

Around the ★ JTF



Soldiers of 525th Military Battalion participated in a force march as part of a noncommissioned officer development course, Feb. 24. — photo by Mass Communications Specialist 2nd Class Elisha Dawkins



Food Service Specialist 3rd Class David Cepero preps dinner on board the U.S. Coast Guard cutter Mohawk (WMEC 913) while moored at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Feb. 18. — photo by Mass Communications Specialist 1st Class David P. Coleman



Master-at-Arms Chief Dustin Alexander pick litter off of Windmill Beach, Feb. 19. — photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Elisha Dawkins



Volume 12, Issue 10

Friday, February 25, 2011

The WIRE

An award-winning
JTF journal

Warriors helping
Warriors
SUDS visit GTMO

Basketball season
hits full stride

Fleming leaves some
final thoughts



Trooper to Trooper

featuring

Army 1st. Sgt. Kevin Stapleton

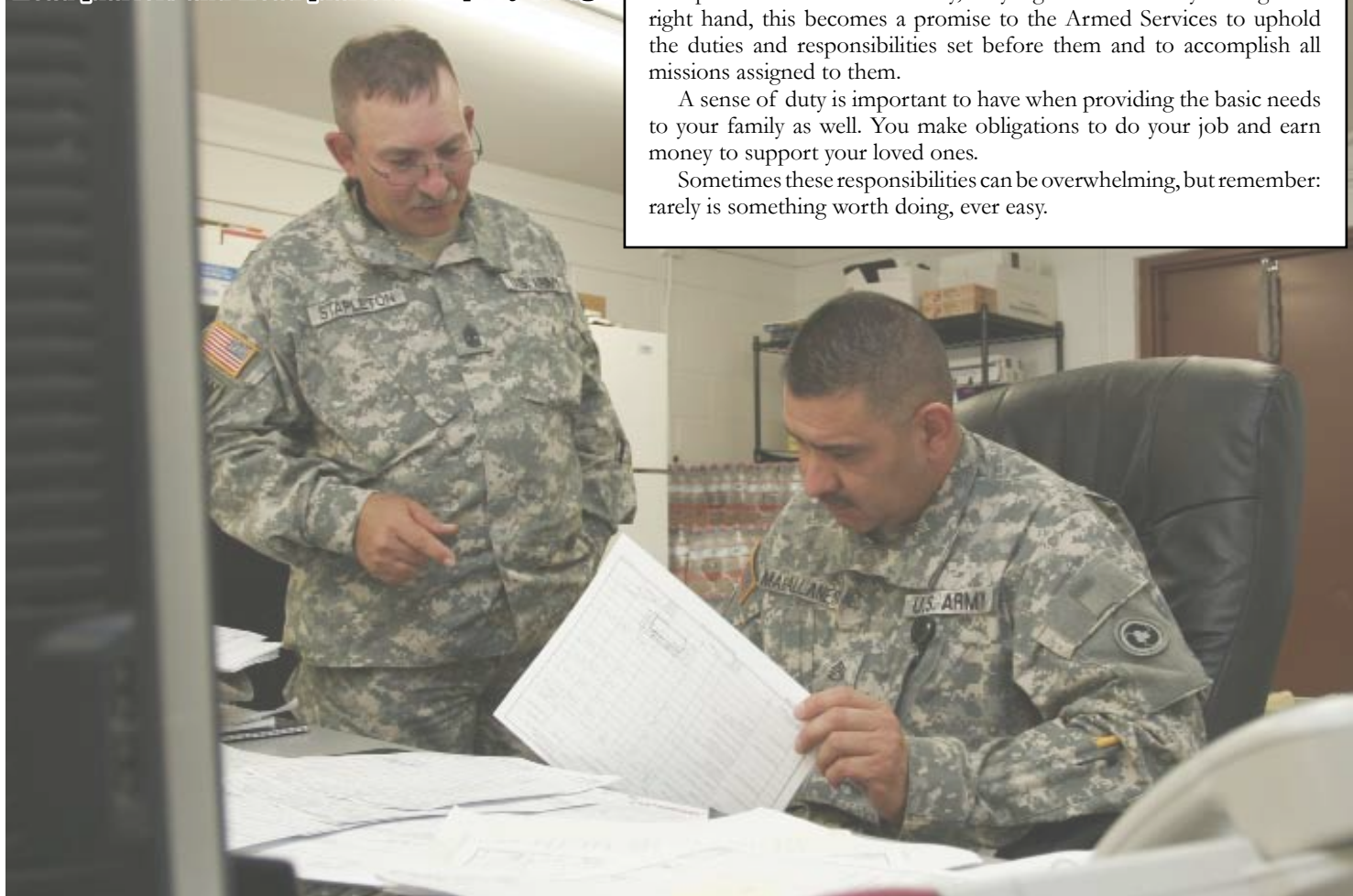
Headquarters and Headquarters Company 1st Sgt.

Duty means a lot of different things to a lot of Troopers. Duty means to me fulfilling your obligation to the Army, subordinates, family, and friends to the best of your ability. That means doing what is asked and what is not asked of you, knowing the right thing to do and doing it without expecting anything for it.

Duty is the obligation to carry out your assigned tasks. When all Troopers come into the military, they sign a contract. By raising their right hand, this becomes a promise to the Armed Services to uphold the duties and responsibilities set before them and to accomplish all missions assigned to them.

A sense of duty is important to have when providing the basic needs to your family as well. You make obligations to do your job and earn money to support your loved ones.

Sometimes these responsibilities can be overwhelming, but remember: rarely is something worth doing, ever easy.



JTF Guantanamo

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COVER: Spc. Joe Yantz (left) and Sgt. Matthew White, both wounded warriors from the 82nd Airborne Division visited Guantanamo Bay, Cuba as part of the Soldiers Undertaking Disabled Scuba. The group of seven newly minted divers arrived on Feb. 17 and stayed through Feb. 21. - photo by Army Staff Sgt. Benjamin Cossel.

Back Cover: Spc. Brandon Neal, of the 193rd Military Police Company, clears dirt out of a draining ditch outside Camp Delta, Feb. 24. - photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jordan Miller.

The Wire

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The WIRE is the official news magazine of Joint Task Force Guantanamo. It is produced by the JTF Public Affairs Office to inform and educate the Troopers of JTF Guantanamo through news, features, command guidance, sports and entertainment. The WIRE seeks to provide maximum disclosure with minimum delay with regard 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 1,000.



A Libyan doctor treats a wounded man injured last week during a demonstration against Libyan Leader Moammar Gadhafi, in Benghazi, Libya, February 24, 2011 — photo by AP

Libyan Opposition Moves Westward as Bloody Uprising Continues

Voice of America News Service

Forces loyal to Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi continue to attack anti-government protesters, but the opposition groups appear to be gaining more of a foothold, despite the brutal crackdown.

The official picture coming out of Libya is far different from the one presented by Libyan civilians.

Gadhafi's son, Saif al-Islam Gadhafi, downplayed reports of casualties when he appeared on Libyan state television Thursday to discuss the uprising.

He said only a small number of people had died, but he did not provide a figure. And he invited foreign media to tour Libya Friday, challenging them to find evidence of bombings or brutality.

But hospital sources, human rights groups and witnesses tell a far bloodier story.

"I can't manage [to say] how many dead exactly, more than 300 in Benghazi, and injured more than 3,000," said Dr. Hisham Mustafa Abou Dabous, a physician at a hospital in the now opposition-controlled eastern city of Benghazi, where the revolt began.

While much of the east is reported to be under opposition control, the revolt against Gadhafi is spreading westward toward the capital, Tripoli. Witnesses told foreign media that the Libyan army attacked anti-government protesters in a mosque in the city of Zawiya Thursday. They described heavy casualties after security forces used anti-aircraft missiles and automatic weapons.

Multiple witnesses say opposition protesters have driven security forces out of the coastal city of Misrata, but there are also reports of ongoing clashes there.

Moammar Gadhafi addressed Libyans via

telephone on Libyan state television Thursday afternoon. He said the uprising is the work of al-Qaida, and he accused anti-government protesters of being trigger-happy teenagers and drug addicts.

Senior Libyan government officials have said they view journalists who enter the country without permission as al-Qaida collaborators. It is difficult to independently confirm accounts coming out of the region.

Gadhafi appears to be losing sway within the international community and within his own circle of influence. One of Gadhafi's closest aides, Ahmed Gadhaf al-Dam, defected in protest of the fierce crackdown on demonstrators.

The U.S. government has condemned the ongoing violence. European Union nations have agreed to discuss possible sanctions against Libya. Germany's Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle has said, if the crackdown continues, sanctions are inevitable.

Speaking after a meeting with Arab League chief Amr Moussa in Cairo Thursday, Westerwelle again denounced the violent suppression of the Libyan people.

"We cannot accept that a dictator is really punishing in such a violent way his own people, the young people of Libya," said Westerwelle. "This is a war of a dictator against the young people. And this is something which we condemn absolutely, in a clear language."

Italy's Interior Minister Ernesto Roberto Maroni is calling on EU nations to provide urgent help in coping with what he called "a catastrophic humanitarian crisis" that is building in Libya. Interior ministers from Mediterranean countries are discussing ways to handle the flow of refugees.

Libyan anti-government protesters are calling for major rallies against Gadhafi's rule on Friday.

Allegations of 'Psy-Ops' to Sway Funding for Afghan War Sparks Probe

Voice of America News Service

The commander of U.S. forces in Afghanistan, General David Petraeus, is looking into a report that U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan illegally used psychological tactics to manipulate U.S. lawmakers into supporting the war.

In a statement Thursday, the military said Petraeus is preparing to order an investigation into the claims detailed in an article published in *Rolling Stone* magazine.

According to the article, U.S. Lieutenant General William Caldwell illegally ordered troops specializing in psychological operations, or psy-ops, to use their skills on U.S. senators visiting Afghanistan.

The article says Caldwell asked the psy-ops specialists to provide detailed background reports on the lawmakers that could be used to tailor messages and gain leverage in requests for more funds and troops.

The story also quoted one officer, Michael Holmes, as questioning the legality of the operation to military lawyers.

Rolling Stone reports Holmes later became the subject of an investigation into his personal behavior, unrelated to his work in psy-ops.

The magazine says Holmes believes he was singled out for questioning the campaign targeting U.S. officials.

Saudi Man Arrested in Texas for Bomb Plot

Voice of America News Service

A young Saudi man has been arrested in Texas for allegedly seeking to bomb targets in the United States, including the home of former president George W. Bush.

The U.S. Justice Department says 20-year-old Khalid Ali-M Aldawsari, a Saudi citizen, was arrested late Wednesday on a federal charge of attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction.

A Justice Department statement says Aldawsari had been researching targets and allegedly bought chemicals and equipment necessary to make bombs to carry out a violent act of jihad.

Aldawsari could face life in prison if convicted. He is to make his first court appearance Friday.

Aldawsari entered the United States lawfully in 2008 on a student visa.

Justice officials said some of the emails Aldawsari sent to himself contained violent jihadist messages and indicated he sought a particular scholarship in the United States for the purpose of committing an attack.

One email allegedly contained a message saying "one operation in the land of the infidels is equal to 10 operations against occupying forces in the land of the Muslims."

News from the Bay

Renowned pool player to visit Guantanamo

Jeanette Lee, internationally renowned professional pool player, is scheduled to visit Guantanamo Bay Saturday at 6:30 p.m. and Sunday at 1:00 p.m. at the Windjammer Ballroom.

This will be Lee's second trip to Guantanamo Bay, said Jill Lynch, Liberty program manager.

"She was really popular, so we decided to bring her down again," said Lynch.

Morale Welfare and Recreation is giving three lucky Guantanamo pool players the opportunity to play Lee during her

Guantanamo Bay tour. The first two qualifying rounds have already passed, but the third and final round will be held tonight at the Windjammer.

"Those three winners are going to play Jeannette Lee in a pool tournament on Saturday night," she explained. "And then she'll show us some of her tricks ... and probably answer any questions and do a little instruction."

Lee, known throughout the billiards community as "The Black Widow," has had one of the most illustrious careers in the sport's history. According to her website, blackwidowbilliards.com, Lee "has claimed more than 30 national and international titles... was formerly ranked as the #1 player in the world... was named the 'WPBA Sportsperson

of the Year' in 1998 ... and Player of the Year honors from both Billards Digest and Pool and Billards Magazine."

In 2001, Lee was also the Gold medalist for the United States at the World Games.

Born and raised in Brooklyn, N.Y., Lee was diagnosed with scoliosis in her early teens. Even after numerous surgeries, she still suffered from chronic pain, which would continue to plague her throughout her career.

Today, Lee lives in Indiana with her husband and family.

For more information on Lee visit, contact Jill Lynch at x2010.

Spc. Meredith Vincent

'Theater of War' to highlight timeless military challenges

Story by Mass Communication Specialist
2nd Class Jason Tross

The Joint Task Force Guantanamo Joint Stress Mitigation and Restoration Team is presenting a unique, free performance to Troopers and their families from a small and intimate group of Hollywood and Broadway actors Friday, Mar. 4 through Sunday,

The group, called "heater of War," acts out ancient Greek stories focusing on the effects of war. Afterward, a discussion is held with the audience on how they felt about the material. Four performances are scheduled for the weekend at both the JTF and Naval Station sides of Guantanamo Bay.

The first three-hour performances is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., Mar. 4 at W.T. Sampson Elementary/High School. The next performance is scheduled for 7:30 a.m. Saturday, Mar. 5 at Camp Bulkeley Lyceum and later for 7:30 p.m. back at W.T. Sampson Elementary/High School. The final show is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Mar. 6 again at the Camp Bulkeley Lyceum.

"It's very powerful," said Navy Lt. Jason Duff, JSMART officer in charge. "It's poignant, relevant and... facilitates discussion within the crowd because people inherently want to speak to this."

The actors spend part of the evening reciting and performing

Theater of War
A dramatic reading of scenes from Sophocles' AJAX & PHILOCTETES
Ancient plays depicting the psychological & physical wounds inflicted by war upon warriors
Followed by a panel discussion with the audience about the challenges veterans face returning from war
Free Admission!
W. T. SAMPSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OUTDOOR THEATER:
Friday, March 4, 2011: 1930 Saturday, March 5, 2011: 1930
CAMP BULKELEY LYCEUM:
Saturday, March 5, 2011: 0730 Sunday, March 6, 2011: 1930
Performance and panel discussion addresses mature themes; not recommended for children under 13
Translated, Directed & Facilitated by Bryan Doornik Produced by Phyllis Kaufman Performances by:
Peter Francis James Elizabeth Marvel Brian F. O'Byrne Bryce Pinkham
The Messenger The Rose Parks Story Simple Justice True Grit Burn After Reading Nurse Jackie The International Before the Devil Knows You're Dead Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson The Orphan's Home Cycle
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Brought to you by: NAVY MEDICINE JSMART Joint Stress Mitigation and Recovery Team

their roles in the story. The remainder consists of a panel discussion with people who served in Iraq or Afghanistan or any foreign war. Spouses of someone who is or has been deployed, a military chaplain or a mental health provider are also

included, Duff continued.

"They talk about how they identify with the story and share their personal accounts of having worked with someone who has PTSD or a family member of those who have been deployed," he said.

Even though the Greek stories presented by "Theater of War" are more than 2,000 years old, they still resonate with today's warriors.

"I've seen young men stand up and say, 'I know exactly what he was feeling in that situation. I was there too. I was in that state of mind when I got home,'" said Duff.

The group's planned reading for this trip is about Ajax, a fierce but distraught warrior. Ajax falls into a depression after fighting in The Trojan War and unsuccessfully attempts to murder several of his senior officers. He commits suicide, despite an intervention from his wife and fellow troops.

"I saw their performance at Camp Pendleton, [Calif.]" said Duff. "I was blown away by it. Not just as a psychologist who has an interest in mythology, but all the way up and down the chain and across ranks."

Duff began working on getting "Theater of War" to Guantanamo Bay shortly after he reported in October. With full support from top JTF leadership, he worked countless hours on the logistics of getting and supporting an entire production staff for three days. Now he's hoping for the payoff.

"We would like to see every seat filled," he said. "I just hope as many people as possible take advantage of it."

JTF leadership discusses the importance of Black History Month

Story by Mass Communication Specialist
2nd Class Elisha Dawkins

In 1926, historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson, founder of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, established Black History Week in the United States. This celebration commemorated the individuals who have made significant contributions to black history and culture.

"We should emphasize not Black History, but the African-Americans in history," said Woodson. "What we need is not a history of selected races or nations, but the history of the world void of national bias, race, hate and religious prejudice."

During America's bicentennial in 1976, the week-long tradition expanded to the entire month of February. African-American history documented the impact on fighting

for equality for all races and gender of American heritage in areas of politics, economics and social development.

Today, Troopers from Joint Task Force Guantanamo celebrate the occasion with observances throughout the month.

"Though it's important to remember the lessons of the past, it's equally important that we live out those lessons in the present," said Brig. Gen. Samuel Nichols, deputy commander, Joint Task Force Guantanamo.

Joint Detention Group Commander Army Col. Donnie Thomas said those lessons are reflected within the task force every day.

"Here at Guantanamo we are a community of good example regardless of race, creed and religion," said Thomas. "We are here for one mission: safe, humane and legal treatment for individuals we guard. We

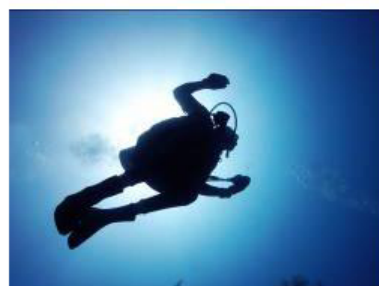
give them tremendous dignity and respect regardless of what they did on the battlefield. I believe in the message Dr. Martin Luther King preached."

Black History Month is a time to reflect upon the many successes of African-Americans of the past.

"It's through their accomplishments we are reminded of obstacles they overcame," Thomas explained.

While still under the yoke of slavery, African-Americans served in the Revolutionary War but were not given credit for their heroism on the battlefield.

"The American revolution was a blessing for many of them," Nichols said. "It paved the way to freedom from slavery and helped



A sincere thank you to the entire GTMO community for your gracious support during the recent SUDS visit. Without your support, this past SUDS trip would not have been the great success that it was. The entire SUDS staff and visiting Wounded Warriors expressed from the moment they arrived until their departure, how deeply touched and honored they were at all of the hard work and preparation that was done for their visit, you helped provide memories that will last a lifetime for our wounded veterans who have given so much in the defense of our freedom.

PAO teams with media to balance transparency, security



Spc. Justin Pierce listens as Gavin Lee from the BBC News asks a question inside the detainee classroom at Camp 6, Feb. 15.

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Cossel

As the trial of Noor Uthman Muhammed began and concluded last week, an orchestration of events behind the scenes transpired ensuring all the wheels in the machine kept turning. Playing a starring role in the symphony were the Troopers of Joint Task Force Guantanamo's Public Affairs Media Relations Department, charged with facilitating access to the 23 journalists who arrived to tell the story to the world.

"It's our job to provide the tools they

[civilianmedia] need in order to tell their story — which is our story," said Mass Communications Specialist 1st Class Erica Gardner, media relations noncommissioned officer in charge. "The media can make or break our existence here."

Gardner explained the media relations department helps reporters get the information they need in several different ways.

"We arrange interviews with subject matter experts, we provide tours of the camps and provide them logistical support

while they're here," she said.

The logistical support requires coordination with other groups working within the JTF, including members of the Base Engineer Emergency Force, the Commissions Support Group, badging and motor pool.

"We began making all the arrangements with the different groups about three weeks prior to the start of the trial," said Gardner.

Army Sgt. Mathieu Perry guided a group of seven journalists during a tour through Camp 6.

"We make sure they have a ride here and that the questions they're asking are being answered," Perry said.

Perry explained sometimes a question is posed that cannot, for a myriad of reasons, be answered immediately.

"We take down the question and get it to the people who can answer it and then get it back to the members of the media," Perry said.

Near the Commissions building is the media operations center, a hub of press activity during the proceedings.

"We had to make sure all the computers, phones and other telecommunications aspects were working and just make sure the place was clean," Gardner added.

With all the tours given, photographs taken and video footage shot, the media relations department slips into their other role -- ensuring operational security hasn't been compromised.

"We review everything taken during

see MEDIA, page 19

New BEEF on base gets busy building, blocking & beautifying

Story and photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jason Tross

The Oklahoma Air National Guard's 138th Civil Engineering Squadron immediately began work after they assumed command of the 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron last month.

Better known around Guantanamo Bay as the BEEF, the 474th is actually one of the Air Force's forward-deployed Expeditionary Prime Base Engineer Forces. Their primary task here is Camp Justice — a critical venue for the first U.S. Military commissions since World War II.

The tent city portion of Camp Justice is a unique variation of a Basic Expeditionary Airfield Resources kit. The kits are typically used to create temporary forward-operating air bases and disaster relief camps. Now the Camp Justice's temporary nature is the BEEF's primary concern, 138th CES Commander Lt. Col. Martin Keiner, said.

Each tent has nylon support tie-down straps that keep it in place — even in winds faster than 100 mph. Years of extreme Caribbean sun and rain are breaking down the nylon material. Now the BEEF is working to replace them all

before hurricane season.

"The best I can tell, Camp Justice has been here since late 2007, 2008," said Keiner. "Although we're sitting at about four years, we're only losing the straps. I find it very ironic that it's failing because of the straps — not because of the tent material."

The deteriorating straps aren't the only weather-related maintenance issue facing the BEEF as they extend the life of this essential establishment. The unit is also still doing transitional work to get the entire facility the way they want it - including a neglected runway underneath

the camp that is deteriorating.

"There is a slope to the runway and we can get torrential rains here," said Keiner. "I've heard as much as 6 inches of water can fall in one storm. You have to get the water off and away as fast as possible."

"There's a low spot where all the water runs and then gets into the tents — just one section of the runway. You need flat ground for the camp, so obviously the runway is ideal. But we're having some sloping issues," said Keiner.

see BEEF, page 19

Outlawz outshoot Shottazz 42-22

Story and photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jordan Miller

"A good defense wins championships," is how the saying goes.

Although not for a title, defense factored into Outlawz/12A NEGB's superior performance in defeating the Shottazz, 42-22, in an open recreation basketball league game at Denich Gym, Tuesday.

The Outlawz held the Shottazz to a season low 22 points in their victory. Bottling up Leon Cole and Devon Lee, both leading scorers for the Shottazz, became a huge factor in the Outlawz' win. Coming into the game, Cole and Lee averaged 28.6 points a game combined. Tuesday night they only scored nine points.

"Intensity of defense was going on today," said JR Trabler, Outlawz forward.

The contest pitted two one-loss teams against each other and appeared to possess potential for a close game. This in a league when victors have won by 20 or more points in more than half of the games played thus far.

"This win means a lot," said James Jones, Outlawz guard. "The Shottazz are one of the biggest, fastest, most athletic teams on the island and we beat them by 20."

Sentiments from the Outlawz players echoed a satisfaction in playing well as a unit.

"It was a perfect win," said Gary Maxwell, Outlawz guard. "The Outlawz are playing as a team now."

The game got off to a slow start. By about nine minutes in, the score was tied at six points. This was the closest the Shottazz would get to a lead.

"I feel terrible," said Leon Cole, forward for the Shottazz. "It all pays off because we didn't practice. It's why we didn't execute."

Soon after the Shottazz tied the game, the Outlawz pulled away with a 17-3 run making the halftime score 23-9.

The Shottazz opened the second half with a technical foul free throw which cut the Outlawz lead to thirteen, the closest the Shottazz would get for the rest of the game.

Points were not easily earned for the Shottazz, as ten of their 22 were made at the free throw line.

"We could've beat them. We just weren't playing our game," Lee Hinton, forward for the Shottazz said. "We need to work on our game and stop worrying about the other team's game."

Tuesday marked the Shottazz' second straight loss, extends the Outlawz' winning streak to three



The Outlawz' Gary Maxwell goes for a layup against the Shottazz at Denich Gym during Tuesday night's basketball game.

and sets up a good matchup between undefeated Dynasty/NEGB and the Outlawz.

"The team we play next, Dynasty/NEGB, beat this team by only six points," Jones said. "So we sent a message that we are definitely a force to be reckoned with."

The victory is a good momentum push for his team, both for their next game and the

rest of the season, said Trabler. In addition to productive team cohesion, Outlawz players were happy about every team member's execution, from the starters to those coming off the bench.

"Everybody came and did what they needed to do," said Trabler. "Everybody played their part... everybody brought intensity."

Due to volunteer efforts, Tierra Kay volleyball court gets a facelift

Story by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Cossel

When Spc. Ashley Chandler, volunteer coordinator for the 525th Military Police Battalion, moved into the Tierra Kay housing complex several months ago one of the things she immediately noticed was the dilapidated state of volleyball court. A volleyball player back in high school, Chandler decided to bring the court back to playable conditions.

"The court was totally unusable," Chandler said.

Most people in the housing complex were not even aware the playing field existed, Chandler explained because it was tucked away near the TK mini-exchange and overgrown with weeds.

Mustering her resources, Chandler put

together a project plan that included digging up all the sand to help remove the weeds, and remarking the boundary line.

Chandler's initial plans called for new sand, but after Soldiers with the Joint Task Force Engineering section began tilling the sand they realized by simply removing the weeds from the old sand the new sand would not be needed.

"We worked with [Army] Maj. Allen Knotts of the JTF Engineering section and determined we could use the sand already out there," she said.

On Saturday, nearly 20 Soldiers from the 525th sacrificed their weekend and got to work on the arduous task of yanking weeds.

"It was a long, tiring day," Chandler

noted. "We were all so worn-out and sun burnt by the time it was done that no one even wanted to play a game or anything."

Chandler said the crew spent nearly nine hours working in the hot sun before stepping back and taking in the success of their work.

To inaugurate the new court, Chandler organized a senior enlisted versus junior enlisted volleyball match for Saturday.

"There was a lot of hard work done last weekend by several dedicated volunteers," Chandler said. "As a battalion we would like to play a few days to break in the new court."

The match-up starts at 10 a.m. Saturday. Chandler said all are welcome to cheer on their favorite side.



Fleming's farewell

His seabag packed, Joint Task Force Guantanamo's senior enlisted leader, Command Master Chief Scott Fleming, sat down with *The Wire* and gave us some of his final thoughts and reflections on his two-year tour.

The Wire: How would you characterize your experience as Joint Task Force Guantanamo's senior enlisted leader?

Command Master Chief: Both fascinating and educational. Educational in understanding the dynamic down here in and of itself, understanding who's who in the zoo organizationally and how all the pieces come together, how the troops interact.

If you've been in the military any amount of time these days I think everything you do, almost, at least operationally, involves a joint flavor. But I can't believe there's many places that are more joint than Guantanamo both ideologically and through execution. It's been impressive watching everybody work together, handling a difficult mission.

So yeah, I hope I'm better for the experience and I think it's been a successful

tour. I know at least in terms of mission accomplishment we've enjoyed some success and continued to advance the credibility of the joint task force and the troops who are assigned here.

We've gone to great lengths to dispel the idea that we're a black mark on America's credibility. I think that when people come down here and see it first hand, they come away with an entirely different notion of Guantanamo.

TW: What are some of the most important lessons you'll take back with you?

CMC: Patience is a virtue. Paying attention to detail matters. Your way of seeing things is not necessarily the only or right way of seeing things.

When you come down here and are exposed to so many different service cultures I think you initially come with the idea that

'Well, I grew up this way.' But when you get here and see what everyone else brings to the table, you walk away with a much broader perspective and appreciation for considering other ideas and not sticking hardcore to the mindset that my service's way is the only way.

TW: What were your expectations of working in a joint environment and did they change or were they reinforced?

CMC: They were absolutely reinforced. I was in Camp Bucca in Iraq doing detention operations with JTF-134. So I saw firsthand a lot of the same dynamics. The idea that senior enlisted have the potential to solve a lot of problems through interaction, through mutual respect, through cooperation, and through an occasional argument. I saw that firsthand, in action at Bucca and I think I had a pretty good understanding coming in

-- you know -- what it took to at least be semi-successful. Gitmo has done nothing but validate those basic ideas.

TW: What has been the toughest challenge you've faced as the JTF's senior enlisted leader.

CMC: I think the toughest challenge for us ultimately is the negative legacy that surrounds Joint Task Force Guantanamo. Particularly with respect to the guard force because they go in every day and demonstrate incredible composure, restraint, maturity, interpersonal skills and yet, you're very hard pressed to find anybody in a senior military leadership or elected position that talks about what we do in a positive light. I think that wears on a lot of our troops. It's nice occasionally to pick up the newspaper and read what you're doing matters and actually achieving mission success. For us, that's a tough nut to crack. When people come down here, they get it on a personal level but on a broader scale, the recognition of exactly how well our troops do their job is conspicuously absent.

TW: What is the significance of the Spartan helmet on your desk?

CMC: It's a failure on my part. It was intended to be a rotational unit recognition. Each unit, each week, was going to submit something at the command and staff meeting. The admiral and another group would vote for the winner. Whoever won that week would take the helmet. So it's a vivid illustration of one of my failures, if you must know.

TW: What achievement are you most proud of?

CMC: I think creating unity among the senior enlisted leaders to address the needs of our troops. Not just the needs — the desires, the priorities. I say that sort of tongue-in-cheek, because, at the [senior enlisted leader] meeting today, we were talking about some of the same things we were talking about two years ago at my first SEL meeting.

So you wonder, in retrospect, if you accomplished anything, given that you are talking about the same exact things. But, I know for a fact, that we have made strides in regards to quality of life, with respect to mission accomplishment, with respect to mission readiness. I know that in my heart

of hearts but, there's still times when you look around and go 'Did we do anything at all?' We're still talking about housing or how insufficient the Internet is, so I say that working with the senior enlisted to address those needs is the accomplishment I'm most proud of. And I know it to be true.

But I still think, because of our turnover rate specifically, a new crowd every three months of people come here and come to those same realizations -- oh my God

"I think the toughest challenge for us ultimately is the negative legacy that surrounds Joint Task Force Guantanamo. Particularly with respect to the guard force ..."

*Command Master Chief Scott Fleming
JTF Guantanamo Senior Enlisted Leader*

this is wrong and that is wrong. So you're constantly fighting that turnover battle and constantly seeking to educate people about where we were and where we are.

TW: That said, what advice would you give to the Trooper who hasn't yet arrived here?

CMC: Come in with an open mind. Remember that everything is relative. This can be a difficult place to work and live -- if you let it. If you come in with an open mind, learn the environment, learn the rules of engagement and appreciate the experience for what it is rather than what it's not, then you will have a successful tour down here and leave better for the experience.

TW: What advice would you offer to the person selected to advise you?

CMC: Wow, it would almost be the same advice I would give to any Trooper coming down here -- open mind. Be receptive to suggestion, to constructive criticism. Have an appreciation for the bigger picture. My relief is coming in off a ship so I think his exposure to this type of environment will be somewhat limited and the temptation may be to function from his old mentality as opposed to opening his aperture a little and recognizing the place for what it actually is and how dynamic it is. It's not a static sort of place to be. Based on political

sensitivity and a million other factors, this place- GTMO -- will be a very interesting tour for him.

TW: The mission of JTF Guantanamo is the safe, transparent, legal and humane treatment of detainees. How have you helped move the ball on that front?

CMC: I think I helped move the ball because I was fortunate to work for and

with some fantastic people who were open to new ideas. Who listened to my input and who, in their own right, were patient with me. Through that dialogue up and down the chain of command I think there was awareness of what we were trying to do and appreciation for the challenges that come with the mission and ultimately a respect for the job our Troopers do to make it all happen. So I think it's communication.

Communication among the senior enlisted community is paramount. It's almost cliché to say that but it really is. We talk laterally and we talk vertically and so those are relationships you improve universally with respect to everything we've already talked about. It all comes back to talking and working through the challenges.

TW: Is there anything you'd like to add?

CMC: It's been an incredibly rewarding tour. I drank the joint kool-aid -- I think I did that a while ago, actually. This has certainly given me even more desire to be in a joint environment and to experience the military not in a service specific light but in a broader context.

There will be a farewell celebration for Command Master Chief Fleming tonight at the home of Rear Adm. Harbeson, Marine Site 101. All are invited to attend, with the celebration getting underway at 6 p.m.

the GREAT EQUALIZER

Wounded warriors find healing, fun when SUDS comes to GTMO



Spc. Joe Yantz of Sedalia, Mo. Was one of seven divers to visit the waters of Guantanamo Bay, Cuba during a Soldiers Undertaking Disabled Scuba trip to the island. The SUDS crew arrived on Feb. 17 and spent the weekend certifying the disabled divers. - photo by Chris Hileman

More than a 1,000 miles away from Walter Reed Army Hospital, Army Sgt. Matthew White stood at the edge of the water, letting the surf of Guantanamo Bay's Hidden Beach crash over his legs.

"I always wanted to learn how to scuba dive," White said. "After I lost my leg, I never thought I would be able to."

White was with the Army's storied 82nd Airborne Division in Afghanistan's Arghandab River Valley when an improvised explosive device took the bottom half of his left leg.

"I was supposed to get stationed in Hawaii," he said. "I planned on learning to dive when I got there."

While rehabbing at Walter Reed, White learned of the Soldiers Undertaking Disabled Scuba organization. He said he knew right away he wanted to be a part of the program.

"Water is the great equalizer," said John Thompson, SUDS president, in a 2009 Washington Post interview. "When you get them in the water, they don't have to deal with gravity. The pressure on prosthetics and the pain goes away."

Founded in 2006, SUDS has helped more than 300 wounded warriors obtain scuba certification. The group's website notes "by training the warriors in a challenging and rewarding activity, it can help facilitate the rehabilitations process and promote mobility."

A recognized 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization, SUDS makes two trips, with up to six wounded veterans, to Guantanamo Bay yearly. Joint Task Force Guantanamo Trooper and certified dive instructor Army Capt. Sarah Cleveland wasn't on hand for the first trip in 2008 but she has worked with the program since the second visit.

"This is one of the most rewarding experiences here on the island," Cleveland said. "It's such a good feeling watching these guys go from being nervous about diving at first to accepting it and really enjoying it."

Along with serving as one of the instructors, Cleveland and members of the Reef Raiders Dive Club and Ocean Enterprises Dive shop spearheaded the logistical efforts needed to bring the Soldiers to Guantanamo Bay.

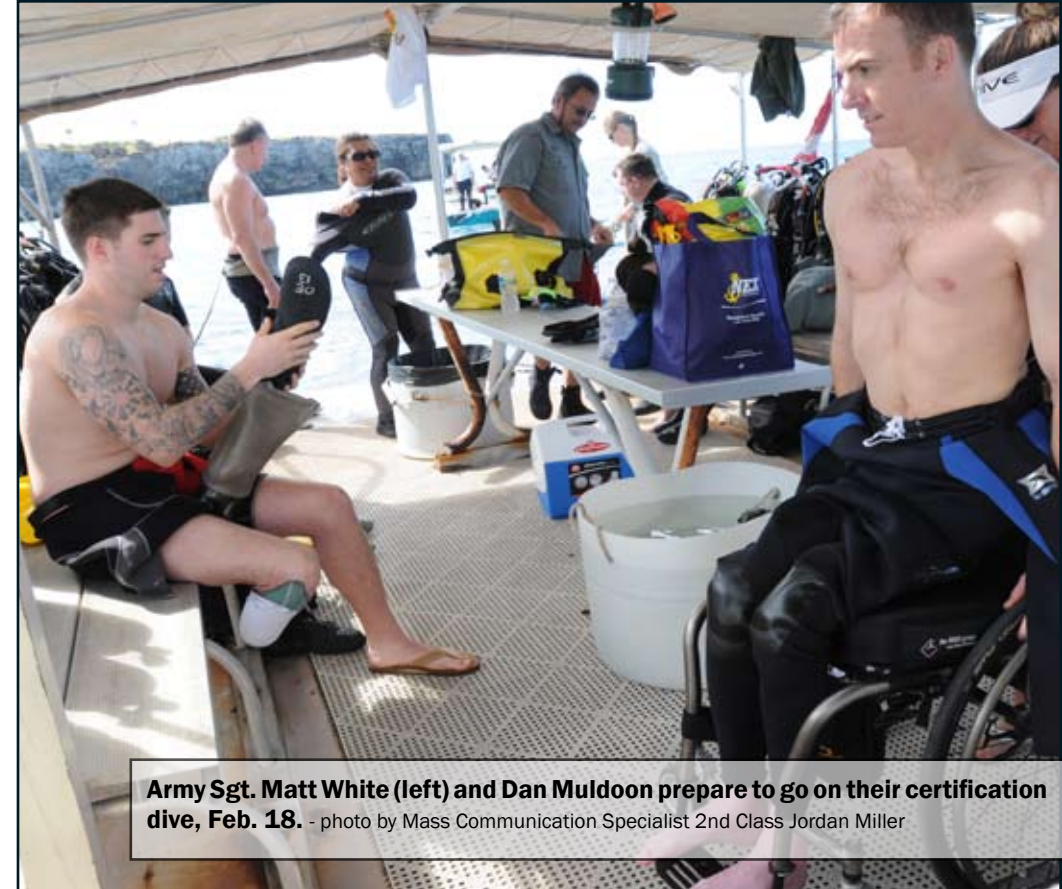
"We had nearly 100 volunteers from all over donate their time and effort to help



SUDS visited the base's Dive Locker for a tour of the facility. - photo by Chris Hileman.



Sgt. Tyler Anderson fits a flipper to his prosthetic leg. -photo by Army Staff Sgt. Benjamin Cossel



Army Sgt. Matt White (left) and Dan Muldoon prepare to go on their certification dive, Feb. 18. - photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jordan Miller



Spc. Joe Yantz (middle), student of Soldiers Undertaking Disabled Scuba (SUDS), is helped back to the shore after returning from a certification dive at Blue Beach, Feb. 19. - photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jordan Miller



'Don't Ask' repeal training set to begin

Jim Garamone,
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Training will begin shortly for experts in certain specialties and leaders as part of the plan for finalizing repeal of the law that bars gay men, lesbians and bisexuals from serving openly in the military, the chief of staff for the Defense Department's repeal implementation team said here Thursday.

Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Steven A. Hummer outlined the process in an interview.

The current policy remains in effect until 60 days after the secretary of defense, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the president certify the military's readiness to implement the repeal.

Clifford L. Stanley, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, issued a memo Feb. 10, to the military secretaries on the implementation plan.

"The memo continues the pre-implementation process," Hummer said. Now, the general added, the team is ensuring all the policies are prepared so that when repeal day actually occurs they will go into effect.

The implementation team is also ensuring that training is in place for all 2.2 million members of the military. The Defense Department, along with representatives from all five services, developed and synchronized the training.

"The services will each put their colors and their appropriate culture into those [plans]," he said. "The Navy will talk about petty officers, and the Marines will talk about sergeants."

Training is broken into three tiers. "Tier 1 and Tier 2 training will start in earnest soon," the general said. Tier 1 training is for people who have unique skill sets, such as chaplains, lawyers, personnel specialists, military investigators and recruiters, he explained. Tier 2 training is for leaders, and Tier 3 training is for the force at large.

"This is leader-led training," Hummer said. "Our over-arching theme is leadership, professionalism, discipline and respect."

The services will deliver the first of many progress reports to Stanley on March 1.



An Afghan National Police officer passes out literature to local girls during the ribbon cutting for the Laki Girls School, in Garmsir district, Helmand province, Afghanistan, Feb. 15. photo by Sgt. Jesse Stence

Helmand citizens open 180-student girls' school

ISAF Joint Command

KABUL, Afghanistan, — More than 300 local citizens attended a ribbon cutting celebrating the opening of the Laki Girls School in Garmsir district, Helmand province, Afghanistan, Feb. 15.

"In a district where we literally just cleared the Taliban from walking the streets, you've got a community that's willing to step forward and open a girls school," said Lt. Col. Matthew Reid, commander, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, Patrol Base Gorgak.

According to the commanding officer, the Laki citizens suggested the idea of the school opening to coalition forces. In fact, the girls school has a bit of a history in Laki.

"Before Taliban occupation, it was a women's center," said Staff Sgt. George Saggeth, a team chief with 3rd Civil Affairs Group. "However, the Taliban prohibited women from gathering in public and closed the facility."

Now, the facility is ready for approximately

180 female students. It consists of six eighty-five-foot rooms, a teacher's lounge, a water pump, latrines and a guard post, which will be manned by local security personnel.

Saggeth said planning for the girls school began five months ago.

An Afghan National Police station stands approximately a kilometer from the school. On a regular basis, Marines meet there with Amir Sha Jahn, the local police chief. The police and Marines team up with Afghan National Army soldiers to patrol local villages.

Together, coalition forces survey the residents about potential civil affairs projects like the girls school. They ask how projects are coming and take suggestions for new ones.

After the girls school, civil affairs work in Laki continues, and for the Laki community, a boys school in the nearby village of Shah Wali Kahn is underway, and Saggeth predicts it will be finished in three months.

U.S. forces respond to gunfire aboard S/V Quest

Central Command Public Affairs
Navy News Service

TAMPA, Fla. (NNS) — At approximately 1 a.m. EST, Feb. 22, while negotiations were ongoing to secure the release of four American hostages, U.S. forces responded to gunfire aboard the pirated vessel (S/V) Quest.

As they responded to the gunfire, reaching and boarding the Quest, the forces discovered all four hostages had been shot by their captors. Despite immediate steps to provide life-saving care, all four hostages ultimately died of their wounds.

"We express our deepest condolences for the innocent lives callously lost aboard the Quest," said Gen. James N. Mattis, U.S. Central Command Commander.

During the boarding of the Quest, the reaction force was engaged by pirates on board the vessel. Two pirates died during the confrontation and 13 were captured and detained along with two pirates already in U.S. Forces custody. The U.S. Forces also found the remains of two other pirates already dead aboard the Quest. In total, it is believed 19 pirates were involved in the hijacking of the S/V Quest.

U.S. Forces have been closely monitoring the S/V Quest for approximately three days, once it became known to be pirated. Four



U.S. Navy warships comprised the response force dedicated to recovering the S/V Quest: the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise (CVN 65), the guided-missile cruiser USS Leyte Gulf (CG 55), the guided-missile destroyers USS Sterett (DDG 104) and USS Bulkeley (DDG 84). The ships are deployed to the region to conduct maritime security operations and to provide support to operations Enduring Freedom and New Dawn.

'Commitment remains steadfast' in Asia-Pacific

Mass Communication Specialist 2nd
Class Kenneth R. Hendrix
U.S. 7th Fleet Public Affairs

HONG KONG (NNS) -- Commander, U.S. 7th Fleet Vice Adm. Scott R. Van Buskirk told members of the Asia Society in Hong Kong on Feb. 21 that the Navy's increased capabilities and growing maritime partnerships reflect an enduring commitment to peace and stability in the region.

"The 7th Fleet has actually increased its capabilities in several significant ways. The ships and aircraft that we operate today are vastly more capable than they were just a few years ago," Van Buskirk said.

He said the number of ships operating in the 7th Fleet on

any given day are about 70 on average, which is about the same or more than it was a decade ago with increased capabilities aboard those ships today.

Van Buskirk cited the deployment to Japan of the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS George Washington (CVN 73) -- with greater speed, range, ammunition stowage and endurance, as an example of how the fleet's capabilities have increased.

He also cited the deployment of the Ohio-class fleet ballistic missile submarines (SSBN), the 60-40 split of attack submarines from the Atlantic to the Pacific and the recent deployment of the Virginia-class submarine USS Hawaii (SSN 776), which reflects the fleet's growing capability un-

der the sea.

Van Buskirk added that upgrades to surface ships, including Ballistic Missile Defense capability and enhanced sonar suites, making them "increasingly potent."

He rejected the notion the U.S., with its sluggish economy and military operations in Afghanistan, is lessening its commitment to the region.

"U.S. Navy and defense leadership continue to give me exactly the forces I need to do my mission," Van Buskirk said.

Improvements in capability have been made even stronger by a deepening of our alliances and partnerships around the region, Van Buskirk commented.

"Our alliance with Japan con-

tinues to be the cornerstone of our forward presence in Asia, and has in my view been the foundation of security in this region for the past 50 years," Van Buskirk said.

Asia Society chairman Ronnie C. Chan said the group was delighted to hear Van Buskirk's views.

"The vice admiral touched on subjects of interest to a wide range of our members. It was very well received."

Van Buskirk reiterated that the U.S. Navy remains "committed and engaged".

"We remain committed to this region, we remain committed to the Pacific and actively engaging where ever we can to foster maritime partnerships," he said.



Staff Sgt. Johnathon M. Waytas, aviation ordnance instructor with the Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Marine Unit Cherry Point, and his family pose in their Jeep Commander at his home Feb. 15. Seven days earlier, Waytas delivered his newborn daughter, Krisily, in the Jeep. **photo by Lance Cpl. Tyler J. Bolken**

Marine delivers daughter in restaurant parking lot

Lance Cpl. Tyler J. Bolken

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION CHERRY POINT, N.C. — With his pregnant wife on the verge of giving birth beside him, Staff Sgt. Johnathon M. Waytas frantically drove himself and his wife in their four-door SUV down U.S. Highway 70 toward the Morehead City, N.C. hospital, Feb. 7.

Waytas, aviation ordnance instructor with the Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Marine Unit Cherry Point, said he wondered if they would be able to make it.

“I decided to pull over and call 911,” Waytas explained. “I stated this is who I am, this is where I’m at.”

Waytas and his wife had pulled over into an empty parking lot behind the Bojangles in Newport, N.C., about halfway to the hospital, which had discharged them only a few hours before — saying labor was not imminent.

“I knew I was going to have my baby,” said Waytas’s wife, Bethani.

She was right, but she and her husband couldn’t have imagined under what circumstances.

“We were pulled over and Bethani said she thought she was ready to push,” said Waytas.

He speedily began adjusting the seats, pushing the automatic tilt and back buttons at the same time, positioning his wife in as a comfortable position as their Jeep Commander would permit.

“Then, I went ahead and delivered the baby and got back on the phone with dispatch to ask what to do next,” Waytas stated.

Dispatch told him to tie off the umbilical cord, which he did with one of his shoelaces, thereafter taking the shirt off his back to wrap around his wife and newborn daughter — 6-pound, 12-ounce Krisily L. Waytas.

“I was a shirtless guy in the parking lot,” Waytas joked. “Everything happened so fast.”

He estimated the time from when they pulled over to when the baby was born was about two and a half minutes, and it only took about another three minutes for the paramedics to arrive.

The paramedics cut the umbilical cord, loaded mom and Krisily into the ambulance and headed straight for the hospital with

Exercise Iron Fist underway

Cpl. Elyssa Quesada
11th MEU

PACIFIC OCEAN — Marines and Sailors with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit and soldiers with the Japanese Ground Self Defense Force embarked USS Makin Island to participate in the at-sea portion of Exercise Iron Fist here Feb. 23.

The troops are participating in the bilateral training exercise to strengthen the bond between U.S. and Japanese militaries.

“We have a lot of good training going on and I think each side is going to get something out of it,” said Gunnery Sgt. Bryant A. Berdugo, the unit’s logistics chief, from Bellport, Long Island, N.Y.

Throughout the week and a half at-sea period, the Marines, Sailors and soldiers will conduct ship-to-shore movements and perform command and control afloat in order to improve their amphibious capabilities.

“I’m so excited to be on ship,” said Sgt. Ken Ogata, an interpreter with the JGSDF. “Although it is my second time on ship, it’s very different.”

Dad following.

Upon arriving to the hospital, Waytas said the doctors were shocked and said his wife set a land speed record for delivery.

The family was relieved.

“I must have done something right,” said Waytas. “Everybody is here and healthy.”

In all, Waytas said he kind of got what he wished for in having his daughter born Feb. 7, because his birthday is Feb. 8.

He added, “We were kidding around with doctors and saying can we hurry up and deliver her today so we can have separate birthdays. I really didn’t mean for it to happen that fast.”

“It was an experience most dad’s don’t get,” said Bethani, jokingly adding he was making up for not being able to make the birth of their first daughter, 3-year-old, Alexis, because he was deployed to Afghanistan.

“I got the full experience of this,” Waytas said. “I’m really proud of my wife and admire the way she dealt with whole process. The stars aligned and everything worked out right.”



G.W. Pomeroy
Air Force Surgeon General Public Affairs

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Air Force officials began drug testing Airmen, Feb. 22 to determine whether they are using Spice — the street term for a range of designer synthetic-cannabinoid products.

With the implementation of testing, officials intend to send a very clear message: use Spice, and you may lose your career, end up in jail or both, officials said.

“Spice, also commonly referred to as herbal incense, is mistakenly perceived by some Airmen as a legal or safe alternative to marijuana,” said Dr. Aaron Jacobs, the Air

Force Drug Testing program manager.

Side effects can include panic attacks, hallucinations, delusions, vomiting, increased agitation and dilated pupils, he said.

“Additional harmful effects are still unknown, so individuals are taking significant risks to their health when they use Spice,” Jacobs said.

Drug Enforcement Administration officials recently took steps toward listing five chemicals used to make Spice as schedule I controlled substances, meaning they will be illegal to possess, distribute or manufacture in the U.S.

Airmen who use Spice are subject to

prosecution under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Air Force officials have taken disciplinary action against Airmen identified as using Spice and continue to aggressively enforce the prohibition through courts-martial and nonjudicial punishment.

In 2010, 177 Airmen received nonjudicial punishment for using Spice and another 83 Airmen faced Spice charges at courts-martial.

Air Force Drug Testing Lab technicians will utilize the expertise of the Armed Forces Medical Examiners Systems to conduct the specialized testing.

Air Force stop loss pay application window closing March 4

Tech. Sgt. John Orrell
National Guard Bureau

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — The deadline for eligible members or legally designated beneficiaries to apply for Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay is coming to a close, March 4.

Airmen who were involuntarily held on active duty between Sept. 11, 2001, and Sept. 30, 2009, may be eligible for the special pay compensation of \$500 for each month they were affected. Eligibility includes active, retired and former service members as well

as members of the Reserve component who served on active duty while their enlistment or period of obligated service was involuntarily extended, or whose eligibility for separation or retirement was suspended as a result of stop loss.

Claims are being evaluated based upon historical records as well as any supporting documents the applicant may submit. Officials here have received more than 10,500 claims to date with approximately 3,000 of those still pending review or approval determination.

Due to the large volume of applications

received in the last few months, officials from the separations branch here are asking claimants to allow 12 weeks for processing their claims before following up.

For more information or to file a claim, eligible members or legally designated beneficiaries may download a stop loss claim application at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/stoploss. Applicants who were serving in the Reserve or Guard at the time of stop loss may find an application by visiting the Air Reserve Personnel Center website at <https://arpc.afrc.af.mil/vPC-GR/>.

trooper focus

Army Sgt. Yun Chung

Spc. Meredith Vincent

For the second time in less than a decade, Yun Chung signed on the dotted line and pledged his loyalty to the United States Army for another six years.

Chung, a budget technician for J-8, is perfectly at peace with his decision.

"I did it for the job security," he admitted. "I was seeing all the news about reducing troops and cutting budgets, and I wanted to continue my service as an Army Soldier."

A native of South Korea, Chung moved to the United States in 1996. He joined the Army seven years later.

"I was trying a different life," he explained. "I had just finished college and was in a graduate program, but I wanted to try a different way ... and also serve this country."

Chung was deployed to Iraq in 2004 as an infantryman. He arrived on Guantanamo Bay in October and is still getting used to his new surroundings.

"It's still a very different environment

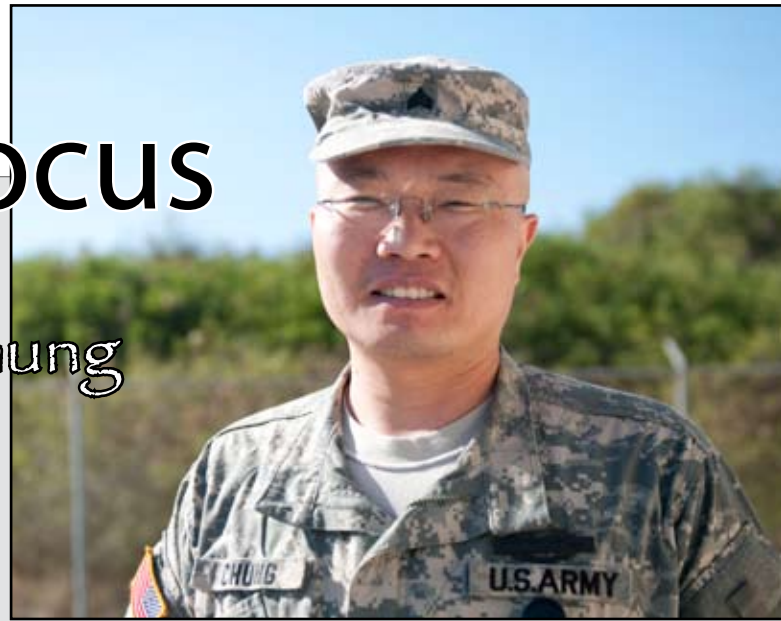
from my first deployment," he chuckled.

In addition to his regular Army duties, Chung is also tackling Internet courses during his time here on Guantanamo Bay.

"I'm usually studying in my Cuzco room," he said. "I'm taking Intermediate Accounting toward my MBA and it's a very demanding course."

Regardless of how much his surroundings change, Chung is known for his attention to detail and his dedication to his fellow servicemembers.

"Sgt. Chung is a task-oriented Trooper," said Staff Sgt. Heather Elias, noncommissioned officer in charge for J-8. "[He] believes in mission first and taking care of Troopers' needs."



Bullet Bio

Time in service: 7 years

Hobbies: just need more sleep

Pet peeves: impatient junior Troopers

Next goal: looking for more mobilization opportunities

What do you or your unit do for PT each week?



"I'm on a softball team."

**Army Staff Sgt.
Kellie Bell**



"Go to the gym for the elliptical machine and play softball."

**Religious Programs
Specialist 3rd Class
Jeffrey Lauber**



"Kickboxing at Marine Hill."

**Lance Cpl.
Britney Thomas**



"Go to the gym with co-workers Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and lift.."

**Air Force Staff Sgt.
Brian Margavich**

Boots on the Ground

Mind, Body & Soul



Air Force Lt. Col. Marvin Williams
Joint Task Force Guantanamo Command Chaplain

"Fitness" is one of those catchwords we often use to describe a state of healthy living or the ability to perform at an optimal level. For the Armed Forces in general and the specific mission of the Joint Task Force, performance is a key ingredient for success. One of my roles as a chaplain is to assist people in navigating through the course of life. In doing so, I have always been intrigued with the relationship between "fitness" and "performance." Although some people tend to separate fitness from performance, I think these two concepts are inextricably tied together.

Recent studies on labor and psychology show a link between daily fitness regimens and performance. These studies reveal employees who have some form of rigorous exercise use far less sick days than those who do not exercise. In the labor market absence from work due to illness is linked with performance issues. If employees miss time from work, they are unable to perform adequately. As the corporate saying goes, "time is money." However, a more interesting facet of exercise and performance deals with those who show up for work but do not perform at an optimal level. Unfortunately, labor statistics and analyses cannot get to the core of the many factors that contribute to lack of performance issues.



Fit to Fight



A much neglected factor with investigations on fitness and performance is the ability to negotiate or manage personal struggles — what I label as "battles" in life. Being fit means military personnel have the ability to deal with the many contingencies we face in life. The battles I am speaking of are daily fights or struggles. And when personal struggles are sustained over long periods of time, the fight turns into a constant battle. In fact, I contend personal battles contribute directly to suicidal ideations. Thus, an effective means of eradicating suicide among military personnel is by providing a resource for those needing help in coping.

No one is exempt from the battles that occupy our lives. We face demons on all fronts. I am reminded of a very familiar biblical story that has been remade over and over again by filmmakers: the story of David and Goliath. Okay, I agree, the story of David and Goliath seems as if it took a page from Greek mythology. Nevertheless, this story can be a helpful resource for understanding and dealing with the complexities in our lives.

Behind the story is the concept of the personal battles people face. All of the characters deal with tremendous personal

and professional conflict. In order to ensure peak performance and win the battle, the characters must overcome their fears and adopt a strategy that incorporates patience, attention to detail and endurance. Furthermore, the most prominent feature in this story is about believing in yourself, even when others do not.

This ancient story helped me in dealing with my battles. I realized that being fit to fight is critical in negotiating all the contingencies in life. Fitness is indeed about performance. It is about performing at the highest level to accomplish the goals in life we set for ourselves both personally and professionally.

I may not be aware of the type of battles in your life, but I do know you can overcome any struggle if you are committed to being fit. Fitness from this standpoint means taking all human elements into consideration. It means caring for the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual dimensions that constitute the human need for fulfillment.

Being fit is not a one-time event -- it is a lifestyle of daily practices. Of course, I cannot guarantee you will win every fight in life, but you can overcome all the battles you are facing or will face in the future. The story of David and Goliath is about understanding the gifts we have inside us to garner the strength and overcome each obstacle in life. Yes, we are fit to fight, and we fight to win.

GTMO Religious Services

Daily Catholic Mass
Mon. - Fri. 5:30 p.m.
Main Chapel
Vigil Mass
Saturday 5 p.m.
Main Chapel
Mass
Sunday 9 a.m.
Main Chapel
Catholic Mass
Saturday 7:30 p.m.
Troopers' Chapel
Sunday 7:30 a.m.
Troopers' Chapel

Protestant Worship
Sunday 9 a.m.
Troopers' Chapel
Islamic Service
Friday 1:15 p.m.
Room C
Jewish Service
Friday 7 p.m.
Chapel Annex
LORIMI Gospel
Sunday 8 a.m.
Room D
LDS Service
Sunday 10 a.m.
Room A

Church of Christ
Sunday 10 a.m.
Chapel Annex
Room 17
Seventh Day Adventist
Saturday 11 a.m.
Room B
Iglesia Ni Cristo
Sunday 5:30 a.m.
Room A
Pentecostal Gospel
Sunday 8 a.m.
Room D

Liturgical Service
Sunday 10 a.m.
Room B
General Protestant
Sunday 11 a.m.
Main Chapel
United Jamaican Fellowship
Sunday 11 a.m.
Building 1036
Gospel Service
Sunday 1 p.m.
Main Chapel

GTMO Bay Christian Fellowship
Sunday 6 p.m.
Main Chapel
Bible Study
Wednesday 7 p.m.
Troopers' Chapel
The Truth Project
Bible study
Sunday 6 p.m.
Troopers' Chapel

THE FIGHTER

Sp. Meredith Vincent

Where is Christian Bale? He's listed as a castmember of "The Fighter," but is nowhere to be seen. Especially for those looking for the charisma and charm of Bale's Bruce Wayne, you will be sorely disappointed. Bale inhabits Dicky Eklund so instinctively and completely, there is not even a glimmer of the actor possessing him. Establishing himself as one of the greatest Method actors working right now, he is poised and capable of becoming this generation's Daniel Day Lewis.

Certainly Bale has been waiting -- biding his time -- until a character like Dicky came along. "The pride of Lowell," Dicky is a once-promising boxer who sinks into a harrowing addiction he is not able to escape. Dicky's claim to fame is beating Sugar Ray Leonard in the middle of a headline bout, but there's always been speculation over whether Leonard was knocked out or if he tripped. Since then, Dicky has lived in a self-constructed reality in which he is a larger-than-life celebrity, and not a crack addict low life.

Following in Dicky's footsteps is his little brother, Micky. The true story is actually about Micky's rise to the pro's in the early 80s, centering on his struggles with his die-hard family. The boys, along with their seven sisters, are raised by Alice, a fierce specimen of a woman whose love for Dicky makes it impossible for her to see his self-destruction. Micky is caught between his love for his family and his drive to be successful. Complicating matters is the arrival of Amy Adams, his tough-as-nails bartender girlfriend, who doesn't mince words and isn't afraid to face down the female population of the Ward family.

Mark Wahlberg, an outstanding actor in his own right, is pitch-perfect as Micky. Wahlberg has been breaking stereotypes and surpassing any expectations placed on him in the last



couple of decades. His Micky is shy and sweet, a good-old-boy who wants to be something for everybody, but always ends up disappointing somebody.

Unfortunately for Wahlberg, he is surrounded by a different caliber of acting and is therefore outshined in his own starring vehicle. Aside from Bale's revelation of a performance, the movie is also a showcase for the women in Micky's life. Melissa Leo relinquishes all forms of vanity and plays Alice without asking for sympathy or understanding. Her disregard for the havoc Dicky reeks on Micky's career makes for the movie's most cringe-worthy moments and her showdowns with Amy Adams' Charlene crackle.

Speaking of Amy Adams, I dare you not to adore her. Playing against type, she rids herself

of the sweet wholesomeness that made her famous and instead plays Charlene with a gritty, no-bull attitude that easily makes her the movie's easiest character to love. And she does it without hardly a smile the entire time. This is a chick every girl wants to be and every dude wants to date.

Fantastic cast aside, what makes "The Fighter" worth watching is the last few minutes. In a tender nod to the real-life characters who graced us with such an amazing story, the real Dicky and Micky share the screen for a short, bittersweet home movie. In those moments, we forget about Bale and Wahlberg and instead are given a glimpse into the touching bond that brings these two brothers together. This pugilistic story is surprisingly thoughtful, predictably inspiring and altogether a TKO.

R
115 min.



	25	26	27	28	1	2	3
Downtown Lyceum	Yogi Bear (PG) 7 p.m.	Megamind (PG) 7 p.m.	The Fighter (R) 7 p.m.	Season of the Witch (PG-13) 7 p.m.	The Social Network (PG-13) 7 p.m.	How do You Know? (PG-13) 7 p.m.	The Unknown (PG-13) 7 p.m.
	Unknown (PG-13) 9 p.m.	Just Go with It (PG-13) 9 p.m.					
Camp Bulkeley	Tron Legacy (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Despicable Me (PG) 8 p.m.	Just Go With It (PG-13) 8 p.m.	The Social Network (PG-13) 8 p.m.	The Fighter (R) 8 p.m.	Season of the Witch (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Just Go With It (PG-13) 8 p.m.
	The Fighter (R) 10 p.m.	Unknown (PG-13) 10 p.m.					

Call MWR at ext. 2010 for more information.

Movie Hotline - call 4880.

SUDS cont.

this all together," Cleveland said. Volunteers cleaned up beaches, move scuba equipment and assisted the wounded warriors in and out of the water.

"Everyone has been so supportive of our efforts," Cleveland said.

The SUDS crew arrived on Guantanamo Bay, Feb. 17 and began earning their scuba certification. However, the process began before the Soldiers even stepped off the plane.

"There was a whole bunch of online courses we had to do, work in the pool and medical clearances we had to get before we could come here," White explained.

Sitting on the beach on Saturday morning, White said he learned a lot from his dives on Friday and was implementing some of the adjustments for his upcoming dives.

"The split fins really make a difference and I'm working out some of the kinks with the prosthetic," he said, explaining the varying degrees of pressure from the different depths

affected his prosthetic differently.

"This has totally been worth all the effort put it in," White said. "I plan on going back and telling all of my friends this is something they should do."

Staff Sgt. Stefanie Mason echoed White's remarks.

"Standing here above the surface, you just can't imagine what it's like under the water," she said.

Mason has limited use of her right leg and suffered a mild traumatic brain injury due to a vehicle accident while serving with the 352nd Civil Affairs Command in Afghanistan.

"Having all these people out here, helping us, it's made it really enjoyable," said Mason.

The trip to Guantanamo Bay is the first time since her accident she has been away from her nonmedical care giver, her mother for an extended period of time

"My mom was really worried about me coming out here," she said. "But I'm going to have so many stories to tell her, it's just been

amazing."

The warriors will dive from the shores of Hidden Beach twice before heading to Cable Beach for a party with all the volunteers who helped bring the event together.

The following day the crew of seven divers and all their instructors will take to the boats for an open water dive, their final set of underwater exploration before heading back to the United States.

Of the many volunteers on the beach Saturday was JTF Guantanamo commander, Rear Adm. Jeffrey Harbeson.

"It's simply inspiring to see what these men and women have done and accomplished," the admiral said. "This is really going to open some doors for them and it's just an honor to be here."

"This is something I will keep with me for all my life," said Mason. "All the challenges I've had to overcome to finally get certified in Cuba!"

BEEF cont.

The pooling water and extreme heat are working together - substantially speeding up the runway's expected break-down cycle. As the heat makes the blacktop brittle, rainwater breaks it away and carries it across the runway - both scattering and piling as debris. Last week, a public works street sweeper filled up four times and the BEEF says they could do even more. Now they want to stop the cause.

"In order to get that water to run off, and get the fines [small gravel] off the runway, I want to build a drainage ditch just partially along the camp to keep the water off things and then at the lower elevation we can distribute the water," said Keiner.

Aside from the larger unit-wide projects, each shop is whittling down their own list of smaller individual tasks - like repairing electrical circuitry, digging up electrical cables, painting the latrine doors and simply cleaning.

"We had a long list of work orders when we first got here and had commissions last week, so things are staying busy," said Tech Sgt. Jeff Bennett, structures supervisor for the BEEF. "Right off the bat we've shown a lot of interest beautifying the camp - making it just a little more presentable. We want to keep up on the maintenance so we can pass on what we have here and in the ELC."

With just five months left, the 474th isn't wasting any opportunity to make sure they pass on the brightest torch possible to make Camp Justice less temporary and more hospitalable.

MEDIA cont.

the day to make sure things like guards' or detainees' faces aren't in the photo and different places around the base that we can't photograph: things of that nature," she said, explaining restrictions showing faces are in place to protect both the guard force and the detainees.

Gardener said her Troopers use the media ground rules established by the Office of the Secretary of Defense, which are made available to all media agencies who intend to visit Guantanamo Bay, when determining what constitutes a violation.

"There's also an appeals process once we've identified something as an OpSec violation," the first class petty officer said.

All images and footage identified as being on the wrong side of OpSec are saved in the event of an appeal by a journalist. Once an appeal is lodged, the piece in question makes its way up the chain of command where it's reviewed by the JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs Officer Cmdr. Tamsen Reese and other agencies such as the OPSEC office and Staff Judge Advocate before a final decision is made.

"Our MEDREL team is a bridge between communities," said Lt. Col. Don Langley, deputy director of public affairs. "They skillfully balance the need for public openness with the requirement to protect certain categories of information. Their hard work navigating this challenge allows both the JTF and the press to accomplish their missions."

HISTORY cont.

them embark on a journey towards fairness, equality and civil rights."

During the Civil War, African-Americans fought for the Union as free men but served primarily in segregated units. On July 26, 1948, President Harry Truman passed Executive Order Number 9981 to end racial segregation in the United States Armed Forces.

"Truman placed civil rights at the top of his political agenda," said Nichols. "Truman was truly a visionary in this area in what the world was experiencing."

This peaceful revolution embraced freedom for all American citizens regardless of race, ethnicity and religion.

"African-Americans have fought for America, not so much for what she is, but for what they knew she could be," Nichols said.

In 1863, William Carney became the first African-American Medal of Honor winner for

his actions on the battlefield of Fort Wagner, S.C. While Carney was the first African-American to be recognized with the nation highest military honor, the list of distinguish African-American servicemembers is as storied as any other.

"They have given their blood in defense of our nation from Christopher Attucks on Boston Commons to the battlefields of Iraq, Afghanistan and beyond."

Citing the importance of Black History month and remembering all those who've struggled for the dignity of all men and women, Nichols said that as we continue the march towards equality we must never allow the importance of those who came before to diminish.

"We can not forget the struggles from all who fought for the rights of its people and ultimately paid the supreme sacrifice."