamo," Army Sgt. David Peppard said. "I'd also like to get off island for a couple days and do something fun."

See **MARCH/12**



Paul Seitz does it all for The Mariners during Monday night's game. His pitching helped hold The Beef to a close game while his hits helped bring in runs keeping The Mariners on the board.

Army Staff Sgt. Gretel Sharpee

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The lights at Cooper Field Sports Complex were blazing Monday night as another night of the Open Recreation Winter Softball League kept the fields full of action.

The league is comprised of 10 teams from around base that will each play at least 10 games throughout the league. The games take place Monday, Wednesday and Friday nights starting at 6 p.m.

On Monday, the night started out with a match-up between The Mariners, a team with members from Port Security Unit 305, and The Beef, a team with members from the 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron. Ranked fifth and seventh respectively going into the game, players knew it would be a close fight, but sometimes the competition isn't the main reason why players look forward to the games.

"I'm just happy to be here," commented Wayne Miesen. "It is a nice break from the routine."

"Getting out here and playing with

friends relieves the stress of work," added Mike Conley.

Even though playing softball is a great way to relieve stress and break away from daily routines, someone has to win. With a close score throughout the entire game, The Beef finally pulled ahead in the last inning for a 12-11 win over The Mariners. ☆

2009 Open-Recreation Winter Softball League Standings As of Jan. 25

TEAM	Wins	Losses
1. NAVSTA	4	0
2. Untouchables	3	0
3. Antagonizers	3	1
4. DOC's	2	2
5. Mariner's	1	2
6. Infidels	1	2
7. The Beef	1	2
8. GTMO Latinos	1	2
9. The Exhibitionists	1	3
10. OARDEC	0	3

2009 Captain's Cup Basketball League Standings As of Jan. 26

MEN'S	Wins	Losses	PF	PA	Points
1. Hawks	5	0	271	139	15
2. NBN Royals	5	0	264	136	15
3. C-Blocks	4	1	221	169	12
4. Underdogs	4	1	181	192	12
5. Illmatics	3	1	222	145	9
6. Pinoy Express	3	1	198	157	9
7. DOC's	3	1	180	138	9
8. Old Glory	2	2	152	145	6
9. W.T. Sampson Pirates	2	3	178	213	6
10. GTMO Latinos	1	3	133	170	3
11. Corpsman Up	1	4	271	271	3
12. Terror Squad	1	4	128	230	3
13. Pinoy GTMO Idols	0	4	119	214	0
14. JTF-IOF	0	4	58	153	0
15. Tek Weh Yuself	0	5	198	249	0

**PF: Points For
PA: Points Against**

A draining experience

**Army Spc.
Christina Beerman**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Take a moody, devastatingly handsome vampire, an awkwardly average teenage girl, and all the heartache of young love thrown into the rainy town of Forks, Wash., and you have the setting of this year's cult hit "Twilight."

I'm slightly biased; I do have a longstanding love affair with all things vampire. However, I approached this movie with a critical eye. In my opinion, Hollywood never gets the whole vampire thing right, and certainly falls short in the book-to-big-screen adaptation department. Twilight was a pleasant exception to this rule.

I appreciated director Catherine Hardwicke's intimate approach to an occasionally hard-to-swallow love story between a human teenage girl named Bella Swan, played by actress Kristen Stewart, and a vampire teenage boy named Edward Cullen, played by actor Robert Pattison.

Both fairly unknown actors, Pattison and Stewart attempt to flesh out the chemistry between Edward and Bella. However, Stewart's acting is as drab and predictable as the small town the movie is set in, and much like Bella in the book series she seems to pale in comparison to Pattison's smoldering interpretation of Edward.

The supporting cast, however, seems to hit the mark better than the film's heroine – especially actress Ashley Greene, who plays Edward's sister Alice Cullen, and actor Billy Burke, who plays Bella's dad Charlie Swan.

Overall the story moved along at decent pace, slowing through the romantic candlelit parts and speeding by the frenzied vampire action sequences.

Some other noteworthy points on the film include a nod to the cinematography team behind the breathtaking panoramic shots of the Pacific Northwest, and a "must-add-to-any-music-library" movie soundtrack featuring two original songs written and performed by Pattison himself.

Although the film may have been originally targeted for "tween" audiences, it's a draw that – much like Edward's declaration to Bella – can't be resisted any longer. ☆

PG-13
2 hours

Rating: ★★☆☆☆

**Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class
Zachary Harris**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Much like the main characters in this movie, "Twilight" sucked the life out of me. This cult hit aims to tell the Romeo-and-Juliet-esque tale of Bella, played by Kristen Stewart, and Edward, portrayed by Robert Pattison.

Where do I begin?

The drastically sub-par acting from Stewart. She delivers lines in a pained staccato while blinking like a seizure victim as if she's trying to remember the script as she acts it out. And then there's Robert Pattison, idolized for his "smoldering" good looks and ultra-brooding personality. He plays the tortured soul who just cannot seem to cope with his reality very well. I can see why millions of 12-year-old girls dig this movie. It appears as though his character, Edward, is constantly stuck in a pouty, confused stare, much like that of a male runway model.

To be fair, I've never read any of the books that this movie is based on, but I can only imagine that it's groundbreaking literature that will surely be remembered alongside other great works such as "War and Peace" and "To Kill a Mockingbird."

Also, I would think that something that is obviously going to make millions at the box-office (because of Pattison) would have a bigger budget for things like special effects and acting lessons for Stewart.

I guess the special effects team thought wrong when they figured they would only need about eight bucks to pull this stuff off.

On the upside, the cinematography is done exceptionally well. It appears that's the only professional staff they hired for this movie because it looks amazing; the washed-out color of the imagery actually lends itself to this story.

Much to my own surprise, the soundtrack is decent. It includes two songs performed by Pattison that, regretfully, I love. If I had to give a star count or thumbs up or down, I would say one star for the cinematography and the soundtrack. With the upcoming sequels to this movie in the works, I can only hope they try to breathe some life into this otherwise dead series. ☆

PG-13
2 hours

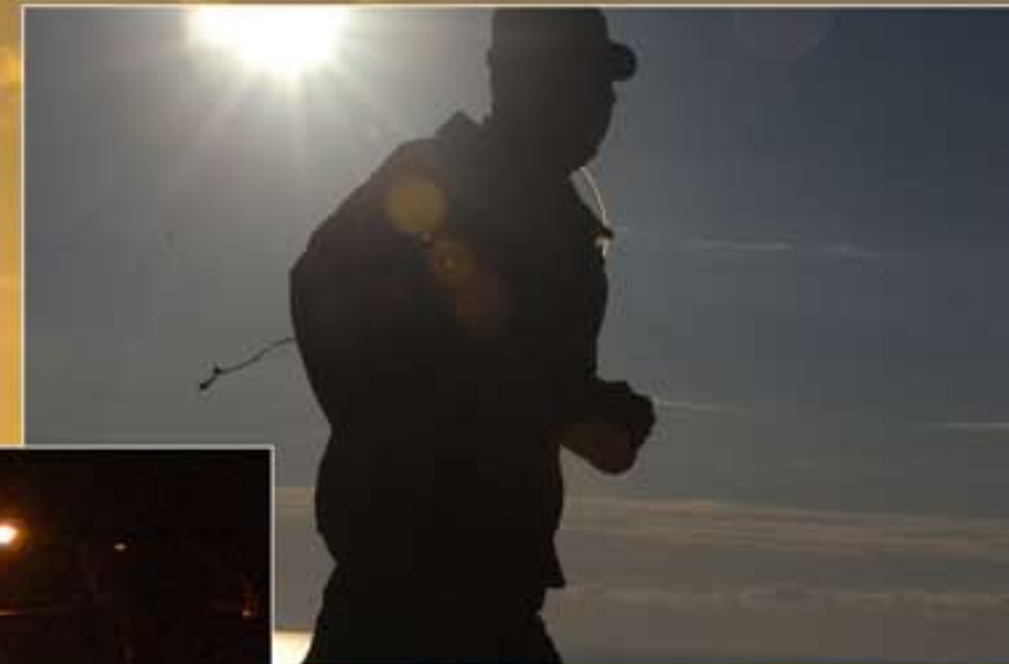
Rating: ★☆☆☆☆



The 525th Military Police Battalion Try-out Bataan Memorial Death March

The Bataan Memorial Death March is more of a memorial than a race. The history and memory of the Bataan Death March is what this event is all about.

The annual race is held in honor of the American and Filipino Soldiers who became prisoners of war during WWII and were forced to walk through the Bataan jungle with minimal rest, food and water. Many succumbed to the conditions when the Japanese did not provide basic necessities to the estimated 76,000 POWs.



Army Sgt. 1st Class Jorge Moreira reaches the half-way point on top of John Paul Jones hill.

Soldiers of the 525th receive directions from Army Sgt. 1st Class Onix Rodriguez before the start of the event.



A group of Soldiers finish the march together.



Army Sgt. Aaron Sanluis gets assistance in stretching out the cramps in his legs after finishing the march.



Army Spc. Charles Daniels continues strong up John Paul Jones hill just to turn around and head back down.



Members of the 525th take a few minutes to stretch out before the start of the march.

Photos by Army Spc. Megan Burnham

GTMO's Biggest Loser

**Army Staff Sgt.
Gretel Sharpee**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

If your thighs are still moving even if you finished your last side-straddle hop a minute ago, or if your chief told you your bootlace was out but when you looked down all you saw was your uniform straining over your padded middle, or at your last medical appointment a health professional convinced you that by losing weight you could lower your cholesterol levels or blood pressure, you're not alone – weight loss and fitness are hard.

Whatever the reason, maintaining a healthy weight and staying in good physical condition is hard. We've all been there,

especially those of us in the military whose weight and body fat content is measured as casually as our feet.

To help make fitness and losing weight more fun, the Morale, Welfare and Recreation department at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay has imitated the successful T.V. show "Biggest Loser" to create, "GTMO's Biggest Loser."

"The goal is to get people into a healthier lifestyle," said Ryan Rollison, fitness coordinator for MWR. "It is not just about weight loss; we are trying to educate for life-long fitness."

The program has more than 30 teams of four signed-up with the first weigh-in on Feb. 2. From then on, teams will weigh-in every other week and be tracked on the

percentage of weight lost per team. Prizes will be awarded at each weigh-in to the team that has lost the greatest percentage, and there will be a grand prize at the end of 12 weeks.

Teams will also be turning in food and exercise logs at each weigh-in as well. Each member is tasked with writing down each morsel of food they consume and every repetition, set, time and type of exercise they complete.

"There won't be any group exercise classes, but I'll be here as well as other personal trainers to help [participants] if they need motivation or support," Rollison said.

"People are excited about it," he continued. "Whatever their motivation is, I'm happy they are doing it." ☆



Going the long way

MARCH from 5

“Mainly just prove to myself that I can do it and for personal benefits,” commented Army Pfc. Caroline Thwaites.

The 15-mile course wound throughout Naval Station Guantanamo Bay and consisted of all types of terrain. The competition began at 6 a.m. at Windward Range where the participants first trekked to Kittery Beach and back and then made their way along Sherman Ave. The half-way point was at the top of the infamous John Paul Jones Hill. The second part of the route included hiking back down the hill and marching all the way back to Kittery Beach.

“It was tough,” said Army Sgt. Steven Jones about the course. “I had been training with my ruck sack and Interceptor Body Armor so I was a little happy when I found out we just had to wear our camelbak.”

The top six qualifiers (one serving as an alternate) will continue training for the 26.2 mile event that includes achieving certain milestones set up by senior enlisted of the 525th.

The first milestone was 15 miles during

the try-out; the next will be 18 miles, followed by 21 miles and finally 24 miles. The type of training will be determined by the team during personal training time or whenever the team decides to train.

“There are certain milestones that [the team] will build up to,” Army Sergeant 1st Class Onix Rodriguez said. “Those are accomplishments that will increase their confidence and by the time they get to New Mexico they’ll already know, ‘I did 24 miles, I can do two more.’”

The Bataan Memorial Death March is an event that contains much historical value. A major goal is for people to remember the spirit of helping one another, especially during stressful times.

For more information on the history and the event of the Bataan Death March, visit www.bataanmarch.com. ★



Army Sgt. 1st Class Jorge Moreira changes his socks at the half-way point on top of John Paul Jones Hill to minimize his chances of blisters during the 15-mile march. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Megan Burnham

While exercising outdoors...

- All personnel will wear a visible reflective belt or vest while exercising outdoors IAW JTF GTMO GARRISON SOP.
- Headphones are ONLY authorized while on a sidewalk, IAW JTF GTMO GARRISON SOP.
- Bicyclists are part of the traffic and will follow traffic rules.

For more information, please email safety@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil

Screaming reels, gnashing teeth

**Air Force Tech Sgt.
Dave Soldat**
474th ECES Power Production

A calm and quiet Wednesday morning on Guantanamo Bay near Buoy Five was interrupted with fishing line screaming off the reel as a black tip shark peeled a hundred yards of line in a matter of seconds.

The Power Production Fishing Team – consisting of Air Force Tech Sgt. Dave Soldat, Master Sgt. Chad Blackmon, Tech Sgt. William Hutchinson and Senior Airman Kevin Tallmon, all members of the 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron – spend at least one day a week fishing in the bay. The team, known as the Power Production Fishing Team, routinely fish mackerel, jack fish, snapper and barracuda – but it’s become an easy feat.

Catching shark became a more frequent occurrence, and the challenge has made it the prime target. A normal day now consists of hooking between two and five sharks on any given trip.

Each person on the team has a purpose. When we anchor at the buoy, tasks are handed out by the boat captain (Soldat). When a shark is on, someone is responsible for starting the motor and driving the boat, while another pulls up anchor, and someone pulls in all the fishing lines. None of us could do it alone.

The black tip is one of only a few sharks that can jump fully out of the water – a behavior called breaching, which they like to do once hooked – in an attempt to spit the hook from its mouth. It is definitely a sight to see when a five-to-six foot shark comes completely out of the bay waters. The key is to keep the line taugth through the jump and allow the drag to be loose enough to prevent the line from snapping when the shark thrashes its head. Sharks are extremely strong and can snap strong line faster than the drag allows it to be released.

We have had at least 35 or 40 hook ups with sharks in the last two months. We have been using the Internet search engine “Google” to learn all that we can about shark fishing and tactics, and modifying leaders and rigs the best we can, with the limited shark accessories available at the marina and NEX.

The largest shark we have actually had next to the boat, in an attempt to board, was a seven-and-a-half foot black tip. The largest we brought back to the marina was a five-foot-seven-inch black tip, weighing about 74 pounds. It took the team three hours and 15 minutes to board the shark, utilizing Hicacel Beach to get the shark out of the



Dave Soldat, Chad Blackmon, William Hutchinson and Kevin Tallmon show off their catch after a day of fishing on Guantanamo Bay. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Emily J. Russell

water. We have caught three large black tips and one medium sized hammerhead.

Not only is fishing and boating a relaxing and stress relieving time, but the excitement adds to everyone’s day. Every shark boated is talked about around Camp Justice and GTMO for a few days, that is, until the next one. ☆

Boots on the Ground

by Army Spc. Megan Burnham

What do you plan on doing during the XLIII Super Bowl this weekend?

**Navy Petty Officer
3rd Class Michael A.
Keeling**



“Help increase the morale by throwing a Super Bowl party.”

**Coast Guard Petty
Officer 3rd Class Ryan
Storino**



“Get some guys together on E Block and watch it on my fabulous 19-inch screen.”

**Coast Guard Petty
Officer 3rd Class Rudy
Mendoza**



“I’ll be working that day, but after work I’ll be heading to the Windjammer to watch it on the big screen.”

**Navy Petty Officer 2nd
Class Angel Gorbea**



“Getting together with friends and eating junk food.”

What's your motive?



Chaplain Eric Bey

525th Military Police Battalion

Why do the birds sing and fly? Why do fish swim? Is it to prove that they are what they are? Is it to be more of what they are?

No, birds sing and fly and fish swim because they are birds and because they are fish. So it is with Christians.

I pray, study the Bible, fast, tithe and preach the gospel as well as all of the other Christian disciplines but I don't do them to be saved or to be God's son. I do them *because* I am God's son and I am saved.

Have you ever read in scripture that motive means everything to God? In 1 Chronicles 28:9, Proverbs 16:2 and 1 Corinthians 4:5 the principle is clearly seen. So why is this important?

The fact is that there are many people who go through the Christian disciplines because they want to be saved or gain God's approval. Scripture is clear that we cannot work our way into God's presence. It says in

Ephesians 2:8-9 that we are saved by grace, through faith, and not of ourselves – it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast. So one cannot say, well I believe in God so I am okay. The bible declares that even the devil believes and trembles. Believing is not enough. One should not think that they are okay with God because they go to church or pray or study or tithe. It just doesn't work like that.

In probably the most vivid and graphic way possible, the Apostle Paul reveals to us that our *very best efforts* to be righteous before the Lord are as filthy rags. In short, no amount of church attendance, prayer, giving or such will ever serve to bridge the gap that our sin has created between us and our God. If it sounds pretty hopeless then you're on the right track! If God hadn't made the effort to bridge the gap then we would forever be separated from Him.

But He did bridge the gap with the life, blood and death of Jesus. He freely offers us the atonement, and our part in it is simply to accept it. We must be careful not

to attempt to pay Him back or live in a way so as to deserve it. It is a gift and if you give anything back for a gift then it is basically a trade and ceases to be a gift. Then one might be able to say, well it's mine but I gave thus and such for it.

Don't for a second think that I am advocating a lawless and reckless lifestyle steeped in sin. I am simply saying that motive is everything to God. We should live a holy and righteous life, not as a payment for the gift of Christ but rather in gratitude for the gift of Christ. It is our spiritual act of worship!

It is not so that I can be worthy of His love and sacrifice – that is not possible. It is simply a gift and I must simply accept it. My motive for thinking and doing right is gratitude and that makes all the difference in the world.

So it is not *to* be saved, but *because* I am saved and that's what saved people do. Birds fly and fish swim because they are what they are, so I do what I do because I am whose I am – because I belong to God. ✧

JTF CHAPEL SCHEDULED PROGRAMS

Catholic Mass

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

Wednesday: 11 a.m.
Spanish Mass

Protestant Worship

Sunday: 9 a.m.

Spanish Protestant Worship

Sunday: 11 a.m.

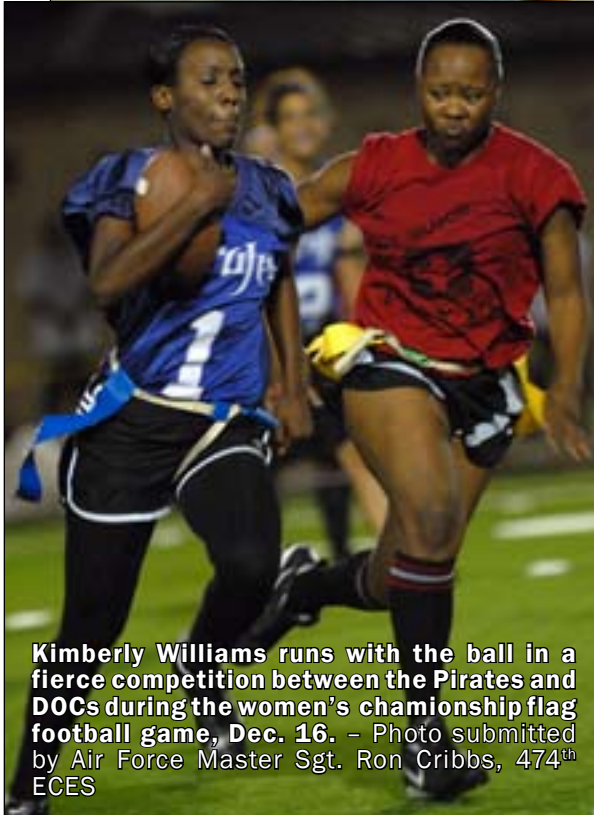
Bible Study

Sunday: 7 p.m. **Wednesday:** 6 p.m.

Air Force Master Sgt. Ron Cribbs, engineering assistant with the 474th ECES, documents his life through his camera lens. Cribbs enjoys action and sports photography in both his civilian and military life.



Man of action, and still



Kimberly Williams runs with the ball in a fierce competition between the Pirates and DOCs during the women's championship flag football game, Dec. 16. – Photo submitted by Air Force Master Sgt. Ron Cribbs, 474th ECES

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

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

If a picture is worth a thousand words, then Air Force Master Sgt. Ron Cribbs has a lot to say.

As an engineering assistant with the 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron, Cribbs helps keep base maps up to date with new construction projects and relocations of structures, including electrical and telephone lines. When Cribbs is not maintaining a picture perfect map, he can often be found photographing various aspects of the base and its residents.

“There are many men and women here doing outstanding work but are really unable to convey that to folks back home – whether to civilian [employers] or to family and friends,” Cribbs said. “From a military standpoint, [photography] is a good way to document what we do here.”

What began as a hobby nearly 20 years ago has become a passion for Cribbs.

“I decided to buy a good camera right after I joined the Air Force so I could document my career,” Cribbs said.

Over the years, Cribbs has developed

his eye for composition through experience and by speaking with other photographers.

“Jimmy Haire is a local photographer that I’ve known for years,” Cribbs said. “He has really helped me a lot by looking at my work and answering questions for me.”

Whether at home, or deployed, this North Carolina native is drawn to the action of sports.

“Back home, I photograph a lot of youth baseball,” Cribbs said. “There aren’t a lot of people who will come out and photograph kids playing ball, so to be able to capture a young kid’s behavior during a ball game really gives you some candid shots.”

“I have one [favorite] photo of a person riding an old-style bicycle down the beach with a dog on a leash running along with him,” Cribbs explained. “It was taken in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. The resorts and skyline blend into the background – the guy riding the bicycle, his dog, and the tire tracks and paw prints in the sand are in sharp focus. I got a lot of comments on that one.”

During his deployment in Guantanamo Bay, Cribbs has spent time photographing other ECES unit members, both working and playing. He also has provided support to various work sections that needed visual support for projects.

“Our liquid fuels non-commissioned officer-in-charge was having difficulty in ordering a hose fitting,” Cribbs explained. “I was asked to photograph the part in need of replacing. The photo was emailed to the manufacturer and the part was successfully ordered.”

Cribbs has also photographed equipment to create “how-to” presentations for new arrivals to Guantanamo supporting the transient quarters for visiting military commissions staff or for the incoming rotation of Camp Justice personnel.

“I’m thankful that my supervisor and other members of the 474th ECES have been supportive of me,” Cribbs said. “They’ve really let me do something I enjoy and have shown a lot of appreciation for [the photos and projects].”

Members of the 474th show interest in Cribb’s photographs and often request Cribbs’ support for a fellow Airman’s retirement, promotion or other important unit event.

“I get good feedback,” Cribbs said. “I didn’t anticipate I’d be taking as many photos as I have. I took a lot of football photos and the guys come by to see them. I’ve shared all my photos with the folks from the 474th.”

At home, Cribbs has a small business and uses a website to sell his photographs.

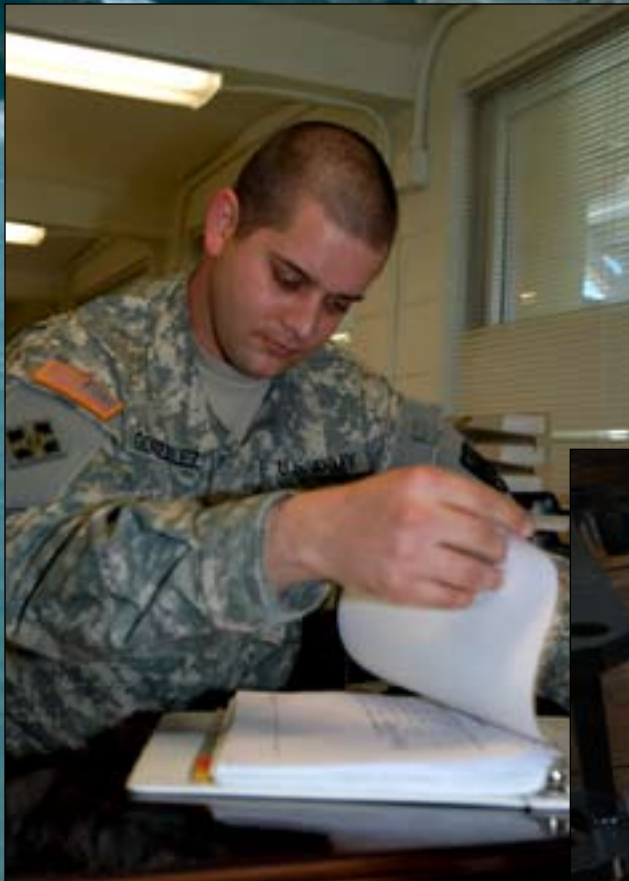
“After I retire from the Air National Guard, I will continue the business and build it.”



A crane stands tall and alert in the wildlife area near G.J. Denich gym. – Photo submitted by Air Force Master Sgt. Ron Cribbs, 474th ECES



Atlanta Falcons Cheerleaders sign autographs for Troopers from Joint Task Force Guantanamo at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Liberty Center in Camp America Jan. 26. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Christopher Dollar



Army Spc. Ricardo Gonzalez, a Joint Personnel Service Center administrative clerk deployed here with the Puerto Rico National Guard, prepares to sign a Trooper back in from leave, Jan. 28. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Erica Isaacson



Army Spc. Luis Luna, a unit supply clerk deployed here with the Puerto Rico National Guard, prepares to deliver supplies with a fork lift, Jan. 28. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Erica Isaacson

Around the

JTF