

THE WIRE

A JTF Journal



Hamdan Verdict

Military commissions
in action

Get fit at the new JTF gym

New facility sheds light and
cold air on equipment

What's at your core?

**Air Force Senior Master Sgt.
Martin D. Cieszlak**
474th ECES Project Manager

When I was asked to write an article for the Wire about anything professional or military I thought long and hard. Then, I remembered the last opportunity I had to serve on a military personnel recognition board. The question I remember asking the candidate sitting in front of the panel was, "What are the service core values?"

Working with the Joint Task Force, I have the opportunity to serve with people from all the branches of the military: Army, Navy, Coast Guard, Marines and the Air Force. Thinking of this article, I did a search on the core values for each of the services. What I found out about the core values of the different services was interesting. For example, the Naval Service, the Coast Guard and the Air Force all have three core values while the Army has seven core values. What I found most interesting was that although some of the words are different, they all mention a significant idea which I believe is held close to all service members: integrity and honor.

According to Dictionary.com, integrity is the adherence to moral and ethical principles; soundness of moral character; and honesty. According to this same source, honor is honesty, fairness or integrity in one's beliefs and action, a reverence, and a high respect. There are a great many more words which could have been placed here to define integrity and honor, but the bottom line is that they are values which we hold in the highest faith.

What does honor and integrity have to do with the military? What does it have to do with us or our families? The answer is *everything*. Integrity and honor means doing what is right, regardless of whether anyone will see you doing it. Integrity and honor are the moral character or principles that guide you to do what you say. It is keeping your word. Do you keep your word to your family, friends and coworkers? Of course you do or at least should. Circumstances happen and every now and then it is difficult to follow through on our word. But, this should be the exception, not the rule. Turn in the report when you say you will. Meet your friends when and where you said, and show up at your kid's sporting or school event if you said you would.

All of us, whether Soldiers, Marines, Coast Guardsmen, Sailors or Airmen are looking for respect from others. It's time for us to respect ourselves by doing what's right. Do what you say you'll do. Uphold honor and integrity at all times and in all areas of your life. ✪



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COVER:

**Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class
Honer Villa Nueva uses a torch
to cut through the legs of an
abandoned swing set Sunday,
Aug. 10 behind Cuzco barracks.**

– JTF Guantanamo photo by Army
Sgt. 1st Class Vaughn R. Larson



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



The verdict is in

Defense Attorney Charlie Swift, a retired Navy lieutenant commander, speaks during a press conference following the Aug. 6 verdict. Fellow defense attorney Joe McMillan stands behind Swift.

Army Sgt. 1st Class Vaughn R. Larson

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Sixty-six months.

Minus 61 months for time already served, and Salim Ahmed Hamdan was effectively sentenced to approximately five months for his conviction last week on a charge of materially supporting terrorism.

Hamdan, a Yemeni citizen and the former driver and bodyguard for Osama bin Laden, was given a split verdict at 10:19 a.m. Aug. 6, by a commission of six military Officers in the first military war crimes trial since World War II. Hamdan was found not guilty on the conspiracy charge – in other words, playing an active role in planning terror attacks. But the commission ruled he was guilty on five of the eight specifications relating to the charge of supporting terrorism.

The following afternoon, that same commission rejected the prosecution's call for a sentence of 30 years to life.

"I hope the day comes when you return to your wife and daughter, and your country," Navy Capt. Keith Allred, who presided

See **HAMDAN/11**



Navy Lt. Cmdr. Timothy Stone and fellow prosecutor John Murphy contend that justice was served and that the military commissions system was validated following the sentencing of Salim Ahmed Hamdan Thursday, Aug. 7. Prosecutors had asked for a sentence of 30 years to life; Hamdan received a 66-month sentence.

The Joint Task Force and Naval Station members of the Equal Opportunity Leaders class pose for a post graduation photo. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Pfc. Carlynn Knaak



New Equal Opportunity Leaders: Trained to make a difference

Army Sgt. Gretel Sharpee

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

“Equal Opportunity is the foundation of our value system. It is designed to support the values we have in order to complete our missions,” said Master Sgt. Leonard J. Pimentel, Equal Opportunity Advisor for the Joint Task Force.

For 13 members of the Naval Station, Joint Task Force and U.S.Southern Command, learning how EO impacts their environment was a key element in their training as EO Leaders.

The military’s EO program is the basis for fair and balanced treatment of all members of the military and their family members. Its mission statement states, “The Equal Opportunity program formulates, directs, and sustains a comprehensive effort to maximize human potential to ensure fair treatment for military personnel, family

members, without regard to race, color, gender, religion, or national origin, and provide an environment free of unlawful discrimination and offensive behavior.”

Each unit commander is responsible for enforcing the EO policy. EOLs are responsible for implementing the commander’s program and EOA are advisors to the commanders who can initiate and help process formal and informal EO complaints.

After the 60-hour class, each EOL will return to their unit to implement their commander’s intent for the EO program through training, being a subject matter expert and a “watchdog” in the unit to uphold the EO policy.

“After this class I will be able to set a standard for JTF Troopers and help facilitate EO here on Gitmo,” said Sgt.

See **LEADERS/12**



Master Sgt. Oscar Fraire accepts his diploma from Rear Adm. David M. Thomas, Jr., who presented the diplomas to the graduating class, Aug. 11. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Pfc. Carlynn Knaak

Pump it up!

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

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The Camp Bulkeley gym has moved to a newer, nicer facility, giving Joint Task Force Troopers a place to sweat indoors.

“The JTF command decided to build a new facility because the existing one wasn’t big [enough]. It was actually three buildings,” said Karissa Sandstrom, fitness director for Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

“Everything is more accessible and [Troopers] have more room to work out. The old facility wasn’t very inviting and with only 10 people working out, it seemed crowded,” Sandstrom continued.

The equipment is the same, but in the new building with better lighting, everything looks new.

With all equipment housed in one building, the MWR staff will be more accessible if a Trooper has a question or needs assistance.

“At the old gym, if the staff member was [attending to] a problem in another building, they weren’t at the desk when someone walked in. Now the gym has a more welcoming feel,” said Sandstrom.

The gym features new drinking fountains and easier access from the cardio machines to the weights. It also has a shower facility, whereas the old gym did not.

“Having showers makes it easier for [Troopers] to get a quick work out and get back to work,” added Sandstrom.

“The new facility is a one-stop fitness center with the same look and feel of any other modern fitness center,” said JTF Command Master Chief Bradley LeVault. “The old one was not. Fitness is important and a modern facility improves a Trooper’s ability to get and stay fit.”

So far Sandstrom has received positive reviews about the new gym.

“This gym is better, it’s bigger and there’s more light. The old gym was dark,” said Spc. Leslie Acevedo. “The gym is more organized and the air conditioning is better.”

“Currently we don’t have cable television at the gym but we’re working on getting new flat screen TVs, as well as cable service,” said Sandstrom.

Gym hours are 5 a.m. – 10 p.m. hours during the week. Weekend hours are noon – 8 p.m. ☆

The aerobic exercise room was the first room organized in the new Camp Bulkeley Gym during its move from three separate facilities Aug. 7 and 8. – JTF Guantanamo photos by Army Sgt. 1st Class Vaughn R. Larson



Workers from the Morale, Welfare and Recreation office move a Nautilus Nitro Plus lower back exercise machine inside the new Camp Bulkeley gym Aug. 8.

A run to remember and honor

**Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class
Jayme Pastoric**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Words like integrity, honor, loyalty and personal courage are used to describe the core values of the men and women in the Armed Services of the United States.

These core values also are the foundation for “We Do Care,” an organization that shares our values and a commitment to honoring those in uniform.

“This race is all about you who wear the cloth of our nation,” said Dirk Beveridge organization president. “We want you all to have a fun yet challenging race, knowing that hundreds of individuals will be running right along side you. It just so happens that we’ll be running the same race 1,600 miles away.”

“We Do Care” is a non-political grass roots organization that developed the Freedom Run during a trip to Guantanamo Bay this past April. Beveridge, working with Army Capt. Kim Kleiman and others, asked if it is possible to have a simultaneous run here, as they run the 9.11 miles in the organization’s home base in Barrington, Ill.

“A key reason we have introduced the Freedom Run this year is to broaden our message and marketing to reach and attract individuals and groups who do not already know about “We Do Care” and our Freedom Festival, or who are not the early adopters in terms of supporting and



Deputy Joint Task Force Commander Brig. Gen. Gregory J. Zanetti meets with We Do Care president Dirk Beveridge during Beveridge’s visit to Guantanamo Bay.

thanking our troops,” said Beveridge. “We are continually striving to find new ways to reach more people so that we can remind them that others are giving selflessly and that there are ways that they can support and thank those who wear the uniform.”

In accordance with the 5th Annual Family Freedom Festival in Chicago, the Freedom Run has a simple mission: run to remember.

The Freedom Run is a chance for the JTF to share a positive moment of support and remembrance with family and friends in the states.

“We are proud of all those that serve

and we want them to know that,” said Beveridge. “It is our little way of giving back to those who give so much.”

Beveridge hopes Troopers from Guantanamo Bay who have family in the Chicago and surrounding area will reach out to their families and let them know that they can run the race (either the 9.11 mile or 5.6 mile run/walk) free of charge.

Beveridge also adds that the festival does not only talk about the global war on terror and what everyone sees on the news, but emphasizes the goodness in the military, the humanitarian work and their role in the global war on terrorism. ☆



Members of Joint Task Force meet with We Do Care president Dirk Beveridge during Beveridge’s visit to Guantanamo Bay Wednesday. Beveridge and other JTF members are organizing a Freedom Run in September.

Ricochet O'Connell (Brendan Fraser) prepares to taste the shoe leather of the Dragon Emperor (Jet Li) in the third "Mummy" movie. – Photo courtesy Universal Studios

PG-13
1 hours, 44 minutes

Rating: ★★☆☆☆



Fast, fun, familiar

Army Sgt. 1st Class Vaughn R. Larson

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Imagine you and your better half are minding your own business, trying to get used to a slower lifestyle. Someone appears from your past and asks, "Hey, feel like another adventure movie?"

No, you reply – you've already done two, and didn't Indiana Jones just hit the screens a couple months back?

But this time you'd be in China, your associate persists.

China, you say? Are there mummies in China?

Not really – but there are pretty cool terra cotta warriors and a ruthless conqueror who is seeking the waters of immortality to counter a curse put on him more than 2,000 years ago. Did we mention that this conqueror can control the five – count them, five – elements: earth, fire, water, wood and metal? All you have to do is return a mystical gem – which, if it falls into the conqueror's hands, means all kinds of badness await the world.

By Jove, you've just unearthed the premise behind "The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor," the latest installment in the "Mummy" franchise, which dates back to 1999.



This is a standard roller-coaster of a movie – it's a fun ride, it moves quickly, and it's over before too long. This bit of summer escapism is certainly not built to challenge your intellect.

If you were to document artifacts from

"Tomb of the Dragon Emperor" that appear similar to other cultures – or rather, adventure movies – then you would probably have to list how Ricochet O'Connell (Brendan Fraser) is healed of a deadly abdominal wound, much like Sean Connery's recovery in the third Indiana Jones movie. And the betrayal of our intrepid band of excavators by a colleague who was secretly in league with the bad guys, a la the last two Indiana Jones films.

In fact, we could also include how the shower of arrows fired by the Dragon Emperor's terra cotta warriors reminds us of the final scenes from "300." And how the plaintive cello music heard as Zi Juan (Michelle Yeoh) expires is reminiscent of "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" – which, coincidentally, Yeoh starred in.

But paying such close attention to details would mean you might miss Jet Li as the persistent Emperor Han, Maria Bello taking on the role of Evelyn O'Connell, Luke Ford as the grown-up Alex O'Connell, and all that mayhem caused by reanimated clay warriors and revenge-seeking corpses. In other words, you might miss all the fun.

Ancient civilizations crumbled when they could not sustain what they had become. "Tomb of the Dragon Emperor" succeeds by not pretending to be more than what it is. ★

Back to Gitmo after 45 years

**Army Staff Sgt.
James L. Wagner**
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

“To you who have had to leave your homes at Guantanamo I send my deep regrets. I know you do so with sadness, for some of you leave behind your husband, others your father, and you who have been civilian employees are uprooted from your jobs as well as your homes. It is my most earnest hope that circumstances will permit your return. I send my warmest greetings and best wishes to you and those you leave behind.” – *John F. Kennedy, President of the United States, October, 1962*

Frances Glasspoole’s day started out much the same as it had the entire school year. A senior at William T. Sampson High School, she got ready for the day by having breakfast before jumping on the bus.

Once she got to school, however, the normalcy of daily life at Guantanamo Bay was shattered with the news to get back on the school bus and return home for evacuation from the island. The abrupt departure from the island, and the chaotic events of the day, were her last memories of the place she called home.

It’s taken her 45 years to come back.

The day that took her from Cuba was Oct. 22, 1962. President John F. Kennedy, acting on intelligence reports of the movements of Cuban and Russian forces, ordered the quarantine of Cuba and the evacuation of all dependents and civilian employees. The days surrounding the evacuation would later become known as the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Reports indicated Russia was supplying Cuba with weapons and material that could pose a direct threat to the United States. Satellite photos showed missile sites under construction. This was during the height of the Cold War, when the threat of nuclear war between the U.S. and Russia was an ever-present threat.

Glasspoole, who later in life changed her last name to Matlock, knew nothing of these events at the time. Dependents knew next to nothing about U.S. current events, she said; in fact, she knew more about Cuban affairs than events in her country.

“All we had was the base newspaper,” Matlock said with a laugh, and that didn’t include any mention of tensions between the U.S. and Cuba.

According to Naval Historical Center documents, approximately 1,700 noncombatants from Windward side were loaded into four ships – USNS Upshur, USS Duxbury Bay, USS Hyades and USS Desoto County. Leeward side hospital patients and noncombatants were evacuated by air.

That’s not quite true, Matlock said.

“We got to the docks and [the ships] were already full,” she said. “Instead, my mother, brother and I were picked up in a cattle car, put on a C-130 that took us to Norfolk. It wasn’t until we got there that we heard [President] Kennedy’s famous address.”

From there, they took a commercial flight to Hamilton, Mont., and never left for years, although most of her senior class of up to 26 students returned to the island a couple months later. She still keeps in touch with her Gitmo senior class through periodic reunions, but hasn’t seen Cuba since that last day.

Her father, Harvey Glasspoole, a jet aircraft mechanic, remained on the island.

When discussion turns to the sights and sounds of Guantanamo Bay in 1962, much of the enthusiasm expected from a 17-year-old girl is displayed in the eyes and features of the 62-year-old.

Remembering landmarks and buildings at Guantanamo Bay came mainly in the form of recollections after visiting a particular site, she said.

“I was just a teenager at the time, I didn’t remember anything,” Matlock said when asked what has changed since the

See **MATLOCK/13**



Frances Matlock visits the house she lived in 45 years ago when she was a high school senior. Matlock was one of approximately 1,700 naval base civilian employees and dependents evacuated from the island during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

At left, a C-130 at Guantanamo Bay prepares to evacuate more than 1,500 family members, hospital patients and civilian employees Oct. 22, 1962.

Hamdan war crimes trial ends in split verdict

HAMDAN from 3

over the two-week trial, told Hamdan after the sentence was pronounced. "Inshallah."

Hamdan, who was shaken following the split verdict last Wednesday, was in notably higher spirits Thursday. He shared an emotional hug with retired Navy Lt. Cmdr. Charlie Swift, who began representing Hamdan in 2002. As he left the courtroom, Hamdan raised both hands in the air to wave to the courtroom and flashed an open, toothy smile.

"Bye-bye, everybody," he said in English.

At a press briefing following the sentencing hearing, chief defense counsel Army Col. Steve David charged that prosecutors overcharged and overreacted. He also rejected the notion that the final result was a vindication of the military commission system.

"Quite the contrary," David said. "There has only been vindication of the power and reason of six panel members to stand tall, take their oaths seriously and do their duty to do the right thing."

"What ultimately happened, in spite of the system, was justice," Swift said.

Defense attorney Harry Schneider doubted that an appeal would be filed on Hamdan's behalf, given that the five months remaining on Hamdan's sentence would likely be served before an appeal could be heard. Fellow defense attorney Joe McMillan cautioned that the team was not abandoning future legal actions, especially if Hamdan was not released after completing his sentence.

Navy Lt. Cmdr. Timothy Stone, one of the prosecutors, contended that the verdict and sentencing did in fact vindicate the military commissions system.

"As a whole, the process worked," he said during the prosecuting team's first face-to-face press conference of the trial.

U.S. Justice Department prosecutor John Murphy agreed.

"Here is proof that [the military



Navy Lt. Cmdr. Brian Mizer spoke during a press briefing that followed the guilty verdict of Salim Ahmed Hamdan Aug. 6. Mizer is a member of Hamdan's defense team. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. 1st Class Vaughn R. Larson

commissions system] operates fairly," he argued. "The government gets a conviction, the jury sets the sentence."

"The sentence isn't always what the prosecution asks for or what the defense asks for," added Air Force Maj. Omar Ashmawy, another member of the prosecution. "That's what makes this a fair system."

Even though Hamdan's sentence was much shorter than requested, none of the prosecutors claimed that justice was denied. They had claimed that Hamdan was too dangerous to be set free, and asked for a sentence so great so as to deter others from supporting terrorists.

"We asked for a greater sentence, but we accept the jury's decision," Murphy

said. "They are the impartial arbiters of this process."

Still unanswered is what will happen to Hamdan following the end of his sentence.

Hamdan was apprehended in Afghanistan in November of 2001 and has been detained at Guantanamo Bay since 2002. Two surface-to-air missiles were found in Hamdan's vehicle at the time of his capture. He was accused of delivering weapons to al-Qaeda as well as helping bin Laden escape U.S. forces.

Hamdan's trial, which began July 21 and went to the jury Aug. 4, was the first in the special tribunals created by the military commissions act of 2006 to prosecute alleged terrorists. ★

JTF Commander's Prayer Breakfast

"Re-Creation"
Seaside Galley
7 a.m. Monday, Aug. 18
Speaker: Navy Rear Adm. David M. Thomas Jr.
Commander, JTF-GTMO

Rear Adm. David M. Thomas, Jr., speaks to the newly graduated Equal Opportunity Leaders about the impact of EO in Guantanamo Bay. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Pfc. Carlynn Knaak



Upholding the Army values = enforcing Equal Opportunity

LEADERS from 4

Brandin Schumann, a newly trained EOL. "I know now how to access the situation and understand when there is an EO violation what my role is."

Pimentel, who ran the EOL class here, stresses that the best way to handle most EO violations is through on-the-spot corrections. Also, when EO training is done regularly, Troopers are reminded of the policy and how it affects their work environment.

"I believe in a fair and honest system, which does not discriminate, where Soldiers get the opportunities they deserve" said Pimentel. "Young people see the military as an opportunity, as a way to get away from home: I'm here to make sure they get those opportunities."

During the EOL class, held at Columbia College, Troopers participated in small group activities where they were asked to share their feelings on several training scenarios focused on identifying their values systems. By bringing out personal opinions and values, Troopers could experience the challenges of being third-party-neutrals, something that they will be required to do as EOLs.

"This class showed me how people view different issues and how to communicate more effectively," said Staff Sgt. Ingrid Ryan, a new EOL. "I will know how to take my perspective out of the situation and be a true third-party-neutral in EOL situations."

After the completion of the class, most Troopers agreed that while the class brought up some uncomfortable discussions, it was a class they would encourage everyone to go through.

"I really enjoyed [the class] and it helped me become a better person through improving my listening skills and recognizing my values on things," said Ryan. "It's a great class for anyone to go through." ♡

WATER CONSERVATION

DO YOU THINK BOTTLED WATER GROWS ON TREES?

It doesn't - and it costs money!

Don't be a drip - follow these tips:

- Don't leave half-empty water bottles - finish what you start, Trooper!
- Don't pour out partially empty water bottles - combine partially empty bottles
- Water bottles are for drinking - they are not squirt guns or fire extinguishers
- Store appropriately - keep bottled water in cool, dark places when possible, and keep bottle cartons from tipping or falling

After 45 years, Gitmo daughter returns

MATLOCK from 10

early 1960s. The memories she did have of the time are the same as any typical teenage girl, whether they grew up in 1962 or 2008 – boys.

“Our class had maybe six boys and there were thousands of sailors; guess who lost out?” she said with a mischievous gleam in her eyes and a laugh. Back then, sailors could take dependents out on dates as long as they had a signed note from the father granting permission.

Much has changed in the intervening years, Matlock said. In the ‘60s, for example, there were many more clubs catering to the thousands of active duty sailors and Marines living on the Naval Air Base, fewer buildings and more iguanas. Back then, McCalla Airfield was an active runway.

Matlock and her friends could visit the Naval Station Corral or the base archery range. A commissary provided food, with a lot of browned-out fruits and vegetables, and there were several Lyceum theaters to watch movies. Kittery Beach was for families only, while nearby Windmill Beach was exclusive to base personnel.

Pier Bravo was the disembarkation point for the approximately 3,000 Cubans who worked on the base at the time as part of an agreement with the Cuban government after the base gates were closed. They were never replaced over the years and today only three remain of that number.

Many things remain unchanged, however. In particular, she was able to visit the house she lived in while at Guantanamo Bay, in Kittery Beach housing. The only



Civilian employees and dependents boarded the USS Upshur Oct. 22, 1962, after President John F. Kennedy declared a quarantine on Cuba. – Contributed photo

thing that’s changed, she said, was the replacement of large screened windows with glass replacements to accommodate air conditioning units, which were installed well after she left.

While Matlock never returned to Cuba, she said a part of her has always remained here. After a 25-year career as an orthopedic nurse, she attended San Francisco State University and received a Bachelor’s degree in anthropology and museum studies in 1995.

She is currently working with a writer friend to complete a memoir started by her mother on her personal experiences while living on the island. Matlock said her

mother, who is now 88 years old, will not be able to finish her memoirs so she wants to finish it instead. With pictures provided by her father, Matlock expects the book to be published later this year.

Matlock left Guantanamo Bay for a second time July 15, 2008. This time, she isn’t leaving with a cloud of worry to mar her departure, but with a raft of new memories that now sit side-by-side with the ones she already had of Cuba.

“This place has shaped me for the rest of my life,” Matlock reflected of her time since that memorable day in 1962. This time around, hopefully, she leaves with a more sedate, proper sense of closure. ✪

Boots on the Ground

by Army 1st Lt. Adam Bradley

What is one of your most outrageous claims?

Marine Lance Cpl. Derick Smith



“I used to date Pamela Anderson, but I left her to join the Marine Corps for the money.”

Army Spc. Brittany Valerio



“I am a member of the Rockefeller family.”

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Mitchlyn Davis



“This one time, ‘Mikey’ and I swam from Phillip’s Dive Point to Miami. You may know him as Michael Phelps.”

Army Sgt. Neil Esparza



“I was an alternate for the 2008 Eight-Man Tug-of-War U.S. Olympic team, but decided to go to Gitmo instead.”

The value of things

“...despite our flaws we are of infinite worth.”

- Capt. Brill

**Army Capt.
S.C. Brill**

JTF Deputy Command Chaplain

There is a lot of talk these days about the value of things. The value of homes, stocks, gold, etc. While these subjects are all important, I wanted to take a moment and write about the value of people.

Somewhere along my life I learned about our worth as individuals from a picture in a college text book of a statue and a poem about an old violin. Believe it or not, statues and violins can tell us a lot about the worth of a soul, if we look and listen with eyes to see and ears to hear.

The statue I learned about while working to become a teacher is known as the Winged Victory statue. It is priceless. From his book, “Teach Ye Diligently,” Boyd K. Packer explains, “Despite the fact that the head is gone; both arms are gone; the wings are badly chipped; there are cracks and scrapes here and there; a foot is missing; yet it is regarded as the single most valuable piece of art work existing today. Why? How could this be? Among many other things it is hard rock-adamant, undeniable, irrefutable proof that somewhere, sometime, someone with supreme artistic genius took some stone and with his tools fashioned this statue. With all that has been chipped away, with all of the flaws, that truth remains.”

This statue has been a reminder throughout my career as a teacher in the classroom and a Chaplain in the field, that despite our flaws we are of infinite worth. I once observed in a student’s notebook a cartoon character with the saying, “God don’t make no junk.” That’s the truth. We are all created in His image (Genesis 1:25). What a great thing that this young lady knew that her value did not come from the world’s standard, but from the truth that she was a daughter of God.

Another example of the worth of souls is found in the simple poem by Myra Brooks Welch, who wrote “The Touch of the Master’s Hand.” In this poem we are reminded of what God can make of our lives.

’Twas battered and scarred, and the auctioneer Thought it scarcely worth his while To waste much time on the old violin, But held it up with a smile:

“What am I bidden, good folks,” he cried, “Who’ll start the bidding for me?”

“A dollar, a dollar”; then, “Two!”

*“Only two?
Two dollars, and who’ll make it three?
Three dollars, once; three dollars, twice;
Going for three—”*

But no, From the room, far back, a gray-haired man Came forward and picked up the bow; Then, wiping the dust from the old violin, And tightening the loose strings, He played a melody pure and sweet As a caroling angel sings.

The music ceased, and the auctioneer, With a voice that was quiet and low, Said, “What am I bid for the old violin?”

And he held it up with the bow. “A thousand dollars, and who’ll make it two?”

Two thousand! And who’ll make it three?

Three thousand, once, three thousand, twice, And going, and gone!” said he.

The people cheered, but some of them cried, “We do not quite understand What changed its worth.” Swift came the reply:

“The touch of a master’s hand.” And many a man with life out of tune, And battered and scarred with sin, Is auctioned cheap to the thoughtless crowd, Much like the old violin.

A “mess of pottage,” a glass of wine, A game—and he travels on. He’s “going” once, and “going” twice, He’s “going” and almost “gone.”

But the Master comes, and the foolish crowd Never can quite understand The worth of a soul and the change that’s wrought By the touch of the Master’s hand.

Like the Winged Victory statue, and the old violin, despite our chips, scrapes, and broken pieces, we are of great worth. Also, it is my testimony, that if we put ourselves in God’s hands, He can make us whole again. That by the touch of the Master’s hand, we can be healed. Matthew 11:28-30. ✪

JTF CHAPEL SCHEDULED PROGRAMS

Catholic Mass

Sunday: 7 a.m. Confession

7:30 Mass

Wednesday: 11 a.m. Mass

Protestant Worship

Sunday: 9 a.m.

Spanish Protestant Worship

Sunday: Noon

If you can't take the heat, then...

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Nat Moger

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

It looked nothing like the Food Network.

There was no Emeril Lagasse in front of a studio audience, with six burners, an island and a host of prep cooks who made the task of peeling, slicing, dicing and frying an onion as simple as upending a ramekin of Spanish red into a pan.

Neither was Rachel Ray there, with her timesaving techniques and commercial breaks.

Instead, there was a man talking to two friends who had shown up to lend a hand. And he was about to get some bad news.

“What did you just say?” he asked.

“40,” came the reply. “I’d say about 40.”

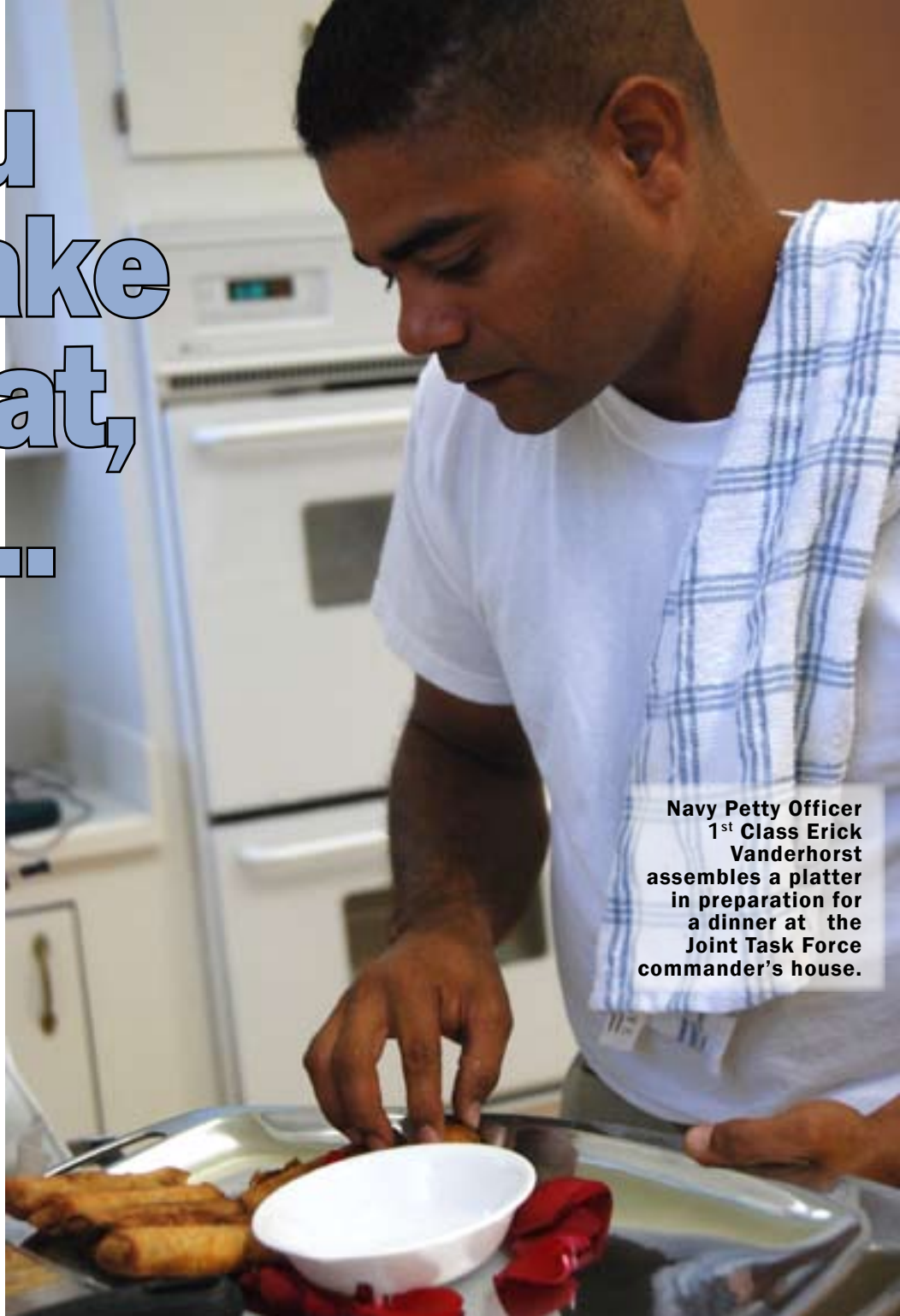
“It was only supposed to be 27. Okay, let’s get back to work then. Get one more tray of the artichoke dip out there.”

Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Erick Vanderhorst, a culinary specialist (CS) from Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, has one job during his six-month tour at Joint Task Force Guantanamo: Make sure that when the JTF commander has an official reception, no one goes home hungry.

This means, when faced with cooking for dozens already and another dozen show up, Vanderhorst is always prepared.

“I take my job seriously and that job means making sure the Admiral never has to worry about what’s going on back in the kitchen, and that means being ready for anything. If the starting lineup for the New York Giants showed up, looking to eat, I’d find a way to feed them,” said Vanderhorst.

Vanderhorst, a Dominican Republic native with a Dutch name, cut his teeth and earned his salt on the sub tenders *USS Simon*



**Navy Petty Officer
1st Class Erick
Vanderhorst
assembles a platter
in preparation for
a dinner at the
Joint Task Force
commander’s house.**

Lake (AS-33) and *USS Emory S. Land (AS-39)* before becoming a galley captain on the guided-missile destroyer *USS Chung Hoon (DDG-93)*. For Vanderhorst, cooking for 40 is no different than cooking for 300.

“Back on the ship, I made sure all of my CSs were paying attention to everything they served,” said Vanderhorst. “When you’re working 12 hours a day, and then have to go stand watch on top of all that, you deserve to eat well. Cooking for hundreds of my friends and peers really taught me a lot about taking pride in my profession.”

Vanderhorst has since gone through follow-up training at the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, N.Y. Between the extra schooling, personal inventiveness

and studying monthly cooking periodicals like “Food and Wine” and “Gourmet Magazine,” he’s gone from serving trays of turkey a la king to shined silver platters of fried plantains topped with lump crab meat and handmade chimichurri sauce and artichoke dip baked onto crostini.

“To make food that people will remember, you need to be willing to put in the extra effort. Take this artichoke dip,” said Vanderhorst while pulling out a tray of bite-sized pieces of bread. “Taste that. It would be so easy to just go out and buy a jar of artichoke dip and put it on some bread. But by whipping egg whites into it and baking it, it comes out light so people can concentrate on the taste.” ★

Army Staff Sgt. Tammy Tillman exults as her husband, Army 1st Sgt. Mark Tillman, takes the plunge in a dunk tank Saturday, Aug. 9. The tank was part of a fundraiser, held at the Naval Station car wash, to benefit the upcoming Joint Task Force Trooper and MP Ball. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. 1st Class Vaughn R. Larson

AROUND THE JTF



◀ Army Spc. Angel Torres, a light-wheeled vehicle mechanic with the 525th Military Police Battalion, mows the grass outside the motor pool Aug. 8, 2008. The motor pool services the Army-operated tactical vehicles on base. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Erica Isaacson

▲ Coast Guard Petty Officer 1st Class Clint Mingus puts some sweat equity into a benefit car wash Saturday, Aug. 9. The event was a fundraiser for the upcoming Trooper and Military Police Ball at the Joint Task Force. Members of the Chief Petty Officer Association assisted in the event, which included a food sale and a dunk tank. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. 1st Class Vaughn R. Larson



Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class Brad Landus, with machete, and Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Kleynia McKnight clear growth away from a stop sign behind Cuzco barracks Sunday, Aug. 10. Volunteers helped clear trees and brush from various sites around the naval base Sunday. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. 1st Class Vaughn R. Larson ▶