

W¹The WIRE

Agonizing
training
for 525th MPs

**Troopers
Go Live**
Sports Byline
USA Radio Show

Sr. Trooper of the quarter: Marine Staff Sgt. Hernandez

BRIG. GEN. JAMES LETTKO

DEPUTY COMMANDER, JOINT TASK FORCE GUANTANAMO

Fellow Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers: You are part of a one-of-a-kind organization composed of all of the services, components, civilians who are contractors or government civilians, all focused on a very important tactical mission that has strategic consequences. We all rotate to JTF-GTMO on different cycles depending on our service, status or contract. We have six-, nine- and 12-month military rotations, and we have some civilians that have been here several years providing that continuity that we all depend on.

Have you ever thought of why we are able to accomplish our mission every day with a group of professionals thrown together into the JTF-GTMO melting pot? Yes, standard operating procedure, patience and training have a lot to do with how we conduct our business. Our military competence, professionalism and 'can do' attitude also have a tremendous impact on our ability to conduct our mission.

From my position, I see our ability to conduct our mission every day, 24 hours a day, seven days a week – whether it be the guard force, medical staff, translators, analysts, IT staff and our service providers – is a direct result of our diversity.

When you look across the JTF, you will see diversity everywhere. We have the five services represented, and within those services, we have the active and reserve components. We have units and Troopers from the Pacific Islands through the heartland to the East Coast and from as far north as Michigan to as far south as Puerto Rico.

This JTF is unique in several ways. One of the most evident ways is that the composition of the JTF leverages the strengths of each service towards accomplishing its mission and the overall mission. Our contractor and civilian force is probably the

most diverse part of the JTF. Our contractor and civilian staff represents over a dozen countries of origin. These team members are all U.S. citizens who are here contributing to the total team effort.

We can't accomplish our mission without all of us working together and leveraging those special skills toward mission accomplishment every day. We are truly a joint and diverse group of professionals all contributing in a multitude of ways to accomplish our no-fail mission.

I urge you to take the time while at JTF-GTMO to learn something new about the many diverse groups of people that make up our great team.

Next Sunday is Mother's Day. Mother's Day celebrates the contribution that mothers and motherly figures have made for their children's lives.

The idea for official celebration of Mother's Day in the United States was first suggested by Julia W. Howe. Ms. Howe drafted a proclamation in 1870 calling for mothers to celebrate peace and motherhood. Despite her attempts, this day was not overly celebrated. It wasn't until 1908, when Anna M. Jarvis campaigned for an official Mother's Day.

On May 10, 1908 the first official Mother's Day celebration took place in a small community in West Virginia. Many times, Mother's Day gets overshadowed by other events or celebrations.

Don't let that be an excuse for not contacting your mother or mother figure. Take charge of yourself and contact your mother or mother figure in your life. Thank them for their guidance and direction. If your mother has passed away, take a few minutes to remember her in a manner that only you can.

Honor Bound!



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Inspirational Word From your JTF Chaplain's Office

"UNDERSTANDING"

To comprehend the intended meaning of a group of words.

English is a weird language. Some words sound alike but have different meanings, such as to, two, and too. Some words have multiple meanings depending on how one uses them. No wonder we have trouble understanding each other, even when we speak the same language. Take, for example, the phrase "Secure the building." Each of the military services understands this phrase differently. Given this command, the Marines will storm the building and take it by force, the Army will put up a barrier around it and defend it, the Air Force will find the owner and get a lease for it, and the Navy and the Coast Guard will turn out the lights, lock the doors, and leave. Wow! All that from just three words. As leaders, we must ensure our subordinates understand what we want them to do in carrying out our orders. Repeating verbatim the words given does not indicate understanding. Putting orders in one's own words does. Ensuring understanding will make all our jobs much easier and more efficient.

Costume contest

Are you excited about the GTMO premier of Iron Man 3? Well, the excitement just went up a notch. Tonight at Downtown Lyceum, Morale, Welfare and Recreation is hosting a costume contest. Show up to the movie dressed up as your favorite superhero or villain and compete for prizes. For more information, call the movie hotline at 4880.

Captain's Cup

Athletes, want to take the challenge? MWR is hosting the Captain's Cup Sports Challenge with 10 total events from May 17 to 18. Teams must register at Denich Gym by May 14. There will be a meeting at Denich Gym on May 9 for players and coaches. Competition will be service versus service. For more information call 2113.

INDEX THE WIRE MAY 3, 2013

Movie review: Temptation	4
Day at the Bay	5
Orthodox Holy Week	6
Sports Byline	8
525th OC Training	10
Trooper Focus	12
Tuition Assistance	15

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Photo Of The Week
by SGT Ferdinand Thomas

GTMO JOE by Spc. David Marquis



Temptation: Confessions of a Marriage Counselor

Movie Review PG-13
111 min.



By Army Staff Sgt. Michael E. Davis Jr.

Two words describe my state of mind while viewing this film – tor•ture.

Wait, that's one word. Anyhow, all of the words in the dictionary couldn't explain how horrible this movie is.

I hate to say it, but someone should tell Tyler Perry that it's about quality, not quantity. He's made a couple of films that did well at the box office, he's hit the success meter by establishing ownership of a motion picture studio and he's created an unforgettable and hilarious character named Madea, so I guess the ideal thing to do is keep making films right after the previous one. That would sound like a great idea, but everyone knows that value is in the worth, not the amount.

Ever wonder why it takes great directors like Christopher Nolan ("The Dark Knight") at least two years to make a film? One of the reasons is because he takes his time crafting and polishing a masterpiece. Clearly, Perry did not take heed to such strategy for his latest film, "Temptation: Confessions of a Marriage Counselor."

Like most of Perry's films, "Temptation: Confessions of a Marriage Counselor" has an important message in the plot that eventually gives a serious moral at the end of the story.

An ambitious married woman's temptation by a handsome billionaire leads to betrayal and, ultimately, havoc in her life. The film is based on his play of the same name.

The irony of the synopsis, which I found very interesting, is that this married woman, Judith (Jurnee Smollett-Bell, "The Defenders" TV series) is a therapist working at a matchmaking agency owned by Janice (Vanessa Williams, "666 Park Avenue" TV series) and strives to become a marriage counselor herself.

The film starts off in present time with Judith – now a marriage counselor – counseling a young couple. The husband doesn't understand what he is doing wrong, and the wife seems to get annoyed by everything he does. The husband leaves after a little argument, and the wife stays and shares to Judith that he deserves a better wife. Judith comes to the conclusion that the wife has found someone else who fills her voids. Judith tells her a story about how her sister (really her) fell into the same trap. The film then transitions to a huge flashback of her life that goes on throughout the rest of the film.

We all know what the movie is about, but from the point where Judith and her secret lover, Harley (Robbie Jones, "Necessary Roughness" TV series), meet and going forward in the film, Perry makes everything so obvious and predictable for the audience. There was no, "Wow, I wonder how Harley is going to beguile her?" or "I wonder what kind of game he is going to spit to her to make her leave her husband?" Every question you had, if any, was answered within 15 minutes of the movie. I

think I would have felt more excitement and unexpectedness if I watched a mouse sniffing toward a trap full of cheese. There was nothing unforeseen about this film at all.

However, there is a surprise at the end of the film, but it was very predictable from the way she chose to live her life.

"That boy is going to hurt you something bad," said her God-fearing mother (Ella Joyce, "Belle's" TV series). In Perry's unique way of writing dialogue, now we know this movie will not have a happy ending.

Judith's mother added a lot of spiritual themes to the film, as most characters do in Perry's films, but the messages in this film seem more like a parody of Christian teachings.

Everything was horrible about the film. I didn't know whether I should laugh during a scene or take it seriously. Whether I laughed or not, the whole movie was a laughingstock, especially the acting. Why would Perry put Kim Kardashian ("Drop Dead Diva" TV series) in the film? Her role in the film was just to chastise Judith on how she dressed, and you heard every syllable when she spoke. "Oh.. my.. God.. jud.. ith.. that.. dress.. is.. so.. hor.. ri.. ble." Looks don't always do a film justice. She needs to stick with reality TV.

I'm just very disappointed in Perry and this film. I'm giving this movie one and a half banana rats - zombie banana rats, that is, the ones that scare the other banana rats into running onto the road so they could get hit by a Humvee and eaten by turkey vultures.

Spending a Day at the Bay...GTMO Style!



Event goers took time on Saturday to check out the items for sale at the craft tables that were set up for the Day at the Bay celebration.

Story and Photos by Spc. Jessica Randon

Fun under the sun was the motto for the third annual Day at the Bay festivities held on Saturday at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The event was held at the ferry landing area and began at 4 p.m. as food vendors, provided by different military commands and other GTMO organizations, fired up their grills and brought out their sweets to woo the crowd.



Coast Guard allows families to tour one of its many boats.

The different foods featured included funnel cakes, gourmet cupcakes, deep fried Oreos, cotton candy, as well as a variety of dinner plates.

"The thing I like most is the food, the funnel cakes and fried Oreos," said Tech Sgt. Elliot Session. Food wasn't the only thing this

fun-filled day had to offer.

There were many activities for everyone to enjoy and participate in. With everything from a cardboard regatta to a sand castle contest, no one was left out. Other activities included a surfboard decorating contest, kayaking, paddleboating, swimming, balloon bouncing, water sliding and tours offered on a fire truck, Coast Guard boat, as well as a Marine Humvee and that wasn't all there was to offer.

This celebration also brought out 25 craft tables, allowing people to showcase their creativity and spectators to purchase their artwork and enjoy themselves.

"This is our way of giving back for the month of the military child," said Tyronisha Milton, Child and Youth Programs Lead, explaining the focus of this year's celebration.

And with the celebration being in honor of military children, the High School dance team was able to come out and show off their skills on stage, showcasing two dance routines for event goers.

"You have everybody getting together and enjoying each other's company, and bring out the kids and just having a good time," said Army Pfc Gerald Austin.

Day at the Bay ran until 6 p.m. ensuring everyone had plenty of food and fun. Regardless if people went for the food, the activities or the crafts, there's no doubt that this Day at the Bay celebration was a hit here at GTMO this year. And with all the activities for kids to participate in, parents probably had no trouble getting everyone to bed. A day full of fun under the sun will surely send everyone in for a good night's rest.

Designed surfboards are lined for judging for the best decorated surfboard contest.





Navy Lt. William Butts, an Eastern Orthodox chaplain with Navy Recruit Training Command, leads the congregation in prayer during a holy unction service at the Naval Station Guantanamo Bay chapel annex Wednesday evening. Butts visited GTMO this week to help Orthodox followers here celebrate the Holy Week, which included a Palm Sunday service on Sunday and a Paschal service on Saturday.

Story and photo by Army Sgt. Jonathan Monfiletto

Followers of the Eastern Orthodox faith at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay celebrated the Orthodox Holy Week this week with the help of an Orthodox chaplain brought to the island just for the occasion.

Similar to the Christian Holy Week at the end of March, the Orthodox Holy Week began with a Palm Sunday service on Sunday morning and continues through Saturday night with a Paschal service. In between was a series of services to prepare followers for the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Navy Lt. William Butts, who normally serves as a basic training chaplain through Navy Recruit Training Command, came to GTMO this week to help Orthodox followers here celebrate the week.

While the Christian Holy Week already took place, Butts explained that the two faiths use different calendars, so the Orthodox Holy Week can sometimes fall at a different time than its Christian counterpart.

“For the Orthodox, the Holy Week is almost a Passion play in one sense,” he said.

Some parts of that play include the Palm Sunday service, which was followed by bridegroom matins that evening. That service focuses on the second coming of Jesus Christ, and bridegroom matins were hosted again on Tuesday.

Wednesday was the holy unction, in which Butts said people are anointed with holy oil for their physical and spiritual health. Thursday was the 12 Gospels service, which tells the story of Jesus Christ’s crucifixion and is similar to the Catholic Stations of the Cross.

Today, Butts, said followers will gather around Jesus Christ’s tomb, similar to Good Friday. They will take him off the cross, wrap him in a shroud, and bury him. On Saturday



Navy Lt. William Butts, an Eastern Orthodox chaplain, makes the sign of the cross during a holy unction service that was part of Orthodox Holy Week at the Naval Station Guantanamo Bay chapel annex Wednesday evening.

night, followers will celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ and enjoy a big feast afterward.

“We’ve been fasting for almost 40 days from meat and dairy,” he said. “We have a big supper, a holy supper, together, and we break the fast and eat meat and cheese and drink and do all the other things we haven’t been able to do all Lent.”

Just as the Catholic season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, Butts said the Orthodox Lent begins with Forgiveness Sunday in which followers ask each other for forgiveness and offer the kiss of peace to start Lent off right.

“Lent is basically a time where we focus more on prayer and going to church, so there’s a lot more church services in Lent,” Butts said. “It’s a time to increase our alms giving, our church attendance, our prayer life, to help us turn away from ourselves but to turn to Christ

Visiting chaplain celebrates Orthodox Holy Week with GTMO followers

and serving our fellow humans.”

Eastern Orthodoxy is notably very similar to Catholicism because the two faiths used to be one united religion under the Roman Empire up until the 11th century. Through different political and religious reasons, the church experienced a split, known as the Great Schism, and became the two churches that exist today.

“We’re the Eastern part of the Roman Empire,” Butts said of the Orthodox faith. He said churches of the faith are spread throughout Eastern Europe, Asia Minor, and even the Middle East. “A lot of [Eastern bloc] still remain to be Orthodox.”

Like Catholicism, Eastern Orthodoxy holds Jesus Christ as the foundation of its faith. The biggest difference today – and the main issue in the split – is that Eastern Orthodoxy has bishops who are all equal to each other, while Catholicism has the pope as the supreme leader.

Another big difference, Butts said, is that Eastern Orthodoxy focuses on liturgical readings, while Catholicism focuses more on monastic traditions. He also said Orthodox seminaries are more practically based, while Catholic seminaries tend to be more academic in nature.

“We’re a very worship-centered church,” he said. “Our theology is done in worship.”

Butts said Orthodoxy is the fourth-largest Christian denomination. He estimated there are between two and three million Orthodox followers in the United States and about 30 to 40 here at GTMO.

“It’s a great opportunity to come and provide services for people,” Butts said, adding this was his first trip to GTMO. “Some of them haven’t had services for five years. ... Some of them were in tears. It’s been that long since they’ve been in church, so it’s a great opportunity.”

“Behold, I will do a new thing. Now it will spring forth; will you not be aware of it? I will even make a roadway in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” – [Isaiah 43:18,19

ENCOUNTER

MAY 10
6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.
SNACKS FOLLOWING SERVICE

WOMEN'S

MAY 11
9 a.m. - Noon
BREAKFAST @ 9 A.M. IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

WORSHIP
FUN
FELLOWSHIP
FOOD
GIFTS
PRAYER

RETREAT

ENCOUNTER GOD IN DEEPER WAYS
WITH GUEST SPEAKER
JAMIE TANNER AS SHE
TEACHES ON BECOMING AN
UNCOMMON WOMAN OF GOD.

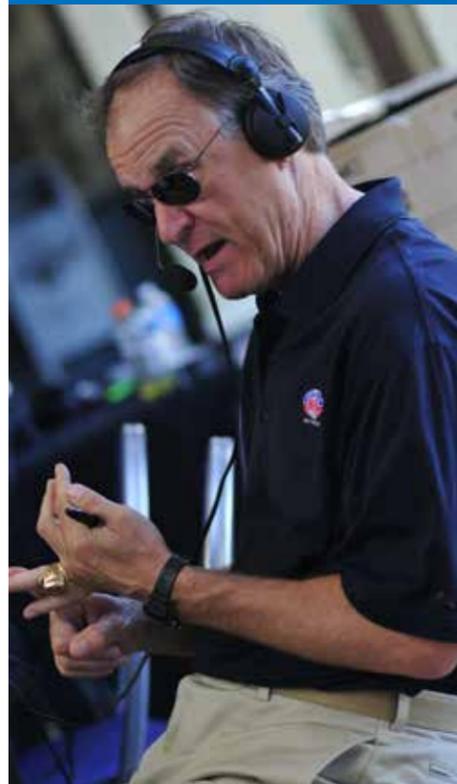
NAVAL STATION GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA
MAIN CHAPEL

2-Day Event

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT KELI CARAVEO 77178

LIVE ON THE AIR

With America's Sports Talk Network



Brian Billick discusses the Arizona Cardinals with a Trooper out of Mesa, Arizona.



Chairman and Host of Sports Byline USA, Ron Barr, enjoys discussing the NFL Draft with Billick.



Barr welcomes Sgt. 1st Class Jonathan Williams to speak over the air about his love of sports and to ask Dick Vitale a few questions during his phone call.

From NFL Network's *Total Access*, Brian Billick joins the Sports Byline USA crew for their first live broadcast from GTMO.

Story by Spc. Jessica Randon
Photos by Army Sgt. Ferdinand Thomas

Ra few of the teams mentioned on the Sports Byline USA radio show that broadcasted live from Naval Station Guantanamo Bay this week.

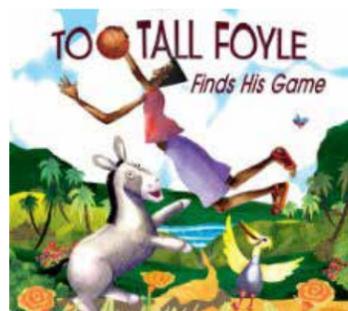
American Sports Byline is a sports radio broadcasting network that has been around for 25 years with Armed Forces Network actively participating with the Byline for 24 of those 25 years.

Sports Byline USA's chairman and host, Ron Barr, has dedicated more than 40 years of his career to radio broadcasting, traveling nationwide to many military bases, as well as overseas in both Afghanistan and Iraq. This was the first time Barr had the privilege of bringing the Byline here to GTMO, along with two of his closest friends.

Adonal Foyle was one of the co-hosts for the Byline USA GTMO premier. Being a retired NBA player, his expertise is one that is regularly welcome on this Byline program. Foyle spent 10 years playing for the Golden State Warriors followed by three years with

the Orlando Magic. Once he retired, he began helping the players by becoming the director of player development for the Magic.

Following his retirement, Foyle wanted to really focus on other things, such as publishing his first book, a children's book titled "Too Tall Foyle Finds His Game," which Foyle explained is about growing up and trying to figure out what is it that you want to do with your life. He is also working on his second book, this time for professional athletes who have never handled a lot of money and don't know exactly what to do with it once they finally get it. This book informs athletes and others who may need the same assistance with financial



FEATURE

responsibilities and growth.

"Right now, I'm doing it for fun. After having so many years of playing basketball, I wanted to have something where I can really hang out with some friends and do something for the troops. So, coming here and seeing how everyone is doing, taking the year off and just enjoying everything," Foyle said about why he decided to go on the road with Sports Byline USA. "I wanted to start writing and try some television and radio, and Ron has really been great letting me come in and get a feel for everything."

This was Foyle's first time overseas, as well as his first time performing for service members, and he took the time to share why he was so honored.

"I think there is no higher national emergency and no higher national issue than taking care of the people who protect our home every day," said Foyle.

Also showing his appreciation was the other Byline co-host, Brian Billick. Billick was first an assistant coach for the Minnesota Vikings back in 1992 and then became the head coach of the Baltimore Ravens in 1999. He was the first coach to take the Ravens to the Super Bowl and

FEATURE

led them to the victory in 2000. Not only does he have the NFL experience to be considered a subject matter expert on the topic, but Sports Byline USA isn't his first sports broadcast. He has also been on the NFL Network's *The Coaches Show*, as well as the NFL Network's signature show, *Total Access*.

"We're just taking the opportunity to come out and show our appreciation to the troops, and in my case, that's by talking about the NFL," Billick said when asked about broadcasting from GTMO.

During the shows here at GTMO, Barr, Foyle, and Billick weren't the only ones to speak on the air. There were multiple guests who called into the show, ranging from well known basketball broadcaster Dick Vitale to well known major league baseball manager Tony LaRussa. And that's not all.

Morale, Welfare and Recreation also allowed Troopers to come on the air and speak with each of the Byline co-hosts as well as ask questions to the individuals calling in.

"This experience was a first of its kind for me. I enjoyed it very much, being a huge fan of college basketball and Dick Vitale. I was honored to have the opportunity to speak with him

and be thanked for my service. I have my eyes set on new profession once I retire," Sgt. 1st Class Jonathan Williams said about how much he enjoyed his time on Sports Byline USA.

With 1,200 interviews in the Sports Byline library, which was recently licensed by the Library of Congress, Barr explains how each of the interviews came about.

"I have just so many friends that are players," Barr said. "I just ask them, and some of them, it works in their schedule, and some of them, they have to ask their wives, who reply with, 'Over my dead body.'"

Now, with the first live broadcasts from GTMO to add to the collection, Troopers have officially made broadcast history. Shout out to the guys for coming down and sharing their sports knowledge with everyone here at GTMO and on the airwaves, with a closing message from Barr.

"I love what I do, and I've been fortunate," he said. "I'm 68 years old, and I look forward to walking through the door every day at the studio. I always got somebody new, and there's always something new, like Jason Collins coming out, and that's what makes it interesting."



A Soldier with the 525th Military Police Battalion handcuffs a simulated detainee, while he is blinded by O.C. spray, at Camp Delta's Café Caribe April 24.



525th **non-lethal** weapons TRAINING

MP Battalion

Story and Photo by Spc. Cody Campana

The 525th Military Police Battalion conducted non-lethal self-defense training at Cooper Field and Camp Delta's Café Caribe April 24.

The training was a requirement for all Soldiers who permanently changed duty stations to Naval Station Guantanamo Bay in support of the Joint Detention Group mission.

The first part of the training began just as the Sun was rising, as usual for those in the Army, with an extensive unarmed self-defense class that would put each Soldier into the roles of detention officers as well as detainees.

"The first portion of training conducted today was to show the Soldiers how to properly defend themselves and their battle buddies while they work over the next year in a confinement facility," said Sgt. 1st Class Richard Delgado, 525th MP Battalion plans and operations non-commissioned officer and non-lethal self-defense training instructor. "The training teaches the Soldiers how, if needed, to create and maintain distance from an unruly subject in a hostile environment. This course either refreshes skills already learned at their last duty station or is a first-time instruction in unarmed self-defense."

A few hours later, the Soldiers were preparing for the second phase of the training, which includes one of the most dreaded training exercises in the entire Army, the Oleoresin Capsicum, or pepper spray, training. This training requires all of the participating Soldiers to get sprayed in the face with the O.C. spray and then make their way through different detention scenarios while suffering through blind anxiety.

"This course is designed for each Soldier to build confidence in their ability to work and perform their duties while under the stress of being exposed to O.C.," Delgado said. "The course begins with each Soldier being exposed to O.C., then they have to perform numerous unarmed self-defense techniques in order to move through the course. After each Soldier completes all assigned tasks, they are taken to a decontaminating station where with the help of a medic they begin the decontaminating process."

The second phase of the training is over much more quickly than the first, but it may be far more difficult than the first half of the training day.

"The most difficult part of the training would have to be the O.C. exposure. No matter how many times you receive this training in the past, O.C. will still challenge you both physically and mentally," Delgado said. "The physical part is performing the actions under the effects, and the mental part is convincing yourself that the pain is temporary and that you can do it."

Though the training only takes a single day to complete, the experience it provides Troopers can be the sole difference between a detention officer's mission success and failure.

"This type of training is paramount in our line of work. Being correction/detention specialists for the United States Army, we have the potential to be exposed to O.C. at any time when we enter a facility," Delgado said. "It's important that each Soldier fully understands the effects of O.C. and that they know they can continue to soldier on and accomplish the mission after being exposed to it. This type of training allows the Soldiers to properly defend themselves and their [coworkers]. After the nine-hour training day, the Soldiers walk off with the knowledge and confidence to perform duties as correction/detention specialists."

The benefits of the training are not only for the Soldiers but for all detention operations. Through the first hand experience of the non-lethal self-defense in the role of the detainee, along with the direct use of pepper spray on each Trooper, the participants become more knowledgeable about the escalation of force in a detention environment.

"The most beneficial [part of the training] is actually doing the hands-on [portion]. You feel it and you're definitely not going to use it on someone unless you absolutely have to, because it's not fun," said Spc. Logan Miller, legal specialist with the 525th Headquarters and Headquarters Company. "They sprayed me [with the O.C.] and it didn't hurt for about the first three seconds, then as soon as [the feeling] hit me, my eyes slammed shut and I wasn't moving after that. It's a good learning experience. You get to know what it feels like so you don't use it on anyone unless you have to."

Marine Staff Sgt. Alfredo Hernandez

Senior Trooper of the Quarter



“I knew I had the right mindset and the right motivation to come here and work hard.”

Trooper Focus



Story by Army Sgt. Jonathan Monfiletto
Photos by Army Staff Sgt. Michael Davis Jr.

It's all about doing something different and standing out.

That's what led Marine Staff Sgt. Alfredo Hernandez to join the Marine Corps – his brother joined the Army, and Hernandez wanted to try to outdo him.

That's what led Hernandez to volunteer for the mission at Joint Task Force Guantanamo, where he works for J2 and is in charge of a staff of civilian linguists.

And now that's what led Hernandez – one of only a handful of Marines at JTF GTMO – to be recognized as the Senior Trooper of the Quarter.

“I'm glad I'm able to make a difference,” Hernandez said, noting that he feels some extra pressure being one of the few JTF Marines. “I've got a lot of eyes looking upon me, so I've got to make sure I'm a good representation. I'm very, very glad to be able to make a difference in the intel field over here.”

To be selected as the Senior Trooper of the Quarter, Hernandez had to top his fellow nominees in a board made up of the JTF chain of command. Before that, he had to be nominated by one of his superiors and deemed worthy enough to compete for the honor.

Hernandez said he feels he was nominated because he has shown a positive attitude through volunteering for the mission and carrying out his job to the best of his ability.

“I knew that I had the right mindset and the right motivation to come here and work hard,” he said. “To be quite honest, I just did my job, day in, day out.”

That job includes overseeing a staff of linguists who work inside the camps and around JTF doing translations. Prior to coming here, Hernandez was stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point in Havelock, N.C., where he worked in a role similar to his role here except that he was working more with his fellow Marines.

“I'm used to managing people,” he said. “It's a different way of managing people here. ... I'm glad to be able to learn from experience of doing something else different.”

After he volunteered for the mission at GTMO, though, he had to earn his place here through a selection board similar to the one he used to earn Senior Trooper of the Quarter recognition.



“I was able to win a mini board to come over to GTMO and get this deployment, so I knew that I came over here with the mindset of, ‘I'm going to make a positive difference and work real hard,’” Hernandez said.

Throughout his first six and a half months at GTMO, Hernandez has stood out for having that mindset and for being one of the few JTF Marines. He said that fact keeps him motivated to do his job to the best of his ability.

“I know there are a lot of eyes upon me,” Hernandez said. “My brother's in the Army, and it's always a challenge between him and me. ... It's just a constant competition between me and my brother, so I think that keeps me pretty motivated to do well.”

That constant competition is a big factor in what led Hernandez to enlist in the Marine Corps in the first place.

He and his brother were born and raised in California near Naval Base San Diego, so Hernandez said he saw Sailors frequently during visits to the base and that influence made him want to join the military someday.

“I grew up seeing a bunch of Navy personnel, and that was the first exposure I had to the military,” he said. “Seeing the Navy ships and whatnot, that was pretty amazing.”

But, he wanted to do something different and knew he wasn't meant to be in the Navy. Then, his brother, who is 10 years older, enlisted in the Army, and Hernandez knew he couldn't go that route either.

He started going to college, but then he decided to join the military so he would have money to finish his degree. Joining the Marines, it turns out, was part of that

competition.

“My brother's always challenging me,” he said. “I have to try to outdo him, one way or another, it doesn't matter. ... I've got to be different from him, and it's been great. I love my brother to death. He keeps me motivated. I

want to keep pushing myself and live up to his standards.”

After a 10-year career in the Marines that includes previous deployments mostly around Asia – places like Thailand, the Philippines and Okinawa – and as he prepares for a promotion next year, Hernandez said he has enjoyed his time in GTMO and appreciates getting the chance to come here.

“I just love this place,” Hernandez said. “I love my job here. I love the people that I work with. It's a great experience. I like GTMO.”

As Hernandez was doing this interview, he was also getting ready to do something different again – leave the island on his four-day pass and return home to see his family. That family, which includes sons who are 5 and 1, keeps him motivated and focused on his mission here.

“It's only a 96 [hour leave], but any break you can get to visit your family counts,” Hernandez said. “I would take two hours if that's all I was allowed to do, but I'll take any days. I'm really excited.”

As much as he loves his job in GTMO, though, he loves his family more. He said he looked forward to seeing them and wishes they could be with him.

“If I could bring my family here, I would extend,” Hernandez said. “I already know my job here. My command seems to like me. The only thing that would keep me from extending is just not having my family here. ... I need them as much as I'm pretty sure they need me. I love my job. I love what I'm doing here. This is great. The place is nice. It's just that one important fact missing.”



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Congress reinstates tuition assistance for troops

Story from armytimes.com

Congress has voted to restore the military's tuition assistance program but has left the Coast Guard behind.

The 2013 government funding bill passed Thursday by the House and now on its way to the White House ordered the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps to keep paying tuition assistance through the end of the fiscal year on Sept. 30.

The Army, Air Force and Marine Corps had all announced that they suspended their programs in a move that would save between \$250 million and \$300 million this year. The Navy had not suspended its program.

Congress does not give the services extra money to pay for benefits, requiring them to restart their programs by making other cuts.

"What this does is reverse the decision from the Department of Defense that took away some of the abilities of our troops, when they are brought into the service, have in terms of subsidizing their tuition," said Sen. James Inhofe, R-Okla., who led the charge to save the program

after receiving thousands of complaints. "This would return it to the way it was before."

The amendment orders the services to carry out tuition assistance programs for the remainder of fiscal 2013, spending the amount allocated in the budget for the program minus the 9.4 percent cut required under sequestration. It is worded as an order, giving the services no flexibility.

Story from military.com

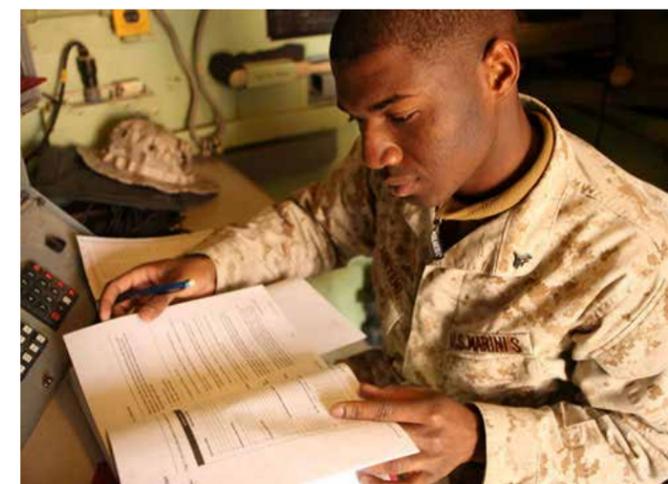


program is enough to sustain it to the end of the fiscal year.

The new requirements for eligibility include the member must be on active duty at the rank of petty officer 1st class or below and pursuing undergraduate courses, only. Reservist members on extended active duty also qualify. For eligible members, benefits are restored to pre-suspension levels of \$250 per individual credit hour and an annual cap of \$4500.

The U.S. Coast Guard has averaged nearly 10,000 enrollees a year for the last three years and expected around the same number this year. 7,000 members had participated this year prior to suspension.

The Coast Guard joins the other military services in reinstating tuition assistance after an amendment to the Appropriations Bill directed all military services to do so. The initial decision to suspend tuition assistance was a result of the service's attempt to meet the provisions of the Budget Control Act.



The U.S. Coast Guard announced that tuition assistance is reinstated for the remainder of fiscal 2013 but with revised eligibility requirements.

The Coast Guard revised eligibility requirements for members seeking assistance in order to ensure the \$4.6 million set aside for the

GTMO Says...

Who made out best in the NFL draft and why?

PROS

VS.

JOES



Coach Brian Billick-

"It's really hard to tell until you get four or five years down the line, but I think the Vikings did an excellent job with using their three picks to address their needs."



Spc. Alban Bonilla-

"The Ravens. They lost a lot of defense and replenished with newer talent. Their coach, John Harbaugh is a great teacher and they have a lot of young great potential especially with a wide range of veterans."



Ron Barr-

"The San Francisco 49ers did because they had 13 choices, five in the first three rounds."



Sgt. Alvin Allen-

"The Jets. They got a fresh quarterback and got rid of Tebow."

Whit's BBQ Pit

As told by Spc. Phil Whitaker
Photo by Spc. Chalon Hutson
Killer Bacon Cheddar Dogs courtesy of www.allrecipes.com

Hello, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome back to Phil's Grill and another edition of Whit's BBQ Pit! I have to admit that grilling season is my favorite part of the year and one of my favorite things to do on the island. GTMO provides great weather, great people, and many great locations to barbecue! This week at Whit's BBQ Pit, we will be making Killer Bacon Cheddar Dogs. From experience, these hot dogs are amazing! The Killer Bacon Cheddar Dogs are very simple to make and total time from prep to chow is only 30 minutes.

BBQ Tip of the Week: Grilling and smoking require some clear thinking, especially when it's time to pull it all together. Please keep a clear head and save that adult beverage for after the fire is out and someone else is dealing with the dishes.

Submit your recipes & photos to
phillip.r.whitaker@jftgmo.southcom.mil



RECIPE

KILLER BACON CHEDDAR DOGS SERVES 8

CHEF: Phil Whitaker

RESTAURANT: Phil's Grill

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

EASY MODERATE ADVANCED

INGREDIENTS

- 8 bacon slices
- 8 hot dogs
- 8 buns
- 8 slices of cheese (your choice)
- 1/2 cup of BBQ sauce (varies according to taste)
- 1 small red onion (diced)

METHOD

1. **Preheat an outdoor grill** for medium-high heat. Lightly oil grate, and set four inches from the heat (charcoal grill).
2. **Place the bacon** in a large, deep skillet. Cook over medium-high heat until evenly brown. Drain paper towels.
3. **Place hot dogs** on grill; cook until browned, five to eight minutes, turning once, or until done to suit your taste. Lightly grill hot dog buns.
4. **To assemble hot dogs**, place a slice of cheese and bacon on each roll. Add a hot dog, top each with one tablespoon barbeque sauce, or desired amount, and red onion.

"Grilling this up is a walk on the beach, but the flavor is over the top good! Try it with brats as well! Be looking for Whit's BBQ Pit in *The Wire* for new grilling and cooking tricks, tips and recipes! Until next time, **GO, FIGHT, WIN!**"



Trooper to Trooper

What have you chosen lately?

SENIOR CHIEF PETTY OFFICER
ARTURO QUINTINITA
JOINT MEDICAL GROUP

I was in a military off-site meeting with my former officer in charge when the speaker asked me if I chose my OIC. Then, he asked my OIC if he chose me to be his senior enlisted leader. Of course, neither of us chose the other.

Barry Schwartz quoted in his 2004 book *The Paradox of Choice*, "Autonomy and Freedom of choice are critical to our well being, and choice is critical to freedom and autonomy. Nonetheless, though modern Americans have more choice than any other group of people ever has before, and thus, presumably, more freedom and autonomy, we don't seem to be benefiting from it psychologically."

For us in uniform, the choice is simple enough. We chose to continue in the active component or chose to mobilize in the reserve component. Otherwise, we can retire when eligible, decide not to reenlist after an obligation or simply stay in our civilian jobs and not volunteer to mobilize and deploy.

It's been more than three months since we at Joint Medical Group (JMG) came together to form the core of the JMG Romeo Wave. Each of us came from different hospitals and platforms, not knowing each other, expected to provide that safe, humane, legal and transparent healthcare to the detainees and to the members of Joint Task Force.

But, as professional health care providers, it didn't take us long to figure out that we need to work together as a team in order to make it



We are all surrounded with many choices, day in and day out, from the moment we hit the alarm clock in the morning to the time we secure our office at the end of the day.

work. So, we set aside whatever differences we had and chose to be one unified team ready to execute our operational mission and accomplish our organizational goals.

So, how do we know that we are making the right choices - that the choice we are about to make will provide the best result? We go back to the basics of knowing what is at hand, whether a standard operating procedure (SOP) or a technical manual. We have to read it, understand it and then implement it. To a tee! A wise master chief once told me to "know the rules in order to win the game."

What we do here is not a game, but in order to succeed in our business, we have

to learn those SOPs and apply them consistently, without deviation, to make certain that we achieve the expected result. And if it so happens that something different comes out, we can be certain that we have followed those procedures as they were intended to be.

We are all surrounded with many choices, day in and day out, from the moment we hit the alarm clock in the morning to the time we secure our office at the end of the day. In fact, our choice can even go back to how we prepared ourselves the night before in order to be ready the following morning.

Do you choose to eat that breakfast that provides you fuel for the first half of the day? Do you take some time to listen to your shipmate, battle buddy, or Trooper - to get to know them and perhaps learn a thing or two in order to understand them? Haven't we all been told to know our people - to lead and better serve them? What about that unspoken signal that they have communicated? Did you recognize that? Did you take time? Did you make time? Did you choose to always excel in what you do, knowing that it impacts your whole organization? Or did you ignore and simply didn't care?

Even though we did not choose the personnel we work with, we have so many choices while in the confines of this small island of GTMO. But, if you live up to your core values like Honor, Courage, Commitment, Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Service, Integrity, Personal Courage, Excellence, and Devotion to Duty, such choices will always steer you to your true north and always propel you on the right course.

So I ask - What have you chosen lately?

	3 FRI	4 SAT	5 SUN	6 MON	7 TUE	8 WED	9 THU
Downtown Lyceum	Iron Man 3 (NEW) (PG-13) 8 p.m. Temptation (PG-13) 10:30 p.m.	Oblivion (PG-13) 8 p.m. Olympus Has Fallen (R) 10 p.m.	Admission (PG-13) 8 p.m.	G.I. Joe: Retaliation (PG-13) 8 p.m.	The Call (Last showing) (R) 8p.m.	The Incredible Burt Wonderstone (Last showing) (PG-13) 8 p.m.	The Host (PG-13) 8 p.m.
Camp Bulkeley	Temptation (PG-13) 8 p.m. Admission (PG-13) 10 p.m.	Iron Man 3 (NEW) (PG-13) 8 p.m. G.I. Joe: Retaliation (PG-13) 10:30 p.m.	Oblivion (PG-13) 8 p.m.	CLOSED Note: Concessions at Camp Bulkeley are also closed every night until further noticed.	CLOSED Note: Concessions at Camp Bulkeley are also closed every night until further noticed.	CLOSED Note: Concessions at Camp Bulkeley are also closed every night until further noticed.	Jurassic Park (PG-13) 8 p.m.

Call the movie hotline at 4880 or visit the MWR Facebook page for more information.

GTMO RELIGIOUS SERVICES

For more information, contact the NAVSTA Chaplain's Office at 2323 or the JTF Chaplain's Office at 2309

NAVSTA MAIN CHAPEL

Daily Catholic Mass

Tues.-Fri. 5:30 p.m.

Vigil Mass

Saturday 5 p.m.

Mass

Sunday 9 a.m.

Spanish-language Mass

Sunday 4:35 p.m.

General Protestant

Sunday 11 a.m.

Gospel Service

Sunday 1 p.m.

Christian Fellowship

Sunday 6 p.m.

CHAPEL ANNEXES

Pentecostal Gospel

Sunday 8 a.m. & 5 p.m. Room D

LDS Service

Sunday 10 a.m. Room A

Islamic Service

Friday 1 p.m. Room 2

JTF TROOPER CHAPEL

Protestant Worship

Sunday 9 a.m.

Bible Study

Wednesday 6 p.m.

GTMO BUS SCHEDULE

All buses run on the hour,
7 days/week, from 5 a.m. to 1 a.m.

Bus	#1	#2	#3		#1	#2	#3	#4
96 Man Camp	:31	:51	:11					
NEX	:33	:53	:13					
Gold Hill Galley	:37	:57	:17					
Windjammer/Gym	:36	:56	:16					
West Iguana	:39	:59	:19					
TK 1	:40	:00	:20					
TK 2	:43	:03	:23					
TK 3	:45	:05	:25					
TK 4	:47	:07	:27					
KB 373	:50	:10	:30					
Camp Delta 1	:52	:12	:32					
IOF	:54	:14	:34					
NEX Trailer	:57	:17	:37					
Gazebo	:58	:18	:38					
Camp America	:00	:20	:40					

GTMO Beach Bus Schedule

Saturdays and Sundays only

Location	Run #1	Run #2	Run #3	Run #4
Windward Loop/ East Caravella	0900	1200	1500	1800
SBOQ/Marina	0905	1205	1505	1805
NEX	0908	1208	1508	1808
Phillips Park	0914	1214	1514	1814
Cable Beach	0917	1217	1517	1817
NEX	0925	1225	1525	1825
Windward Loop/ East Caravella	0930	1230	1530	1830
SBOQ/Marina	0935	1235	1535	1835
Return to Office	0940	1240	1540	1840

PROTECT YOUR INFO!

ALERT Are your Facebook friends really your friends?

Do you have more than a hundred friends on Facebook? More than 200? How about more than 500? It might seem unusual to some of us, but there are people with over 1,000 "friends" on social networking sites. Now, think about what information you give to these friends - your address, phone number, birthday, names of family members and other friends. This may seem harmless on the surface, but to someone whom you met once and then became "friends" with, they might have other uses for your information. Crimes could be committed using your information. Your house could be robbed, your identity could be stolen or credit could be obtained in your name. You need to protect yourself and your information. Next time you're online, take a good hard look at your "friends" list and ask yourself if you would really trust all the people on that list with your information. Think before you post. Use OPSEC!



SAFE RIDE - 84781

SATURDAY

MAY 18TH

TWO THOUSAND THIRTEEN

SPOKEN WORD POETRY NIGHT

COME OUT AND ENJOY A NIGHT OF UPLIFTING AND INSPIRATIONAL POETRY SPONSORED BY THE 1300 GOSPEL SERVICE. LOOKING FOR PARTICIPANTS SUCH AS DANCERS, SINGERS, POETS, ACTORS, ARTISTS AND "VOLUNTEER" TO HELP PUT ON A SPECTACULAR NIGHT!

TIME: 1800

COMMUNITY CENTER

NAVAL STATION GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA

FOR MORE INFO:

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EXT --- 75767