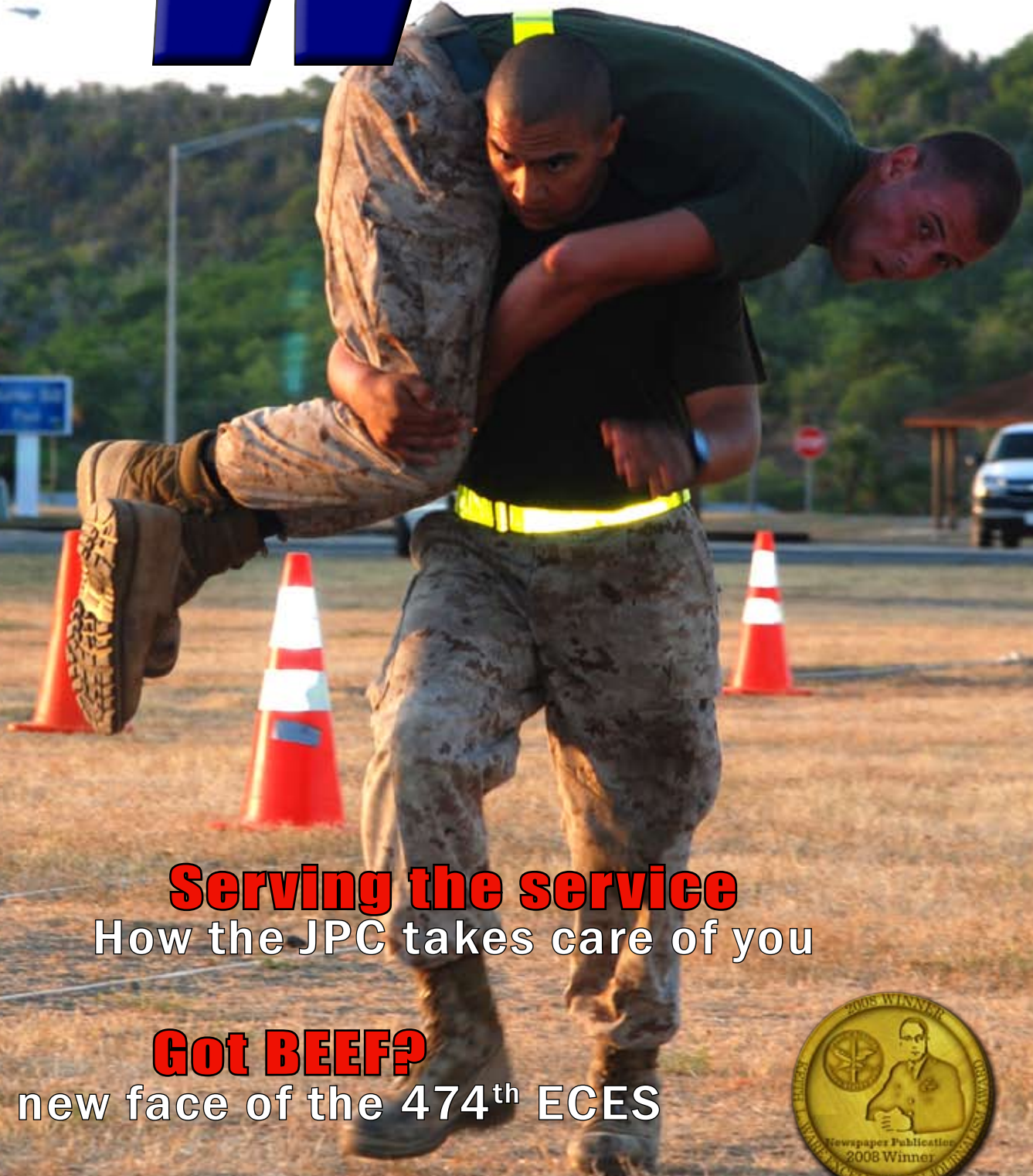


# THE **WI**RE

A JTF Journal



**Serving the service**  
How the JPC takes care of you

**Got BEEF?**  
The new face of the 474<sup>th</sup> ECES



# In pursuit of a common goal

## Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer Ronald Carpenter

Joint Detention Group Detainee Operations NCOIC

As I was involved in preparing for the 2009 Ramadan briefings, one of my tasks was to get Ramadan information cards printed. I noticed the Joint Task Force Guantanamo logo and saw all of the services represented. I studied it and said to myself that it takes a lot of elements to make the mission come together and to get everyone pulling in the same direction toward mission accomplishment. The JTF team does just that – gets the job done! As with the pentagon, I came up with my top five points that are very important to our mission success.

Good leadership is the binding force that keeps it all together. A leader communicates goals, takes appropriate measures to mitigate the risks and gets everyone involved. Communication is an integral part of the mission. Good leaders depend on it to disseminate information, give orders and receive guidance. As with our next big operation, Ramadan, we must communicate the command goals, expected detainee behaviors and cultural practices to ensure a successful operation. A good example of this can be taken from our recent briefings from senior leadership.

Professionalism is continually demonstrated on the cell blocks. We must all know our jobs and perform them at a high level. When professionalism is observed, it can be contagious and inspires others to rise to the occasion. A command can move from being just effective to being an award-winning organization if we all make peak professionalism our standard. Even the detainees can recognize a professional watch team.

We have a diverse team at the JTF. Everybody is important to the mission. Whether we are service personnel, civilians or contractors, we rely on each other. We all add value to the mission, so we must respect each other and recognize everyone's importance. How can the guard work without the interpreter? How can we house the detainees in working facilities without contractor support? How can the JTF maintain force protection and commissions support without the service elements working together? In short, it cannot happen without us respecting and embracing our diversity.

Institutional and tactical proficiency are key to our mission. Joint Task Force Guantanamo is a unique assignment, and it has its own challenges. Past experiences may be helpful, but getting proficient with the standard operating procedures and knowing camp-specific practices will serve you well on the blocks. In my job of updating the JDG-SOP, I see all the changes as it is continually being updated. It's imperative that leaders and guards stay aware of the changes and follow the SOP.

Leadership, communication, professionalism, embracing diversity and tactical proficiency – if practiced, they will present us in good stead. Again, as I see the task force logo, it brings to mind the old adage, "One Team, One Fight". 🌟



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### COVER:

**Members of the Marine Corps Security Forces Company complete a combat fitness test, Aug. 13.** – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Carmen Gibson

### BACK COVER:

**525th Military Police Battalion Troopers conduct a battalion run, Aug. 17.** – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Andrew Hillegass



The WIRE is the official news magazine of Joint Task Force Guantanamo. It is produced by the JTF Public Affairs Office to inform and educate the Troopers of JTF Guantanamo through news, features, command guidance, sports and entertainment. The WIRE seeks to provide maximum disclosure with minimum delay with regards to security, accuracy, propriety and policy. This DoD news magazine is an authorized publication for the members of the Department of Defense. Contents of The WIRE are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or Joint Task Force Guantanamo. It is printed by the Document Automation & Production Service with a circulation of 1,000.

# JTC provides high level of care



**Army Sgt. Larry Freeman checks a Trooper's I.V. at the Joint Trooper Clinic, Aug. 21, 2009.** – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Andrew Hillegass

## **Army Sgt. Andrew Hillegass**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

With a considerable number of Troopers deployed here, it takes a large number of doctors, dentists and nurses to treat any injury or ailment that might prevent them from completing their mission.

The task of helping to care for the bumps, bruises and sprained ankles of Troopers deployed to Joint Task Force Guantanamo falls to the Joint Trooper Clinic.

Although many people think of the JTF medical staff's primary mission as the health and well-being of the detainees at Joint Task Force Guantanamo's detention facilities, their focus is not purely on detainee well-being. They also assist in caring for personnel who may have medical needs ranging from toothaches to broken bones.

"[The JTC] is a split responsibility with the [525<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion and the Joint Medical Group]. The [525<sup>th</sup>] provides doctors and medics, and [the JMG] provides some hospital corpsmen, dental technicians and dentists," said JMG senior enlisted leader Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer Steven Wheeler.

The staff of the JTC is comprised of Army, Navy and Air Force personnel.

While members of the medical staff may only be deployed for six-month or one-year rotations, their time here gives them invaluable experience working in a

joint atmosphere.

"This has been my first joint environment. I have had to learn how the Army and Air Force do things. The entire experience has been excellent," added



**Navy Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Andrew Sanidad, with the Joint Medical Group, draws blood from a Trooper at the Joint Trooper Clinic, Aug. 21.** – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Andrew Hillegass

Wheeler.

With his group here for such a short period of time, Wheeler stresses that staying focused at all times is a constant

goal for his team.

"Our challenges are ever-changing and they come in waves. When we first arrived here, we had to make sure that all of our [Troopers] were up to speed on the JTF standards and that everyone was learning that standard," said Wheeler.

Aside from treating Troopers ailments, the JMG also has the eyes of the world on them as they provide 24/7 medical care including general surgical, dental care, preventive medicine, routine care, mental health services and specialty care for detainees.

Wheeler stresses that while conditions may be different; the standard of care rendered to everyone is the same across the board.

"It doesn't matter if they are a detainee or a Trooper. The only thing that changes in regards to medical care is the way it is handled. That is because with a detainee we have additional safety measures that we have to be aware of," said Wheeler.

Those high standards of safe and humane treatment of all people are evident everywhere that medical care is provided around the JTF. Wheeler credits his team's performance and their willingness to accept new challenges in their jobs.

"We try to rotate our guys through both the detainee hospital and the JTC in order to provide them with a broad level of experience in order to increase the effectiveness of the care that is given," concluded Wheeler. ★

**Troopers from the 188<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Wing of the Arkansas Air National Guard, along with follow-on teams from the Maryland, Illinois and New York Air National Guards, recently arrived at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay to fill the 474<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Cody Black**



## Fresh BEEF arrives at the 474<sup>th</sup>

**Army Staff Sgt.  
Blair Heusdens**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Troopers from the Arkansas Air National Guard's 188<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Wing, along with elements of the Maryland Air National Guard's 175<sup>th</sup> Air Wing, Illinois Air National Guard's 183<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Wing and the New York Air National Guard's 109<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, arrived recently to fill the 474<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron at Joint Task Force Guantanamo.

The new Troopers replaced Troopers from the 130<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing of the West Virginia Air National Guard and will serve a six-month tour in support of the JTF.

"We had about a week with the previous unit for a handover," said Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Gene Vaughn. "They showed us what they did and the methods to get it done."

JTF Guantanamo's 474<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron is responsible for construction and sustainment of Camp Justice and the Expeditionary Legal Complex in support of military commissions at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay.

Teams of engineers from the 474<sup>th</sup> maintain generators and electricity, provide carpentry skills, pest control services, utilities maintenance, heavy equipment operation and liquid fuel support. Administrative, work control and operations teams work behind the scenes to coordinate all of the projects.

When commissions are not happening at GTMO, the Base Emergency Engineering

Force, or BEEF, stays busy by completing projects around the naval station and JTF to improve the conditions for the Troopers and detainees.

Currently, the engineers are working to build a soccer field at Camp America and repairing flooring and distribution panels in the Expeditionary Legal Complex.

Many of the national guardsmen are experienced engineers who work in similar jobs in a civilian capacity or work on a full-time basis for the National Guard. The guardsmen from Arkansas are also fortunate to have equipment and assets at their home station.

"In Arkansas, we are one of four regional training sites," said Vaughn. "We have all of the BEEF assets and equipment."

Some of their newer Troopers and those from other states may not have the opportunity to work with the equipment on a regular basis. This six-month deployment will provide an opportunity for the younger Troopers to gain valuable experience and for the more experienced Troopers to refamiliarize themselves with newer equipment.

"We don't always have the chance to see some of the newer equipment," said Air Force Master Sgt. Frank Vallscelesreyes. "It's different when you only have one weekend a month to work with it."

Out of the more than 40 Troopers with the 474<sup>th</sup>, approximately 10 are junior enlisted, according to Vaughn.

"We have junior airmen in just about every shop," added Vaughn.

Guantanamo Bay provides a unique

opportunity for recreation in addition to the valuable training the Troopers will receive. The 474<sup>th</sup> leadership plans to get their Troopers involved in the community.

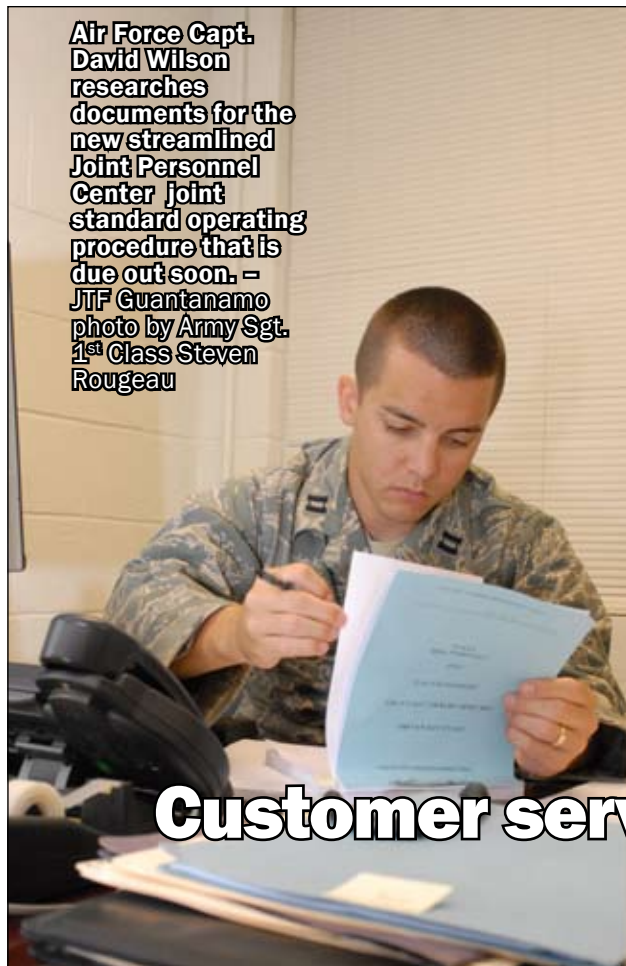
"[When I found out I was coming to GTMO], I was excited and surprised," said Vallscelesreyes. "Usually we just go to the desert."

The new Troopers with the 474<sup>th</sup> look forward to taking advantage of all that GTMO has to offer during their free time, such as participating in scuba diving, fishing and team sports. ★

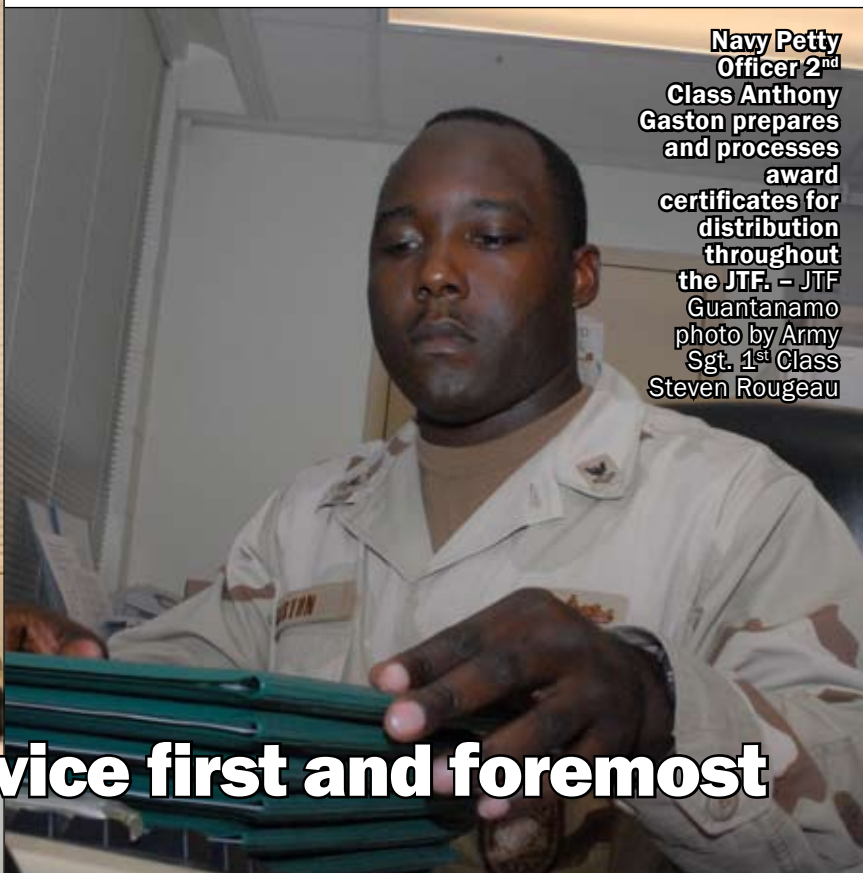
**Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Roy Wann and Air Force Staff Sgt. Bruce Rogers, both electricians with the 474<sup>th</sup> ECES, measure a pole for fence alterations at Camp Delta, Aug. 11. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Pfc. Christopher Vann**



**Air Force Capt. David Wilson** researches documents for the new streamlined Joint Personnel Center joint standard operating procedure that is due out soon. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Steven Rougeau



**Navy Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Anthony Gaston** prepares and processes award certificates for distribution throughout the JTF. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Steven Rougeau



## Customer service first and foremost

**Army Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Steven Rougeau**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Many Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers might not know that the Joint Personnel Center is responsible for services other than personnel actions. Soon the Joint Personnel Reception Center, which greets new arrivals and processes them onto Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, will be part of the JPC.

“With the upcoming merge of the two departments, the process of receiving, tracking and out-processing personnel will become much easier,” said Army Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Jorge Martinez, non-commissioned officer-in-charge. “Our primary mission is customer service and accountability.”

“‘Spaces and faces’ is a term we use for manpower and personnel,” said Air Force Capt. David Wilson, officer-in-charge. “Manpower back-fills individual augmentees and evaluates the future position requirements. When a position is being vacated, the manpower section will coordinate with higher headquarters to fill it. If a position is slotted for [an E-7] and it is determined that the position should have [an E-8] in it, that position can be upgraded.”

The JPC provides total force accountability for the JTF commander. One

of the biggest processes that keeps the JPC in business is duty status accountability. When Troopers go on leave, temporary duty, pass or are reassigned off the island, it is the responsibility of the JPC to know the status of these Troopers.

“The JPC must account for every position in the JTF by branch, grade, military occupational specialty, gender and rank. At the end of the day, it is about taking care of the Trooper,” Wilson said.

A challenge the JPC faces is dealing

**Our primary mission is customer service and accountability.**

– Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Jorge Martinez

with multiple policies from each military branch and adjusting to their method of doing business. Each service has its own regulations and paperwork and the JPC must become familiar with each of these policies to figure out how it can best support the needs of the JTF. Each member of the JPC must become a subject matter expert in his own area such as leave policies, administration and awards and decorations. Each time an action is requested, research must be done to ensure the Trooper is receiving the very best customer service possible.

“Once all the regulations from each of

the joint services have been interpreted, a joint standard operating procedure will be in place,” said Navy Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Anthony Gaston. “This will make processing awards, decorations and personnel action much quicker.”

One of the changes the JPC has made for JTF Troopers is the new affiliation of the JTF post office with the naval station post office. The JTF post office has been able to improve the quality of customer service by providing metering machines and a quicker processing system. Previously, the JTF post office was limited to selling stamps and distributing mail. Now with the affiliation, new equipment has been introduced that can weigh, scan, track and meter packages as well as sell money orders, offering a wider variety of services in Camp America.

“The JTF post office went from a partial service post office to a full service post office. They have extended their hours during the week from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and are open Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to noon. A future improvement at the post office is credit card capability,” Wilson said.

“What we’re going for here is a level of trust, and as a customer operating center, you build that trust when people think that when I go to J1, they are going to take care of me and my problems,” Wilson said. ★

# Belly dancing in GTMO

**Army Sgt.  
Emily Greene**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Notes of mysterious music float through the air. The heady scent of women's perfume accentuates the sensual movements and tinkling of coins as a group of women sway in synch with the beat of the drums. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay's own belly dance class is in full swing.

Army Spc. Mercedes Diaz, a member of the 525<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion, teaches the Belly Dance Fusion class at the Marine Hill Fitness Center every Sunday from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. She took over the class from the former instructor several months ago and has been going strong since then.

"I have been belly dancing for five years, ever since I learned in college," Diaz said. "I was excited to be able to continue dancing here in Guantanamo."

Made popular by pop star Shakira, belly dance is a western term for a traditional Arab dance genre known as raqs sharqi (literally "oriental dance") or sometimes raqs baladi ("dance of country"). It is also sometimes called "Middle Eastern Dance" or the "Arabic Dance" in the United States. Native to the Middle East, belly dance takes on many different forms, both in costume and style. Part of its popularity is the adaptability of the dance form to various styles of music and experience levels.

The class here at Guantanamo Bay is a combination of yoga-inspired exercises, abdominal workout and belly dance techniques.

Navy Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Lydia Spacher, with the Naval Station Hospital, said she likes the combination of exercises combined with the dance experience.

"This is such a great workout, and I really have a lot of fun doing it," said Spacher.

The class is for women only, allowing members to express themselves freely.

Diaz has a background in a variety of dance forms to include Latin dance, ballet and tap. She said she loves the female-oriented aspect of belly dancing and the confidence it instills in every body type.

"Belly dancing first sparked my interest because it is such an elegant dance form. The focus of this style of dance is on women and their bodies and it is very accessible. Anyone can belly dance and look good doing it," said Diaz.

Diaz said her class is a great way to learn some basic belly dance moves and to build strength and flexibility at the same time.

"We work our whole body during the course of the class," Diaz said. "Dancing is a good way to get fit and have fun at the same time."

Army Sgt. Leenmar Troche, a supply sergeant with the Puerto Rico National Guard, joined the class for the first time, Aug. 16. She said she enjoyed her first experience and was excited to learn more.

"I had a great time today," Troche said. "This class was a lot of fun. I like learning the dance movements and getting to actually use them together."

Diaz is starting a four-week beginner crash course in belly dancing, Aug. 24 - Sept. 18. The classes will run Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

For more information about the Belly Dance Fusion class call ext. 8242. ☆



**Army Spc. Mercedes Diaz, a member of the 525<sup>th</sup> MP Battalion, demonstrates basic belly dance steps during the Belly Dance Fusion class, Aug. 16. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Emily Greene**



**Members of the class follow Diaz's lead during the dance portion. The class fuses belly dance, yoga and strength training for a full-body workout. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Emily Greene**



## Zorba would be proud

**Navy Petty Officer 1st Class  
Richard M. Wolff**

JTF Guantanamo Public affairs

The wonders of ancient Greece make for a perfect backdrop in the feel-good romantic comedy "My Life in Ruins." The film stars Georgia (Nia Vardalos of "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" fame), as a Greek tour guide on a quest to find her calling in life. We've seen this type of movie before, but the concept never seems to get old. It's a good escape from the typical overdone effects-driven Hollywood movies that seem to have taken over the box office in recent years.

"My Life in Ruins" isn't supposed to be a breakthrough in filmmaking; its purpose is to take you to a far-away place to escape the seriousness of our everyday routines. I found myself not outwardly belly-laughing, but smiling throughout much of the film due to the realistic portrayal of the everyday commonness of the actors and their individual quirks. Many of the laughs come from odd comments just thrown in randomly from the tourists who are actually trying to be serious.

What "Ruins" does extremely well is mix the seriousness of Georgia's personal issues with her comedic misadventures while escorting a group of tourists in Greece. A widowed tourist, Irv (Richard Dreyfuss), starts out as a grumpy old man but eventually befriends Georgia. Irv, along with tour bus driver Poupi Kaka –

pronounced "poo-pee ca-ca" – eventually bring out Georgia's "kafi," Greek for mojo. An old woman who just happens to be a kleptomaniac, makes for some interesting moments; like when she steals a chain right off of Georgia's neck without her knowing it. The actual script for this film was written by Mike Reiss ("The Simpsons"), so you can imagine how well-developed the characters are, and what I mean by them having an air of quirkiness about them.

Another thing "Ruins" does well is take you inside Greek culture. The movie references dancing all of the time (a la "Zorba the Greek," 1964) just for the sake of dancing, eating loads of ice cream during the day and night and, of course, mentioning that anytime is a good time for a cup of coffee.

Much of the movie looks like a TV travel advertisement to entice tourists with amazing footage of the Parthenon and other historical sites. "Ruins" also throws in some historical fact (along with some made-up stories provided by Georgia to make the tour more interesting). While this might seem a little self-serving, it is not overdone in a way that detracts from the storyline. On a side note, this is the first time an American studio (FOX Searchlight Pictures) was allowed to film on location at the Acropolis.

I'm not going to spoil the movie by telling you what happens to Georgia, but with all romantic comedies, I'm sure you can guess. If you're in the mood for a good,

semi-predictable story with a few laughs intertwined, that lets you escape for 96 minutes (or if you're interested in visiting Greece anytime soon), then "My Life in Ruins" is one film you should not miss! ☆



**PG**

**96 minutes**

**Rating: ★★★★★☆**



# JTF Appreciation MUSIC, FOOD AND FUN

JTF Guantanamo photos by  
Army Staff Sgt. Blair Heusdens  
Army Sgt. Andrew Hillegass



Joint Task Force Guantanamo leadership showed its appreciation for the Troopers who make up the JTF at a command-sponsored picnic, Aug. 15 at Phillips Dive Park.

Troopers enjoyed food cooked by the senior leadership as well as music provided by several different groups. Puerto Rican Fever, a steel-drum band comprised of several members of the Puerto Rico Army National Guard played, accompanied by Army Brig. Gen. Rafael O'Ferrall, the JTF deputy commander. Several other JTF members sang, played guitar, drums and harmonica to entertain fellow Troopers.

Sumo wrestling outfits were available for those brave enough to battle it out and a dunk tank provided an opportunity for Troopers to dunk each other in the spirit of fun.



# Too much trash

A trash truck unloads a collection of garbage from its daily route. Six truckloads of trash are produced at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay every day. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. David McLean



**Army Spc.  
David McLean**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

There is an average of six pounds of trash generated every day by every Trooper and resident of Naval Station Guantanamo Bay. Over the course of a year, the trash could fill 15 football fields of compacted waste a foot high. To combat this trash problem, environmental services personnel at Guantanamo Bay look closely at what is being thrown away.

Mike McCord, installation environmental program manager, monitors naval station resources such as water, power, land use and waste management. He says the trash here has many different avenues for where it will end up depending on the specific type of refuse.

"Everything that comes on the island either stays here or goes off," McCord said. "There isn't any place we can put it off to the side or hide it. Recyclables are removed (by the resident), sent to the recycling center and, on a periodic basis, moved off the island. All the hazardous waste that comes on the island leaves the same way after all avenues have been exhausted to use the product. Municipal solid waste – garbage and refuse – those items go to the landfill after being collected from around the base."

This municipal waste goes to "burn boxes" which are industrial incinerators, where the refuse is scorched down to a small pile of ash. The ash is then placed into the 21-acre landfill and this process helps to reduce the volume of the trash.

"Because of the reduction in volume of trash, we have enough space to support the

mission," McCord said. "We are getting somewhere between 80 to 90 percent volume reduction."

Despite the ability to reduce the volume and space required for the landfill, keeping the trash from being burned also has a better environmental impact. There are many things that can be done by Troopers to further reduce the amount of garbage thrown into the trash every day.

"To reduce our waste, I try not to use the copy machine too much," said Navy Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Tamela King, a supply clerk with the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion. "If you have a piece of paper that you only use once, you can flip it over and use the opposite side. I reuse the plastic bags from the exchange in smaller trash cans. These small things can be helpful to the environment."



Navy Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class Nyobi Brogdon throws office garbage into the dumpster in Camp America. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. David McLean

Larger items can be reused, even if they are not in top condition, instead of filling the landfill. Clothing, electronics, sporting goods and even furniture can be repaired to serve a purpose.

"Give it away, sell it, donate it, whatever," McCord said. "Stuff that is still good, someone will use."

Greg Kader, environmental compliance director for Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, said he looks at all issues with trash as a pollution prevention project. He said if residents are diverting waste away from the landfill, there are trade-offs with increased power consumption, water used for cleaning recyclables and expensive shipping of hazardous materials. More can be done by simply sorting the garbage and getting the proper recyclables out of the trash can.

"You can look at the burn piles and see what is left behind," Kader said. "There are pieces of metal, aluminum cans, and carbon left over from the incineration process, but you can't see the plastic that was burned. If someone just took the time to take out these items, it would reduce the amount we have here (at the landfill)."

"We are in a throw-away society," McCord said. "If someone sat down and really thought about what they throw away, there are probably a lot of items that would not go into the trash can."

This effort to reduce and reuse helps to improve current and future quality of life by minimizing the environmental impact, conserving resources and not polluting the environment.

For more information about waste management, contact the environmental office at ext. 4662. ★



# JTF makes preparations for Ramadan

**Army Staff Sgt.  
Blair Heusdens**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Preparations are underway at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay that will accommodate the upcoming religious holiday, Ramadan, for the community of Muslims who reside on base and for the detainees at Joint Task Force Guantanamo.

Aug. 22, 2009 marks the beginning of Ramadan. Ramadan is a month-long observance for Muslims around the world to focus on their faith and reflect. It is a period of fasting, reflection, devotion, generosity and sacrifice observed during the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, which is the month that Muslims believe the Qu'ran was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad.

"Ramadan is a holy month," said Zak, the JTF cultural advisor. "It is a month to prepare yourself for the rest of the year."

Troopers at Joint Task Force Guantanamo are making special preparations to ensure that the detainees have the opportunity to observe this important part of the Islamic faith. All of the detainees at Joint Task Force Guantanamo are Muslims, according to Zak. However, not all of them will observe the fast. Those detainees who do not wish to fast or those who cannot for medical reasons will continue to receive three daily meals on a normal schedule.

"We have prepared our guard force about the month of Ramadan," said Zak.

The guard force and medical force at the JTF received a briefing and specialized training about the month of Ramadan, including information on what happens during Ramadan and why Muslims fast in order to understand how the detainees will behave throughout the month. Troopers received Ramadan information cards with information for adjusted prayer times and meal times to accommodate the detainees during Ramadan.

Fasting is one of the five pillars of Islam. There are five duties incumbent on every Muslim. These duties are Shahada (Profession of Faith), Salah (prayers), Zakah (Giving of Alms), Saum (Fasting during Ramadan) and Hajj (pilgrimage to Mecca).

During the month of Ramadan, Muslims abstain from food,

drink and other physical needs during the daylight hours. Fasting is practiced during Ramadan from dawn until sunset. Fasting includes abstaining not only from food, but drinking, smoking and sex.

The joint task force invests significant time and effort to provide the detainees with special meals and adjusted schedules during Ramadan. Detainees who fast receive a meal before dawn, which is called the suhoor, and a meal to break the fast, the iftar, before the sunset prayer, according to Zak. The evening meal is a double portion and the detainees are also served a snack at 10:00 p.m. Medication schedules are also adjusted, if possible, for the month of Ramadan. Those detainees whose medications are medically necessary may break the fast for medical reasons.

Officials at Joint Task Force Guantanamo strive to accommodate the religious and social preferences of the detainees throughout the year by serving only Halal meats, from animals that were ritually slaughtered according to Islamic practice and catering menus to the religious and cultural preferences of the detainees.

Muslims are called upon to use this month to re-evaluate their lives in light of Islamic guidance. Many Muslims spend all day reading the Qu'ran or in prayer. The goal throughout the month is to recite and read the entire Qu'ran. This is usually done through an extra daily prayer during the evening called the Taraweeh.

Detainees at JTF Guantanamo are given the opportunity for quiet and uninterrupted prayer five times a day, as is observed in the Islamic faith. During Ramadan, the guard force will also accommodate the extra prayer time. The guard force is advised to also be respectful of those detainees who are absorbed in reading the Qu'ran or praying throughout the day.

The most important advice Zak gives to the guard force about dealing with detainees during Ramadan is to continue to be professional and follow procedures with common sense.

The detainees are not the only Muslims at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Zak explained. A small Muslim community of Troopers and contractors exists at the base who will also be observing the month of Ramadan. ☆

# Are you ready for destructive weather?

## Hurricane Kit Items

Non-perishable food  
Water – at least one gallon per person per day  
Disposable dishes and flatware  
Manual can opener  
Cooler  
Personal hygiene items  
Blankets and pillows  
Extra batteries  
Flashlight  
Portable radio  
First aid kit and bandages  
Prescription medication  
Fire extinguisher  
Clothing and rain gear  
Emergency cash  
Cell phone and charger  
Important documents  
Trash bags  
Full tank of gas

## Storm Classification

Tropical Depression - Less than 39 mph  
Tropical Storm - 39-73 mph  
Category 1 Hurricane - 74-95 mph  
Category 2 Hurricane - 96-100 mph  
Category 3 Hurricane - 111-130 mph  
Category 4 Hurricane - 131-155 mph  
Category 5 Hurricane - Greater than 155 mph

## JTF Destructive Weather Reps

JDG – SGM Villamil, ext. 8015  
JIG – LT Weidner, ext. 3457  
JMG – LCDR Grimm, ext. 8000  
MSST – ENS Caldwell, ext. 84936  
CSG – LT Saluke, ext. 5472  
HHC – SFC Bonilla, ext. 3507  
OARDEC – LCDR Threlkeld, ext. 3370  
J-3 – 1LT Funni, ext. 8521  
J-4 – MAJ Santa, ext. 3006



**Take charge, stay informed, stay prepared**

***FMI visit the intranet at <https://intranet/resources/weather.html>***

## BE HURRICANE READY CONDITIONS OF READINESS (COR)

**COR V: 1 JUN – 30 NOV (BE READY – FULLY STOCKED DISASTER SUPPLY KIT)**

**COR IV: DESTRUCTIVE WINDS POSSIBLE WITHIN 72 HOURS**

**COR III: DESTRUCTIVE WINDS POSSIBLE WITHIN 48 HOURS**

**COR II: DESTRUCTIVE WINDS ANTICIPATED WITHIN 24 HOURS**

**COR I: DESTRUCTIVE WINDS EXPECTED WITHIN 12 HOURS**

**FURTHER DETAILS: NAVBASEGTMOINST 34404D**



## Addressing the Troopers

**Navy Rear Adm. Thomas “Tom” H. Copeman, III, commander of Joint Task Force Guantanamo, delivers his quarterly briefing to JTF personnel at the Troopers’ Chapel, Aug. 17. Copeman spoke to Troopers about the JTF mission, future operations and his vision for continuing safe, humane, legal and transparent care and custody of detainees.**  
 – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Pfc. Christopher Vann

## Boots on the Ground

*by Army Sgt. Andrew Hillegass*

*What was your favorite movie this summer?*

**Navy Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class  
Michael Streeter**



**“Transformers 2”**

**Army Staff Sgt.  
William Cruz**



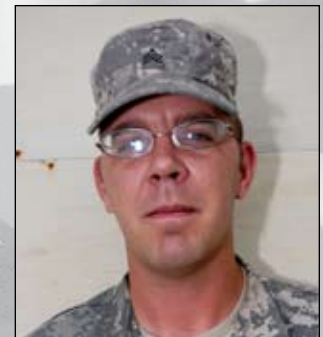
**“Transformers 2”**

**Navy Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class  
Kyle Lafond**

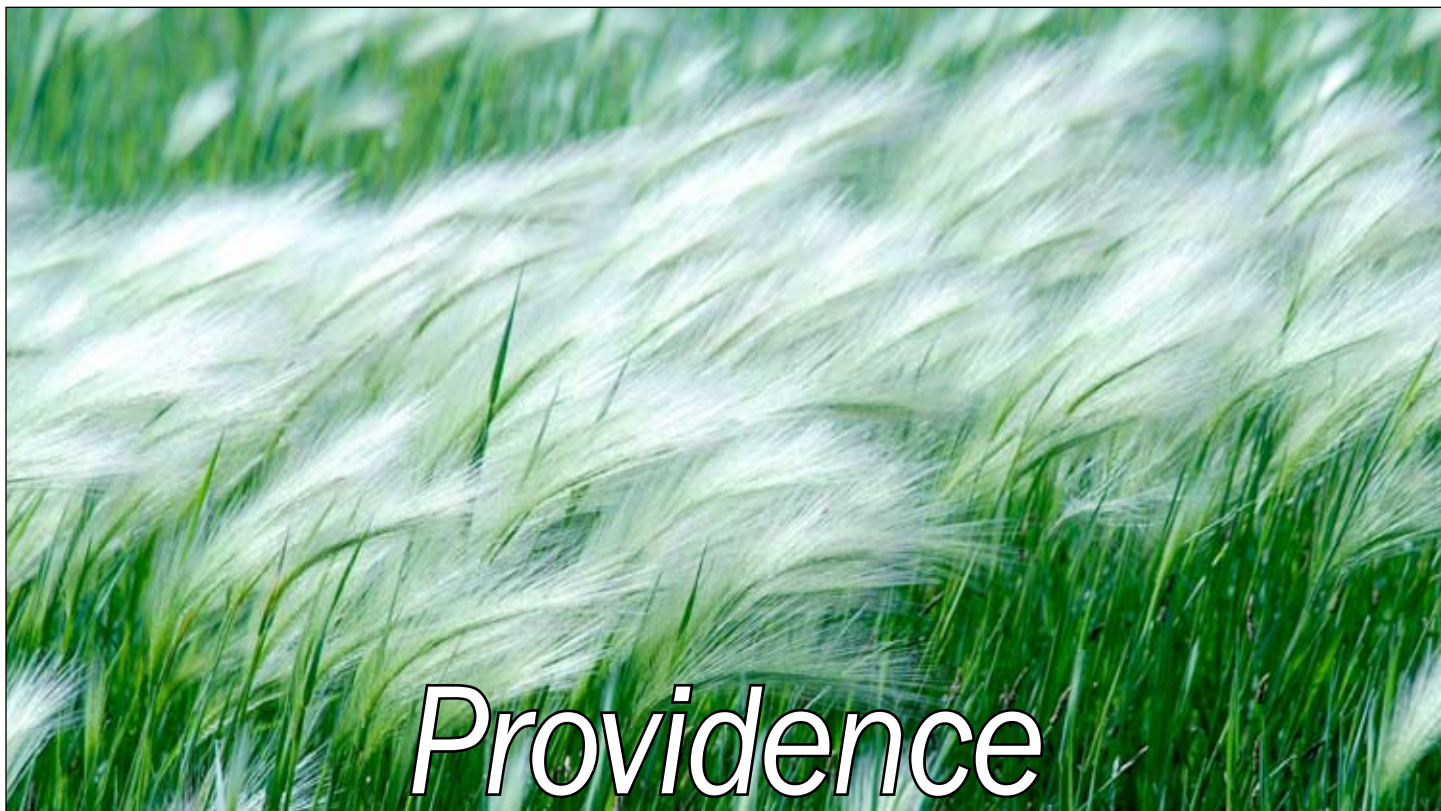


**“Transformers 2”**

**Army Sgt.  
William Blackburn**



**“The Watchmen”**



# Providence

**Army Capt.  
Eric Bey**

525<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion Chaplain

The sun rises, a patch of heavily vegetated land is warmed, an upward thermal is created and the air that occupies the earth on that spot is pushed to the side, thus creating a wind. The wind travels in a certain direction ushered along by yet more thermals created by the sun.

A great tree is cut down in the middle of a forest. It is hauled to the mill where the cutting of lumber commences. Wood scraps are set aside. Not fit for lumber, they will be used to make paper. Taken to yet another plant it is turned into pulp and then processed into paper. There it sits, waiting for something.

A man gets an idea for a way to spread the gospel of Christ more prolifically. He decides to buy paper, print the gospel on it and give it to passers-by. He sets his plan in motion and the paper is taken and printed with the gospel and ready for distribution. The man begins to hand out the papers.

The wind that was created by thermals whips between the buildings of a city

and blows a piece from the man's stack and carries it up and away on a vortex of wind. Miles away, it reaches the feet of a businessman who just stepped out of his home rushing because he is late for work. He picks it up and stuffs it in his pocket to discard later.

The man has the worst day ever. He is on the verge of getting fired, his relationship with his wife is in dire straits and his rebellious kids know nothing of respect for authority, work ethic, gratitude or loyalty. He begins to wonder why he even bothers with anything and what it is all about. What is the meaning of life and why is he here? Taking a small break, he stands at the vending machines about to get a snack. He reaches into his pocket for some money when he retrieves the piece of paper. He uncrinkles it and reads a very catchy title, "The meaning of life and why you are here." Intrigued, he sits at his desk and the author begins to unfold God's plan and purpose for humanity and, more specifically, him.

No circumstances have changed but something sure has because, for the first time that he can remember, he begins to have hope as he decides that he will pursue

the knowledge of God and see where it takes him.

God says in the Bible, "And we know that in all things, God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." He says that a man may throw the dice but God determines how they land. God is omniscient, omnipotent and omnipresent. Only he has the distinct ability to be able to put all of the moving parts together at just the right time and place to accomplish his good will.

This is known as providence. The only thing you need to be aware of is its existence; for to be ignorant of it is to chalk things up to coincidence or, even worse, to miss things altogether.

God is still talking. Just like the radio waves in the room with you right now. If you don't have the radio on – that is the receiver – then you hear nothing but silence. Have you listened for God lately? Oddly enough, if you still yourself and listen and turn on your receiver you just might get a sense of the urgency that he has in getting ahold of you before it is too late. God loves you, and he wanted me to tell you so. ☆

## JTF CHAPEL SCHEDULED PROGRAMS

**Catholic Mass**  
**Sunday - Friday:**  
6:30 a.m. Mass

**Spanish Catholic Mass**  
**Sunday: 5 p.m.**  
at NAVSTA Chapel

**Protestant Worship**  
**Sunday: 9 a.m.**

**Spanish Protestant**  
**Worship**  
**Sunday: 11 a.m.**

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

# Military service, family legacy

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

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The desire to serve one's country – regardless of branch-of-service – is a desire that is often passed from one generation to the next. For many military members, having a family history of military service is quite common.

For Coast Guard Lt. James Thach, a reserve member of the Coast Guard Maritime Safety and Security Team 91101 Seattle, family history can be explained in one simple reference; USS Thach.

James' great-uncle, John Smith Thach, a naval aviator who developed an air combat tactic, aptly named the Thach Weave, earned his place in history and his name on a ship for his contributions to the Navy during WWII, the Korean War and to anti-submarine warfare, which was a primary focus during the Cold War.

"I don't know that I can count the number of [family members] who have served [in the military], James said. "On my mother's side, my grandmother and grandfather were both Marines, my grandfather served in Guadalcanal in WWII and [served] throughout the entire war. He was enlisted and [then promoted to] officer.

"On my father's side, our [military] history goes back to the beginning of the country," James continued. "There are rumors that it goes all the way back to the first naval shot [fired] during the Revolutionary War, [however] we were never able to confirm it so it's only rumor, but our history goes very deep."

James has served with the Coast Guard for 12 years, was prior enlisted and served as a boatswain's mate before he took his commission as an officer. Currently he supports waterborne and military commissions security for Joint Task Force Guantanamo.

"I was immersed in the Coast Guard from a very young age and I've been surrounded by Coast Guard officers and enlisted [members] my entire life," James said. "My father worked at Sikorsky Aircraft and was the program manager for the [HH-60J] Jayhawk [Coast Guard search and rescue helicopter]. I remember in second grade [my father] took me to an airfield where I watched a [Sikorsky] H-52 [Seaguard helicopter] fly in to deliver a part. From that moment on, I decided that the Coast Guard was the way to go."

James' grandfather, the brother of Adm. John Thach, also served a distinguished career, earning the rank of vice admiral.

"My grandfather was the commanding officer for the USS Missouri (BB63) immediately after WWII," James said. "Both my grandfather and his brother got to nearly the exact same point in their careers through different routes – one by shooting down Japanese fighter pilots, the other by completing classified transport missions to supply assets.



**Coast Guard Lt. James Thach has a long family history of military service. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Emily Russell**

"What most people don't recognize," James continued, "is what John Thach did was a lot more than just being a pilot. Yes, he helped win WWII against the Japanese because of the "Thach Weave" but more-so, because later on in his career, he designed anti-submarine warfare [tactics and techniques]. He was [able to] put all of the facets of the Navy together ... which is what excelled him to become a four-star admiral."

Adm. Thach's achievements, specifically in anti-submarine warfare, are what earned him the cover of Time Magazine in [Sept. 1958].

James has been in contact with the command of USS Thach (FFG 43) and upon completion of his tour here, his goal is to tour the ship.

"Ironically, there are people here, assigned to the JTF, who [previously served on USS] Thach, and have approached me to ask if I was related [to the ship's namesake]," James said. "The crew of the Thach is extremely professional and [very knowledgeable] about the [ship]."

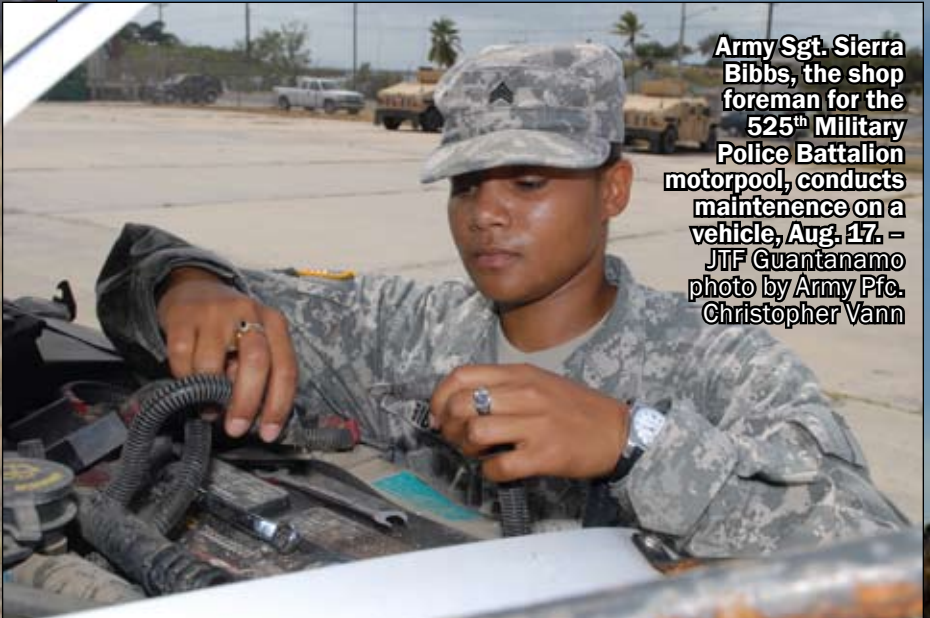
James' pride in his family history shines through in his words and actions but with a humility that is echoed in his words.

"I look at [my family history] as a reminder of what we can do if we really strive," James said. "In my family, there's never been a question of where we came from or how we got there, but how hard we worked to get there ... we [are all capable of doing] great things." ★





Marines from the Marine Corps Security Force Company navigate through obstacles while dragging a buddy for several yards during a combat fitness test, Aug. 13. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Carmen Gibson



Army Sgt. Sierra Bibbs, the shop foreman for the 525<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion motorpool, conducts maintenance on a vehicle, Aug. 17. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Pfc. Christopher Vann



Coast Guard Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Dana Schmitt, a boatswain's mate with Maritime Safety and Security Team 91101, repairs a floating dock at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Aug. 19. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Carmen Gibson

Around the  
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JTF