

# W<sup>1</sup>The WIRE

An award-winning  
JTF journal

## You don't say!

GTMO 'groundhog' predicts  
six more weeks of  
(Caribbean) winter

GUANTANAMO  
JAY

Focus on Trooper of the Quarter

Marathoners rockin' in the free world



# COMMAND CORNER

BRIG. GEN. JAMES LETTKO

DEPUTY COMMANDER, JTF GUANTANAMO

You are part of a joint team of professionals which includes Troopers from all five service branches and all components, as well as U.S. government civilian employees and contractors. You have joined our team from all walks of life to execute the one-of-a-kind mission found only at Joint Task Force Guantanamo.

I hope that as you learn about the different branches of service, while working together, you will see that although we describe our values with different words, our values are all grounded in the oath we took when we swore to defend our great nation.

As February is African-American Heritage month, I wanted to highlight two African-Americans who were willing to make the ultimate sacrifice. Though they served in different services at different times they represent our core values to the fullest.

Landsman Wilson Brown, a Union Navy Sailor during the Civil War, worked on the USS Hartford during a battle at the Confederate-held Mobile Bay. After being thrown through a hatch, with the dead body of another man falling on top of him, he fell unconscious. However after he came to, Brown returned to his duties. He kept the ship's guns supplied with powder for the remainder of the battle although four of the six men at his station had been either killed or wounded by fire. Brown, earned the Medal of Honor for his valiant efforts.

Nearly a hundred years later, U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Ruben Rivers earned the Medal of Honor during World War II. His tank unit was given a mission to attack a German position. While advancing, his tank became stuck in a road block and subsequent ambush. Rivers got out

of his tank and attached a cable to it to remove the obstacle, thus allowing the attack to proceed. A week later, as Rivers was leading his company in another assault, his tank hit a land mine and he was seriously injured. He refused medical evacuation and took command of another tank. During yet another daring assault seriously injured and in a lot of pain, he and his company were forced to retreat. Rivers' tank and another one provided rear security for the retrograding company. While saving the company from destruction, he fell under heavy enemy fire and was killed when the Germans trained their fire on his tank.

***We should remind ourselves and our shipmates, battle buddies and wingmen every day of our service values. These will guide our actions, whether on or off-duty.***

These two outstanding U.S. servicemen provide us enduring examples of two Troopers who lived their service values to their last

breath. They volunteered and performed their duties to the best of their abilities under fire and without regard to their personal safety. They were focused on the mission and that of their battle buddies and shipmates.

Here at JTF Guantanamo, we do not work under the physical conditions such as those Rivers and Brown endured. Our environment is much different and requires a different type of dedication and commitment to ensure the detainees are provided safe, humane, legal and transparent care and custody.

We should remind ourselves and our shipmates, battle buddies and wingmen every day of our service values. These will guide our actions, whether on duty or off duty, to conduct ourselves in an appropriate manner. I continue to be impressed with the level of professionalism I see every day with the entire JTF Guantanamo team.

Honor Bound!



## JTF Guantanamo

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Cover: Flag aide Lt. Cmdr. Jay Haddock and Duffles the banana rat, also known as "Guantanamo Jay," herald six more weeks of Caribbean winter. No banana rats were harmed in the making of this prediction. —photo by Mass Communication Spc. 2nd Class Kilho Park

# NEWS FROM THE BAY

## Super Fishbowl Tournament

Get in the mood for the Super Bowl by playing in the Super Fishbowl Tournament Feb. 4. Register at the Marina by Feb. 2. Registration costs \$6. The Tournament starts at 7 a.m. and ends at 12 p.m. There will be prizes for 1st place male and female winners with the longest mackerel, jack, and snapper.

For more information, call 2345.

## W.T. Sampson box top drive

Turn your trash into cash for the students of U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay. W.T. Sampson is taking part in the Box Tops for Education fundraiser. Each box top donated will be turned into 10 cents for Guantanamo Bay schools. A Box Tops collection bin is available at the NEX.

## Sand volleyball tournament

Grab some friends and some sunscreen and get ready for the coed Blizzard Sand volleyball tournament. The action runs from Feb. 18 to Feb. 20. Register your team (four to six people) by Feb. 14 at 7 p.m. There will be a coaches' meeting Feb. 16 at 5:30 p.m. You must be at least 16 years old to join a team.

For more information, call 2113.

## O'Kelly's to air UFC 143

Who is going to take the welterweight championship while Georges St. Pierre is injured? Find out tomorrow night at 9 p.m. when O'Kelly's airs UFC 143 live.

For more information, call 75503.



## Super Bowl Sunday with the Miami Dolphins cheerleaders

Join the Miami Dolphins cheerleaders for Super Bowl Sunday events! Starting at 12 p.m. at Cooper Field with the youth cheer clinic, learn to cheer from professionals. The Punt Pass and Kick competition and Quarterback Attack events begin at 1 p.m. These events are open to all hands. For more information, call 2113.

Then the party moves to O'Kelly's at 4:30 p.m. for a one-hour meet-and-greet. Bring a camera! At 6:30 p.m. the cheerleaders will perform before kick-off. Watch the big game on the big screen!

For more information, call 4882.

## Command Fitness Leader cert course

Are you looking for a chance to take the lead on your command's physical training? Enroll in the Command Fitness Leader Certification Course. Register online by March 9 at the following address:

[www.navyfitness.org/fitness/cfl\\_information](http://www.navyfitness.org/fitness/cfl_information)  
The course runs from March 26 to March 30. For more information, call 2157.

## Polynesian-style luau

The Tiki Bar will host a Polynesian Luau on Feb. 11. Events start at 5 p.m. with Luau games! Dinner starts at 6:30 p.m. and the luau show begins at 8:30 p.m. featuring hula dancers, live music and a fire knife dancer. Seating is limited, so purchase tickets at the Bayview during normal business hours.

For more information, call 75604.

## Camp America post office closed Feb. 4

The Camp America post office will be closed Feb. 4. Normal hours will resume Feb. 6 at 8 a.m. For more information, call 2331.

## Child and Youth Programs classes

There are nine additional classes now available for Guantanamo residents of all ages: piano, holistic yoga, math and science tutoring classes, comedy improv, introduction to web design, introduction to Russian language, yoga for kids, and leatherwork for youth. Register by Feb. 10.

For more information, email [chris.dickson@usnbgmto.navy.mil](mailto:chris.dickson@usnbgmto.navy.mil) or call 84616.

## NLSO tax assistance

The Navy Legal Services Office is ready to help Guantanamo residences through tax season. The naval station location will be open 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., Mon-Fri., and the JTF Trooper One Stop office 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mon-Fri. Appointments are now available.

For more information, call 4692.

## Upcoming FFSC classes

Career Exploration

Feb. 1, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Alternative to Violence seminars (men-only)

Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28; 1-2 p.m.

Job Search

Feb. 14, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Classes are located at the Fleet and Family Services Center conference room. For more information, call 4141.

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# Trooper to Trooper

## at gtmo, you are a part of history!

SGT. 1ST CLASS MICHAEL SHIMER

J3 SENIOR ENLISTED LEADER

Whether you knew it or not when you arrived here, when you stepped off of the rotator you stepped into a time capsule. That's not to say, aside from the literal definition, that I agree with a certain cable channel's slogan, "History is made every day." What I ate for breakfast this morning is history, true enough. Items of note, however, the kind that "go down in history" for us to marvel at many years later, have been made in this little bay on the southeast coast of Cuba. And now you are a part of it.

Before Columbus arrived here in 1494, this bay was inhabited by an indigenous people called the Taíno. The Taíno were a peaceful people, and also brave sailors who prided themselves in their courage on the open ocean. Columbus himself remarked with astonishment at seeing Taíno fishermen all alone at sea and many miles from shore in an open boat.

Over the next several centuries this bay was predominantly used as it always had been: for fishing, as a safe harbor, and for hiding. Due to its proximity to the eastern entrance to the Windward Passage between Hispaniola and Cuba, and to the buccaneer strongholds of Tortuga off

the north coast of Hispaniola (modern-day Haiti), Cow Island (off the south coast of Haiti), and Port Royal (Jamaica) in the 17th century, it can be assumed that numerous buccaneers, privateers, and outright pirates used this bay for these purposes.

The idea of using the bay as a staging point for raids on Santiago de Cuba was not lost to history. However, the oddly-named War of Jenkins' Ear destroyed the career of one pre-Revolutionary British Vice Admiral, Edward Vernon.

Arriving at Guantanamo Bay (which the British named Cumberland Harbor) Vernon's failed advance led to the army spending nearly four months encamped between Guantanamo Bay and Santiago de Cuba. Suffering from Spanish guerilla attacks and a spreading bout of yellow fever, British and colonial forces withdrew in disgrace. Vernon was later recalled to England and expelled from the Navy. Many of the yellow fever victims were "hospitalized" on a small island inside the bay, which we now call Hospital Cay.

American forces (this time, as in United States of America), saw plenty of action in Cuba during the Spanish-American



War. In Feb. 1898, after the USS Maine blew up in Havana Harbor, tensions between the United States and Spain reached a boiling point. The U.S. declared war on Spain in April 1898 and the U.S. Army rapidly assembled in Tampa and Key West, Florida in preparation for an invasion.

On June 6, 1898 the U.S. Navy sailed into Guantanamo Bay with a light cruiser, the USS Marblehead, and two auxiliary cruisers, the USS St. Louis and the USS Yankee. Six-inch guns from the USS Marblehead destroyed a Spanish blockhouse

on the hill above a small village on Fisherman's Point and drove off the Spanish defenders.

On June 9 a battalion of Marines under the command of Lt. Col. Robert W. Huntington had arrived off of Santiago de Cuba from Key West aboard a converted transport ship, the USS Panther. The Marines landed on the Windward side of Guantanamo Bay at Playa del Este (which in English translates to "East Beach" and is today known as Girl

see HISTORY next page

HISTORY cont.

Scout Beach) and occupied the abandoned hilltop next to the destroyed Spanish blockhouse. The location became known as Camp McCalla and McCalla Hill, named after the commander of the Marblehead, Cmdr. Bowman H. McCalla.

Advised of Cuban rebel forces, Huntington decided on a bold counterattack. The Spanish forces in the area were concentrated a few miles distant at the Cuzco Wells, just east of what today is known as Cable Beach. Cuzco Wells was the only reliable source of fresh water in the area. Without the water, Huntington thought, the Spanish would be forced to withdraw from the area. The Spanish were estimated at 500 loyalist guerillas. Though they were outnumbered, American forces held the area.

In 1906, retiring U.S. Army Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Adna Chaffee, a veteran of the Spanish-American War,

dedicated a monument atop of McCalla Hill to commemorate the Marines and Sailors who fought there in June 1898. The monument still stands under the U.S. flag for all to see upon arrival here at Guantanamo Bay. The focal piece of the monument is a 1748 French 24-pound Vallière cannon, but that is another story.

The ground beneath your feet and the sea surrounding us here at Guantanamo Bay has seen war many times in its past. As Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers, you carry on the tradition of service amidst these little-known giants of history. Remember the service of those who came before us, and the next time you look out over the Caribbean outside Seaside Galley, imagine for a moment the Taíno fishermen, Spanish explorers, French buccaneers, British men of war, and United States Marines who sailed into this bay before us.



# The passing of the sword



First Sgt. Chris Fick (left), assumed the duties of 189th Military Police Company first sergeant Wednesday. With him at the change of responsibility ceremony were Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Daniel F. Borrero, Command Sergeant Major of the 525th Military Police Battalion (center), and First Sgt. Phillip A. Dietz, outgoing first sergeant of the 189th MP Co. (right). The 189th MPs fall under the Vigilant Warriors of the 525th MPs, and are responsible for security at Joint Task Force Guantanamo's Camp Five. —photo by Mass Communication Spc. 1st Class Ty Bjornson



PROTECT YOUR INFO!

## PSEC SPECIAL ALERT: Hot Tips from the Interagency OPSEC Support Staff (IOSS)

### Don't connect USB devices to government computers!

**But I'm just using a little power. What's the harm?** Anything that plugs into USB can not only draw power, but can also transfer data. USB provides both capabilities.

**But I turned it off, so I'm okay, right?** NO! USB supplies power; so, it's not necessary for the device to be on for data transfer to occur.

**But it's not a thumb drive, so what's the issue?** Even if it were as simple as a USB light or game controller, how do you know it doesn't have memory? All hard drives, mp3 players, phones, etc. definitely DO have storage and, in many cases, also include wireless capability which makes them a much greater vulnerability than a USB thumb drive. The introduction of these devices into US Government systems allows for the creation of an infection vector across classification boundaries.

**But I don't transfer data back and forth. I would never load my data onto a work computer.** Within seconds of plugging in a USB cable, the computer and device start exchanging information. It's during this "handshake" period that a virus or malware can begin its work and infect any computer you plug into. This data transfer may introduce a cross-domain violation or the introduction of malicious data onto a US Government network.

**But where would my portable device get a virus?** The Internet, Bluetooth vulnerabilities, infected media, other USB charging locations... the list is nearly endless. Not only is your device at risk of getting a virus, so are the government systems to which you are connecting.

**Don't put your information at risk. Keep personal devices off government systems!**



# TROOPER FOCUS

By Mass Communication Spc. 2nd Class Louis Batchelor

Army Sgt. Larissa Pillay believes there is strength in unit cohesion. Pillay, one of Joint Task Force Guantanamo's S-2 analysts, is active in the Guantanamo community, and is always sure to spread cheer with her unit.

"I believe one of the most important things in the military is keeping morale high," Pillay said. "We are always looking for projects and activities to keep everyone content and healthy, both physically and mentally."

Pillay is a member of JTF Guantanamo's 170th Military Police Battalion, one of the most active units in the community. At work, she conducts OPSEC inspections, physical security inspections and is a member of the advance search team. Off duty, she and her unit are always looking for new activities to get involved in.

"Our unit is always involved in the community," Pillay said. "We help out the schools at all of their functions and actively participate in all the base's runs. Whenever we can help out, we will. It helps us to focus on our mission and not worry about things back home."

Pillay was recently named

JTF Guantanamo's Trooper of the Quarter. Though the award recognizes individual service members, Pillay attributes her success to those around her.

"It's an honor to be named JTF's Trooper of the Quarter," Pillay said, "but I could not have done it without my S-2 team and the 170th." They helped mold me and build my leadership skills. They have provided me with more than enough support to get things done."

Pillay said her unit has learned from their differences and weaknesses to come together for mission success. She said not only have their experiences helped them in their professional careers, but the 170th as a whole has learned from other branches different ways to become more efficient as a unit.

"Deciding to volunteer for this deployment has probably been one of the best decisions I have made in life," Pillay said. "Having the opportunity to work in a joint environment and working with other services has allowed me to see the bigger picture of military service."



## BULLET BIO

**Time in service:** 4.5 years

**Hobbies:** Running, fishing, laughing with friends

**The boss says:** "She has a lot of initiative. She is highly motivated and motivates everyone around her. She is always out there doing something to improve the unit and the way we do things here."

**Advice to junior Troopers:** "Strive to do your best at everything, both in work and in your spare time."

## STUDENT OF THE GAME

# by the numbers Super Bowl preview

By Army Sgt. Landis Andrews

I heard rumors about there being some sort of football game this weekend... I think there's a bowl of soup involved and a trophy named after a funny looking guy with glasses and a fedora... Here is the tale of the tape:

Giants		Patriots	
Offense			
4th	Passing	1st	
32nd	Rushing	20th	
8th	Total offense	2nd	
Defense			
29th	Passing	31st	
19th	Rushing	17th	
28th	Total defense	32nd	

Facts:

- This game is a rematch from week nine of this season. Tom Brady threw for 342 yards, two touchdowns and still loss to the Giants, 24-20.

- This season Brady threw for 5,235 yards, surpassing Dan Marino's 27-year-old record, but finishing behind Drew Brees for second all time.

- Eli Manning set an NFL record with 15 fourth quarter touchdown passes.

When looking at this game objectively, it seems like it's going to be an air show with very little defense involved. But, if the Giants have their way, they will cook with the same recipe that they used in Super Bowl XLII: hit Tom Brady hard and make him skittish in the pocket.

New England has the perfect answer for the Giants' pass rush. They have the most productive tight end tandem in league history: Aaron Hernandez and Rob Gronkowski. The latter is nursing a high ankle sprain, but says he will be ready at game time. Brady can save himself from the pass rush by quickly dumping the ball to his tight ends up the seam.

The outcome of this game has the potential to be lopsided in favor of both teams, but the New York Giants defensive line will be the difference maker. It won't be an easy task, but the Vince Lombardi trophy will rest in New Jersey for the next year. Because, you know, the New York Giants and Jets actually play and practice in New Jersey.

## Injury report

### Giants

Questionable

CB Will Blackmon (knee)  
WR Hakeem Nicks (shoulder)  
CB Corey Webster (hamstring)  
LB Jacquian Williams (foot)

Probable

C David Baas (abdomen, neck)  
LB Chase Blackburn (calf)  
RB Ahmad Bradshaw (foot)  
S Tyler Sash (concussion)  
DE Osi Umenyiora (ankle, knee)

### Patriots

Questionable

WR Deion Branch (knee)  
T Marcus Cannon (ankle)  
S Patrick Chung (knee)  
LB Dane Fletcher (thumb)  
TE Rob Gronkowski (ankle)  
S James Ihedigbo (shoulder)  
DT Kyle Love (ankle)  
G Logan Mankins (knee)  
LB Rob Ninkovich (hip)  
LB Brandon Spikes (knee)  
T Sebastian Vollmer (back, foot)  
WR Wes Welker (knee)  
LB Tracy White (abdomen)

Probable

G Dan Connolly (groin)  
WR Matt Slater (shoulder)

New York Giants					Team Leaders					New England Patriots						
Passing	Cmp	Att	Yds	TDs		Passing	Cmp	Att	Yds	TDs		Passing	Cmp	Att	Yds	TDs
Manning	359	589	4933	29		Brady	401	611	5235	39		Brady	401	611	5235	39
Rushing	Car	Yds	Avg	TDs		Rushing	Car	Yds	Avg	TDs		Rushing	Car	Yds	Avg	TDs
Bradshaw	171	659	3.9	9		Green-Ellis	181	667	3.7	11		Green-Ellis	181	667	3.7	11
Jacobs	152	571	3.8	7		Ridley	87	441	5.1	1		Ridley	87	441	5.1	1
Receiving	Rec	Yds	Avg	TDs		Receiving	Rec	Yds	Avg	TDs		Receiving	Rec	Yds	Avg	TDs
Cruz	82	1536	18.7	9		Welker	122	1569	12.9	9		Welker	122	1569	12.9	9
Nicks	76	1192	15.7	7		Gronkowski	90	1327	14.7	17		Gronkowski	90	1327	14.7	17

## Who's going to win the Super Bowl?



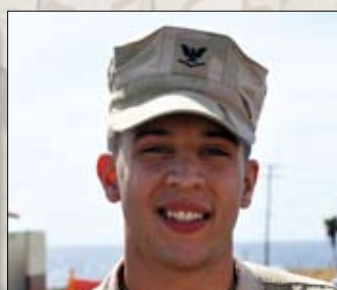
"The Giants, because I don't like the Patriots."

Pfc. Jawan Smith



"I don't care. The 49ers didn't make it."

Airman 1st Class Brett Lane



"The Patriots. It's a rematch and they really need this!"

Petty Officer 3rd Class Robert Lumberg



"Patriots all day!"

Petty Officer 2nd Class Andre Bogus

## BOOTS ON THE GROUND





# Planting serenity

By Mass Communication Spc. 1st Class Erica Gardner

Tall, leafy trees and brightly blooming plants line the dirt path of an oasis where personnel at Guantanamo Bay are able to escape the daily grind of deployment.

Volunteers manage and maintain the base's many exotic plants as a way to soothe their spirit and soul.

Base nursery volunteer Don Lloyd explained his love for gardening allows him to relax from his everyday job as a systems administrator with the naval hospital. During the past five years on the island, Lloyd has encountered many variations of plants, trees and herbs.

"I enjoy being in the nursery learning about the plants," said Lloyd. "We take cuttings from plants around the island and produce new plants for base residents to enjoy."

The Public Works Department nursery was started several years ago by school teachers as a class project. As they rotated from the island, volunteers kept the project alive, learning about plant care and creating a serene atmosphere for base residents to enjoy.

"Volunteers are necessary to help us keep this nursery blooming," said Frances Diverson, also a volunteer at the PWD nursery.

Diverson learned how to care for similar tropical plants while gardening in Hawaii, where she lived for a few years.

Exotic species such as large palm and banana trees, Mother-in-law's Tongue and hibiscus welcome visitors as they enter the nursery. Benches placed under trees serve as a relaxing environment to read a book, listen to music or take in the beauty of blooming plants.

"We are able to provide this sanctuary because of the volunteers," said Diverson. "We are very grateful to them for helping us keep this place clean and maintainable."

Troopers from Joint Task Force Guantanamo and Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion work with other volunteers at the PWD nursery to assist in maintaining the grounds.

"This is my first time volunteering," said Petty Officer 1st Class Lynny Mahoney. "I want to help improve Guantanamo and make it look better."

Mahoney and three other volunteers raked fallen leaves around several pens containing similar types of plants, and hauled the leaves to an outside bin.

Army Cpl. Robert Keller from the 525th Military Police Battalion raked leaves and reflected on being in a garden.

"This place reminds me of home," said Keller. "It is quiet and beautiful."

This is the third time Keller has volunteered his time to assist with nursery maintenance. He and other volunteers transplanted and watered some newly rooted seedlings.

"We cannot maintain this nursery without their help," said Diverson. "We look for more people to assist us but with the rotation of personnel, it is hard to keep them."

Petty Officer 2nd Class Mark Snow hauled several wheelbarrow loads of leaves from the nursery grounds. This is Snow's first time volunteering with the nursery and he toured the planting and watering station located in the middle of the nursery.

The PWD nursery is open to the public every first and third Saturday of the month from 8:30 to 11 a.m. Guantanamo Bay residents are encouraged to volunteer and choose a free plant. Volunteers are welcomed to show up every Saturday from 8:30 a.m. until the nursery's needs have been met.

If you are feeling the stress of being deployed and need to focus your attention on something other than work or home, consider getting your hands dirty at the base nursery.

"Volunteering is a great way to meet new people, and learn about plants and how to take care of them," said Lloyd.

# Okay, Troopers, rise and shine! And don't forget your boots 'cause it's... actually, not cold out there today

By Mass Communication Spc. 2nd Class Kilho Park

At 07:25 a.m. in Punxsutawney, Pa., a groundhog by the name of Phil was roused from his lair to see his shadow in front of about 15 wondering spectators. The precocious rodent also predicted six more weeks of winter. The horde of locals booed under semi-cloudy skies, hoping for an early spring.

Since 1887, when the calendar hits Feb. 2, the nation waits on a groundhog in western Pennsylvania to tell them whether we will have a lengthy or shortened winter. Nobody seems to have good explanation as to why we rely on a groundhog of all things to tell us this, but it's a tradition unlike any other.

What many people don't know is that Punxsutawney Phil has a cousin living in Cuba by the name of Guantanamo Jay. He too has been predicting the length of winter every Feb. 2. So let's try this again...

At 08:20 a.m. in Joint Task Force Guantanamo, a banana rat by the name of Jay was roused from his lair to see his shadow in front of about 15 wondering spectators. The precocious rodent also predicted six more weeks of winter. The squad of Troopers cheered under bluebird-bright skies, hoping for the weather to stay just the way it is.

Given the seasonably moderate mid-80s temperatures and sunshine throughout the winter months and the fact that JTF Guantanamo Troopers presently live in the heart of the Caribbean, Guantanamo Jay's predictions don't carry the burden that his cousin's up north do.

So, all blatant Bill Murray references aside, it looks like we'll have six more weeks of winter here in Guantanamo Bay. Okay with that? I am.



Joint Task Force Guantanamo commander Rear Adm. David Woods (right) and flag aide Lt. Cmdr. Jay Haddock heartily welcome six more weeks of winter with the rodentian prognosticator of prognosticators, "Guantanamo Jay." —photos by Mass Communication Spc. 2nd Class Kilho Park



**That's right, wood-chuckers, it's Groundhog Day!**

Background: a view through the trees at the Public Works Department plant nursery affords off-duty Troopers some peace and quiet. —photo by Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Donnelly  
Below: a hibiscus in bloom at the PWD nursery. Free horticulture is available for Guantanamo residents and volunteers on the first and third Saturdays of each month. —photo by Mass Communication Spc. 2nd Class Kilho Park





\*  
The route featured acts performed by the community and the two guest bands, Something Distant and Cartel.

# Rock on, GTMO runners!



Counterclockwise from top left: Something Distant performed at O'Kelly's Irish Pub Jan. 27. The band got the community fired up for the Rock 'n Roll Half-Marathon. Hospitalman Tyler Christy and Jeff Congo, the lead singer of Something Distant, rock out on stage. Katie Sutton finished the half-marathon in first place with a time of 01:28:40. Adrienne Selig, a fan since the album 'Chroma,' got a picture with her favorite band: Cartel! Something Distant played the 'Rocky' theme for runners as they pass midpoint in the run. Civilian Thomas Wolfe, dressed as Captain America, runs in costume to motivate other runners.  
—photos by Army Sgt. Saul Rosa





By Army Sgt. Saul Rosa

Morale Welfare & Recreation Guantanamo Bay held its first Rock n' Roll Half-Marathon Jan. 28.

Fitness director Jen Norton based the run on similar marathons she previously organized stateside.

MWR kicked off the event with a spaghetti dinner Jan. 27 at the Windjammer Ballroom for the run's participants.

"We held a pre-event spaghetti dinner for those that were registered, so they could get a last minute carb load," said Alana Morrison, the MWR sports coordinator.

After the dinner, Jacksonville, Fla. band Something Distant performed early at O'Kelly's Irish Pub, finishing at 9 p.m. so runners could get a good night's rest. A unique twist to the show was a member of the crowd singing with the band on stage.

"Going up on the stage was fun, I had a really awesome time and it was something different and new out of Guantanamo Bay," said Hospitalman Tyler Christy. "MWR does an awesome job not only bringing these guys down but bringing down a lot of things that get us out of our barracks."

This was Something Distant's first trip to visit the Guantanamo Bay community, who enjoyed the amount of interaction at their show.

"The basis of our band and our show is audience interaction," said Jeff Congo, lead singer of Something Distant. "One of the best things about coming down here is getting to meet everyone."

Nearly 100 runners ran in the half-marathon and more than 100 volunteers assisted in the event.

"All of the Guantanamo community was involved," said Morrison. "The community assisted in everything from security, the hospital providing ambulance support, and cheer stations."

To motivate the runners Something Distant, Cartel, and local performers played for the runners at designated mile markers.

"This was a first time we played for a marathon," said Congo. "Every time runners came by we would clap for them and play a little harder. We also played the 'Rocky' theme about 20 times today and I think they got a chuckle out of that."

Civilian Katie Sutton was the first participant to finish the run, with a time of 01:28:40. Sutton is a newcomer to the Guantanamo Bay community, having arrived just last week.

"It was fun and exciting," said Sutton. "I've done a couple of the Rock n' Roll events in the States but this was much better. Everyone was great, it was well-organized and the people cheering were wonderful. I

had a lot of fun."

In addition to the morning marathon, MWR held a craft fair and community expo for the community.

"Since this was the MWR's first half marathon we really wanted to make it big and loud," said Morrison.

Morrison explained the MWR held the craft fair and expo at the same time so that more members of the community could come out and enjoy the run, while learning more about other MWR programs.

Andre Gordon, the manager for MWR arts and crafts, set up the craft fair to feature the work of local artists.

Gordon explained it was a great opportunity for artists to show off their talents while making a little profit.

"We try to have a craft fair at least every three months or whenever there is a big MWR event like the Rock and Roll Half Marathon," said Gordon.

The MWR expo showed off the various programs MWR offers to the community.

Everton Hylton, a fitness instructor, represented the gyms and demonstrated new programs and equipment available. The gyms' booth also held a push-up competition and curl bar competition.

"We're here to showcase some of the

see ROCK 'N ROLL next page

# Energy: lead by example!

From NAVFAC

Here is a simple checklist of energy conservation and efficiency measures to use at work:

- Switch off all unnecessary lights.
- Use natural lighting when possible.
- When working late, use task lighting to directly illuminate work areas.
- Unplug equipment that drains energy even when not in use (i.e. cell phone chargers, fans, coffee makers, desktop printers, radios, etc.)
- If possible, turn off your office equipment and or computer monitors at the end of the work day.
- Use efficient ENERGYSTAR products.
- Close or tilt window blinds to block direct sunlight to reduce cooling needs during warm months.
- Print/photocopy only what you need.
- Always use the second side of paper, either by printing on both sides or using the blank side as scrap paper.
- Carpool, bike, or use mass transit when commuting to work.
- To save gas: drive the speed limit, accelerate and decelerate slower, and make sure tires are pumped up.
- Use durable coffee mugs instead of disposable cups.



## ROCK 'N ROLL cont.

latest exercises we've been doing in our fitness programs," said Hylton. "We want to see everyone out, we want to see fresh faces and we want to get as many people as possible into our fitness, sports and aquatic programs."

After the morning events, Cartel wrapped up the Rock n' Roll Half-Marathon with an evening show at O'Kelly's Irish Pub.

"We just appreciate being here. We've always been very supportive of the troops since we all have family in the military,"

said Cartel's lead singer, Will Pugh. "It's really an honor to come play for the Troopers. It really makes us feel small and humbled to be able to do this."

The Rock n' Roll Half-Marathon was a two-day community event which brought almost everyone out to support the run, participate or just enjoy the events and atmosphere.

"We couldn't have asked for more community support," said Morrison. "It was phenomenal. We are really excited about when we're going to have the next race."

# GTMO Black Heritage Organization raises awareness in community

By Mass Communication Spc. 2nd Class Louis Batchelor

Naval Station Guantanamo is a melting pot of diversity, and there is a group of Troopers, civilians and families helping the community to recognize and celebrate the heritage of all service members represented here.

The Black Heritage Organization (BHO), a sub-organization of Guantanamo's Diversity Committee, is selling tickets to their annual ball. The ball's purpose is to further education and understanding of black culture in Cuba.

"There are a lot of non-black races represented here who have black heritage," said Donald "Sarge" LaBron, the BHO's president. "We changed the name of the African American Association as a general consensus - the name secluded other races of the black community. Our community has a heavy populace of Cubans, Africans, Puerto Ricans and Jamaicans as well."

Kathalina LaBron, Guantanamo BHO's public affairs officer, is taking charge of ticket sales for the event. She said the BHO just wants to enjoy going out and building a relationship through the community. She said the organization held fund raisers in the past, most notably providing students with scholarships.

"Last year's ball was great," LaBron said. "The theme was 'The Black Soldier.' This

year's theme is 'The Black Woman.' Events we have planned for the event include Guantanamo's Color Guard, an elementary school skit, Cmd. Master Chief Betty Watson as our keynote speaker and we will also be blessed with a return visit from last year's speaker and distinguished guest, Bishop Donald Archer. We hope everyone will come out and show support for this community effort."

Sarge believes community service, involvement and education are the keys to building cultural knowledge and acceptance in the Guantanamo area.

"The BHO was formed to give different ethnics a purpose and venue to be active in the community," he said. "Our essential purpose is to do our best to heighten awareness of black heritage in the Guantanamo community."

"I would like to see more folks involved in what we have to offer the community here," Sarge added. "We need more people to help us grow in the community. This organization is not limited to people of color. It provides an outlet to everyone and a place to learn for all."

Ticket sales for this event are ongoing in the NEX atrium, on Feb. 4, 11 and 17. The BHO will also sell hotdogs and baked goods with tickets.



Top, left to right: Nic Hudson, Will Pugh, and Joseph Pepper, of the band Cartel, played at O'Kelly's Irish Pub Jan. 28 after the GTMO Rock 'n Roll Half-Marathon. Will Pugh played while a group of fans gathered in front of the stage. Bottom, left to right: Bassist Nic Hudson played the show after the run. Drummer Kevin Sanders, also of Cartel, played for the Guantanamo community at O'Kelly's after the half-marathon. -photos by Army Sgt. Saul Rosa

**How does it work?**  
**Are you curious about how things happen at Guantanamo Bay?**  
**Contact The Wire with your questions, and we will try to find out!**  
 Use the comment boxes or email [thewire@jttgmo.southcom.mil](mailto:thewire@jttgmo.southcom.mil)



# Petraeus: Reserve components critical to U.S. military capabilities

By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The reserve components are an integral part of the military in ways that Cold War planners could not have imagined, retired Army Gen. David H. Petraeus said at a Reserve Officers Association meeting here today.

The association inducted Petraeus, now CIA director, into its Minuteman Hall of Fame. Petraeus thanked the group, and said he accepts the honor on behalf of the men and women who so bravely served and sacrificed under his command in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Petraeus said the reserve components are more than the strategic reserve envisioned during the Cold War and have become an essential part of the U.S. military.

“Without our citizen-soldiers, our armed forces simply could not fully carry out America’s global commitments to keep our nation secure,” he said.

Reservists bring warrior and civilian skills to the fight, Petraeus said. “That combination has been particularly important in the complex environments we’ve been facing in the past decade,” he added.

Iraq and Afghanistan required more than just being warriors, he noted. “They needed diplomats, builders, trainers, advisors, service providers, economic developers and mediators,” he said. “Citizen-soldiers have performed these diverse tasks in particularly impressive fashion, and in so doing, they have demonstrated the unique edge, the unique quality that they bring to every military endeavor.”

The experiences that reservists

bring from civilian life are particularly helpful in a counterinsurgency environment, Petraeus said, because they are used to working in a community to accomplish things. For example, he added, their civilian jobs make it possible for them to advise a nascent city council on how to set up departments. Also, he said, reservists serve as firefighters in their home communities can advise the best way to set up a fire department and how to train the people.

Petraeus recalled when he was appointed to head the training effort for the Iraqi military and police in 2004. “This was a particularly daunting task — one that we described as building the world’s biggest aircraft, while in flight, while it’s being designed and while it’s being shot at,” he said.

Petraeus also had to build the

Multinational Security Transition Command in Iraq. There was no existing headquarters for it, he said. “So we turned to the 98th Division (Institutional Training) and its more than 3,000 reservists based mostly in the northeastern United States,” he said, noting almost 1,000 members of the 98th, set up the headquarters and mentored Iraqi soldiers and police that first year.

Army Cpl. Eric DeHart is another example of reserve adaptability, the general said. DeHart, an Army Reserve engineer from Wisconsin, invented a device placed in culverts in Afghanistan that allowed water and debris to flow, but didn’t allow enemy fighters to plant improvised explosive devices.

see RESERVES next page

## IN THE FIGHT

## Marine conquers 1,000-mile challenge

By Cpl. Jeff Drew

2nd Marine Division

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan — Running is in his blood, so Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Raymond German Jr.’s passion for the sport began at an early age.

The Detroit native began running with his grandmother at a local park while growing up and eventually found his stride running alongside friends on his high school and college cross-country teams. Eventually, his love for physical fitness found its niche in the Marine Corps, where a 1,000-mile challenge piqued his interest.

It began as the Leatherneck Challenge, a series of mile markers suited to test the endurance of any Marine. By running, biking, cross training and rowing, German could have chosen 236, 472 or 944 miles, but he decided to go the distance and push himself to 1,000.

“It became a challenge between me and one of the watch officers,” said German, the legal chief for the office of the 2nd Marine Division’s staff judge advocate. “He was only out for a six-month deployment, trying to reach 236 miles.”

The competition between the two became fierce as they constantly tried to one-up each other.

“When I’d see him come in off a casual five-mile run, I would immediately go do six miles,” said Melbourne, Fla., native Marine Corps Capt. James Morgan, a government prosecutor with the 2nd Marine Division’s legal services support Section. “When I would come in and boast that I just did seven miles in the 110-degree heat, he’d go do eight miles in the 115-degree heat at an even better clip.

“It was awesome,” the captain continued. “He is just an animal when it comes to [physical training]. Even when he was hav-

ing a bad day because he wasn’t able to talk to his daughter or he hadn’t heard from his family in a while, he’d get out there and run his worries away. It was not only awesome, it was inspiring.”

On duty, German reviews and processes investigations within the entire division of 10,000 Marines. Running, he said, allows him to get out of the office and relieve stress. It cleanses his soul and it is where his mind can escape, he added.

“I think about my daughter — she’s about to be 7 this year,” German said. “I think about her starting to run and following in my footsteps. I think about things I could do to better myself. My thoughts are random — as I’m running, they’re running.”

For a long time, German used his runs as a way to train for Camp Leatherneck’s Marine Corps Marathon. With so many miles to go, he spiced up his many runs around the base by changing his routes frequently

and challenging himself to break personal records on various courses to avoid monotony.

When he wasn’t hitting the pavement, he went to the cardio gym to work out on an elliptical machine, treadmill or bike.

“It’s very repetitive, but being able to get out there and not worry about where you are, just worry about your running — you kind of forget that you’re running in circles sometimes,” German said.

He finished the 1,000-mile challenge Jan. 16 with a morning run followed by three miles in the cardio gym, only nine months after beginning. His goals don’t stop there though, as he is training to beat a half-marathon time of an hour and 30 minutes.

“It’s about challenging yourself,” German said. “It’s pushing your body beyond its limits. As you get older, you always want to put a goal out there in front of you.”

# Obama nominates Kelly to lead Southcom

By Lisa Daniel

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama has nominated Marine Corps Lt. Gen. John F. Kelly to be the next commander of U.S. Southern Command, Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta announced today.

If confirmed by the Senate, Kelly would replace Air Force Gen. Douglas M. Fraser at the Miami-based command. Fraser, who took over command of Southcom in June 2009, has not announced his future plans, a Southcom spokesman said today.

If promoted to the four-star position, Kelly will be the third Marine Corps commander of Southcom, following Gen. Peter Pace, who held the command for 12 months ending in September 2001, and Gen. Charles Wilhelm, who commanded Southcom from 1997 to 2000.

Kelly is the former commander of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, based at Camp Pendleton, Calif. He commanded

the 1st MEF through a year-long mission in Iraq’s al Anbar and Ninewa provinces beginning in early 2008. He returned stateside to command Marine Forces Reserve and Marine Forces North from Oct. 2009 to March 2011. Since then, he has served as the senior military advisor to the secretary of defense.

Southcom comprises a multinational staff of about 1,200 military members, civilians and contractors, including representatives of more than a dozen federal agencies, with a primary mission of protecting southern approaches into the United States, a spokesman said.

The command works with 31 countries and 15 territories on regional security challenges, mainly transnational organized crime to include illegal trafficking, humanitarian assistance, and developing capabilities for keeping the peace.

The command sponsors seven annual multinational training exercises and participates in combined military exercises in Brazil, Chile and elsewhere.



Lt. Gen. John F. Kelly, if confirmed by the Senate, will be the third Marine Corps commander of United States Southern Command. —Department of Defense photo

## ON THE GROUND

## Army recognizes top environmental performers

By Cathy Kropp

U.S. Army Environmental Command

The Army announced the winners of the Fiscal Year 2011 Secretary of the Army Environmental Awards Program Jan. 27.

The Pennsylvania Army National Guard won the cultural resources management category, while the Illinois Army National Guard took the natural resources conservation small installation award. Scranton Army Ammunition Plant won the sustainability award for an industrial installation and the Stryker Brigade Combat Team won the Environmental Excellence in Weapon System Acquisition team award.

Fort Hood won both the team and installation awards in the environmental quality category.

Fort Stewart took the installation award in the environmental restoration category, while Fort A.P. Hill captured the team award. The U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii won the natural resources conservation team award for the accomplishments of its Oahu Natural Resources Program Team.

Each year, the Army recognizes and rewards excellence for the development, management and transferability of environmental programs that increase environmental quality, enhance the mission and help make the Army sustainable.

## RESERVES cont.

“He even wrote a field manual on how to use it,” said Petraeus, noting that the device is still being used today and has saved countless lives.

Another reservist, Army Master Sgt. Juanita Milligan, is the mother of three and has deployed to Iraq twice. “She was gravely wounded during her second deployment to Iraq, when an improvised explosive device blasted into her Humvee,” the general said. “Seeing the bomb a split-second before it exploded, she jumped across the vehicle to pull her gunner out of the hatch and inside. He was OK, but she sustained severe injuries, including shrapnel throughout her body, the loss of part of her right arm and her femur broken in three places.”

Milligan went through numerous surgeries, therapy and the

pain associated with regaining use of her hands. “Master Sergeant Milligan defines the selfless dedication of our citizen-soldiers — a mother who twice answered the call to military duty, leaving family friends and community,” Petraeus said.

Some 385,000 reserve-component service members have served in Iraq and Afghanistan since 9/11, with 30,000 reservists serving today. Since 1990, reservists has been called to serve in every contingency the United States has been involved in, from humanitarian missions and disaster relief to all-out war, Petraeus said.

“Today, reservists serve in more than 70 countries, demonstrating that our citizen-soldiers are not only a strategic reserve, but a key component of our operational forces,” he added.



# ‘Arab Spring’ subject of command seminar

By Jason Tudor

George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies

GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN, Germany – The potential rippling effects on regions caused by revolutions in North Africa and the Middle East lead discussions here at a Department of Defense-sponsored conference held at the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies.

“Arab revolutionary transformation – Quo vadis?” unites two of the DOD’s regional centers – the George C. Marshall European and Near East South Asia Centers for Security Studies – as the theme of the Jan. 18-26 Senior Executive Seminar 12-1. Both regional centers belong to the Defense Security Cooperation Agency.

Ninety-seven participants from 47 countries covering three combatant commands – the U.S. Africa, Central and European Commands – are working to better-define what’s occurring in countries like Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Syria and other nations. Speakers include academics, military leaders and others involved with the change process in those nations.

Retired Army Lt. Gen. Keith W. Dayton, Marshall Center director, said what comes from these discussions will be delivered to combatant commanders and other clients for further use in regional planning and policy decisions.

“The topic – ‘Arab Spring’ and how we deal with it – is really important, not only to Eucom, Africom and Centcom,” Dayton said, “but it’s also important to people who live in Eurasia, North Africa, the Middle East and Europe.”

The ‘Arab Spring’ began December 2010. There have been revolutions in Tunisia and Egypt; a civil war in Libya, resulting in the fall of its government; civil uprisings in Bahrain, Syria, and Yemen – the latter resulting in the resignation of the Yemeni prime minister; major protests in Algeria, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, and Oman; and minor protests in Lebanon, Mauritania, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, and Western Sahara.

Well aware of the seminar’s implications, Navy Adm. James G. Stavridis, Supreme Allied Commander Europe, addressed the participants via recorded welcome, calling the seminar an “extremely important event.”

“This seminar brings together an extraordinary range of viewpoints,” the admiral said. “So, how do we collectively understand and react to this type of fundamental change? Bringing all of you together will afford the

opportunity to step back... and chart a course forward.”

Among the nations represented for the event, Bahrain, Kuwait, Niger and the United Arab Emirates are first-time attendees. In forging bonds here, they will become part of the two regional centers’ 13,000-strong network of alumni.

Panel discussions and lectures are confidential, center officials said, to help participants open up about what they perceive are the challenges in their countries and regions. Retired French Maj. Gen. Philippe Sommaire, seminar director for the Marshall Center, said that strategy has paid off.

“We’ve been getting almost exactly what we want in frank discussions between guest speakers and participants,” he said. “It’s going very well.”

Magda Kandil provided an Egyptian perspective on events as a guest speaker on Jan. 19. Kandil, executive director and director of research of the Egyptian Center for Economic Studies, said the seminar shines the spotlight on unprecedented democratic transformation.

“It brings the issues closer to the participants here,” she said. “It’s very important to give them first-hand information about what is going on in these countries. We want the international community to realize how difficult the process of transformation has been.”

Seminar topics touch upon different aspects of the defense department, officials said, including the National Guard Bureau. Army Brig. Gen. Kevin McNeely is a seminar participant who also runs the Pentagon’s State Partnership Program. The program reaches 63 countries in Europe and Africa, including Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, and Tunisia.

“The foundation of the program is ensuring relationships. Getting a better understanding of the challenges that are being faced by the governments and the militaries of these countries is important to our partnership with them,” McNeely said.

Dayton said there’s no limit to what can be accomplished during the seminar.

“What we want to do at the end of the day,” Dayton said, “is not only get a better understanding by talking to people at a senior level who come from these countries, but we also want policy recommendations that go back to the respective countries involved so that they can better deal with the phenomenon that is probably going to be with us for some time.”

# Taking care of pets while deployed

By Navy Lt. Theresa Donnelly

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Although the wars are drawing down, the deployment schedules for our men and women in uniform aren’t easing up. Troops continue to meet multiple operational needs, such as theater security exercises with partner nations, Navy ship cruises and other training requirements.

Many military pet parents struggle with what to do with their forever friend when serving our nation away from home. It can be tough to stay focused on the mission at hand if family affairs aren’t in order.

Enter our partners in the nonprofit sector. For the past several years, many organizations have stepped up to the plate, providing foster pet services to our deploying troops.

“Military members have a hundred things to worry about when deployment or training comes up. The last thing they should have to worry about is the care of their pets while they’re away,” said Alisa Johnson, a Marine Corps officer and president of Dogs on Deployment, a nonprofit organization matching service members with volunteers who have agreed to take in their animals.

Alisa and her husband, Shawn, a Navy officer, observed the challenges military families face when it comes to pet care, which led to the creation of this service.

“We’re especially concerned with those military members that may live on one coast, while all their family lives on another, limiting those that they can rely on in their times of need,” Alisa said.

Since they launched the organization in June, more than 140 families have volunteered to be “boarders” and 20 dogs have been placed in temporary foster care.

Along with national organizations helping troops – including Dogs on Deployment and Guardian Angels for Soldier’s Pet – many local animal shelters are answering the call of duty and creating programs in their communities to help deployed service members with pet care.

If you need a home for your pet while deployed, check with your local animal shelter to see if they might have a military pet outreach program, contact a national foster military pet organization or see if your command has a spouse communication network to seek temporary pet parents.



# Sprinting to the weight-loss line

Despite the saying, when deployed “time is not always on your side.” There are too many things throughout the day that can have you sidetracked and take precedence over what you may have on your agenda for “free time.” Some things that you plan to help you stay in shape or better yourself physically tend to get put on the back burner, and before you know it you’ve missed two of your New Year’s 5 or 6-week workout plan.

For many whose New Year’s resolutions included losing weight, there may be days where you have less than an hour to get a good workout in and stay on that 5-week schedule. But to keep from throwing in the towel, a simple solution could be to take a good hour out of your day, three days a week and hit the track.

Sprinting and high intensity workouts have been proven to be some of the fastest ways to lose weight and among the best ways to stay in shape. According to Mohr Tests on mohrresults.com, a series of tests on subjects who participated in low intensity, medium intensity and high intensity training resulted in maximum fat burning achieved by the high intensity

training subjects.

High intensity workouts keep the heart rate up, which in turn targets fat as fuel to keep you working out at an elevated level. Myah Mason, instructor for yoga, pilates and core workouts at Guantanamo Bay says it all starts with the cardio system.

“High intensity workouts target the cardio system, and you have to keep it up,” said Mason. “As you keep your cardio level high, it will also crank up your metabolism.”

Results vary for those who may already have the muscle memory for these strenuous workouts than others. Mason explains that results for different people tend to vary depending on their starting point.

“Depending on where you’re starting from (as in level of training) and your dedication, achieving a fitness goal could take 2-4 months,” Mason said. “If that person doesn’t have the muscle memory, or has physical ailments i.e. obesity or hereditary

ailments, it could take up to a year. But it is still possible, so you must stay consistent.”

High intensity interval training, or HIIT workouts, incorporate high levels of training for the entire body as well as sprinting and are available to all stationed or deployed to Guantanamo Bay. Scheduled workouts are Tuesdays and Thursdays at Cooper Field at 6 p.m.

Mason detailed the other high intensity workouts that target the cardio system here at Guantanamo Bay. All workout calendars can be found at all gyms on the base as well as bulletin boards.

“We also offer kickboxing, GTMO Moves and group cycling,” Mason said. “All of these workouts keep the cardiovascular system up.”

Above all else, safety is key. You must know what your body can and cannot do once you decide to start. Mason encourages all who are willing to participate to always keep safety first.

“We (workout instructors) are taught to inform all who attend that checking with your physician to make sure you are physically able to is pivotal to overall safety,” said Mason.

*Sprinting and high intensity workouts have been proven to be some of the fastest ways to lose weight and among the best ways to get in shape.*

## ONLY AT GTMO by Mass Communication Spc. 2nd Class Louis Batchelor





# The Sitter

By Mass Communication Spc. 1st Class Ty Bjornson

Ultra obscene comedies have been the rage this last decade. Today, is it possible to think of new “R” rated comedies that don’t contain excessive vulgarities, graphic sexual situations, gross out humor and other excessive acts of chaos that stretch the bounds of what can be done in the movies? I don’t remember “R” rated films being this over the top 15 years ago. Even “R” rated fare from the ‘80s seems really tame in comparison.

The latest Jonah Hill vehicle “The Sitter” is supposed to be a comedy, though I cannot begin to understand why it was made or to whom this movie is marketed. Maybe on paper this film seemed like a much better idea than its silver screen offering.

Jonah Hill plays Noah, a lazy college suspendee who once again lives at home with his mother. His supposed girlfriend Marisa (Ari Graynor), a self-serving party girl, uses him regularly to cater to her every whim. Due to financial woes and to help his mother out, Noah reluctantly agrees to babysit three kids: the high anxiety Slater (Max Records), the “Toddlers and Tiaras” wannabe Blithe (Landry Bender) and the young deviant Rodrigo (Kevin Hernandez), who has an insatiable love for cherry bombs. Naturally these kids live in a very well-to-do neighborhood with their trophy-wife mom and no-nonsense father. Noah’s game plan is to stay home with the kids and keep an eye on them until their parents get home. In a movie like this, you just know there’s no way that can possibly happen.

Soon, the loser Noah is out to appease his girlfriend on a drug run with all three of his charges in the backseat as he rushes through the streets of Manhattan. The deal goes awry when young Rodrigo sneaks into Karl’s (Sam Rockwell) body building gym and steals an egg from Karl containing over \$10,000 in cocaine. The egg inevitably breaks and its powdery contents explode in Noah’s face. All of the kids look on while Noah ponders his next move. Cocaine and kids. Now isn’t this funny? Ha...ha...ha.

Karl wants his ten grand for the stolen cocaine or else Noah’s a goner. Pursued through the night, Noah and the kids go to a department store, attend a bar mitzvah, go to Noah’s father’s house, stop at wild party and are chased by thugs through a park. Meanwhile Slater comes to terms with his anxiety, Blithe ponders her place in the world as a child and the pint-sized demolition expert Rodrigo learns a thing or two about humility. Oh, I forgot to mention there’s a scene where the little girl accidentally defecates herself and stinks up the entire van leaving everyone gasping for air with the windows down. Isn’t that cute? Isn’t that funny?

Amidst all this craziness, Noah makes a connection with these children and shares with them his insights on life, how to cope with circumstances and how to become a better person. Who knew the man who would so recklessly endanger children with a trip to make a drug deal and to alcohol binges would prove to be as insightful as Yoda? Why not? There’s even a sweet co-ed from his college who can see what a nice guy he really is! Puh-lease.



“The Sitter” is an astonishingly bad movie. There is nothing even remotely funny about this picture. Seeing children involved in coke deals, beatings, and contemplating their sexuality (both as a runaway object and in personal orientation), blowing up everything in sight and get chased by vengeful drug dealers is absolutely appalling. I did fully expect the kids to use multiple f-bombs, as is par for the course with this kind of movie. There are movies with unlimited vulgarity that are funny. “The Sitter” is not among their ranks.

I’m not trying to be a prude here. I don’t object to the use of obscenities that dominate today’s comedies. After all, what people chose to watch for entertainment is entirely their business. What is unsettling to me is how low for a joke will some filmmakers go. As I watched “The Sitter,” I was totally mind-boggled as to how far the movie would go to do that. When is enough ever enough? The folks behind “The Sitter” ought to be ashamed of themselves.

One can only wonder why the likable Jonah Hill is in such a trainwreck of a movie. Does he have a horrible agent trying to sabotage his career? How about Sam Rockwell? He’s such a versatile and talented actor. No doubt they are in “The Sitter” to collect a paycheck. Both actors have appeared in good movies and will hopefully continue to do so. There’s no reason they should have been sidetracked to appear in this drudge.

Next up for Jonah Hill is the updated big-screen makeover of the late 80s TV show “21 Jump Street.” Hopefully that will be a return to comic form for Hill. He usually appears in funny, thoughtful movies, though on the risqué side. Who can say what went wrong this time? Well, I hope the filmmakers learned from their mistakes. We know there’s a better Jonah Hill movie to be made. “The Sitter” can sit on it.

### GTMO Quick Reference

- Bayview Club – 75604**  
Wed.-Fri. 11 a.m.-8 p.m.  
Sun. & Holidays 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Bowling Center – 2118**  
Mon.-Fri. 6-11 p.m.  
Fri. 6 p.m.-12 a.m.  
Sat. 1 p.m.-12 a.m.  
Sun. & Holidays 1-11 p.m.
- Caribbean Coffee – 77859**  
Mon.-Sat. 6 a.m.-10 p.m.  
Sun. 1-10 p.m.
- KFC and A&W Express – 75653**  
Daily 11 a.m.-10 p.m.
- Jerk House – 2535**  
Sun.-Th. 5-9 p.m.  
Fri. & Sat. 5-10 p.m.
- MWR Liberty Centers – 2010**  
Mon.-Th. 11 a.m.-12 a.m.  
Fri. 11 a.m.-1 a.m.  
Sun. 9 a.m.-12 a.m.  
Sat. & Holidays 9 a.m.-1 a.m.
- Cuban Club – 75962**  
(Call ahead!)  
Mon.-Sat. 11 a.m.-9 p.m.
- Library – 4700**  
Mon.-Sat. 8 a.m.-9 p.m.  
Sun. & Holidays 12-9 p.m.
- Pizza Hut – 77995**  
Mon.-Th. 11 a.m.-9 p.m.  
Fri. 11 a.m.-11 p.m.  
Sat. & Sun. 12-9 p.m.
- Windjammer Club - 77252**  
Fri. & Sat. 5 p.m. - 2 a.m.
- Windjammer Cafe**  
Mon.-Th. 11 a.m.-9 p.m.  
Fri. 11 a.m.-10 p.m.  
Sat. 5-10 p.m.  
Sun. 5-9 p.m.
- Windjammer Sports Bar**  
Mon.-Th. 5-9 p.m.  
Fri. & Sat. 5 p.m.-2 a.m.  
Sun. 5-9 p.m.
- Safe Ride - 84781**

### NAVSTA Main Chapel

<b>Daily Catholic Mass</b> Tues.-Fri. 5:30 p.m.	<b>Iglesia Ni Cristo</b> Sunday 5:30 a.m. Room A	<b>United Jamaican Fellowship</b> Sunday 11 a.m. Room B	<b>JTF Trooper Chapel</b>
<b>Vigil Mass</b> Saturday 5 p.m.	<b>LDS Service</b> Sunday 10 a.m. Room A	<b>Liturgical Service</b> Sunday 10 a.m. Room B	<b>Protestant Worship</b> Sunday 9 a.m.
<b>Mass</b> Sunday 9 a.m.	<b>Pentecostal Gospel</b> Sunday 8 a.m. & 5 p.m. Room D	<b>For other services,</b> contact the NAVSTA Chaplain’s Office at 2323.	<b>Bible Study</b> Wednesday 6 p.m.
<b>General Protestant</b> Sunday 11 a.m.	<b>Islamic Service</b> Friday 1 p.m. Room C	<b>For more information,</b> contact the JTF Chaplain’s Office at 2305.	
<b>Gospel Service</b> Sunday 1 p.m.			
<b>Christian Fellowship</b> Sunday 6 p.m.			

	3 FRI	4 SAT	5 SUN	6 MON	7 TUE	8 WED	9 THU
<b>Downtown Lyceum</b>	Alvin and the Chipmunks (G) 7 p.m. The Sitter (R) 9 p.m.	Hugo (PG) 7 p.m. Sherlock Holmes (PG-13) 9 p.m.	Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close (PG-13) 7 p.m.	J. Edgar (last showing) (R) 7 p.m.	Twilight (last showing) (PG-13) 7 p.m.	Joyful Noise (PG-13) 7 p.m.	Red Tails (PG-13) 7 p.m.
<b>Camp Bulkeley</b>	Sherlock Holmes (PG-13) 8 p.m. Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close (NEW) (PG-13) 10 p.m.	The Sitter (R) 8 p.m. Red Tails (PG-13) 10 p.m.	J. Edgar (last showing) (R) 8 p.m.	Twilight (last showing) (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Hugo (PG) 8 p.m.	New Year’s Eve (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Joyful Noise (PG-13) 8 p.m.

Call the movie hotline at 4880 or see <https://intranet/movies.html> for more information.

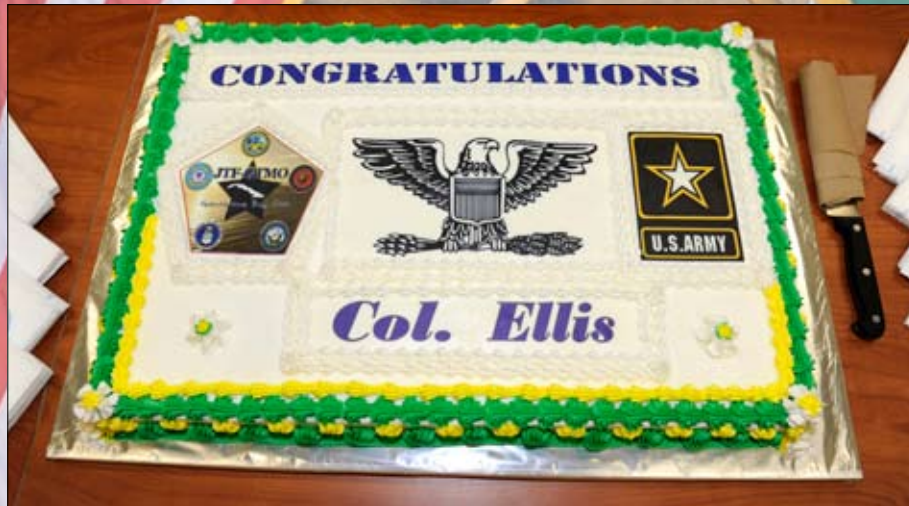


# The JTF At Shutter Speed



## Cake bosses

Above: Joint Task Force Guantanamo commander Rear Adm. David Woods and chief of staff Capt. Patrick Rabun recently celebrated their same-day birthdays.  
Below: JTF Guantanamo Inspector General Army Col. Judy Ellis pinned on full-bird rank Feb. 2. -photos by Mass Communication Spc. 1st Class Ty Bjornson



5TH MILITARY POLICE BATTALION  
VIGILANT WARRIOR

Background: The 189th Military Police Company, 525th Military Police Battalion "Vigilant Warriors" changed hands Wednesday at Camp Bulkeley. -photo by Mass Communication Spc. 1st Class Ty Bjornson