

THE WIRE

A JTF Journal



Dodgeball

**If you dodge a wrench,
you can dodge a ball**

**New Post Office
Getting your mom's
cookies on time**

It's all about the guards

**Navy Master-at-Arms Senior Chief
George Knapp**
Joint Task Force Guantanamo

I have the distinct privilege of working not only in a military prison, but also here at the detention facility. I can honestly say it is much different.

From sunrise to sunrise it is all about the guards.

We need to focus on every aspect with our guards, Sometimes with the different missions and taskings we tend to forget about what goes through the minds of the guards for that watch. It could be a bad day on the home front which can lead to rough day on the block or pod, if the guard is not focused.

We as senior leaders need to continue to support the guards. The guards have the toughest job here in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Sometimes all that is needed is for the senior leadership to take a few minutes just to be a listener and a guide to help them along. It is easy for the Soldiers and Sailors that are not directly on the block or pod to come to work and sit at their desk and leave at the end of the day without stress. But the guards have some sort of stress every day they are at work. The guards are still there doing what they do best, fulfilling the mission. What we do here as leaders is critical in the success of the junior enlisted. The junior personnel are the ones we need to continue to mold to become the future leaders of our Armed Forces. Spending the extra one to two hours talking to them, or coming to the block or pod seeing them will help them. Sometimes it is as simple as saying "good morning," or asking how they are doing, to brighten their day. This will bring some understanding that we are all in this together.

I personally challenge all leadership in every branch of service to come to the different blocks and pods and tell the guards how much they are appreciated for what they do.

I personally want to thank all of the guards from the different branches of service for the job they do everyday. Your job is not easy. Being a senior enlisted leader, I will never forget your hard work and dedication to the mission here at Guantanamo Bay. It truly is all about the guards! ☆



JTF GUANTANAMO

Commander:

Navy Rear Adm. David M. Thomas, Jr.

Joint Task Force CMC:

Navy Command Master Chief
Brad LeVault

Office of Public Affairs:

Director:

Navy Cmdr. Pauline Storum: 9928

Deputy:

Army Maj. Richard Morehouse: 9927

Supervisor:

Army 1st Sgt. James Venske: 3649

The Wire

Executive Editor:

Army 1st Lt. Adam Bradley: 3596

Editor:

Army Sgt. 1st Class Vaughn R. Larson: 3651

Assistant Editors:

Army Staff Sgt. Emily Russell: 2171

Army Sgt. Gretel Sharpee: 3594

Staff Writers:

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class

Jayne Pastoric: 3499

Army Spc. Megan Burnham: 3589

Army Pfc. Eric Liesse: 3589

Contact us

Editor's Desk: 3651 or 3596

From the continental United States:

Commercial: 011-53-99-3651

DSN: 660-3651

Email: thewire@jftgmo.southcom.mil

Online: www.jftgmo.southcom.mil

COVER:

Staff Sgt. Chad Rix uses his brute strength to carry two 115-pound dumbbells to a platform. Rix was the winner of Guantanamo Bay's Strongest Man contest. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Jayme Pastoric



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

JTF to deliver better post office



Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Nyto Griffen unloads and organizes mail by placing it in separate piles for specific units at the Camp America Post Office Sept. 2.

Army Spc. Megan Burnham

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The Camp America Post Office will be moving to a new location in response to a remodeling project of the old Camp Bulkeley gym conducted by the Joint Task Force Engineers.

“There was a need to upgrade the post office and move it out of the sea huts,” said Navy Chief Petty Officer Jason Marino, JTF Engineering non-commissioned officer in charge. “We felt it would be a good place for the post office.”

Reasons for the upgrade included the overall deterioration of the building where it was no longer valuable to repair the building due to lack of efficiency and insulation. The postal clerks in the building also have to deal with leaks during rain showers on a consistent basis.

“I think it’s time for change,” said Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Nyto Griffen. “I think it’s going to be a great move.”

Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Alexis Barbosa added, “It is going to improve our quality of life with finally having a bathroom in the building. It will also improve the



The vacant Bulkeley Gymnasium will be the new location of the Camp America Post Office. Remodeling and construction won’t begin for at least two more months.

safety and security of the mail.”

The project is still in the planning stage with plans to move soon to the public works office, where it will then be sent out to contractors to bid on the project.

Not only will the old gym house the new post office, but also an information technology lab. That will consist of 48 computers used as a training area, as well as a location where troopers can use their common access card.

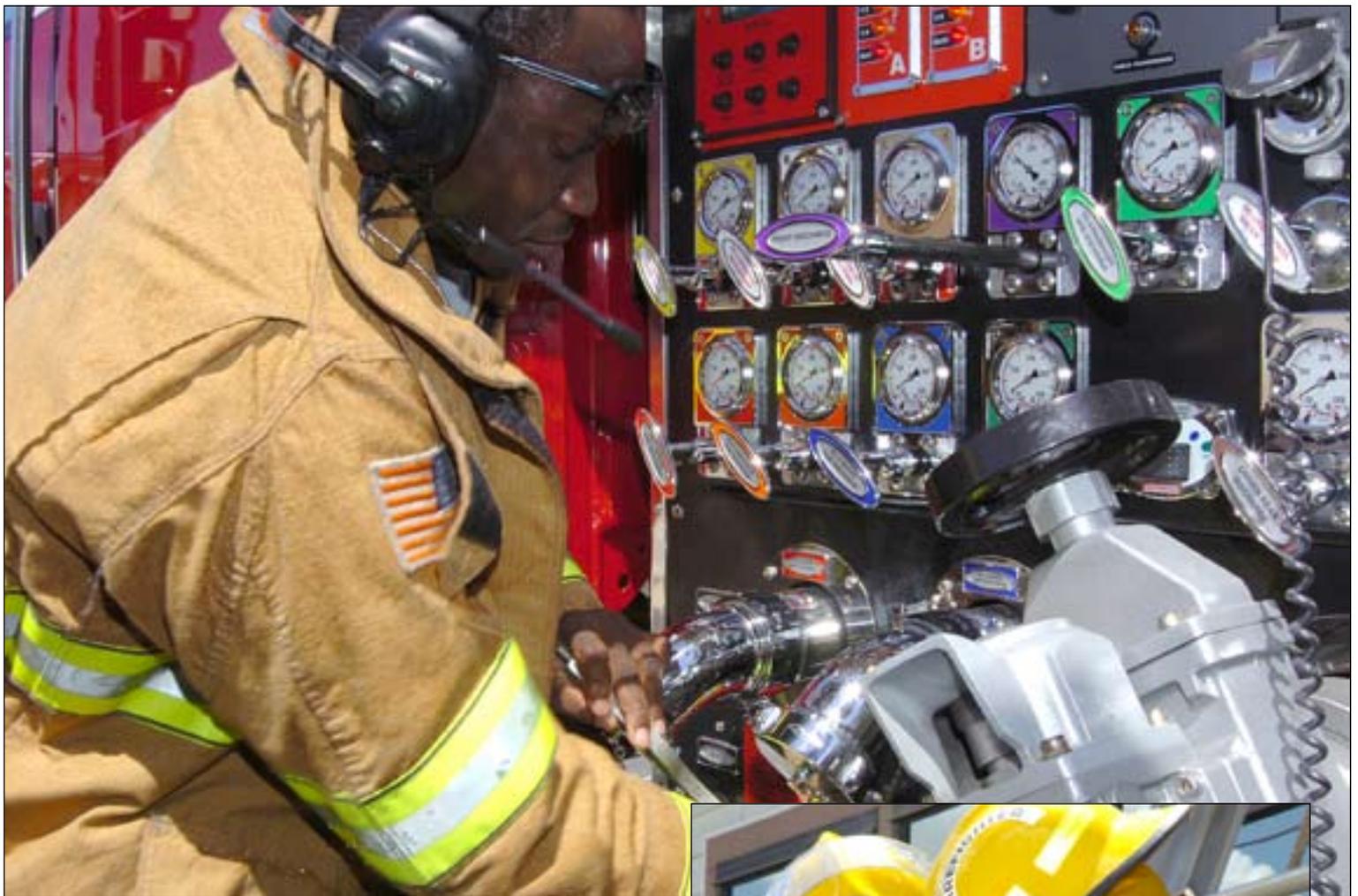
“I got a call from Command Master Chief Roy Re of the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion Command wanting an empty sea hut for 48 computers, said Marino. “But I thought of the old gym still vacant and

felt it would work for the space that was required.”

In a rough layout of the building, the front will consist of the IT lab with a restroom facility and the back portion will house the new post office.

“Our [JTF Engineers] main goal is to eventually get everyone out of Camp America,” said Marino. “These sea huts have been here longer than most sea huts are meant to last.”

Even though the project has been set in motion, it is estimated that it will take two to six months before everything is finalized and remodeling of the building can begin. 🌟



A fireman from the Guantanamo Bay Fire Department, adjusts the water supply on a pumper truck during a recent fire drill. U. S. Naval Station Fire and Emergency Services conduct weekly training drills in preparation for yearly certifications. At right, firefighters conduct ladder and climbing training.

Ready for the call

**Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class
Kleynia R. McKnight**
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Hundreds of Jamaican-born citizens apply each year for the rare but possible position with a team of heroes, the Guantanamo Bay Fire Department.

An open firefighter position here only occurs if a fireman either retires or opts to leave the position, or in a worst-case scenario, is fired.

Each year an average of 300 candidates apply to enter the firefighters program. The hiring process takes place in Jamaica, where selection boards mark the first step to being a Gitmo firefighter.

If chosen, applicants begin a six-week extensive physical and mental training program, with events such as live fire drills, full-gear orientation, self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), operating techniques and more. The main focus is to train and prepare future firemen to perform required duties.

The intensity of the training assures proper performance in areas such as aircraft rescue firefighting (ARFF), hazardous material spills and life-saving skills – skills that may eventually translate into career advancement.

See **FIREMEN/13**





Troopers' ticket home

Army Sgt. Gregory Springer, a member of the 525th Military Police Battalion, finalizes his travel plans to leave the island with Air Force Tech. Sgt. Ryan Dixon. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Erica Isaacson

**Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class
Jayme Pastoric**
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

There comes a time in a deployment when, sadly, Troopers have to return home. Once the checkout sheet is completed and the issued gear is accounted for, there is still one last task to be completed, getting a ride home.

The people who issue these golden tickets are, J4 passenger travel, the morale builders of Joint Task Force.

Air Force Tech. Sgt. Ryan Dixon issues these tickets to Troopers traveling off the island back to the United States.

"I book Troopers' travel arrangements on the rotator going on leave or permanently changing duty stations," said Dixon.

Dixon is also responsible for making arrangements for family members traveling to Guantanamo Bay.

With 900 to 1,000 bookings a month, Dixon is constantly moving people on and off the island.

"I feel like I help build morale," said Dixon. "People get to see their family



"I feel like I help build morale. People get to see their family whether going home or coming here it gets the mission done."

- Tech. Sgt. Ryan Dixon

whether going home or coming here. It gets the mission done."

With hurricane season in full swing, worried travelers keep their fingers crossed hoping the weather will hold long enough to catch their flight.

"We are flexible enough to make sure travelers get off the island as soon as possible," said Dixon. "I receive a lot of phone calls asking about flights and assuring travelers that we are doing everything in our power to get them on their flight."

Having the proper paperwork when

traveling, and making sure your visitors have their entry clearance paperwork or passports, can help alleviate travel headaches.

Dixon offers some advice to all future travelers.

"Have money just in case you can't fly space-available flights. Space-available flights are a great benefit that [military members] have as military personnel," said Dixon "But you need to learn how it works. You can Google "Space A" and get an abundance of info. We can travel the world for very cheap."

Some important information Troopers should know prior to making any flight arrangements is that Troopers need copies of travel orders, leave forms, special authorization, LOIA, NAVSTA clearance or non-command sponsored dependents letter. If you are on rest and recreation or emergency leave, you will need the leave chit/form that has the long accounting number in remarks.

Flights on the rotator are every Saturday and on every first and third Tuesday of the month. ☆

Dodging for money



Da Master Blasters and the NEGB Ballers go against each other early on during the tournament. Each team was allowed six players on the court at one time.

■ Troopers find an athletic and competitive way to fundraise for the Troopers Ball

**Army Sgt.
Gretel Sharpee**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The air was thick and the bugs were ravenous, but as the sun went down hot lights lit the outdoor hockey rink into a halogen blaze as Troopers took aim – with dodge balls.

For a unique twist on fundraising, a Dodge Ball tournament took place Aug. 29 at the Coopers Field outdoor hockey rink. Each of the eight teams paid \$30 to play in the tournament with the money going for the upcoming Joint Task Force Troopers Ball.

“A lot more people participated than we thought, as well as there being a lot of spectators,” said Chandradeo Harry, who played a main role in organizing the tournament. “I just think it went really well.”

The tournament allowed for double elimination since any contact with the ball, except catching, was considered an out. Teams were also authorized to have eight members, but only six could be on the court at one time.

“We saw a lot of people trying to bend the rules like putting balls under their shirts on their back so you couldn’t see that they

had one,” said Harry.

Despite some slight rule bending, the event raised over \$350, due in part to a donation-only concession stand. The tournament was also non-alcoholic and it was up to each individual Trooper to ensure it stayed that way.

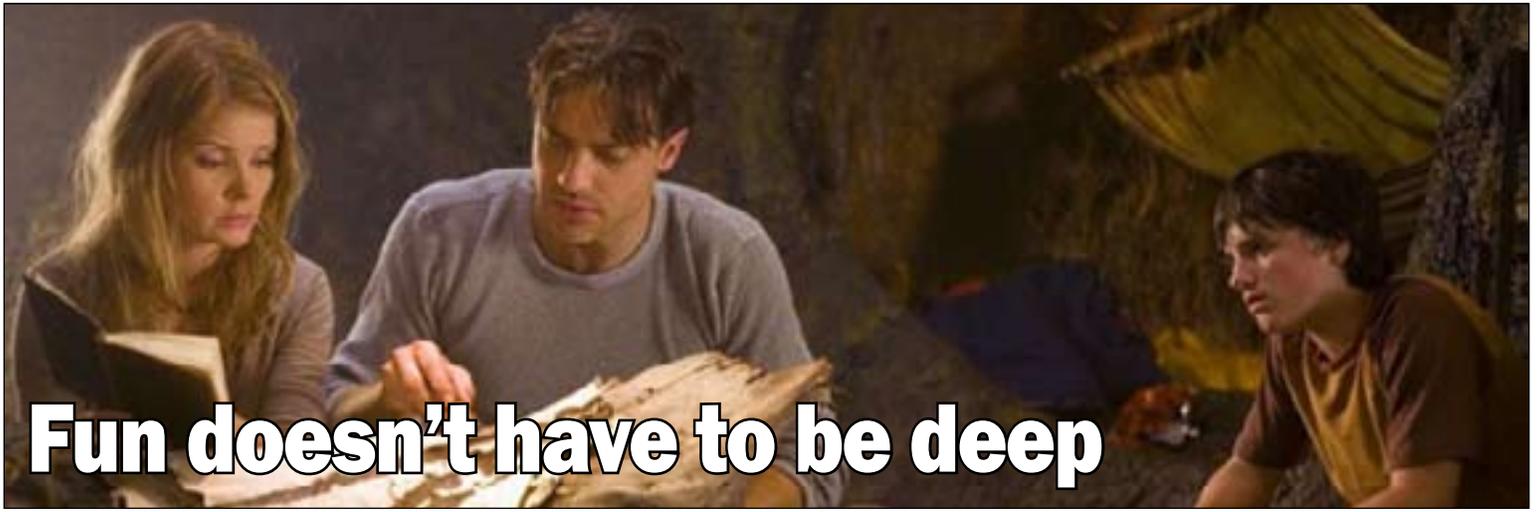
“You can plan on it happening again,” said Anthony Luiz. “It was fun, there was a ton of interest and it brought everybody together on a Friday night.” ☆

Da Master Blasters take on the My Commander Made Me Change the Name of this Team, but since any contact with the ball is considered a hit, the tournament was played with double elimination.



Dodge Ball Tournament Results

- 1st place: The Dodgers
- 2nd place: The Fighting Fomites
- 3rd place: My Commander Made Me Change the Name of this Team



Fun doesn't have to be deep

**Army Pfc.
Eric Liesse**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Jules Verne's iconic novel "Journey to the Center of the Earth" has seen many incarnations. The newest of these is best described – as cliché as it is – as a "rollercoaster of action and fun." There are two reasons: first, the film rarely lets up on the overall action or the "Saved By the Bell"-level one-liners. Second, it requires no more audience thought to follow the plot than to follow the course of any old, wooden Coney Island ride – only the willingness to sit down and hang on.

For instance, examine the plot's premise: a volcanologist (Brendan Fraser) finds an old copy of the Verne classic among his missing brother's belongings, with notes on finding the Earth's center world. Immediately, Fraser decides to go with his nephew (Josh Hutcherson) to Iceland to try to find his brother – and maybe the lost world being sought there.

Within the first 10 minutes, the audience could repeatedly throw the "How is this

happening?" flag. However, questioning why Fraser takes his teenage nephew overseas in search of a family member lost in the Icelandic mountains makes as much sense as questioning why the priest and rabbi have a beer together in all those jokes. It's happening, so stop thinking and enjoy the pretty moving pictures.

In Iceland, the duo is escorted by a local guide (Anita Briem) and travel into the mountains to stumble upon the world Verne described many years before. As soon as the team enters, they know they need to leave because inside the Earth's apparently sometimes-livable center, everything from storming oceans to man-eating venus fly traps reside.

On their journey, our explorers travel on old mine carts over broken tracks, fall down a tunnel Hutcherson calls a water slide, and bounce in a tyrannosaur's skull down a mountainside. These scenes are as close as you can get to rollercoaster-like thrills without actually being at a theme park.

This movie sets out to be a no-nonsense family-action rollercoaster ride (there I go again) without much else, but in Gitmo,

we're not getting the movie in its full glory. This is not just a big-budget B-movie; it is a 3-dimensional, big-budget B-movie! It was shot entirely in 3-D format and was intended to be seen that way. That is the reason the characters look like cardboard cut-outs and lots of action is directed at the camera – such as overgrown piranhas jumping from the water or Hutcherson performing yo-yo tricks.

It looks as though the effect was executed better than, say, KISS' "Psycho Circus" music video, but we won't know until we can use those nifty disposable glasses.

Yes, this movie is almost pointless – but that *is* the point. Going in expecting "Star Wars" starring Brendan Fraser is your own fault. Children will love it, and it's decent enough that parents can justify their time. Everyone else can say what the studio hopes everyone else will say: "Oh, why the heck not?"

PG
1 hour, 32 minutes

Rating: ★★☆☆☆



GITMO'S STRONGEST MAN

JTF Guantanamo photos by
Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Jayme Pastoric

A keg carry, tire flip and a humvee pull are not normally added to a workout plan.

It took five events and over a ton of weight to find Gitmos strongest man, Staff Sgt. Chad Rix. Rix bested

all competitors in overall points to claim the title of "Strongest man."

A veterinary technician for the Army, Rix did not train for the event. He used his natural size and strength.



Dave Wright



"I don't lift weights, I don't pull Humvees for practice, I do Army physical training five days a week." - Army Staff Sgt. Chad Rix

Chad Rix



Greg Montgomery



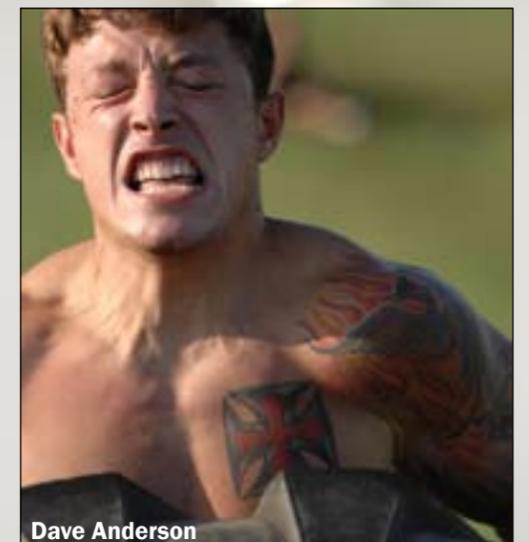
Brandin Schumann



Dustin Buterbaugh



Wayne Geschwindt



Dave Anderson

Learning the ropes



New chief selects perform arm stretches to open a physical training session Aug. 8 at the Windjammer tennis courts. The chief induction training process is designed to prepare selectees for the challenges they will face as chief petty officers. – Photo courtesy Navy Chief Petty Officer Anthony Sganga

A little more than one month ago, life got a little busier for 15 Joint Task Force Navy Troopers. Make that a lot busier.

Those individuals are among 19 at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay – including three Naval Station Sailors and a member of the U.S. Coast Guard – currently participating in a 47-day induction process to become chief petty officers. This process is revered in the Navy, and considered vital to developing subject matter experts in their field.

Army Sgt. 1st Class Vaughn R. Larson

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

that you know where to find them,” said Chief Petty Officer Karen Leonard, who worked with the Commissions Support Group here before leaving the island Aug. 30. She instructed CPO selectees early in the induction process on what it means to be a chief petty officer, and what to expect in that capacity.

“You’re constantly learning,” Leonard explained. “It’s no longer all about you – it’s all about your Sailors.”

Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Lewis Mesta agreed. The JTF selectee said that there is a competitive nature among petty officers as they seek to gain advancement credentials.

“Once you’re a chief, your focus is no longer on yourself,” Mesta explained. “It’s on your people – your junior enlisted and junior officers.”

And it’s also about networking, so that chief petty officers can help each other with Sailor issues.

Petty officers 1st Class can take an advancement exam in

January of each year. That exam score, combined with the last three evaluations, determine if the petty officer is eligible to be considered by a board consisting of primarily master chiefs. The board will “rack and stack” candidates to determine who will fill chief petty officer vacancies. This selection process takes into consideration civilian education and collateral, or additional, duties as well as duty assignments.

According to Navy Chief Petty Officer Ginamarie Doherty, the induction process is going extremely well.

“Everything we do is working up to the last 48 hours, the culmination of the induction season,” she explained, “where the selectees are really tested on military knowledge and physical endurance. It gives all chiefs a chance to bring the selectees into the mess if we see fit.”

Mesta acknowledged the tradition which steeps the induction process.

“It’s been challenging, and at times extremely difficult, but every task has a purpose and provides us with tools,” he said. “It’s absolutely rewarding.”

Selectees will be pinned – an act signifying the end of their induction process – during a 2 p.m. ceremony at the Windjammer Ballroom Sept. 16.

“I’m sorry I have to leave before seeing all those selectees pinned,” Leonard said. ☆



Personnel enjoy a showing of one of this week's new films at the Downtown Lyceum movie theater Sept. 2. The Downtown Lyceum is one of two free movie theaters here, and it is within walking distance for all Joint Task Force personnel living in Cuzco Barracks.

Just you and the movie

**Army Pfc.
Eric Liesse**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Whether it be a crime-fighter in a caped suit, a young couple hilariously in love, or a group of animated talking animals saving a park, movies are powerful pieces of popular art able to display imagination in an infinite number of ways. Thankfully, local Morale, Welfare and Recreation officials knew this and made sure Guantanamo had these unique slices of escapism.

The Downtown Lyceum, near the Navy Exchange, and Camp Bulkeley, near Joint Task Force's Camp America, have shown Gitmo's films since 1957 and 1978, respectfully. The Lyceum seats 2,500 moviegoers between its standard theater seating and bleachers. Its most recent renovation happened in 2006 when the screen, sound system and seating were updated. However, the projectors were left out, which MWR hopes to update soon.

"That's on the wish-list," Lisa Dula, marketing director for MWR, said of new projectors, adding they would be "very pricey."

Camp Bulkeley seats 400 and had its most recent renovation in 2004, when virtually everything was updated because it was unused at the time. Dula added

she hears often that, since it has newer projectors, Camp Bulkeley is sometimes preferred over the Lyceum by many Gitmo personnel – including herself.

Dula is in charge of all MWR movie affairs on base. She works through MWR's Navy Motion Pictures Services in Millington, Tenn., which handles all films shown on U.S. Navy installations.

"They go and view upcoming movies for the summer and decide what's best for the bases," Dula said of the NMPS, which works directly with big-name movie production companies on contracts, outlining how long each film can be shown on installations and the amount MWR pays for the showing rights.

Then, the film canisters with the latest Hollywood blockbusters are given to NMPS directly from the film companies – none are second-run from civilian theaters. However, the copies MWR owns of the films are "rotated through all the bases," Dula said. That is why some movie copies appear used when shown here.

"We have a certain window of time we can show the movie," Dula said. It is usually two to three weeks, but sometimes as long as two months, in which Gitmo is allowed to show a movie before it continues its rotation.

Although the theaters' equipment is mostly new, the film format Gitmo receives is "all old-school," said Dula.

"We actually have the large 35mm film," Dula said. That is why there is a visible cut during movies; 35mm film reels are too large to keep on a single projector, so two are needed for full-length films when reels are switched.

Local movie schedules are put out usually every Wednesday. Sometimes film delivery delays push back the local schedules. Dula said people would be far more upset if the schedule was wrong rather than a day late – especially if it promises a new movie the base didn't actually have.

Dula said she meets people at business conferences who are surprised Gitmo has a theater at all – let alone two. She likes to also tell them about what she considers a special perk of true island style: they are both outside.

"It makes it better," said Dula. "You're outside, under the stars. It just really improves the experience," adding it makes movies "easier to swallow" and adds character to the overall theater experience.

"[It's] another plus to get movies for free, being overseas," Dula said. With no ticket price and \$2 popcorn buckets, any movie can be worth the time, she added. ★



Saving for a rainy day

Troopers assigned to Joint Task Force Guantanamo unload Meals Ready to Eat (MREs) and water that were staged in Cuzco Barracks and other living areas Sept. 2 in preparation for Hurricane Gustav. The Troopers volunteered to be part of a sand bag crew that was not needed, so they instead helped with cleanup after the storm. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Erica Isaacson

BICYCLE SAFETY

ON ROADS

- Bicycles have the same right-of-way as motor vehicles
- Bikes must ride single-file on far right side of road, in the direction of traffic
- Bikes are not allowed on sidewalks, NEX atrium or on Sherman Avenue north of Housing Self-Help without specific authorization

OFF-ROAD

- Remain on designated trails, yield to pedestrians

SAFETY RULES

- No passengers on bikes except in specific passenger seats
- No headphones or earphones when riding a bike
- ANSI or SNELL approved helmets are required when riding bikes
- Reflective gear required at all times when riding on roads
- An operating white light required on front and red reflector on rear when riding between sunset and sunrise

Source: Naval Station Guantanamo Regulation 1710.10 (Aug. 30, 2006)

Gitmo firemen maintain readiness

FIREMEN from 4

“The experience and the learning opportunity that has been given to me has been a blessing,” said firefighter Steve Fearon. “The skills I’ve gained will not only allow me to reach my goal to be a firefighter captain, but the opportunity to be a successful one too.”

Their daily duties and slow fire seasons allow them to train even harder. The two fire stations are managed by one fire chief, four assistant fire chiefs, one training officer, two fire inspectors, and 74 firemen.

Their routines consist of maintenance, equipment validation, community patrols and drilling, and maintaining a 24-hour-a-day emergency response.

“Constant watch-standing is no limitation to these hard-charging firemen,” said Glenn L. V. Sevell, assistant fire chief. “These are men and women that relate to our service members. Like you, their lives are in a perpetual remote,” meaning their constant presence and active involvement in the Guantanamo community. ☆



A fireman from the Guantanamo Bay Fire Department assists another fireman during the climbing of a ladder during fire drill here, Aug. 2.

Boots on the Ground

by Army Pfc. Eric Liesse

What would your rap name be if you went professional?

Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer Jeff Tate



“Major Pain, because that’s what they would be feeling after hearing me rap!”

Army Spc. Travis Hayward



“Haystack, because that’s my nickname.”

Navy Seaman Mitchell Blythe



“JJ Strokes, a.k.a. Big Country - just because.”

Navy Seaman Jorge Jimenez



“Jay\$, because I’ve got money in the bank!”

A time for everything

**Chaplain
Scott Brill**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

As demonstrated this past week, when world-changing events start to affect the campaign trail, both Presidential candidates put their own interests aside to focus on the state of emergency in Louisiana caused by Hurricane Gustav. Would it not have been inappropriate to do otherwise? The fact is, there is a time and season for everything.

A fellow Trooper was inspired by the words of Ecclesiastes, and wrote this poem for our reflection.

THERE IS A TIME

There is a time to be surrounded by friends and family; there is a time to be alone with ourselves.

There is a time to be popular; there is a time to be unknown.

There is a time to rejoice with others; there is a time to mourn in private.

There is a time to be excited when with our friends; there is a time to be disappointed when things don't go our way.

There is a time to have fun and drink beer (or other beverages) with our coworkers; there is a time to be by ourselves and contemplate life.

There is a time to win the game; there is a time to come in last place.

There is a time to catch the biggest fish; there is a time to sit in the boat, and watch others catch their biggest fish.

There is a time to feel love; there is a time to feel pain.

There is a time to sleep restfully throughout the night; there is a time to wake up throughout the night, thinking about how things ought to be and how things can be.

There is a time to be rewarded for our work; there is a time for our work to go unnoticed.

There is a time to be safe; there is a time to take risks.

There is a time to hold on tight; there is a time to gently let go.

There is a time to be admired by our friends and colleagues; there is a time to fade into the background.

There is a time to drink and be satisfied; there is a time to be thirsty and want more.

There is a time to have our needs met; there is a time to meet the needs of others.

There is a time to express our emotions; there is a time to be silent and listen to others express theirs.

There is a time to disclose our innermost desires; there is a time to be quiet and listen to the desires of others.

There is a time when it's all about us; there is a time when it's all about them.

There is a time to play chess and forget about the world; there is a time to set aside the chess game and help the world around us.

There is a time to have things go our way; there is a time to be frustrated when they don't.

There is a time for personal pride; there is a time for humility and sacrifice.

There is a time to be given to; there is a time to give.

There is a time to push forward and change the world; there is a time to be still and accept that perhaps-things are exactly the way they should be.

There is a time to confront those who persecute us; there is a time to show love, tolerance, and grace.

There is a time to ask God to meet our needs; there is a time to thank God for what He has already done.

There is a time to be blessed; there is a time to bless others.

There is a time to receive God's mercy; there is a time to give God's mercy.

JTF CHAPEL SCHEDULED PROGRAMS

Catholic Mass

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

Wednesday: 11 a.m. Spanish Mass

Protestant Worship

Sunday: 9 a.m.

Spanish Protestant Worship
Sunday: Noon

Winning ways continue

**Army Sgt. 1st Class
Vaughn R. Larson**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

A quick look in the lobby of the Joint Task Force Headquarters will underscore how dominant the Coast Guard has been in recent Trooper of the Quarter competitions.

Petty Officer 2nd Class William Adams of Port Security Unit 307, who assists with security for the military commissions, maintained the Coast Guard's winning streak by being named the Senior Trooper of the Quarter for the fourth quarter.

"I've prepared for this my whole career," he explained. "You can study for it, but if you don't use the fundamentals on a regular basis, then you're just trying to remember facts."

Troopers in the competition were asked questions about former presidents, the Declaration of Independence, the Gettysburg Address, basic weaponry, hip-pocket training, the Thrift Savings Plan, TriCare and current events.

"I looked at it as having a good basic knowledge of why we do what we do, but also how to help your troops," he said.

Adams does not view the award as an individual honor, but a shoreside honor.

"I have a team of people who have assisted me," he said. "It was my unit that gave me time to work on this."

Adams credited serving with a Coast Guard Reserve unit for his preparation.

"You have to work hard once a month to retain that knowledge," he pointed out.

Prior to serving in the Coast Guard, Adams served 12 years in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard as a truck driver and a petroleum specialist. That experience helped with questions about weapons, he said.

"The competition was very good," Adams continued. "Everybody looked on top of their game. To rise above that challenge was a great honor."

Adams studied three and one-half weeks for the Senior Trooper competition. He said his wife knew that if he didn't call home it was because he had fallen asleep while studying.

"My wife was very excited," he said of the honor. "She's told everyone in the family."

Despite continuing the Coast Guard's string of Senior Trooper and junior Trooper wins, Adams contends that the significance of the competition goes beyond bragging rights.

"This period in time – what's going on here, why we're here – it's very important for me to win it here," he said. "It's an extreme honor." ✪



Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class William Adams, who assists with security for the military commissions, was named Joint Task Force Senior Trooper of the Quarter last month.

Around the JTF



Army Sgt. Carlos Manchuca, Puerto Rico Army National Guard, instructs a driver on how to properly secure the vehicle during Tropical Storm Gustav. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Erica Isaacson



Kathy Dicianni displays her GTMO Pottery collection for purchase at the Labor Day Craft Fair held at the Windjammer Ballroom Monday, Sept. 1. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Megan Burnham



Army Spc. Christina Beerman and Army Spc. Megan Phillips host and produce "The Local Show with Maggie and B," a live alternative rock radio show on 103.1 "The Blitz." – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Kleynia McKnight

Army Staff Sgt. Drew Neal, the non-commissioned officer in charge of the Joint Task Force Guantanamo Joint Visitors Bureau, teaches a night class attended by his fellow JTF Troopers. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Erica Isaacson

