

THE WIRE

The Official Publication of Joint Task Force Guantanamo

Getting to know the "senior" chief

Mahaffey celebrates his 60th birthday

Calling home gets a little easier

Phone bank opens at Camp America

New PSU arrives in style



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Cover photo by Sgt. David Bolton

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BAY WIRE REPORT

Get your click on

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Begins Thursday, August 1

Submit photos to the MWR Liberty Facebook page from August 1-31.

Scenes, people, subjects, wildlife are all accepted. The most likes by Sept. 10 wins!



SATURDAY, AUGUST 17

Feel the excitement of fast-paced, small-team soccer. Be sure to register for the tournament by Aug. 14.

Coaches required to attend the coaches meeting at Denich Gym Aug. 15, 6:50 p.m.

For more information, please contact Denich Gym, ext. 77262.

Tube the Bay

The Liberty Program will sponsor an evening of Tubing Tuesday, Aug. 13, at 5:30 p.m., at the Marina. Call ext. 2010 for more information or to sign up.

Get thrifty with it

Don't forget, Treasures and Trivia Thrift Store has new hours: Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The shop is closed on Tuesday, Thursdays and Sundays.

Volunteers and donations are always welcomed.

CORRECTIONS Please report all corrections to thewire@jftgmo.southcom.mil. The following information was printed incorrectly in the Aug. 2, print issue of The Wire:

Page 15: Chief Petty Officer Bobby Cast's rank was incorrectly listed in the Tierra Kay story



THE WIRE

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Religious Services

NAVSTA Chapel

Catholic Mass
Tues.-Fri. 5:30 p.m.
Saturday 5 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m.

Spanish-language Mass
Sunday 4:35 p.m.

General Protestant

Sunday 11 a.m.
Gospel Service
Sunday 1 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 1:15 p.m., Room 2

Seventh Day Adventist
Friday 7 p.m., Room 1
Sabbath School-
Saturday 9:30 a.m., Room 1
Sabbath Service-
Saturday 11:00 a.m., Room 1

JTF Trooper Chapel

Catholic Mass
Sunday 7:30 a.m.

Protestant Worship
Sunday 9 a.m.
Sunday 7 p.m.

Transportation Schedules

Bus #1, 2, 3:

Camp America - :00, :20, :40

Gazebo - :02, :22, :42

NEX trailer - :03, :23, :43

Camp Delta - :02; :06; :26, :46

KB 373 - :10, :30, :50

TK 4 - :12, :32, :52

JAS - :13, :33, :53

TK 3 - :14, :34, :54

TK 2 - :15, :35, :55

TK 1 - :16, :36, :56

West Iguana - :18, :38, :58

Windjammer/Gym - :21, :41, :01

Gold Hill Galley - :24, :44, :04

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

Beach Bus

Sat. and Sun. only - Location #1-4
Winward Loop - 0900, 1200, 1500, 1800

East Caravella

SBOQ/Marina 0905, 1205, 1505

NEX

0908, 1208, 1508, 1808

Phillips Park

0914, 1214, 1514

Cable Beach

0917, 1217, 1517

Winward Loop

0930, 1230, 1530

NEX

0925, 1225, 1525, 1825

SBOQ/MARINA

0935, 1235, 1535

Return to Office

0940, 1240, 1540

JOINT TASK FORCE GUANTANAMO



SAFE



HUMANE



LEGAL



TRANSPARENT



By Capt. John Schommer

JTF-GTMO, Chief of Staff

“The day Soldiers stop bringing you their problems is the day you have stopped leading them. They have either lost confidence that you can help them or concluded that you do not care. Either case is a failure of leadership.” – General Colin Powell.

For the past nine months that I have served as the Chief of Staff of JTF-GTMO, there has been a non-stop stream of emails and phone calls detailing “problems.”

I put the word problems in quotations because I think a better description would be challenges.

GTMO is a unique place due to,



Capt. John Schommer

among other things, our mission, high visibility, geographical location and continuous turnover of Troopers from all services.

Some of the challenges we face are new, some are reoccurring and some seem new but have in fact occurred time and again over the last 11 years.

The one constant is the level of professionalism executed by our JTF-GTMO team

when dealing with the challenges every day.

At every level of the command, our Troopers (military and civilian), care about doing what is right and want to do a good job.

Our challenge as leaders is providing

those who we have the honor to lead with the tools to find a solution and the flexibility to find a different way of doing things.

One of the strengths of the U.S. Military is the responsibility we give our NCOs. Good leaders delegate to the lowest level possible and hold those accountable. I have seen it every day here at GTMO and am amazed by the quality of our personnel across all the services.

My goal is always to leave a job at least a small degree better than when I was given it. If I have accomplished that goal it is because of the teamwork of all of JTF-GTMO. It has been my privilege to have served with all of you. I am a better person and leader because of it.

I will sign off with two Navy phrases: Fair Winds and Following Seas. BZ!

By Master Sgt. James J. Lamberson

TFP, Camp Operations NCOIC

As Troopers we all have the responsibility to adhere to standards and discipline and it does not just apply during duty hours. As leaders we must ensure that our Troopers understand that standards and discipline is a 24 hour 365 day responsibility. Our Troopers too often lose sight of that fact and then make bad choices and decisions. Let’s take a look at how ADRP 6-22 defines Standards and Discipline:

STANDARDS- formal, detailed instructions—describable, measurable, and achievable. They provide a mark for performance to assess execution of a task.

Leaders, in order for us to use standards effectively, we must be able to recognize the detailed standards in our regulatory and procedural guidance, and

then effectively communicate them to our subordinates. The challenge is to enforce them to the highest, but realistic level.

An effective leader will explain the standards to subordinates, then empower them to enforce the standards on their own. While standards typically represent the minimum level for satisfactory performance, Troopers should strive to exceed these standards in every facet of their career – from physical training to continued education.

DISCIPLINE- Military discipline is founded upon self-

discipline, respect for properly constituted authority, and the embracing of the professional.

Discipline is the accepted practice of our military profession in the conduct of duty, effectively and ethically performed to standards.

Often, members of our profession associate discipline only with regulations and the consequences for errors in judgment. However, it is important to understand that our professional discipline is fundamentally about “why and how” we practice our profession – not just about punishment for wrong-doing.

Leaders should teach and inspire an understanding of and appreciation for both the meaning and importance of standards and discipline in practicing our profession. Discipline and adherence to standards are hallmarks of military professionals.

We as leaders must consistently uphold standards and motivate Troopers to make ‘on the spot’ corrections, refuse to tolerate bad performance, and drive home to the Troopers not only achieve the standard but to maintain and don’t be afraid to exceed. We all need to lead by example and correct those who do not.

Senior Leaders need to take an active role in mentoring our junior leadership on how to develop discipline and uphold the standards. We must hold Troopers accountable and teach them how to improve.

Don’t tolerate unprofessional conduct and don’t tolerate substandard performance. When we do, not only do we fail the Trooper, we fail our military as a whole.



Master Sgt. James J. Lamberson

Socially acceptable

What to do, what not to do when surfing through cyber space

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Gina Vaile-Nelson

Editor, thewire@jftgmo.southcom.mil

If you don't have a Facebook, Twitter or LinkedIn account – you should probably receive an award for holding out and fighting against the social current that has redeveloped today's society. Congratulations for being one of those Troopers who doesn't have to worry about inadvertently divulging too much information about the Joint Task Force Guantanamo mission.

But if you are that social butterfly who needs to stay connected back home and feels the need to share your experiences in Cuba with the world; just remember that with a little common sense, you can complete your mission and still maintain your popularity all in the same breath.

"You've got to be smart about using social media," said OPSEC G, JTF's operations security program manager. "With today's environment, you have to use common sense."

So what exactly does that mean when you're logging in and blasting out that 140-character Tweet or reaching for as many thumbs-up as possible?

"Just don't friend everybody," said G. "If you have 500 friends, you're hooked into just about 1 million people. Potentially

you've just told 1 million people where you are or what you are doing."

G suggests keeping your online friend bank about the same as your live social network – as in if you don't know the person directly, don't friend them.

"It's dangerous for Department of Defense personnel," he said, adding that scammers, foreigners and possible terrorists use social media outlets to befriend Service members and obtain information about U.S. military activities.

"Robin Sage is a fake Facebook account," G said. "She is actually Thomas Ryan, and she is not a cyber threat analyst, but 'she' has over 2,000 friends from nearly every government organization we have."

And because our government is so vast and large, G said it is easy for DoD personnel to friend people who claim to be on the same team.

"Don't friend someone unless you know them," he said. "Do your research."

Because GTMO conjures up a lot of feelings for the general public, G said, being associated as a Trooper here could bring up some unintended consequences for Troopers who do not have good

privacy settings in place while they surf the Internet.

If you put too much information out there, you give identity thieves more ammunition to become you. For instance, with address and phone numbers on Facebook, combined with a picture that is not private, someone could ultimately make a fake identification card with your

likeness. If you're tagged as living at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, right now, but your spouse is at home, G said you've welcomed others into knowledge they shouldn't have if you're truly trying to stay "under the radar."

"In today's environment, there is an easy avenue of approach to get your private identifiable information," G said. "You must be software savvy and monitor the risks versus the catastrophes."

His tips for Troopers are simple:

Go to your settings in your external e-mail and social media accounts and make sure your information is only visible to friends. Monitor and maintain your privacy settings often.

Remember to leave work at work. Unless you are 100 percent certain of the classification of the information you are about to release, don't put any work-related information on social media sites, including blogs.

Don't tarnish your reputation or your mission with statements made out of haste or anger.

"When you throw mud on the organization, you're not just affecting you. You're throwing mud on Rear Admiral (Richard) Butler, all the way to General (John) Kelly," he said. "But we are better than that."

G understands that in today's society, social media is a way of life and something that Troopers can and do use to stay in touch with friends and family. But, he said, as long as Troopers conduct their business safely and in accordance with OPSEC both on a personal level and at operationally.

"The bottom line with social media is a lot of the issues are self-inflicted wound activity," he said, meaning that often times, identities are stolen or information misused because of a Trooper's inability to maintain OPSEC at all times."

"Maintain your privacy settings, don't post things you shouldn't and report scams or violations through your leadership," he said. 🌟



Graphic by Staff Sgt. Aaron Hiller/The Wire



THE SMURFS™ 2

A rather “un-Smurfy” sequel

Review by Staff Sgt. Aaron Hiler

Graphics Editor, thewire@jftgmo.southcom.mil

When you ask your colleagues, “who wants to review “The Smurfs 2” for next week’s Wire,” and you get a collective groan, it’s not a good sign.

To be fair, a movie like “Smurfs” is not a Trooper movie. Without even seeing a film trailer you can tell this movie was produced for the 10-and-under crowd.

Not having a 10-year-old nearby, I turned to a movie reviewer’s best friend – the Internet. In an attempt to give a fairly accurate handle on this film, I browsed a wide variety of movie review sites – IMDB.com, Common Sense Media, Rotten Tomatoes and Fandango.com.

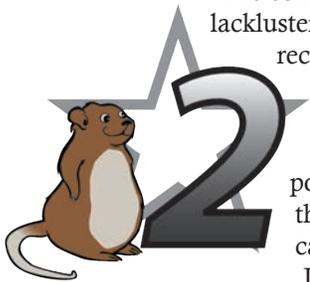
The consensus seems to be that “The Smurfs 2” is a lackluster film at best. This second Smurfventure received a rating of 70% from Variety.com, the entertainment industry website. Rotten

Tomatoes, notorious for its tough stance on most films, gave the film a 12 percent positive rating – a green, splattered tomato in their rating scale. But the worst rating of all came from the San Francisco Chronicle – 0!

It all boils down to the fact that this film

is designed to give young children 1 hour and 44 minutes of slapstick humor and shenanigans while their parents catch up on a nap, an e-mail or their social circles at the Downtown Lyceum.

Because this film falls so far outside the realm of Trooper fare, I have to give this film a rating of two banana rats out of five. 🍌



Courtesy Sony Pictures

Now Showing!

at the Downtown and Camp Bulkeley Lyceums

Call the Movie Hotline at 4880 or visit the MWR Facebook page for more information

	09 FRIDAY	10 SATURDAY	11 SUNDAY	12 MONDAY	13 TUESDAY	14 WEDNESDAY	15 THURSDAY
DOWNTOWN	Grown Ups 2 (New) PG13, 8 p.m. Elysium (New) R, 10 p.m.	Planes (New) PG, 8 p.m. The Wolverine PG13, 10 p.m.	The Heat R, 8 p.m.	Despicable Me 2 PG13, 8 p.m.	Monsters University (LS) G, 8 p.m.	The Smurfs 2* PG, 8 p.m. *Family Night	White House Down (LS) PG13, 8 p.m.
CAMP BULKELEY	The Heat R, 8 p.m. Pacific Rim PG13, 10:15 p.m.	Grown Ups 2 (New) PG13, 8 p.m. Elysium (New) R, 10 p.m.	The Wolverine PG13, 8 p.m.	CLOSED Note: Concessions at Camp Bulkeley are also closed every night until further notice.	CLOSED Note: Concessions at Camp Bulkeley are also closed every night until further notice.	CLOSED Note: Concessions at Camp Bulkeley are also closed every night until further notice.	Planes (New) PG, 8 p.m.

Stay classy, GTMO! No ALCOHOL or TOBACCO at the Lyceums!

(LS) = Last Showing

DRIVE & DETERMINATION

central to your physical fitness

By Master Sgt. Gregg L. Ramsdell

Contributing writer, thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil

In the military, fitness is a mandatory activity. It's important for our daily lives; decreasing stress levels and overall health.

We have been involved with the same old routine; pushups, sit-ups and individual or unit runs. How boring. We focus on strengthening our core, improving our cardiovascular system etc., but it can become mundane, boring or just not worth the effort.

The key behind good fitness is your routine planning, goal setting and consistency. We don't need to be locked in a gym for hours to achieve a high level of fitness. Being able to diversify exercise makes it enjoyable and worthwhile. Below are the seven steps to workout success.

No Excuses

The most important part of getting fit is stop making excuses. All of our time is used with other things; we may be sore for some reason or another or just wanting to hang out in our Cuzcos. Get out and hike, bike, swim, etc.

Be Flexible

You don't have to use one time slot for

all your fitness needs. Break it up into two different sessions if possible. You will have plenty of time for the rest of your responsibilities.

Do Something

If you are like most people you don't have a full hour to devote to your health. Why not? When the duty day is complete, and you have eaten dinner, what else do you have? Sit in front of a TV or a computer? Take a walk up JPJ hill, interval train on the track, run one lap, walk one lap etc. Even if you can't fit in 60

minutes, try 20 minutes.

Make it a Habit

Fitness isn't a luxury per say. It is necessary. Devise a plan and a goal. Your fitness will become as necessary as brushing your teeth.

Developing your Goal

When devising a routine or even maintaining a workout, motivation is the key. Make notes in a notebook on what your goal is. Put it on the mirror. Don't weigh in everyday, keep that for the end of your program.

No Gear Needed

You don't need a gym membership to establish fitness goals. No need for special equipment. Here at Gitmo we have 42 square miles to exercise in. Be versatile.

Start Slowly

Rome wasn't built in a day, nor will your body. It is easy to get discouraged if you don't see quick results. Start off slowly, gradually add difficulty to your workouts, and you will feel challenged, not defeated. You will also become very motivated. Your body will thank you

for it! 🏠

Graphic by Staff Sgt. Aaron Hiller/The Wire





Guided Bike Tour

Meet at the Marina. Rent a bike or bring your own. Sign up by Aug. 16. For more info, contact ext. 2010 or liberty@gtmo-mwr.org

Saturday, Aug. 17, 8 a.m.

Kayak to the Caves

Leaves from the Ferry Landing. Must rent a kayak and have experience. Sign up by Aug. 21. For more info, contact ext. 2010 or liberty@gtmo-mwr.org



Saturday, Aug. 25, 8 a.m.

MAIL CALL

Postal Operations team keeps morale moving with letters and packages

Story and photos by Spc. Lerone Simmons

Staff Writer, thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil

In June alone, more than 22,000 pounds of mail shuffled through the Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay U.S. Postal Office – the hub that keeps Troopers assigned to JTF-GTMO connected with the outside world.

Whether it's a care package, a bill, a letter from home or an Amazon purchase that took a little while to get here, the USPS and the Troopers assigned to it know that deployed Service members rely on mail as a huge morale boost when overseas.

"Mail orderlies are our first line of defense when it comes to dealing with Troopers finding out about mail," said Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Ras Lowe, postal clerk.

"We can assist with finding mail and ensuring packages are sent to the right places," he said.

First Class mail (13 ounces or less), and priority mail usually take seven to 14 days to get from mainland to Guantanamo. Parcel post, limited to no more than 70 pounds, can take upwards of five weeks. Because the mail here is received via flights to the island, it comes in only on Tuesdays, Saturdays and every other Thursday. FedEx and UPS are not offered at GTMO.

"To avoid delay in delivery, have your mail addressed correctly," said Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Brenda Ponce, noncommissioned officer in charge, JTF-GTMO Post Office.

"Street names or Cuzco room numbers are not necessary, your unit name tells

us where it goes," she said.

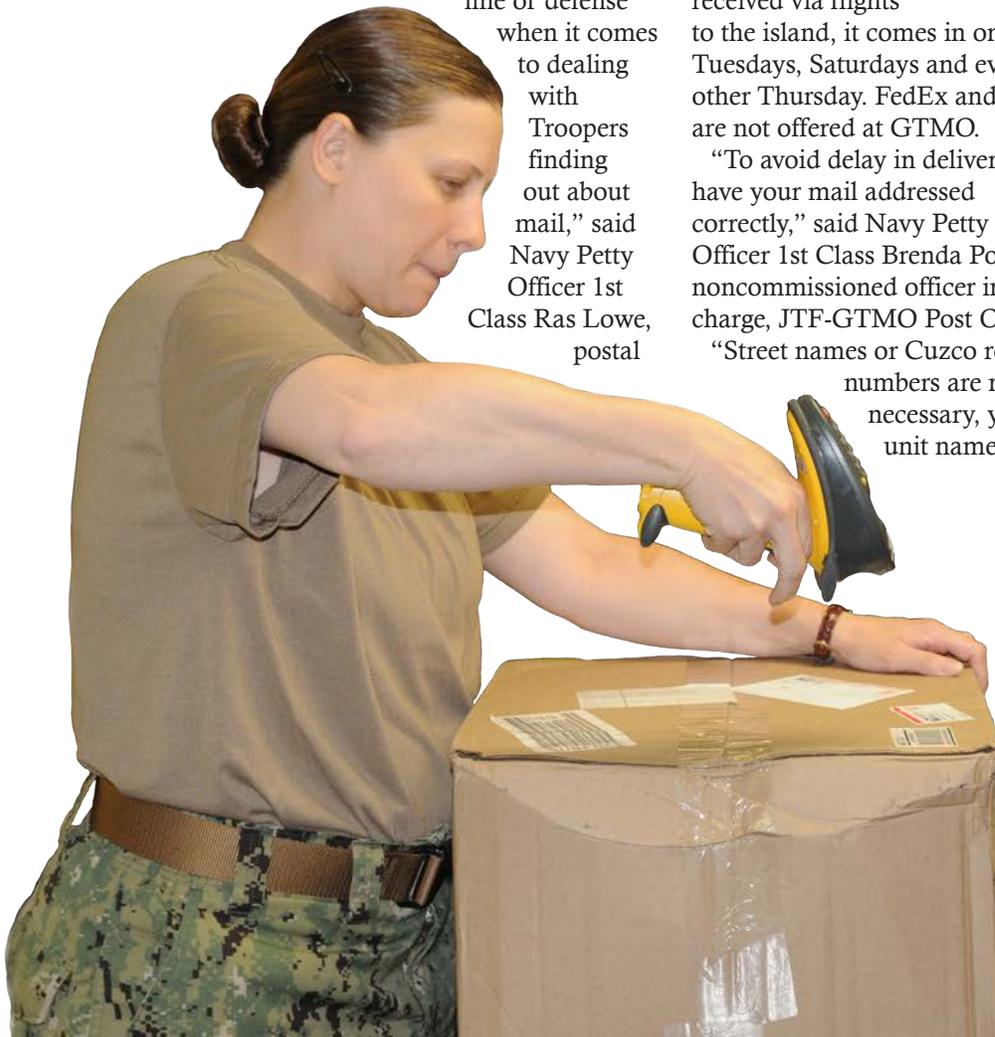
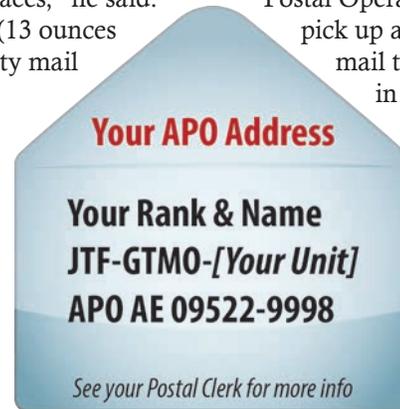
Each unit or office should have a mail orderly, trained by the Postal Operations team to pick up and distribute mail to Troopers in the section.

All insured, certified or registered mail can only be handled by a mail orderly when a DS Form 3849 is given in its

place for the owner to pick up.

"We understand that the mail room is going to be scrutinized, but following proper protocol by checking with mail orderlies is the best course of action," Lowe said.

The JTF-GTMO Postal Operations Team reminds Troopers that the office will be closed Aug. 12-16 for system upgrades. Mail orderlies can still conduct mail runs during this time. 🍷





Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Ras Lowe, postal clerk, Joint Task Force Guantanamo Post Office, gives Navy Cmdr. Terry W. Eddinger, JTF-GTMO command chaplain, a package July 12, at the JTF-GTMO Post Office.

You've
Got

APO Mail Guidelines & Restrictions

In addition to the military's guidelines, each country has its own customs regulations regarding incoming mail. So, before you send a letter or package to one of our troops overseas, make sure you're aware of the restrictions.

Although there are specific restrictions for each 5-digit Military Post Office™ ZIP Code™ (APO/FPO/DPO), generally, the following are prohibited in certain areas of operation:

- Obscene articles (prints, paintings, cards, films, videotapes, etc)
- Any matter depicting nude or seminude persons, pornographic or sexual items, or non-authorized political materials
- Bulk quantities of religious materials contrary to the Islamic faith. Items for the personal use of the addressee are permissible
- Pork or pork by-products

Information from U.S. Postal Service website – USPS.com



Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Brenda Ponce, Postal Operations noncommissioned officer for Joint Task Force Guantanamo's Post Office, unloads a mail truck with Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Ras Lowe, postal clerk, July 12. The two Sailors keep the JTF-GTMO Trooper's mail flowing.



New PSU arrives in style

C-5 Galaxy brings Coast Guardsmen & equipment for JTF-GTMO rotation

Story and photos by Sgt. David Bolton

Copy Editor, thewire@jftgmo.southcom.mil

A C-5 aircraft carrying roughly 60 New England Coast Guardsmen from Port Security Unit 301 landed in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba August 1. The Cape Cod, Mass.-based unit flew in directly from Cape Cod and will be tasked for the next nine months as part of the Maritime Security Detachment. They will be relieving PSU 311 with the mission of providing port security for defense forces.

“They are tasked with protecting the port during operations of Joint Task Force,” said Coast Guard Lt. Commander Mark A. Stuart, operations officer with Port Security Unit 301 and executive officer with MARSECDET while at GTMO. “They provide water-borne security and bay defense to ensure a safe environment is maintained.”

To assist in this maritime mission, PSU 301 brought some new hardware and communications equipment to ensure they have the most capable and state-of-the-art gear. In the belly of the C-5 were three, 32-foot transportable port security boats. From these platforms sea power can be projected through crew-serve weapons including two M240B and a .50 caliber machine gun.

Two of these boats have been introduced in theater by PSU 311 and are to be institutionalized here in conjunction with the JTF mission.

Previously, the Coast Guard had been using a 25-foot version of the craft but decided that a new frame was needed in which to operate thus, the 32-foot TPSB came into being.

“This Platform is much better and stable in a sea state where we can operate off-shore better,” said Stuart. “What you’re seeing is the next generation of state-of-the-art platforms for projecting a port security mission.”

According to Stuart, the boats reduce fatigue to crewmembers operating in rigorous sea environments by absorbing more shock and allowing them to stay on station for longer periods of time.

PSU 301 members said they feel good about this mission because they are exercising their capabilities in a joint environment. Prior to their deployment, PSU 301 trained with Army and Marine units to prepare for their work here at GTMO.

“We’re always looking for joint opportunities,” said Stuart. “When we come down here and work in a joint environment, that’s where we belong, that’s our home.” 🇺🇸



Roughly 60 New England Coast Guardsmen from Port Security Unit 301, disembark a C-5 Galaxy after landing at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Aug. 1. PSU 301 will support the Joint Task Force Guantanamo's Maritime Security Detachment mission, providing port security for defense forces for the next nine months, after it relieved the 311 PSU.

A 32-foot transportable port security boat is unloaded from the belly of a C-5 Galaxy Aug. 1, at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. From this platform, sea power can be projected through crew-served weapons and is meant to be institutionalized in conjunction with the Joint Task Force Guantanamo mission.



A diamond in the rough

GTMO's most "senior" chief spreads message of love with birthday wish

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Gina Vaile-Nelson

Editor, thewire@jftgtmo.southcom.mil

One day in August 1953, Curtis Mahaffey made the Houston Chronical in Houston, Texas. He was only a few days old – he only entered the world Aug. 1.

His mother's claim to fame: using the dial phone to contact his dad, a sailor with the U.S. Merchant Marines, via Ship to Shore radio.

In 1969, he followed in his father and grandfather's footsteps and went to work as a sailor with the USMM, a fleet of ships that provides both military and commercial transport during war and peace time. At 16-years-old, he'd already been working around Deer Park, Texas with odd jobs at restaurants and around the neighborhood.

Love, he said, is his passion. It's the driving force that brought him to where he is today – and the force that keeps him going.

"We have a love of family, our fellow man, country, and God" he said of the Mahaffey lineage – a long line of military history dating back to the Civil War.

That lineage and love of his country is what ultimately drove him to enlist in 1988. He joined the Navy Reserves as a quartermaster. Now, after a 25-year career, the Commissions and Liaisons Office supporting noncommissioned officer in charge recently celebrated his 60th birthday at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, among fellow Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers who are nearly half his age – or some even younger than that.

"Being able to see and serve with Sailors of today," he said, "they come from all walks of life and can be most any age.

"They are caring, obedient, gentle and loving individuals.

None are perfect, but they are

doing the best that they can do," he said. "It does not take long for you to see the same faces repeatedly while you are stationed here."



Photo by Spc. Leron Simmons/The Wire

Navy Chief Petty Officer Curtis Mahaffey, noncommissioned officer in charge of the Commissions and Liaisons Office, Joint Task Force Guantanamo, prepares to cut his 60th birthday cake during his birthday celebration Aug. 1, at the Seaside Galley. Mahaffey has served in the Navy Reserves for 25 years and said he enjoys working with people from all walks of life.

As a chief petty officer, Mahaffey is a leader and a mentor who has a love for his extended family here at JTF-GTMO.

“We work like a family at our office – we have to, due to the nature of our duties. Remember that for every day you serve here, another gets to spend a day at their home. This is our gift of love to each other,” he said.

His gift of love is something he’s proud of. In 1978, he married his sweetheart Sandra Jean Weber. She grew up down the street, and Mahaffey said it’s always been love. After 35 years, three daughters and one grandson later, Mahaffey said it’s hard being away from his family, but he knows that it’s hard for most Reservists.

“My reserve and regular job involves always having a bag backed and ready to go at the ring of the phone,” he said. “that’s happened many times and the family is used to it.”

With a 25-year career in the military, and a 31-year career with the Federal Aviation Administration on the civilian side, Mahaffey knows how to balance work, life and love.

Here at GTMO, he’s still able to shower Sandra with love and affection even though they are hundreds of miles away.

“We still write letters the old fashioned way,” he said. “Just like my grandfather did in the trenches serving in the U.S. Army in World War II.”

He’s a regular at the Morale Welfare and Recreation Arts & Crafts Center and Woodshop on base, where he makes Sandra presents and sends them home. You’ll often see him sitting outside his Cuzcos talking on the phone with her, or his daughters to see how their day was and to remind them he misses them.

“I have a stable home, my family is already molded,” he said. “Older guys like me understand how important it is to begin a family.”

He hopes to help other Troopers realize they can do it too.

“I remind you to be good to each other and to be ready to do whatever is good,” he said. “You have a great life ahead of you, stay the course, the benefits are great.” 🍷



Photo by Spc. Lerone Simmons/The Wire

Navy Chief Petty Officer Curtis Mahaffey, noncommissioned officer in charge of the Commissions and Liaisons Office, Joint Task Force Guantanamo, sands the edge of a piece of wood at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation’s Woodshop Aug. 4. Mahaffey often makes things at the shop to pass time and meet people.



Photo by Spc. Lerone Simmons/The Wire

Navy Chief Petty Officer Curtis Mahaffey, noncommissioned officer in charge of the Commissions and Liaisons Office, Joint Task Force Guantanamo, poses with some of his creations at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation’s Arts and Crafts Center Aug. 4. He makes items to send back to his wife, Sandra, in Texas.



Phoning Home

DSN phone bank links Troopers to States

Story by Sgt. David Bolton

Copy Editor, thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil

The Camp America Morale Call Center opened Monday, with 10 new DSN lines available for Troopers to keep in touch with family and friends while assigned to the Joint Task Force Guantanamo.

Located across from Seaside Galley at the Camp America Liberty Center, and sponsored by the Morale, Welfare and Recreation office and the J6, the phone bank will allow Troopers to use a DSN line rather than spending money on expensive calling cards. The call center is available to Troopers 24 hours a day, according to Master Sgt. Rey Rodriguez, plans and resources noncommissioned officer in charge and J6 senior enlisted leader.

“We are providing this for them so they can have the opportunity to call home with the morale calls,” he said.

Rodriguez said call times will be limited to 20 minutes, and Troopers must find a DSN number close to the area code they want to call.

“We really need the support of our Troopers on this by taking care of the equipment and upholding the time constraints that we are putting out there.

“Even though I know we would like to give more time, you can

at least make phone calls every day,” he said.

Troopers will be required to show photo ID during their morale call, which will be held at

the front desk of the call center until the morale call is completed and the Trooper clears the sign-in desk.

Instructions for how to use the DSN lines will be posted at each phone station to help Service members make the connection easier. MWR Liberty Center Director Katie Prestesater said that they want to ensure the phone calls can be more private without others overhearing conversations or seeing video.

“We are looking to install cubicles for patrons so they can make phone calls,” she said. “It sucks to call somebody you love and have to do that ‘I love you voice’. We want Troopers to have the opportunity to have conversations without someone overhearing it.”

An MWR assistant will be responsible for running and operating the phone bank; monitoring call times, and ensuring that proper use of the phones is maintained. With more than 1,000 active duty military on the JTF-GTMO side, and only 10 phones, it will be important to try to arrange a time to call where there will not be long lines. Mid-morning,

lunch and afternoon are good times to try, according to Prestesater.

“Our job is to make sure that Troopers are taken care of,”

said Prestesater.

The J6 is in the process of setting up DSN phone lines at the Tierra Kay housing complex TK 58. 🏠



Our job is to make sure that Troopers are taken care of.

— Katie Prestesater
MWR Liberty Center Director



Setting up the Surge

Camp America housing prepares for MP influx

By Staff Sgt. Lorne Neff
Staff Writer, thewire@jftgmo.southcom.mil



Photo by Staff Sgt. Lorne Neff/The Wire

The arrival of new MP's has Camp America bulging at the seams, and Joint Task Force Guantanamo's housing team has worked overtime to get the newly erected tent city at Camp America ready for the Soldiers of Louisiana National Guard's 2228th Military Police Company.

"The tents are meant for transient housing, but we are full up, so these are permanent right now," said Sgt. Lindsay Hruska, the Camp America commandant. "But we are working on more hardened buildings for the Soldiers to live in."

JTF-GTMO's housing, logistics and Base Engineer Emergency Force worked feverishly to get the housing ready for the new Troopers.

"People will be living there for 3 months and then will be rotated to one of the new housing areas," said Chief Petty Officer Bobby Cast, JTF-GTMO facilities manager. "We expect them to move in September/October time frame, so they will be there for a while."

The BEEF moved tents from Camp Justice and then worked to connect electricity and air conditioning to the eight person shelters.

Meanwhile, the JTF worked to get the rooms ready with wall lockers, beds and mattresses.

The biggest challenges are there is only one laundry (on Camp America) right

now and we are in surge capacity," said Cast. "Getting things to the Island is one of the most challenging parts, but we are doing everything we can. Not having the resources is very challenging, but we go out and talk to the soldiers and address their needs as best we can.

According to Hruska, supply has ordered new housing tents and even a laundry supply tent but they have not arrived. The laundry facility did recently receive new equipment.

"We put in 16 in one iteration and 10 in another for 26 new stackable washers and dryers," said Hruska. "We had a lot that were broke or flooded so they need to be replaced."

"It was a headache because 90 percent of the time the washers and dryers were broken," said Spc. Robert Harpin, a military policeman with the 602nd Military Police Company. "A lot of them wouldn't finish the wash cycle or finish drying the clothes.

According to Harpin, trying to do a load of laundry on a work night was terrible because Soldiers would end up staying up an hour or two later trying to finish their laundry.

"The old washers were deteriorating; they looked old and were damaged, said Jose Espinoza, 591st MP Company.

"These new ones are very nice."

"The biggest positive change has been

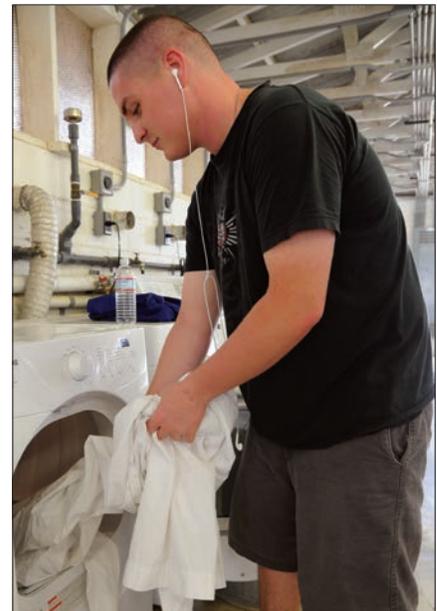


Photo by Sgt. David Bolton/The Wire

Spc. Robert Harpin, a military police officer with the 602nd Military Police Company based in Bossier City, La., spends his time off doing laundry in the Camp America laundry facility at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba Aug. 6.

adding the washers and dryers to the laundry area," said Harpin.

"It's not the ideal living situation, but my staff knows the concerns of the troopers and we take them to heart," said Cast. "And we ask that you bring them (problems) to us. Things could be better but they could be worse. Patience with my staff is appreciated, it's just me and two junior enlisted for 2100 bed spaces, but we work as fast and hard as we can." 🌟

Sushi Night!

Say *Sayonara!* to the galley and venture out to the Bayview Club to whet your appetite for authentic Japanese sushi on

Friday, August 16, 6 p.m.

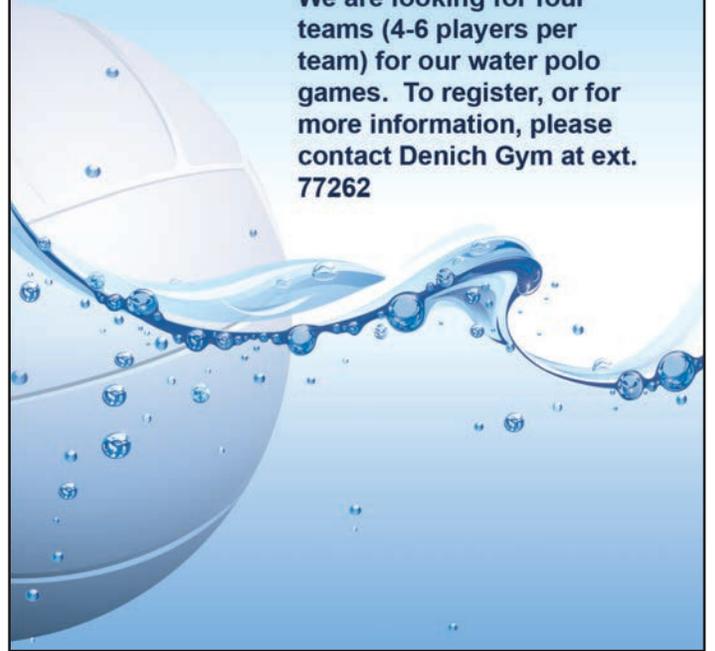
Bayview Club
ext. 75604



Adult Water Polo

Saturday, August 17

We are looking for four teams (4-6 players per team) for our water polo games. To register, or for more information, please contact Denich Gym at ext. 77262



The Wire

OPSEC CORNER

New to JTF-GTMO?

Welcome to Cuba: the sun, the sand and the OPSEC.

There are a few things you must know to have a successful tour of duty here. First, we take OPSEC very seriously. That means you must be careful with the information you are exposed to while working here.

You should be careful of what information you share online and make sure you don't post anything official, classified or sensitive. And remember to not post too much about yourself being gone or your family.

Don't photograph places that say "NO PHOTOGRAPHY" and stay clear of restricted areas.

Remember you are in a foreign country - stay alert, stay safe and always use OPSEC!

Coming up at the

Fleet & Family Support Center

Call ext. 4141

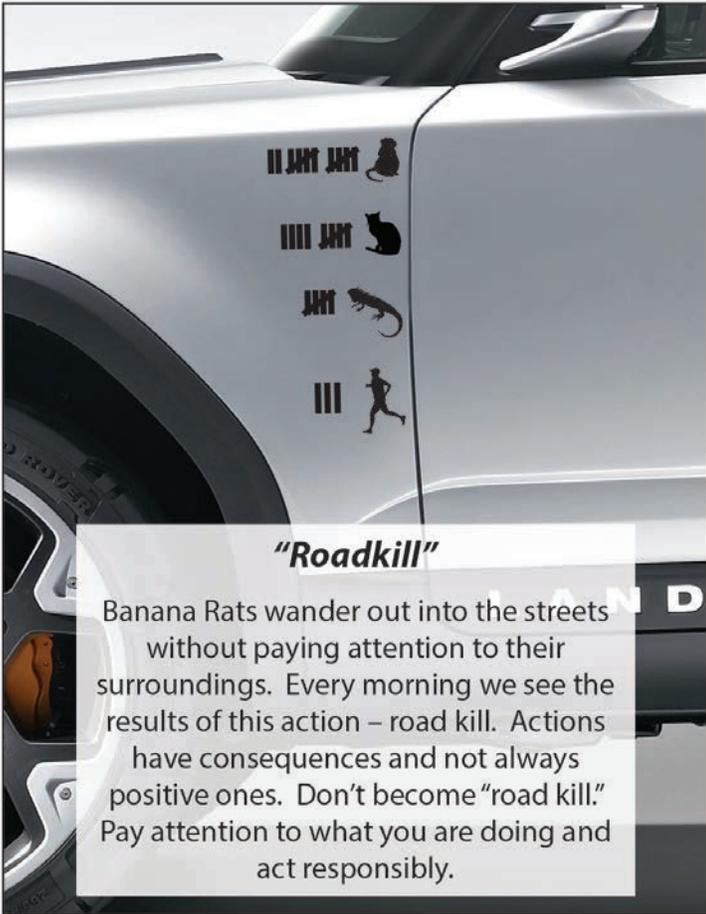
Navigating Federal Employment
Wednesday Aug. 14, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

New to GTMO orientation
Thursday Aug. 15, 8:15-11:15 a.m.

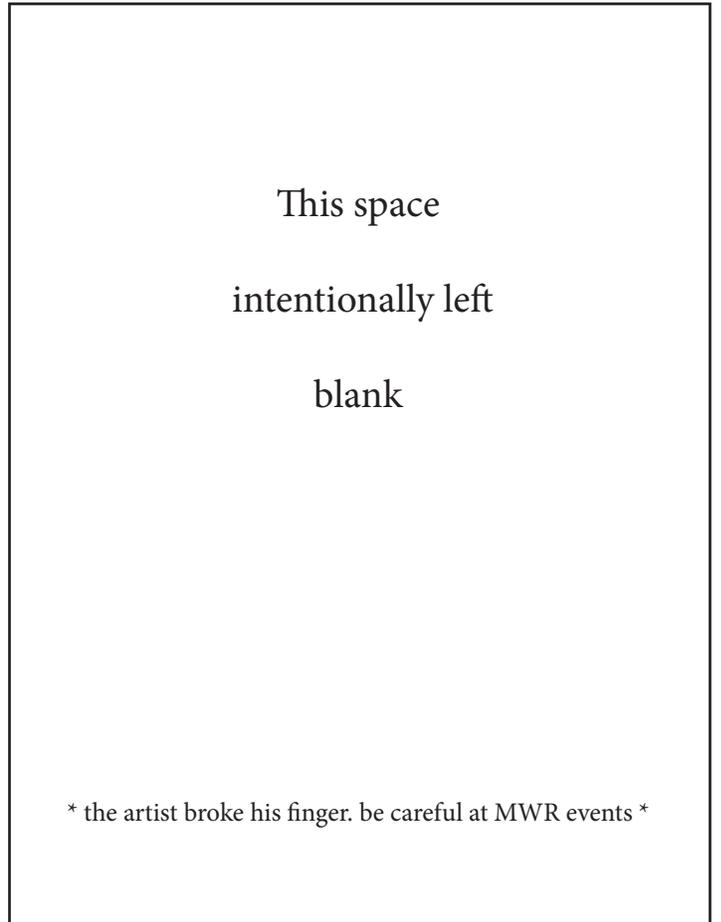
Financial Friday series
Friday Aug. 16, 10:30-11:30 a.m.



by Sgt. Darron Salzer



Graphic by Staff Sgt. Aaron Hiler/The Wire



GTMO JOE by Spc. David Marquis



A sprint through GTMO



Troopers pushed to the limits in triathlon

Story and photos by **Spc. Lerone Simmons**
Staff Writer, thewire@jftgtmo.southcom.mil

U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay's Morale, Welfare and Recreation office hosted more than 26 base and Joint Task Force Guantanamo participants in the Sprint Triathlon Aug. 3.

Participants weathered Guantanamo Bay for a 500 yard swim, an 11 mile bike ride and a 5 km run.

"This day is the party," said Dennis Anthony, MWR fitness coordinator. "Today we celebrate all the hard work and dedication put in by everyone competing in this triathlon."

MWR hosts events like these with the intention of sparking public interest and participation, and encouraging good health practices.

"Our goal is to put something together to bring people out," he said. "If you want to get fit; sign up, train, then come out and celebrate your hard work with us by doing a triathlon."

Coordinating the triathlon is no easy job and would not be possible on race day without volunteers, Anthony said.

Volunteers play a big part in ensuring that everything runs smoothly; from providing competitors with water, setting up the course, safety, directing traffic, timers and encouragement.

For Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Matthew Gillen, noncommissioned officer in charge of the International Committee of the Red Cross, volunteering for competitions gives him something to do in his spare time, while being a part of the festivities.

"I volunteered at the Olympic Triathlon several weeks ago and decided to come back and help again because it allows me to support my friends while occupying my time," he said

"Besides, it's very important that we all support activities like these because they highlight fitness around GTMO."

Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Tyler Kuhn, a machinery technician and tactical crewmen, assigned to JTF-GTMO, medaled as the first individual male with a time of 1:06:07.

Navy Lt. j.g. Jacqueline Gemme, a nurse assigned to the Joint Medical Group, finished in first place for the individual women with a time of 1:18:45.

This was Kuhn's second straight triathlon win. He was champion of the MWR Olympic Triathlon in June. Gemme finished third in that race.

Another MWR Olympic triathlon is scheduled for October. 🏆

Triathlon Winners



Individual Male Competition:

1st Place: Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Tyler C. Kuhn (1:06:07)
2nd Place: Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class Tyler Sojka (1:07:54)
3rd Place: Navy Lt. Cdr. George Massucco (1:10:34)

Individual Female Competition:

1st Place: Navy Lt. j.g. Jacqueline Gemme (1:18:45)
2nd Place: Army Maj. Erin Driver (1:22:08)
3rd Place: Navy Lt. Cdr. Anja Dabelic (1:27:00)

Team Competition:

Co-Ed Team: Army Staff Sgt. Casey Gore, Elena Granina, Richard Berry (1:08:35)
Female Team: Navy Lt. Cdr. Janice White, Navy Lt. Jenny Frasco, Sandra Wilson (1:31:08)
Male Team: Coast Guard Petty Officer 1st Class Richard Dodge, Petty Officer 2nd Class Matthew Howard, Petty Officer 1st Class Carlos Riley (1:01:59)



Individual winners from first to third place take a winning photo after the awards ceremony for the Morale, Welfare and Recreation office's Guantanamo Sprint Triathlon at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Aug. 3. More than 20 people took part in the Sprint Triathlon.

Meals with MONROE

Often times, I find myself trying to figure out a good appetizer or snacking dish whenever I go to unit get-togethers. I came across this recipe from

www.natashaskitchen.com,

and loved the way it turned out.

In this dish, I didn't add a lot of jalepeno peppers, simply because I personally don't eat spicy food (although I wish I could!) but for the heat-lovers out there, feel free to kick it up a notch by adding more peppers. Overall, this is a dish I would be bring to any party, or just to keep for myself for those nights in.

In a medium pot over medium heat, melt together eight ounces of **cream cheese**, 16 ounces of **sour cream**, one stick of **butter** and one and a half to two cups of **shredded parmesan cheese**, stirring frequently until melted and an even consistency. It should start to bubble.

Stir in coarsley chopped and drained **artichoke hearts** (I just bought a 14 ounce can from the Navy Exchange.) Add in some diced **jalepeno peppers** (I used fresh ones since the NEX didn't have canned ones at the time.)

Add in as many as you want, it's up to you how spicy you want to get.)

Next, add the **spinach** (a 10 ounce frozen bag works great; make sure



SPICY SPINACH-ARTICHOKE DIP

you thaw it out and squeeze out the excess water from the spinach leaves.)

Finally stir in 2-3 pressed **garlic cloves** (I actually used minced garlic from a jar.)

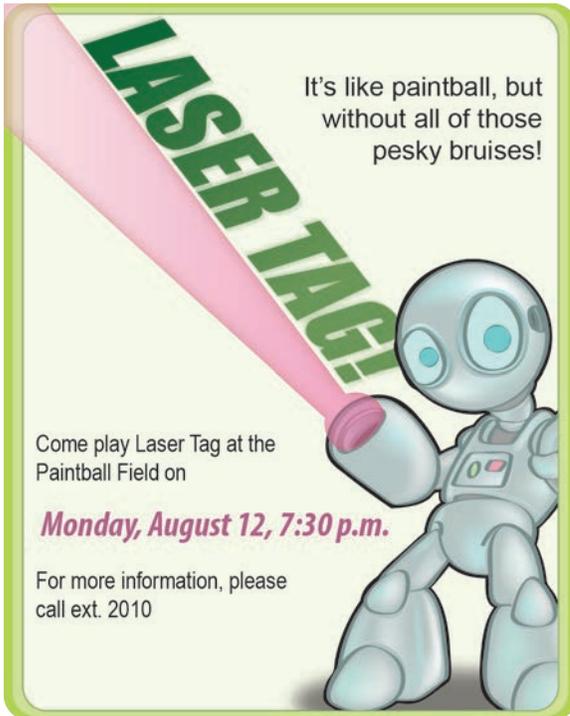
Serve with **tortilla chips** or **toasted baguettes**.

p.s.
(one last thing)

I want to hear from you! Did you try my recipe and loved it? Did you try my recipe and hated it? Well... that's too bad but email me anyways! If you have a recipe you'd like for me to try, **contact me!**
cassandra.l.monroe@jftgmo.southcom.mil



Looking for something to do this weekend or early next week? Check out these events brought to you by the Morale, Welfare and Recreation office:



LASER TAG

It's like paintball, but without all of those pesky bruises!

Come play Laser Tag at the Paintball Field on

Monday, August 12, 7:30 p.m.

For more information, please call ext. 2010

MARBLEHEAD LANES

Red Head Pin Bowling
On Thursday nights, roll a strike with a red head pin and get a free game.

Cosmic Bowling
Fridays & Saturdays, 9:00-11:30 pm
Take bowling to new heights with cosmic lights, a stellar sound system and videos by request on 4 big screens. Your cost is \$13, including shoes and 2 1/2 hours of bowling.

Marblehead Lanes
Mon-Fri: 5:30-11:00 pm
Sat: 1 pm to Midnight
Sun: 1-11 pm
ext 2118



LIBERTY
GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA

Monday, August 12	Laser Tag Paintball Field • 7:30 p.m. Call ext. 2010
Tuesday, August 13	Tubing Marina • 5:30 p.m. Call ext. 2010
Friday, August 16	Texas Hold 'Em Tierra Kay • 5:30 p.m. Call ext. 2010



PHOTO OF THE WEEK

A crab rests on top of a pencil cactus at the Windward Point Lighthouse. Photo by Spc. Raul Pacheco

Send your best photos to thewire@jftgmo.southcom.mil