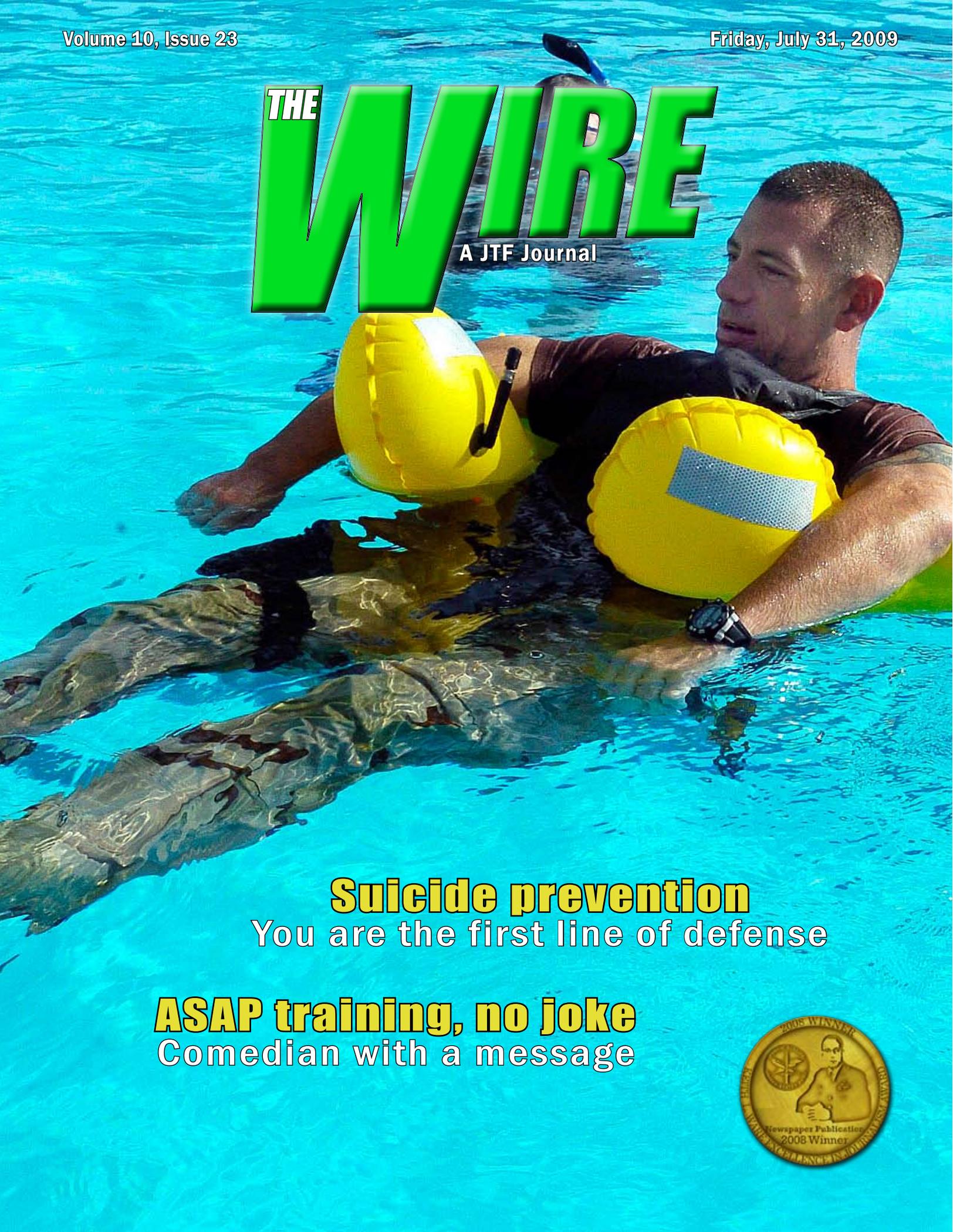


THE WIRE

A JTF Journal



Suicide prevention
You are the first line of defense

ASAP training, no joke
Comedian with a message



What did you do at GTMO?

**Air Force Master Sgt.
Charlie Brown**
474th ECES 1st Sgt.

The question, “What did you do at GTMO?” will undoubtedly be asked of all of us when we return home or move to our next duty station. On the surface, it is a simple enough question which most will respond, “We did our duty, our job and in our down time snorkeled, dived, biked, played ball, read a book and had dinner with friends,” or in other words, fairly normal stuff. The reality of it though is that the most simple questions do not have a correspondingly simple answer.

Numerous times as First Sergeant I have been asked by the Airmen – that I have had the privilege to serve with – the question, “Why are we here and why is this mission so important?” The first part of the question is by far the easiest; we were directed by our Commander in Chief to report to Joint Task Force Guantanamo to support Operation Enduring Freedom and our nation’s war on terror. The second part of that question is a bit more complex. “What is so important about the mission we do here at GTMO?” I find “just doing our duty,” to be too simplistic, the reality of it is we are contributing to our country’s fight against terror and play a vital role daily.

Most of us don’t carry a weapon and most aren’t going into harm’s way outside the wire on a daily basis. On the contrary, those who do go into harm’s way at GTMO, do so inside the wire. The vast majority of us sit behind a desk, carry a tool bag, wear a hard hat, patrol the base or bay, or make sure we all get our pay and entitlements. You may not believe it, but by doing so you are supporting the war on terror. You just have to change your perspective.

Have you ever seen a large photograph that is made up of other smaller photographs? The ones which – from a distance – you see the large photo but as you move closer to it you begin to realize that smaller, individual photos actually make it up. We in JTF are those smaller photographs. We supply the support and services to those whose job it is to bring justice to those accused of crimes of terror. We support the end to the means. By doing so, JTF Guantanamo honors the war fighter out on the tip of the spear. We do so by contributing the final smaller photographs to the larger mosaic of the war on terror.

We demonstrate to the world daily our patriotism and professionalism. It is something we should all feel a sense of pride and accomplishment about. You just have to step back from time to time and view the bigger picture to appreciate your contribution to it.

The Change of Command is complete for the 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron at Camp Justice. We will return to the states to – once again – be with our family and friends. We will take with us the memories of the new friends and colleagues we’ve made here at GTMO. Goodbye, Good Luck and God Bless. ✪



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COVER:

**Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer
Joshua Mann demonstrates
a new flotation device to
Guardians before training them at
Windjammer Pool, July 20.** – JTF
Guantanamo photo by Army Spc.
April D. de Armas



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.

Joint Task Force Guantanamo military members gather during a memorial service for Navy Airman Andrew S. Charpentier at the JTF Trooper's Chapel, July 27. Charpentier, a Montana resident, served under the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion from August of 2008 through July of 2009 and is survived by his wife Kathleen. — JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer Richard M. Wolff



Sailor, friend remembered

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

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

A memorial service honoring Navy Airman Andrew S. Charpentier was held July 27, at Joint Task Force Guantanamo, to pay respect to him, his family and give Troopers a chance to share their memories, tears and lift each other up in fellowship.

Aviation Electronics Technician Airman Andrew Scott Charpentier, 21, of Great Falls, Mont., died July 23 at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami, Fla., from a non-combat related illness incurred while assigned to the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Charpentier enlisted in the Navy in March 2007 within the advanced electronics field. After training, he answered the call to Joint Task Force Guantanamo as part of the Joint Detention Group, Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion.

"He completed avionics technical training in June, 2008," said Navy Cmdr. Michael Fulgham, NEGB commander. "Immediately after his training, he was handed the curve-ball of coming down to JTF Guantanamo — after being firmly rooted into the aviation community. Charpentier answered the call without hesitation or doubt and from his initial arrival, he established himself as a man of character, a shipmate and [someone] who would always remain in our hearts and minds."

Friends and colleagues took time to remember Charpentier and share their memories with members from all branches of service. The ceremony was mournful, but held a spirit of hopefulness as Troopers spoke of Charpentier's antics, insightful nature, love of family and dedication to

service, and his team.

"I knew Charpentier by his performance in the camps," Fulgham said. "There are men and women in the camps who flat-out give entirely of themselves. This young man, I knew him by reputation and by sight ... he was the one who gave of himself to serve with his shipmates without hesitation, without fail. He was the go-to guy, not just by reputation, but by word of mouth."

For those who were closer to Charpentier, like his roommates, their perspective of his character was well-rounded.

"I got to see a side of 'Charpy' that most people didn't see," said Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Dennis True, a friend and roommate of Charpentier. "He was very deep, and very quiet. I remember one Saturday morning, sitting out on the back patio having a conversation about religion and politics — two subjects I don't do well with. I was shocked to hear how deep and insightful this young man was, something I never expected from a 21-year-old man."

True, impressed by Charpentier's artistic and musical ability, smiled as he shared the details from that Saturday-morning conversation.

"At the flick of the wrist, he wrote a song on his guitar ... it was incredible. He was a free spirit, artistic, who hadn't quite found his place yet. [His wife], Kathleen helped him ground himself. I remember when he came to me and let me know he was going to pop the question [over his Web-camera] ... we were all watching off to the side and saw the tears streaming down her face [on the computer screen], she was ecstatic and he was on cloud nine from that point on. There was nothing that brought him down, Kathleen truly was his life."

True's words and courage to speak to the

crowd inspired other members of the NEGB to come forward and share their words.

"I'll never forget Charpentier," said Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Danielle Thomas, a friend and shipmate. "He was the only one from my company who — every time he saw me — said, 'Hey Thomas,' and gave me a hug."

Thomas shared a memory of Charpy, from the time they were training at Ft. Lewis, Wa., just prior to coming to Guantanamo.

"We were doing [Oleoresin Capsicum training], I was holding the bag, and after he was sprayed [with the oleoresin capsicum, better known as pepper spray] he ran up to the bag and started jumping around, it was really funny. I know that's how [many people in this rotation] will remember him."

The mention of the training at Ft. Lewis brought smiles and laughter to the team Charpentier served with, helping Troopers celebrate his life, and the moments that brought them together as a team.

"Being the senior enlisted [leader for the team Charpentier served with], and going through the training that Petty Officer Thomas spoke of, if you ask anyone, or try to identify Charpentier, it was about his video," said Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer Jodi Myers. "That man was so proud of his video; he would walk around with his laptop, just to show you his video [of the training]."

"When I speak of a true warrior, someone who has so much pride in [their] job — that's [Charpentier]," Myers continued. "He was a Sailor who knew what he came here to do, and wanted to give 100 percent to do

See **CHARPENTIER/13**

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The 474th ECES has been comprised of Airmen from the West Virginia Air National Guard. During their tour at GTMO, they were responsible for sustaining Camp Justice and the ELC. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Carlynn Knaak



BEEF moves to new pasture

**Army Sgt.
Michael Baltz**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron will have new faces to support the mission as West Virginia Air National Guard's 130th Airlift Wing departs after six months of service to Joint Task Force Guantanamo.

The unit, often referred to as Base Emergency Engineer Force, or Prime BEEF, turned over command to an Arkansas Air National Guard unit after a successful tour, July 30.

"The mission of the 474th [ECES] is the sustainment of Camp Justice and the Expeditionary Legal Complex," said Air Force 1st Sgt. Charles Brown, with the 130th Airlift Wing. "We have been responsible for ongoing operations with the infrastructure of the camps and Expeditionary Legal Complex, including heating and air conditioning, electrical wiring, plumbing and all the things we take for granted when we move into a new home."

The BEEF has conducted several projects supporting the JTF.

"We kept Camp Justice and the ELC up and running. We were also able to get out and assist the rest of the JTF on projects," said Air Force Lt. Col. John Dulin, the outgoing commander of the 474th ECES.

"We worked on plumbing at Camp 5, the recreational yard at Camp 6 and additional facilities in Camp America for the Troopers that live over there," Dulin continued.

As a result of completing successful projects, the BEEF has become well-known.

"Our presence is what made us successful," Brown said. "You can go anywhere on this base and say BEEF and

they immediately think of us. I think our Airmen have gotten out into the broad community and demonstrated their skills and abilities, and people got a quality work product. When we leave here, we will leave a good name. I think we have set up the incoming unit for success, since we have a good first impression with several entities here."

Not only has Dulin's team been able to complete mission essential tasks, they have also been able to grow together.

"I now feel I have a unified unit," Dulin said. "The morale has been kept high. I haven't had a lot of issues where people were getting in trouble, and it seems most of the base is well satisfied with the work we have done."

Although the BEEF has been successful, working in a joint environment made things challenging.

"Being at GTMO, you have to get the mind-set of a joint environment," Brown explained. "I have worked with all five services, and we all work differently. We might be talking about the same thing, but in two different languages, so it is important to be flexible."

With Morale, Welfare and Recreation events and living on an island, Airmen with the 130th have been able to enjoy this deployment.

"I enjoy going to the beach and all the activities here, the events and concerts," said Air Force Senior Airman Samuel Byrnside. "I stayed busy fishing."

Air Force Senior Airman Nathan Ansell has also enjoyed his first deployment.

"Getting to have hands-on experience with the high voltage [equipment] has been exciting," Ansell said. "It is cool to see how everything is run. You hear all the bad things in the press about GTMO, and now I can go back and really tell people how we do things here."

Most of the members of the 130th are looking forward to returning home to spend time with families.

"I cannot wait to go home and play with my kids," Ansell said. ★



Air Force Staff Sgt. Guy Conley explains the power grid layout to incoming Air Force Senior Airman John Seibel, July 28 - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Michael Baltz

Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Joshua Mann treads water as he demonstrates to Coast Guardsmen the proper use of new flotation devices being issued Coast Guard-wide. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. April D. de Armas



New gear keeps Guardians afloat

**Army Spc.
April D. de Armas**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

When new equipment is introduced to the individual military branches, classes and hands-on training are conducted to ensure each Trooper understands how to use it.

For the Coast Guard Maritime Safety and Security Team 91101 from Seattle, Wash., it is no different. Coast Guard-wide, changes are being made in regard to current life vests worn by Coast Guardsmen when underway.

The MSST's mission for the next six months is to support Joint Task Force Guantanamo with water and land security. Like all other Troopers here, when new equipment is introduced, training must occur.

"Our Tactical Flotation Support Systems are changing and the change will enhance our ability to carry out our mission here in GTMO and continue with us when we return home," Coast Guard Chief Warrant Officer 3rd Class Brian Mackey, assistant operations officer, MSST said.

The new flotation devices will be worn around the waist on the belts that Coast Guardsmen use to attach various tools they need to carry out their mission. The devices are about the size of a canteen.

"The changes to the flotation devices actually give us a more positive buoyancy rate," Mackey said. "With the old ones our buoyancy rate was about 35 pounds, but with the new ones we have a positive buoyancy rate of 80 pounds. This is helpful, since the idea is to keep Troopers afloat even when loaded down with mission-essential gear and the added weight of body armor."

The training sessions for Coast Guardsmen will be held at different times

over the course of the next week.

"During the different training sessions held at the Windjammer Pool, Troopers will don body armor and the new flotation support systems," said Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Jason Jablonski, waterside division officer, MSST. "They will jump in and tread water for one minute. Afterwards, the Troopers will exit the water and make any adjustments to their gear as necessary, jump back into the water and sink to the bottom of the pool. Once they hit the bottom they will then deploy their flotation devices, which will bring them back to the surface of the water."

Training is an ongoing process no matter what branch of service a Trooper serves.

"Training is important to our Troopers," Mackey said. "Our Troopers need to know

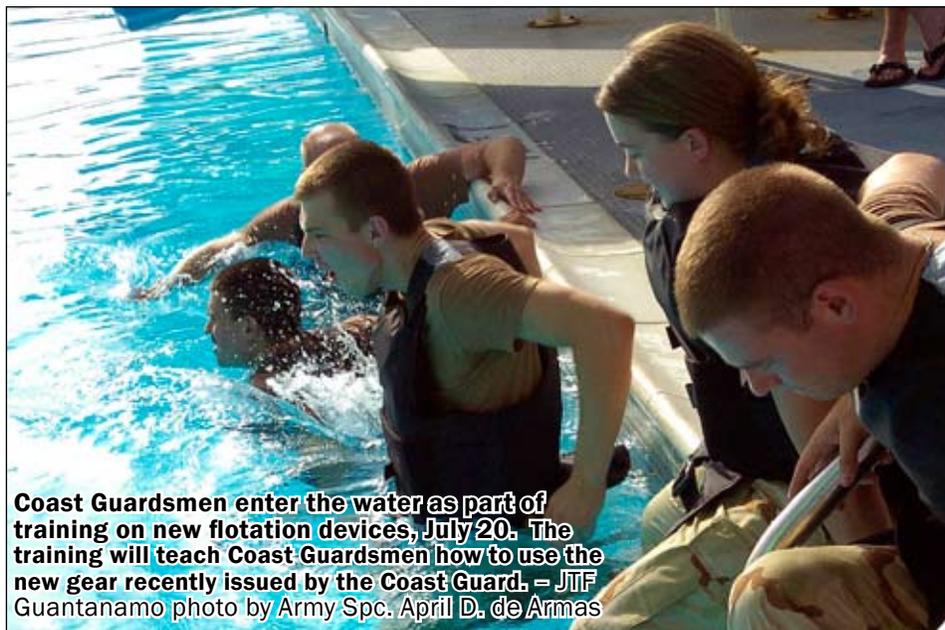
how to wear and use their equipment as well as build confidence in the gear that could save their lives in an emergency or combat situation."

Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Jessica Martin, a coxswain with the MSST, completed her training on July 24.

"They are kind of big when they deploy, however, they will keep you afloat," Martin said. "I think I will like them better though; they take up less room than the old ones."

The Coast Guardsmen will start using the new flotation devices immediately.

"Although, changes are sometimes different and can be difficult for some, I have every confidence in our Troopers that they will continue working hard to serve the JTF and adjust to the new gear with little difficulty," Mackey said. ♡



Coast Guardsmen enter the water as part of training on new flotation devices, July 20. The training will teach Coast Guardsmen how to use the new gear recently issued by the Coast Guard. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. April D. de Armas



Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Alexander Hernandez, Fleet Marine Force corpsman, Marine Corps Security Force Company Guantanamo Bay, hands out water as participants pass a checkpoint in a 5-mile run along the fence line that borders Cuba. Hernandez provided medical attention for individuals who overheated during the MCSFCO fundraiser.
 - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. David McLean

Semper Fi-ve miles

**Army Spc.
David McLean**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Marine Corps sentries have watched over the barbed wire into Cuba for decades, as they guard U.S. Naval Station

Guantanamo Bay. The area near this fence line is off-limits to residents, and besides an occasional visit to the North East Gate, there is not much opportunity to be near the Cuban border.

Saturday, July 25, the Marine Corps Security Force Company allowed base residents and Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers to walk, run, bike or Jeep five miles of that fence line.

“One of the primary reasons we do this is to offer the Guantanamo Bay public an opportunity to see the fence line firsthand,” said Marine Corps 1st Sgt. Troy A. Nicks, MCSFCO non-commissioned officer in charge. “They read about it, but they never get the opportunity to actually see the terrain.”

“I wanted to support the Marines,” said Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Ace Rheame, a radio broadcaster with the Defense Media Activity Broadcast Detachment. “You don’t always get a chance to see Guantanamo history, run the fence line, pass the towers or look directly into Cuba.”

The terrain along the fence line is rugged and most of the road is not paved. As the sun was rising over the mountains, 204 participants hit the hills on a route that took them from the North East Gate to Kittery Beach. The stretch of road they had to navigate was difficult for individuals not

using motorized transportation.

“There were potholes and the road was not really paved, I had to pay attention,” said Rheame. “There was one hill in the distance, and I wasn’t able to run up it. I made large steps and was eventually able to get over it.”

With the difficulties of this route, the Marines had to prepare water, medical personnel and equipment, communication equipment and transportation in advance to make sure the event was a total success. Staff Sgt. Kenneth Waterman, MCSFCO gunnery sergeant, was in charge of planning and executing the mission.

“I think it went extremely well logistically,” Waterman said. “We ensured our water stations were put in place, our vehicles were coordinated, and made sure everyone knew exactly what their role was. We had to key in on security; keeping everybody together, and made sure they moved down the fence line and not into restricted areas.”

With all participants crossing the finish line, the mission was a success. The MCSFCO will prepare for the next fence line run which covers a longer stretch of the border.

“This was an outstanding success,” Waterman said. “I’m looking forward to our next event, which is the 22-miler in October. That’s going to be even bigger and better.”

The events let the community have a closer look at the country that surrounds the base, and help to fund the Marine Corps Ball in November.

For more information about MCSFCO events, contact ext. 2344. ★



Some participants had to push their bikes up the steep hills during the 5-mile event. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. David McLean



Dark new 'Potter' shines bright

**Army Sgt.
Carmen S. Gibson**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Coming to terms with my overzealous addiction to literary fiction of the magical caliber, and snide British conversations involving such fluffy slang as “snogging” or “git,” I anticipated the release of the next “Harry Potter” installment as soon as the house lights went up at the conclusion of the “Order of the Phoenix.” Thankfully, the hours I spent Googling upcoming movie trailers were not wasted, and the latest return to Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry was well worth the wait.

“Harry Potter and the Half-blood Prince” picks up right where its predecessor left off, after Harry’s, played by the now post-pubescent Daniel Radcliffe, very public encounter with the insanely powerful, yet disgustingly evil Lord Voldemort. While the Dark Lord, as honorably referred to by his meddling minions, the Death Eaters, fails to make an appearance in the film, the concentration primarily rests in his lack of presence, and adds a more flavorful suspense to the upcoming wizarding battle that looms overhead.

With Voldemort’s return, he nabbed Daily Prophet headlines, the wizard community’s version of the New York Times. The Death Eaters disregard their cloaked secrecy and began wreaking havoc in both realms. The action takes

off immediately, with buildings collapsing and bridges twisting into heaps of metal cast into the River Thames just outside the crowded streets of London. Amidst the turmoil, Harry and his sidekicks, the loyal yet often misguided Ron Weasley (Rupert Grint) and blossoming bookworm Hermione Granger (Emma Watson), head back to Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

The shift to a more dark and sinister magical world is felt by the audience as fatal curses and mysterious potion books replace the

previously juvenile themes of holiday pudding and jubilant Quidditch matches. At the forefront of the transition is Professor Dumbledore, portrayed by the well-seasoned Michael Gambon, and Harry’s quest to stop Lord Voldemort. By delving into a few stored memories, they discover the secrets of his power and likewise devise a plan to eradicate it. The dangerous journey into the mind and past of the Dark Lord sets the stage for the grand finale of good versus evil in the seventh and final piece in the series.

This sixth installment serves up of slice of fantasy for an assortment of movie-goers, as “tweenagers” will giggle with delight over the love-potion induced coupling, and action buffs will revel in the wand-waving, curse-



slinging smack-downs.

Inevitably, the “Half-blood Prince” is a transitional movie that bridges the gap between the beloved children’s tale and the rapidly evolving dark world filled with magic, mayhem, and dramatic battle scenes. Still, it is evident that this latest installment succeeded where the “Lord of the Ring’s” gap-filler “The Two Towers” failed: to stand-alone as an entertaining and fantastical journey. ☆

PG
153 minutes

Rating: ★★★★★



Stamina, endurance - can you handle it?



Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Ian Ballard finished first in the five-mile run. He completed the run with a time of 33:30.



A platoon of Marines conduct group stretching exercises before participating in the 5-mile fence line event.



Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Jared Borg ran with a pack during the Marine Corps fence line run.

After a tour of the U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay Northeast Gate, Troopers with Joint Task Force Guantanamo and Naval Station Guantanamo Bay participated in a 5-mile walk, run, bike ride and Jeep ride, July 25. The event started at the Northeast Gate and ended at Kittery Beach. The event was a fundraiser for the Marine Corp Ball.

JTF Guantanamo photos by
Army Sgt. 1st Steven Rougeau
Army Staff Sgt. Emily Russell
Army Sgt. Michael Baltz



Several Jeeps joined the event, leading the way down the dusty, pothole-ridden road giving the drivers and their passengers a bumpy, yet scenic tour of the fence line between the North East Gate and Kittery Beach.

ASAP: Training, with a twist

**Army Sgt.
Michael Baltz**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Army Substance Abuse Program training may be considered a drag by some Troopers, but for Troopers at Joint Task Force Guantanamo and Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, it was an hour filled with laughter.

Bernie McGrenahan, a comedian for approximately 20 years, provided ASAP training with a twist called, "Happy Hour."

"I am trying to bring a new twist to the PowerPoint and slides," McGrenahan said. "I am trying to connect on a personal level with Troops through my comedy and my personal story."

McGrenahan performed four shows while at GTMO, which allowed him to touch several Troopers on different schedules and help them achieve not only personal benefits, but met the military training standard as well.

"By Army Regulation 600-5, we are supposed to do four hours per year of [ASAP] training," explained Army Master Sgt. Julio Espinet, the non-commissioned officer-in-charge of personnel administration at JTF Guantanamo. "His show will count toward this. Most of the people came here to have a good time and laugh, and they got a message at the same time. I am glad we are able to get the message out there."

Bringing McGrenahan to GTMO has been a year in the making.

"I have heard about him from a couple of my colleagues," said Irma Vasquez, a substance abuse prevention specialist with U.S. Army South. "They said he has a presentation that nobody has ever had."

"We have had trouble maintaining prevention training due to shift-work," Vasquez continued. "So to ensure [Troopers] get the message, we brought something a little more exciting for them. They get a personal, powerful story and a laugh at the same time."

McGrenahan does have a presentation like no other. He defines his "Happy Hour" a little different than most people.

"I created 'Happy Hour' in 1999," McGrenahan said. "It is comedy with a message. Instead of a full hour of comedy, I start off with a half hour to entertain Troops, then I share my experiences with partying and alcohol – hoping to inspire some potential problem drinkers in my audiences to make a change."

McGrenahan's goal is to relate to Troopers. He tries to outline five to 10 points that Troopers can take from his show.

"I thought it was very funny and realistic," said Army 1st Lt. Joanna Graves, a nurse with the Joint Medical Group. "He



Comedian Bernie McGrenahan provided Troopers at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay with a powerful message, July 27. Happy Hour, a program McGrenahan developed combines a comic show with messages on how to drink responsibly. – JTF Guantanamo Photo by Army Pfc. Christopher Vann

was able to join the funny part of drinking with a realistic message. I love the fact that he is here to support the Troopers."

McGrenahan loves his job, even if he has to relive personal tragedies on a daily basis.

"It is draining to relive [my brother's] death," McGrenahan explained. "I do it because I know I needed help as a young man and I believe there are young Troops out there who need help. They need someone to touch their heart like my dad touched mine."

"My dad was able to say," he continued, "'Bernie, all of your problems in life are from drinking. You can keep on blaming the girlfriends, blame your boss, blame what is asked of you, blame your family, but if you take out the drinking from all your problems, all of the problems will go away,'" and he was right.

"I stopped the drinking and all of my

problems disappeared," said McGrenahan, who now feels he is a man of principle. "I hope to reach some people who are struggling, so they can become twice the person, twice the service member and twice the family member they can be without alcohol."

McGrenahan feels he is able to better communicate his story because he is a comedian.

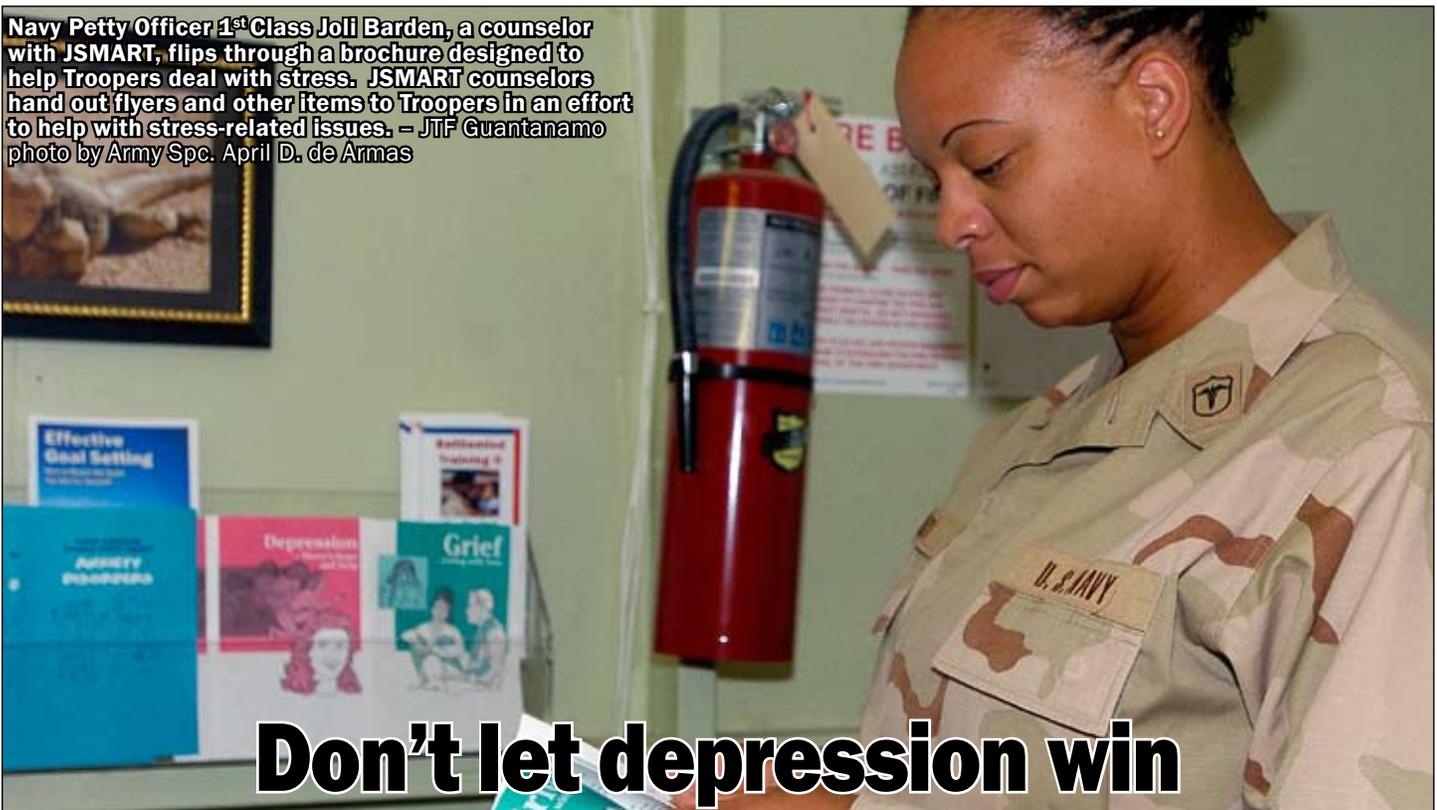
"I am not talking down to people, I am not telling them what to do," McGrenahan said. "I am making them laugh and giving a message."

McGrenahan has been to more than 40 military bases in the past two years and doesn't plan on stopping anytime soon.

"I will go anywhere with this tour. I want to hit the whole world."

If you would like to find out more about McGrenahan, visit his Web site at www.happyhourcomedy.com. ★

Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Joli Barden, a counselor with JSMART, flips through a brochure designed to help Troopers deal with stress. JSMART counselors hand out flyers and other items to Troopers in an effort to help with stress-related issues. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. April D. de Armas



Don't let depression win

Army Spc.
April D. de Armas

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Life at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay is not always fun and games. Sometimes when things aren't going right, depression can set in and cause Troopers to have thoughts of hurting themselves or worse; taking their own lives.

The military has increased its efforts to educate Troopers over the past 20-plus years with programs like the Army Suicide Prevention Program. However, more than 230 suicides were reported by U.S. military officials in the last year.

"Our efforts to talk to Soldiers have increased recently due to such staggering numbers this past year," Army Capt. Eric Bey, 525th Military Police Battalion chaplain, said. "We have always given classes annually, but now we try to reach out more often to raise more awareness."

One tool chaplains use to combat suicide are ACE cards. These cards give three steps to help Troopers recognize changes in their buddy's demeanor. ACE stands for: Ask your buddy, Care for you buddy and Escort your buddy.

"Since Troopers are the first to see changes in each other, we rely on them to help each other out and seek help if they have noticed changes in their friend's attitude or life," Bey said.

Resources are provided to Troops serving in the Armed Forces such as Army Substance Abuse Program training, open-door policies with all commanders and chaplains and professional counseling with psychiatrists. At Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, the offering of resources and

help are abundant.

One source provided to Troopers at Joint Task Force Guantanamo is the Joint Stress Mitigation and Restoration Team.

"We provide a very important service to JTF Troopers," Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Joli Barden, JSMART counselor, JTF, said. "We work hand-in-hand with the chaplains and Fleet and Family Services to make sure Troopers who come to us seeking help with depression can get the care they need."

In addition to providing in-house counseling, JSMART counselors go out into the community around the JTF to check on Troopers and see how they are doing.

"We go into the camps on a daily basis," said JSMART counselor Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Nyobi Brogdon. "The rounds we make are very effective in helping Troopers release some pressure from a bad day by just talking to a familiar face and being able to unload. The non commissioned officers-in-charge are very helpful. They will call us if they see that their Troopers are having a tough day or week so we can go over and just check on them."

Troopers being proactive in taking care of themselves is another way to ensure depression doesn't set in. Taking advantage of the activities like free bowling on Wednesdays, scuba diving, snorkeling, and college classes, Troopers can fill their freetime, which can help keep depression at bay.

"We as chaplains encourage Troops to take advantage of some of the things that GTMO offers such as scuba diving," Bey said. "We don't want them to sit inside their rooms and allow circumstance to overwhelm them. The Troopers have to look out for their well being and take care

of their whole body and spirit."

Suicide prevention is a topic that all senior non-commissioned officers and commanders are concerned with and address as often as possible with Troopers in their charge.

"I brief my Troopers every week about suicide and suicide prevention and I try to make sure they know I am here for them if they are having a hard time," Army Sgt. 1st Class Miguel Bonilla, senior enlisted advisor, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, said.

Alcohol abuse is one of the many concerns leaders have when dealing with suicide prevention.

"We are concerned for our Troopers who go out and drink because we want to make sure they are not using alcohol to try and boost their spirits if they are feeling down or depressed – especially since alcohol is a depressant that can make them feel worse," Bonilla said. "We want them to understand that if they need help they can come to me or anyone else in the command and we will do everything possible to ensure they have all the help they need to get through a difficult situation."

JTF Troopers are encouraged by their commands to seek help and to assist each other when problems arise.

"If Troopers notice their buddies are having a hard time, we encourage them to talk to each other," said Barden. "Sometimes the best resources people have are their friends."

For information on how to get counseling, or to ask questions that might help other Troopers, contact the JSMART office at ext. 3566 or visit the office at Camp America building A3206. ☆



Above and beyond

Joint Detention Group Commander Army Col. Bruce Vargo is presented with the Order of the Marechaussee by Army Col. Wade Dennis, inside Joint Task Force Guantanamo's Camp Delta, July 30. The Marechaussee award is presented to Army Military Police members that have performed at a consistent, outstanding, positive level within the MP community. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Richard M. Wolff

Ferry Landing: Closed for Reconstruction

Aug 1 - Oct 2009

Travel will be by
LCU & U-Boat

Lane 1 Priority:

Gov. emergency vehicles during emergency ops
U.S. Mail vehicles
AMC Terminal baggage trucks
Vehicles authorized by Port Operations Officer

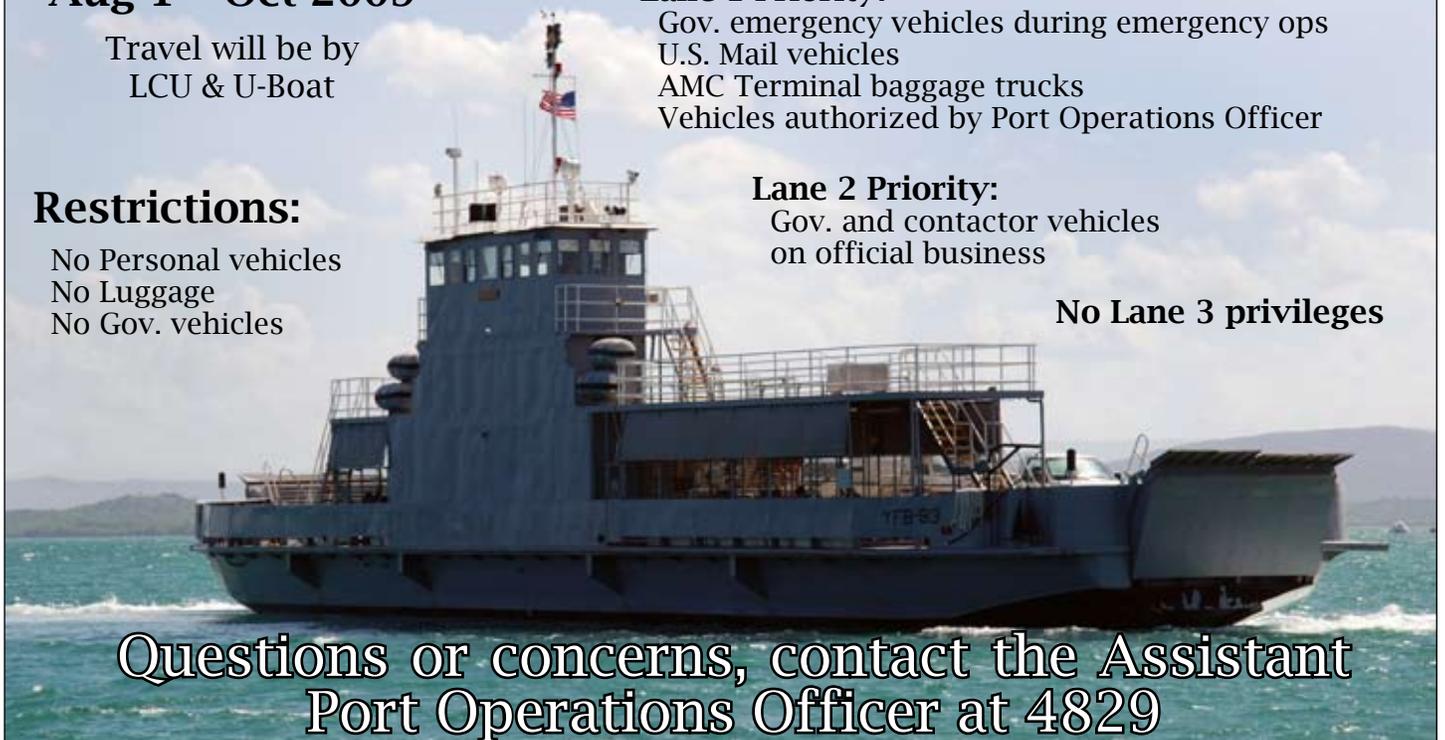
Restrictions:

No Personal vehicles
No Luggage
No Gov. vehicles

Lane 2 Priority:

Gov. and contractor vehicles
on official business

No Lane 3 privileges



Questions or concerns, contact the Assistant
Port Operations Officer at 4829

Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer Jodi Myers tolls the bell during a memorial service for fallen shipmate Navy Airman Andrew S. Charpentier at the JTF Trooper's Chapel, July 27. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Richard M. Wolff



Troopers honor fallen Sailor

CHARPENTIER from 3

it. He never took the easy road. If there's something we can remember, take pride in what you do and use the example of Charpentier because he was a true warrior who took pride in what he did."

For the Troopers who didn't know Charpentier as well, like newly-appointed NEGB Command Master Chief Alfonso Rivera, learning about the Trooper from his predecessor was key to understanding his team.

"I didn't have the privilege of serving with Charpentier, but Master Chief Ed Moreno spoke well of him," Rivera said. "Regardless of his ailment, he was always focused on others. It speaks volumes of his character, loyalty and his love for [his] shipmates, family and in particular Kathleen – she was the love of his life. Those who knew Charpentier often spoke

of how wonderful of a relationship he and Kathleen shared and that she was – indeed – his hometown sweetheart. He was looking forward to a life with her, and intended to marry her when he left here for his next duty station. I'm glad to see that he was able to marry Kathleen, despite the short time. They married two-and-a-half weeks before his passing ... I think that's a testament of their love."

Fulgham's words summed up the sentiments of the dozen Troopers who spoke about Charpentier.

"He was the type of individual who gave of himself selflessly," Fulgham said reverently. "He didn't have a selfish bone in his body [and] always made sure his shipmates, his wife and family were taken care of, especially as he battled his illness. He had a spark about him that inspired

his shipmates ... hopefully that memory resides in our hearts as we move on and hold what he meant to us as we go on with our jobs."

Fulgham's advice to the Troopers of Guantanamo Bay is to, "remember Andrew Charpentier's memory and honor [him] in all that [you] do." According to him, Charpentier always stood up for what was right and had a dedication and loyalty to his shipmates that everyone could follow.

"Charpentier was an incredibly talented young man, and very, very smart," Fulgham continued. "He was one of the most enthusiastic, well-rounded Sailors that you'd want in your command, and the epitome of what we call a Shipmate. It's what he did for us and how he made the work-place better for everyone else around him that we're certainly going to miss." ☆

Boots on the Ground

by Army Staff Sgt. Blair Heusdens

What is your favorite summer vacation memory?

Army Sgt. 1st Class Miguel Bonilla



"Visiting Austria when I was stationed in Schweinfurt, Germany."

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Kyle Lafond



"Relaxing on the beach in Puerto Rico."

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Demarious Franklin



"Going to Puerto Galera in the Philippines with my wife and son."

Navy Lt. Alisha Hamilton



"Running with the bulls in Pamplona, Spain."



My life, my love

**Air Force Lt. Col.
Dwayne Peoples**

JTF Guantanamo Command Chaplain

I met a young lady, who would become my wife, in first grade. Two years later; I made my move. She may not have noticed, but she sure caught my eye sitting two rows over, so when an opportunity presented itself, I slipped her one of those childish notes asking her if she liked me because I liked her.

Though I wrote her a love letter in third grade; nine years elapsed before she and I went on a date. I worked hard to win her attention and wasn't sure I had it until the Christmas season when I used mistletoe to my advantage. I still had my work cut out for me, but eventually we began to date and in the summer between college and my enrollment in graduate school we married. This month, this week, we celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary via e-mails, phone calls and cards.

Please allow my sentimental indulgence as I cite the writer of Proverbs 31 to express my thoughts regarding my wife. "A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies. Her husband has full

confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life. She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands. She is like the merchant ships, bringing her food from afar. She gets up while it is still dark; she provides food for her family and portions for her servant girls. She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard. She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks. She sees that her trading is profitable, and her lamp does not go out at night. In her hand she holds the distaff and grasps the spindle with her fingers. She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy. When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet. She makes coverings for her bed; she is clothed in fine linen and purple. Her husband is respected at the city gate, where he takes his seat among the elders of the land. She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies the merchants with sashes. She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children

arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her."

Needless to say, my wife and I know what it takes to create a great marriage. We have had the virtuous role models, the right counsel and the commitment that TV, Madison Avenue or the local hang-out don't supply.

Using these latter sources for wisdom reminds me of a colleague who said she refers couples with relationship difficulties to another colleague who was on his third marriage. "After all," she said, "he has had so much experience." That logic is exasperating. That's like referring people to a doctor who has lost two patients in a row with your diagnosis and you are number three.

Please understand I am not passing judgment if you have had a failed marriage. Rather, I want you to see there is hope and help.

Twenty-five years of marriage has given my wife and I a keen understanding of skills that make marriage successful. To you, the reader, commit yourself to make your marriage last. Come to those of us who have maintained a successful, happy marriage for the best intervention. God bless you. ✨

JTF CHAPEL SCHEDULED PROGRAMS

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

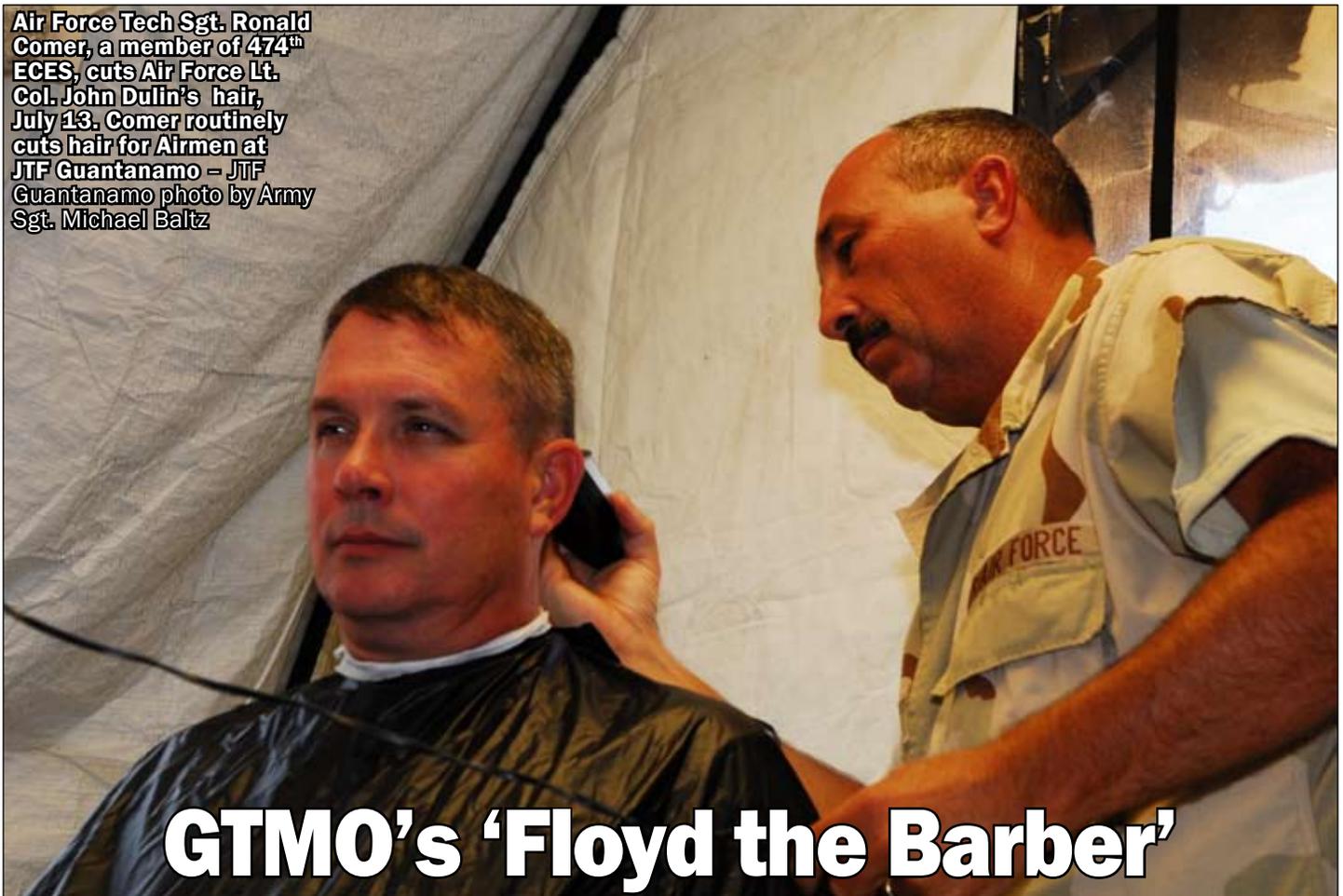
Spanish Catholic Mass
Sunday: 5 p.m.
at NAVSTA Chapel

Protestant Worship
Sunday: 9 a.m.

Spanish Protestant
Worship
Sunday: 11 a.m.

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

Air Force Tech Sgt. Ronald Comer, a member of 474th ECES, cuts Air Force Lt. Col. John Dulin's hair, July 13. Comer routinely cuts hair for Airmen at JTF Guantanamo - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Michael Baltz



GTMO's 'Floyd the Barber'

**Army Sgt.
Michael Baltz**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Many people have nicknames, and Air Force Tech. Sgt. Ronald Comer is no different. He has earned the nickname of "Floyd the Barber," a character from the *Andy Griffith Show*.

Comer, an information management specialist with the 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron, has been cutting fellow Airmen's hair since day one of his deployment to Joint Task Force Guantanamo.

"I never cut hair before," Comer said. "The first night here, some guys wanted a haircut and I just started practicing. I now have over 40 customers."

Along with a table of magazines to read while people wait for a haircut, Comer has his own barber's chair, trimmers, razors and clippers.

"I don't charge anything, I am just helping out the guys," Comer said. "It builds morale. It keeps them within regulation and looking good. It also saves them the hassle of sitting in line and getting a haircut. I do get tips every now and then, but it isn't necessary."

Comer has evolved from day one; cutting more than 400 heads of hair since he has been here.

"I can do a fade," Comer said. "I am pretty picky about things, so I try to do a

good job. I cut their hair to fit their head. I want them to be proud of it."

Comer is dedicated to keeping his clients looking sharp.

"I can't cut people's hair when they are busy, so I am pretty flexible," Comer said. "I usually cut hair when people have free time or in the evening or on the weekends. I did one last week at 7 a.m."

Comer doesn't claim to be perfect and admits to making mistakes along the way.

"I have put the wrong guard on before, but it all worked out," Comer said casually. "I just cut it shorter."

One person he is sure to take care of is the 474th ECES Commander, Air Force Lt. Col. John Dulin.

"It is a great thing he is doing, it allows everyone to look good," Dulin said. "He gives a good haircut. We give him the time and ability to do it."

Dulin said there would not be any repercussions if Comer made a mistake.

"He hasn't messed up my hair," Dulin said. "Yet."

Unfortunately, the females haven't been able to enjoy Comer's haircuts.

"They won't let me cut their hair," Comer said gloomily.

"I am going to start cutting my wife's hair though; it will save me some money," Comer added jokingly.

As far as continuing his new role in the unit, it will not end anytime soon.

"[My unit members] want me to keep on cutting their hair when I get home," Comer said. "I have already made a deal with a few of them to keep on doing it on drill weekends." ☆



Air Force Tech Sgt. Ronald Comer and Air Force Lt. Col. John Dulin admire a finished haircut. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Michael Baltz

Around the

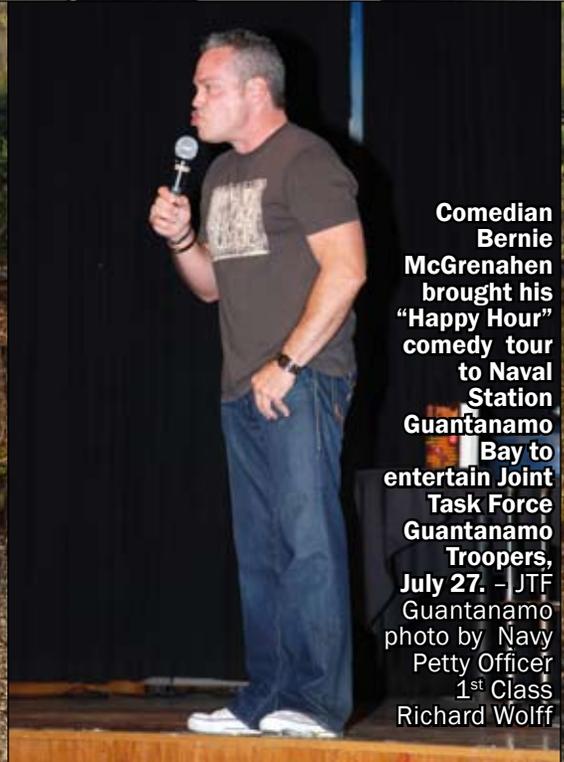


JTF



Army Capt. Matthew French, veterinarian at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay's veterinary clinic, examines Riley, a naval base resident's dog, July 24. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Spc. Cody Black

Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer Glen F. Porter receives a certificate of reenlistment from Navy Lt. Cmdr. Dennis Marion after a ceremony held at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay's Northeast Gate, July 24 - JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Richard Wolff



Comedian Bernie McGrenahan brought his "Happy Hour" comedy tour to Naval Station Guantanamo Bay to entertain Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers, July 27. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Richard Wolff