

# THE WIRE

A JTF Journal



## GTMO brings the muscle

Bench press competition; worth its weight

## Pinpointing Justice

474<sup>th</sup> ECES updates base maps



# Positive attitude makes a difference

**Army 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt.  
Shellie Lewis**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs NCOIC

At some point in your military career, you have probably wondered how a particular job was important to the overall mission, or, thought of another Trooper's job as less important than your own.

Recently, I was placed in this situation when I transferred from a medical unit – deploying to Iraq – to a unit that truthfully, I didn't even know existed. I thought that there certainly can't be anything more important than performing my medical mission in a combat zone. After some thought, I realized that I was given a job to do and the military decided that this job would be different than any other job I have ever done.

Without a doubt, I am grateful for the chance to see the military's mission – and role in the war on terrorism – from a different perspective, and so far, it has been an eye-opening experience. It has afforded me the opportunity to step outside my comfort zone, embrace new responsibilities and see more objectively how others' missions are important to obtaining the overall goal. It is impossible for one person to accomplish everything; yet everything must be done. This is the proof that every Trooper makes a difference to the accomplishment of the mission.

The tasks that we are given may not be of our choosing, but it is important that we do them well. We are assigned duties because our leadership holds confidence that each of us will succeed.

Every link in a chain must be strong in order for it to function properly – this theory also applies to our military. As leaders, we must always encourage our Troopers to view their individual tasks on a broader scale to enable them to visualize the overall goal. We need to portray a positive attitude and demonstrate our own willingness to accept these challenges that may be outside our own comfort zone. Every mission or task we are given should be treated as an occasion to learn and grow.

As for me, I am honored to be part of Joint Task Force Public Affairs. The opportunity to further educate myself in a different job, with a completely different focus and in a joint military environment, is proving to be a great experience. I am fortunate to work with Troopers who enthusiastically share their knowledge and consider it a privilege to serve with each of you here at JTF Guantanamo. 🇺🇸



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### COVER:

**Smoke envelopes a guitarist from the band "Re Tread" during the 2009 Independence Day concert at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay.** – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class Richard M. Wolff



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



# Keeping Camp Justice on the map

**Air Force Master Sgt. Arl Pauley III (right) and Air Force Staff Sgt. Adam Hensley (left), both from the 474<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron, work together on the leeward side to gather coordinates using the GPS.** – JTF Guantanamo photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Brian Wright

## **Air Force Staff Sgt. Brian A. Wright**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Air Force Master Sgt. Arl Pauley III and Air Force Staff Sgt. Adam Hensley, engineering assistants with the 474<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron, successfully help sustain the Expeditionary Legal Center and Camp Justice by accurately updating base maps, creating an organized layout of tent city and all the assets belonging to the 474<sup>th</sup>.

To ensure proper placement of equipment they must use the Global Positioning System and coordinate with all ECES shop superintendents. They are essential in locating and plotting of underground electrical and utility lines within the boundaries of Camp Justice. This creates an updated, detailed map of Camp Justice to keep on file, helping future construction projects move along smoothly with the intention of preventing mission down time or accidental injury.

“The GPS is what makes our job so technical,” Pauley said. “It allows us to position any asset on Camp Justice to a specific point on a map.”

The GPS relays a signal directly to satellites orbiting the earth to obtain an accurate location and altitude, recording the coordinates within the data collector. The coordinates can then be uploaded to the computer, plotted onto the map and

printed out for use.

“The Global Positioning System performs real time kinematic surveying allowing [the Engineers] to pinpoint the exact location of earth’s surface in real time,” Hensley said.

The EAs also worked hand-in-hand supporting the Air National Guard units that deployed to Guantanamo Bay recently for their two-week annual training.

“We allowed [Air National Guard units] access to our facilities, technology and know-how,” Hensley said. “It’s nice to meet other EAs from across the nation.”

In between land surveying and creating organized layouts of Camp Justice, they are also tasked to help support other missions such as potential migrant operation efforts, providing suggestions for the contingency mission.

Both Pauley and Hensley perform similar tasks in their civilian careers in West Virginia.

“I’ve been an Engineer for a coal company for over 19 years and Hensley works as a hydraulics engineer for a large underground mining equipment company,” Pauley said.

Sgt. Hensley attributed their

success to the excellent preparations made by the previous ECES members and support from the current team.

“It’s what helps the EA shop run smoothly,” he said. ☆



**The EA team makes sure the GPS is operational before heading out to the leeward side.** – JTF Guantanamo photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Brian Wright

# NEGB: new enlisted leadership

**Army Sgt.  
Michael Baltz**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Command Master Chief Alfonso R. Rivera assumed responsibility as the senior enlisted advisor for the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion at Joint Task Force Guantanamo, June 26.

Rivera relieved Command Master Chief Edward Moreno after a turnover ceremony inside Camp Delta.

“We have a good command here,” Rivera said. “We have a lot of talent and every external report I have seen has been exceptional. The demeanor of the guards to the detainees is second to none.”

Rivera comes from Trident-class submarine USS Florida (SSGN 728), and volunteered for this assignment.

“I wanted to come here,” Rivera said. “I was able to attend a conference and decided I wanted this experience. This is a very high-profile place and it gets a lot of scrutiny.”

As a command master chief, Rivera’s routine duties have not changed much.

“My principle role is to advise commanders regarding our operations,” Rivera said. “Whatever I can do to make our Sailors’ quality of life better, I do it.”

His predecessor, Moreno, has already set the standard for NEGB at a high, proficient level and Rivera looks to enhance that further.

“The recipe for success is already here,” Rivera explained. “[Troopers here] conduct their jobs well. They do not deviate from [standard operating procedures].”

The NEGB provides the main guard force inside Joint Task Force Guantanamo’s detention facilities.

Moreno has provided Rivera with advice to help ensure his success.

“There are a lot of ‘what ifs,’” Moreno explained. “It is important to consider those and to be prepared for them.”

Moreno says his success here has been a team effort.

“I don’t have any personal success anymore,” Moreno said. “It is about team success and our greatest success as a team is for my



**Command Master Chief Alfonso R. Rivera is the incoming Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion senior enlisted advisor. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class Richard M. Wolff**

[non-commissioned officers] to become better sensors. This makes it easier to reach out to the [Troopers] asking what is going on. A legitimate focus to get the team involved is critical.

“On a personal note; this mission is so important and so serious,” Moreno continued. “We need to remind ourselves to stay in contact with our families. [Troopers] can create some bad communication habits here, so we need to stay connected to our families.”

Rivera believes that success will be determined by the levels of communication between the incoming and outgoing Troopers.

“[NEGB Troopers] come here for only six months, and we need to make sure we continue to operate at an efficient level,” Rivera said. “We need to do so until the last detainee leaves.” 🇺🇸



**Incoming Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion Command Master Chief Alfonso R. Rivera (left) shakes hands with outgoing Command Master Chief Edward Moreno after a turnover ceremony inside Camp Delta, June 26. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class Richard M. Wolff**



# MSST 91101 takes fire to the open seas

Members of the Coast Guard from the MSST Seattle shoot a .40-caliber machine gun during a moving live fire qualification on July 9. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Brian A. Wright

**Air Force Staff Sgt.  
Brian A. Wright**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Once a year, Coast Guard members from the Maritime Safety and Security Team 91101 Seattle are required to perform a live-fire weapons qualification while underway, to hone their skills and maintain unit readiness while supporting Joint Task Force Guantanamo and the anti-terrorism force protection mission.

Using a floating target outside the boundaries of Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, the Guardians recently performed machine gun force-of-fire qualification.

“It’s an annual requirement for the mission that we do,” said Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Joshua A. Mann, waterside chief for MSST Seattle. “It’s a really good exercise for communication between the machine gunner and the coxswain driving the boat.”

Each team member must perform a personal qualification prior to shooting from the boat – a task that is necessary to keep the Guardians proficient in their skills.

“We are doing our gunnery exercise so that we as operators are able to clear any malfunctions while we are out there on the water,” Mann said. “Then we are evaluated by the gunners mate when we go out and [complete] the gunnery exercise.”

Within the MSST there are two divisions: landside and waterside security. Both divisions need to be familiar with how the weapon works so they can proficiently troubleshoot the machine gun



Coast Guard Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Dana Schmitt, a member of the Maritime Safety and Security Team Seattle, qualifies on the .40-caliber machine gun for the first time while at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Brian A. Wright

See **MSST/12**



## MWR: Bench Rep - out

**Jay Scheiner gives it his all during the Bench Rep-out competition, July 4. Scheiner finished 5<sup>th</sup> by bench pressing 170 pounds 13 times.** - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Michael Baltz

**Army Sgt.  
Michael Baltz**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Army Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Chris Walters, with Joint Task Force Guantanamo, dominated the competition during the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Fitness Bench Rep-out at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, July 4.

Walters benched his body weight, 215 pounds, 32 times. He was the only one to exceed 30 repetitions.

"I love the competition," Walters said. "I think it is great that MWR has something for all the weight lifters at GTMO."

He works out every day of the week.

"My peers have made the difference by working out with me on a regular basis," Walters said.

He has a goal of maxing his bench at 415 pounds before he leaves. He currently is at 385 pounds.

In the competition the participants were weighed and had to bench their body weight as many times as possible. The judges only counted the repetitions where the bar touched the chest of the competitor. Everyone had one chance.

Chadd McBride participated and finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the competition by benching 155 pounds, 25 times while in uniform. Jacob Masters, who played college football at the University of Tennessee, and participated in competitive weight lifting for six years, finished third. He benched 205 pounds, 24 times. Clint Gvernsey was 4<sup>th</sup> by repping 210 pounds, 23 times and Jay Scheiner closed out the top five by putting up 170 pounds, 13 times.

Navy Lt. Cmdr. Jim Landrom also participated in the event in an attempt to challenge himself.

"I have had some injuries in the past," Landrom said. "I want to test myself and see how well I have been doing in the gym."

This has been one of the many events that Ryan Rollison, MWR fitness coordinator, has conducted. There will be another MWR fitness competition, the 300 Challenge, July 18.

"My job is to ensure that all of our service members have everything they need to improve their physical fitness," Rollison said.

If you have any questions regarding MWR fitness, call Ryan at ext. 75576. ★



**After benching their body weight for MWR's bench for reps competition, the top five claim trophies. Front row - left to right: Chadd McBride, 155 pounds, 25 times (2<sup>nd</sup> place); Chris Walters, 215 pounds, 32 times (1<sup>st</sup> place). Back row - left to right: Clint Gvernsey, 210 pounds, 23 times (4<sup>th</sup> place); Jay Scheiner, 170 pounds, 13 times (5<sup>th</sup> place); Jacob Masters, 205 pounds, 24 times (3<sup>rd</sup> place.)** - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Michael Baltz



# Transformers get revenge

**Army Sgt.  
Emily Greene**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Choosing to watch a movie begins with a decision. Comedy or tragedy? Fun or thought-provoking? Chick flick or action? “Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen” falls into one of the groups that don’t expect a lot of deep thought or emotion; instead it is pure nostalgic fun.

Shia LeBeouf stars as Sam Witwicky, a normal teenager whose best friend just so happens to be his car. In the first half of the movie the audience learns Sam has previously discovered an alien race of motor vehicles that transform into humongous protectors of the human race. They’ve been on Earth for a long time; we just didn’t know it.

Sam leaves home for college and what he hopes will be a normal life, but ends up on a quest to save the world. However, he isn’t alone. His smoking-hot girlfriend, Mikaela Banes (Megan Fox) is in on the secret and along for the ride. In addition, there is a joint task force of “secret squirrels” who are also in cahoots with the transformers and are able to assist Sam’s quest to preserve humankind.

For the military audience there is a moment of “heck yeah!” in the movie when Cpt. Lennox (Josh Duhamel) and Tech Sgt. Epps (Tyrese Gibson) push the bossy government dweeb who is thwarting their mission, out the backside of a plane. Their



resemble the old Hasbro action figures recognized and loved by a generation of now grown-up fans. The full colorful bodies of the original Transformers look as though maybe they’ve been pumping a lot of iron in the decades since the cartoon first captured young imaginations. It would be hard to tell the Autobots apart from the Decepticons if it weren’t for the paint jobs.

The movie has several fantastic scenes nicely choreographed by director Michael Bay. He blows the audience away with action sequences set gratuitously on an American Army base in Qatar, aboard Air Force One, at Hoover Dam, and on the heavily-peopled avenues of one of his custom composite cities. They’re the sort of muscular spectacles to be expected from the demolitionist who used Cuba as a playground for Will Smith and Martin Lawrence to upend in “Bad Boys II.”

Often it is hard to tell where mega budget action spectacles like this spend their money. Not so in “Transformers,” when a mine clearance vehicle turns into a deadly 30-foot force to be reckoned with, it’s pretty obvious where the money went. And that is what the viewer ultimately came to see. ★

team of super-cool special operations guys secure a perimeter and put up a darn good fight.

There are two sets of transformers in the movie; the good Autobots and the evil Decepticons. Both groups only vaguely

**PG-13**  
**105 minutes**

**Rating:** ★★☆☆☆

A member of Two Spot Gobi entertains the crowd during the Independence Day celebration.



# Happy Birthday America

Independence Day events were held at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay beginning with a 5K run at G.J. Denich Gym followed by carnival games, mini-golf, go-cart rides and competition events.

As the day came to an end, Re Tread, a local band, provided music followed by Two Spot Gobi, a band from the United Kingdom. The fireworks display began after sundown, filling the night sky with brilliant colors.



Troopers and residents from U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay and Joint Task Force Guantanamo ran in a 5K event at G.J. Denich Gym to start off the Independence Day activities.



Fireworks filled the night sky over Guantanamo Bay for over 30 minutes while the crowd looked on in amazement



Re Tread, Guantanamo Bay's own local band, plays to the crowd as the opening act at the Tiki Bar.

JTF Guantanamo Bay photos by:  
Army Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Steven Rougeau  
Navy Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class Richard Wolff  
Army Sgt. Michael Baltz  
Army Spc. April de Armas



# Girl Scouts deliver smiles, cookies

**Alexandria Ramseier, a Brownie with the Girl Scouts of Guantanamo Bay Troop, helps a Joint Task Force Guantanamo Trooper pick out cookies at the Seaside Galley, July 2. Ramseier and other Girl Scouts spent two days handing out donated cookies.** – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class Richard M. Wolff

**Navy Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class  
Sharay L. Bennett**  
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Troopers at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay and Joint Task Force Guantanamo received a huge surprise with the delivery of more than 8,000 pounds of Girl Scout cookies donated from the Girl Scouts of Gulfcoast, Fla., June 30.

Girl Scouts from Troops 4 and 5 of Guantanamo were in attendance and watched in anticipation as the plane arrived at the leeward air terminal.

Since the 1920s, Girl Scouts have sold cookies annually to raise money for troop activities, membership support, volunteer training, facility maintenance, camps, and financial assistance for the girls. Today, buying Girl Scout cookies is looked at as a tradition – something people look forward to. However, deployed Troopers don't typically get to take part in this tradition.

The Girl Scouts of Guantanamo Bay were reorganized by Melissa Courson in January, but the girls haven't been designated by the Girl Scout Council to sell cookies yet.

However, a Girl Scout cookie program called Mints for the Military is a saving grace for the Troopers as well as the girls. This program allows cookie customers to purchase and donate Girl Scout cookies to local charities that fly them overseas to men and women in uniform.

Janette Tuttle, a Girl Scout of Gulfcoast, Fla., volunteer and military spouse, who has worked with Girl Scouts for more than

30 years, thought it would be a good idea to have the cookies shipped to Guantanamo Bay and talked to her husband about making that a possibility. Her husband, Army Maj. Thomas Tuttle, assistant contracting officer representative, is deployed here.

After receiving approval from the naval station and JTF commanders, their plans were set in motion.

Little Brownie Bakers, in Louisville, Ky., have been baking Girl Scout Cookies for more than 25 years. Their support helps to provide the Girl Scout cookies for the annual Girl Scout Sale. This year, after Guantanamo was selected to receive the shipment of cookies, Little Brownie Bakers shipped them without charge, to Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland for an Office of Military Commissions flight to Guantanamo Bay. OMC also provided personnel to help unload the boxes from the plane once it landed.

"Normally, we wouldn't know where the cookies are being shipped. We just know they're being sent to the Troops," said Janette.

"The cookies are usually sent to U.S. Army Central Command areas of responsibility like Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kuwait," said Thomas. "Girl Scout cookies haven't been sent to Guantanamo since 1977."

This is history in the making, and volunteers throughout the naval station and JTF Guantanamo stepped forward to assist the Girl Scouts in distributing cookies to the Troopers. They set up tables at the dining facilities and passed out boxes throughout the camps and offices of Camp America.

"Being a Girl Scout helps young girls with the skills they need to develop into young women, and this is teaching them how to talk to people and it's giving them confidence," added Janette. "They're having fun doing it, and they'll get a patch afterwards."

From the smiles on the faces of the girls, it was easy to see they were enjoying themselves. With JTF Troopers following along with cars packed with boxes and Girls Scouts pulling little red wagons full of cookies, they were more than ready for their mission.

"This is great for the girls. It's good morale for the Troopers, and the girls get to meet them," said Courson. "They were able to sit down and talk with the Troopers in the dining hall and they loved it."

The Troopers also enjoyed it when the girls showed up in their work spaces to offer them free Girl Scout cookies.

"When I saw the girls, I thought they were so cute. I wanted to buy the cookies, but was told they were free and I could have up to three boxes, added Navy Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class, Travis Alston.

The girls had a pretty busy schedule passing out cookies, but they've taken the hours fairly well.

"They were out until about seven in the evening passing out cookies. Those are long hours for kids, but they did it. They were having fun, though," added Janette.

The Girl Scouts continued to hand out cookies at the naval station and all active duty personnel came to pick up their favorite cookies. ☆

# Let's dance!

**Army Spc.  
April D. de Armas**  
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs



**Army Lt. Col. Jesus Rodriguez, JTF J-3 director, practices salsa with his partner Kathi Diaz, social services director, International Organization for Migration at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, June 24. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. April D. de Armas**

Dancing with the stars? Maybe not, however, if dancing is at the top of the list of things to do or learn while at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Wednesday night salsa class is one way to get started.

Army Lt. Col. Miguel Angel Mendez, detainee programs director, Joint Detention Group, Joint Task Force Guantanamo, said he decided to start teaching classes a few months ago as a way of building friendships and interacting with others, as well as doing something he loves; dancing.

“I love to interact with people, and if I can teach them something, I will,” said Mendez. “But I also love to learn from others.”

Mendez has been a performer for many years in his home of Puerto Rico practicing as a singer and musician.

“I love arts in general,” Mendez said. “Being a professional salsa singer led me to learn how to dance salsa the right way, not only for shows, but to enjoy the mysticism of the music itself through the interpretation of the sounds with movements.”

Salsa is a combination of many Latin and Afro-Caribbean dances. It is similar to mambo in that both have a pattern of six steps danced over eight counts of music.

Navy Lt. j.g. Brian Boyer, Joint Visitors Bureau deputy director at the JTF, said he had never danced to Latin music before coming to Naval Station Guantanamo Bay.

“Everyone here has a different skill level and I enjoy learning something new every week,” said Boyer. “My dance partners are very patient as we learn together and the instructor is awesome to work with.”

The class is not just for beginners, but also for those with experience dancing salsa.

Army Maj. Ruben A. Soto, S-3, Joint Detention Group at JTF, is one of many who join the class on Wednesday nights.

“I am Puerto Rican and wanted to take the opportunity to improve my dance skills and learn new steps,” said Soto. “I enjoy being here and it’s a great way to spend a Wednesday evening.”

Salsa has roots in many dances and is open to improvisation, which keeps it interesting for dancers.

Marine Capt. April Coan, anti-terrorism officer with the JTF, said she was happy to hear about the class because she wanted to learn salsa for some time.

“It is a lot of fun and I have enjoyed the class very much,” said Coan. “I would recommend it to anyone who would like to learn and just have fun.”

Mendez said he will continue to offer classes as long as people want to come.

“I enjoy it and love to meet new people while continuing the friendships I have already established here at the naval station,” said Mendez.

Classes are held every Wednesday night at the Bachelor’s Officer Quarters located on Sherman Drive. ★



**Army Lt. Col. Miguel Angel Mendez demonstrates the proper steps for salsa while another student look on. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. April D. de Armas**



**Coast Guard Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class Dustin Dunfee, Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Brandon Taylor and Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Class James Green, all with the MSST Seattle, exchange ammo in preparation for live fire exercises. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Brian A. Wright**

# Weapon exercise keeps Guardians on target

**MSST** from 5

in case of misfires or other problems that might arise while out on the open water.

“[As a gunner,] if you have any misfires while shooting, it’s your job to clear them and communicate with the coxswain your intention and what’s going on,” said Coast Guard Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class James L. Greene.

The Coast Guard’s boats – called Response Boat, Small – are armed with .40-caliber and .50-caliber machine guns.

“When I heard that I was going to be able to fire the .50-caliber for the first time, I wrote home telling my parents just how excited I [was] about shooting the machine

gun,” Green said. “It’s something I’ve been looking forward to since I got here.”

It takes a lot of organization between naval station security, marine operations and the MSST prior to rolling out to perform the live fire exercise. During the live-fire exercise, a five-mile safety zone is in place keeping everyone out of harms way. As the exercise is conducted, the Coast Guard maintains constant contact with the Coast Guard communications center, ashore.

“It’s very important to get [members] the essential training between the coxswain and the gunner,” said Coast Guard Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class Dustin Dunfee, the

armory supervisor for MSST Seattle. “The coxswain deals with the radios and driving and makes sure the gun is pointing in the right direction. The gunner has to keep in contact [with] the coxswain at all times.”

The safety of both military and civilian personnel is of utmost importance when dealing with any kind of live-fire exercise.

“We [constantly] broadcast to mariners locally throughout the bay [as well as] outside the bay to notify them of the [live fire exercise],” said Coast Guard Lt. Patrick Hayes, operations officer for MSST Seattle. “Safety is paramount; it usually takes about a month of planning.” ☆

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## Welcome aboard

Air Force Gen. Douglas M. Fraser toured Camp Iguana during a visit to Joint Task Force Guantanamo, July 8. Fraser, the first Air Force officer to lead U.S. Southern Command, relieved Navy Adm. James Stavridis and assumed command of SOUTHCOM on June 26. During his visit, Fraser interacted with Troopers throughout the JTF, shaking hands and complimenting each Trooper on a job well done.  
 - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Cody Black

## Boots on the Ground

by Army Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Michael Gholston

What is your favorite Michael Jackson song?

Coast Guard Lt.  
Patrick Hayes



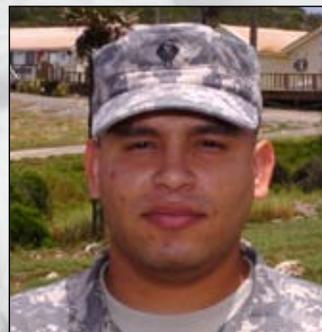
"We are the World."

Navy Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class  
Gerald Thomas



"Bad."

Army Spc.  
Guillermo Martinez



"Thriller."

Navy Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Class  
Nichole Hudson



"I don't really listen to Michael Jackson."



# Be wise or get bitten

**Army Capt.  
Scott C. Brill**

Joint Detention Group Chaplain

Many years ago, Indian youths would go away in solitude to prepare for manhood. One such youth hiked into a beautiful valley. There he fasted, and on the third day he decided to test himself against the mountain. He put on his buffalo-hide shirt, threw his blanket over his shoulders, and set off to climb the peak.

When he reached the top, he could see forever, and his heart swelled with joy. Then he heard a rustle at his feet. Looking down, he saw a snake. Before he could

move, the snake spoke: "I am about to die. It is too cold for me up here, and I am starving. There is no food, and I am starving. Put me under your shirt and take me down to the valley."

"Oh, no," said the youth. "I know your kind. You are a rattlesnake. If I pick you up, you will bite me, and I will die."

"Not so," said the snake. "I will treat you differently. If you do this for me, you will be special. I will not harm you."

The youth withstood for a while, but this was a very persuasive snake with beautiful markings. At last the youth tucked it under his shirt and carried it down to the valley. There he laid it gently

on the grass. Suddenly, the snake coiled, rattled, and struck, biting him on the leg.

"But you promised—" cried the youth.

"You knew what I was when you picked me up," said the snake as it slithered away. (From Iron Eyes Cody, "But You Promised," *Reader's Digest*, June 1989, p. 131.)

Oh, be wise, what more can I say.

1 Corinthians 10:13 – There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God *is* faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear *it*. ☆

## JTF CHAPEL SCHEDULED PROGRAMS

### Catholic Mass

**Sunday:** 7 a.m. Confession  
7:30 a.m. Mass

### Spanish Catholic Mass

**Sunday:** 5 p.m.  
at NAVSTA Chapel

### Protestant Worship

**Sunday:** 9 a.m.

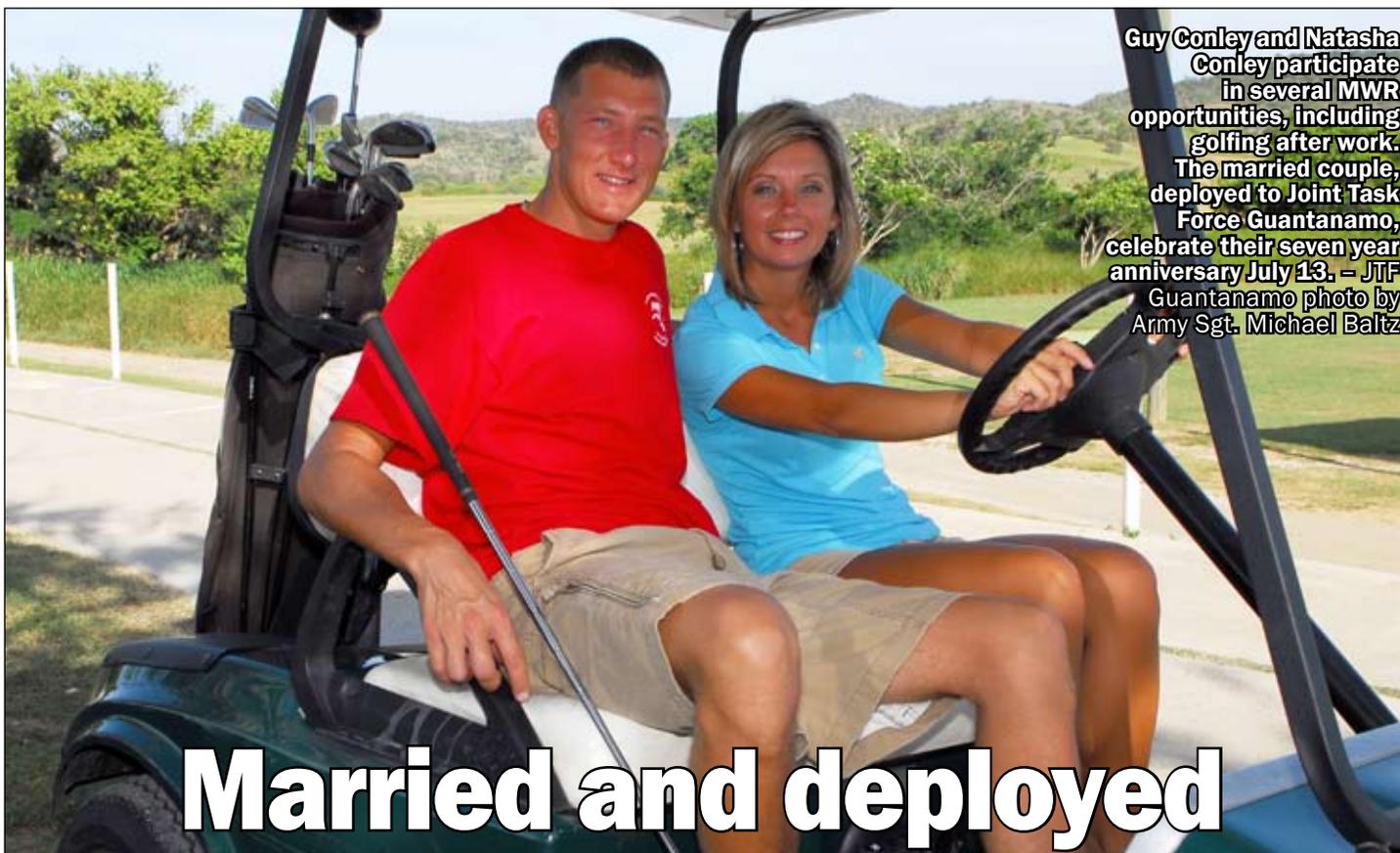
### Spanish Protestant Worship

**Sunday:** 11 a.m.

### Bible Study

**Sunday:** 6 p.m.

**Wednesday:** 7 p.m.



Guy Conley and Natasha Conley participate in several MWR opportunities, including golfing after work. The married couple, deployed to Joint Task Force Guantanamo, celebrate their seven year anniversary July 13. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Michael Baltz

# Married and deployed

**Army Sgt. Michael Baltz**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

When a husband and wife get married, there are several wedding vows that they take: for richer or for poorer, through sickness and through health. Air Force Staff Sgt. Guy Conley, an electrician with the 474<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron, and his wife, Air Force Senior Airman Natasha Conley, also with the 474<sup>th</sup> ECES, vowed to be deployed together, when possible.

The happily-married couple, from Chapmanville, W.Va., are deployed to support Joint Task Force Guantanamo by maintaining the Expeditionary Legal Complex and Camp Justice.

Guy joined the active duty Air Force in January 2001 and transferred to the West Virginia Air National Guard almost three years ago. He and Tash married on July 13, 2002. He has been deployed twice prior to arriving here.

“Guy always talks about the things he has seen and done,” Tash said. “I wanted to be able to do the things he has.”

As a result, she joined the same unit two and a half years ago.

“It has been what I expected,” Tash said. “Now I don’t have to be sad when he deploys because I get to go with him.”

“We get to experience a deployment together,” Guy said. “In most deployments everyone leaves their spouse, which makes it difficult, but Tash and I are able to stay together. That makes things much easier.”

Even though there are multiple benefits

to being deployed with the one you love, there are also some complications.

“People give us a lot of grief for being able to be here together,” Tash said. “It is also hard to separate my personal life from my work life. If we get into an argument it can be difficult not to bring that into the work environment, even if we do not work in the same section.”

A few issues they have can be found in many marriages stateside, such as leaving the seat up, too much time together and, of course, what to watch on television.

“When we first got here, Guy would always watch baseball,” Tash said. “I don’t

like baseball that much.”

Now they have cable in one room where Tash can watch the Food Network while Guy can watch Armed Forces Network Sports in the other.

Guy and Tash do a lot more than watch the tube; they often enjoy GTMO’s activities regularly.

“We pretty much do everything together,” Guy said. “We enjoy going to the movies, golfing, snorkeling and going to Wednesday night bowling.”

They will be headed home shortly and both believe this deployment has been a learning experience and has drawn them closer. ★



Air Force Staff Sgt. Guy Conley and Air Force Senior Airman Natasha Conley, both with the 474<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron, support Joint Task Force Guantanamo. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Michael Baltz



**Navy Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class Jeremy Sluss and Navy Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Robert Behan, of the Joint Task Force Guantanamo Post Office, sort mail to be distributed throughout Camp America, July 7. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Steven Rougeau**

# Around the JTF



**Army Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Christopher Walters, 193<sup>rd</sup> Military Police Company, competes in the bench press competition held at Denich Gym July 4. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. April de Armas**



**Navy Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Martin Thomas, an electrical technician, reenlists July 2. Martin is assigned to the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Pfc. Christopher Vann**