

# THE WIRE



***New Puerto Rico Guard Force***  
**Strategic Mobility Operations**  
**JAS Health Fair**  
**Annual Seabee Celebration**

# Leadership qualities are gender neutral

By Command Master Chief Petty Officer  
Otis Carolina

NEGB Command Master Chief

What is a leader and who can be a leader? Over the years leaders and the positions they occupy have been predominantly portrayed by brave and masculine male figures. Is this how you perceive leaders?

To be an effective leader one must first learn to follow – follow not in the sense of traveling behind but in the sense of receiving a message, command or order and then executing the details thereof to the best of one's ability.

Given the significance of this month as Women's History Month, ask yourself this question. Who was it that gave you your first action command or order? For most of us the answer will probably be our mothers and who among would suggest that they weren't influential? I would venture to say that women have been leaders and occupied positions of influence far more than many of us would acknowledge.

Following are women leaders that I believe wielded tremendous influence:

**Joan of Arc (Jeanne d'Arc):** A 15th century saint and national heroine of France. She was the only person ever recorded to have commanded an entire army of a nation at age 17. Twenty six years later she was declared a martyr by the Catholic Church. She was beatified in 1909 and canonized in 1920.

**Sacajawea:** A Shoshone woman who joined the Lewis and Clark in their exploration of the Western territories, traveling thousands of miles from present day North Dakota to the Pacific Ocean between 1804 and 1806.

**Harriet Tubman:** Born a slave in Maryland, she escaped and later led more than 300 other slaves north to Canada. She is best known for her association with the Underground Railroad. She was thoroughly acquainted with many of the social reformers and abolitionists of her time and spoke out vigorously against slavery and for women's rights.

**Mary McLeod Bethune:** (Born



July 10, 1875 in Mayesville, S.C., my hometown) Known for her contributions in education, founding Bethune-Cookman College and working with organizations of black women. She was an advisor to President Roosevelt as he crafted his New Deal policies and a friend to his wife, Eleanor.

**Mother Teresa:** A Roman Catholic nun, who founded the Missionary of Charity I Calcutta. For over forty years she ministered to the poor, sick, orphaned and dying throughout India and other countries. She won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979. Her Missionaries of Charity organization was operating 610 missions in 123 countries at the time of her death in 1997.

As you have read about these women and their accomplishments, think back to the women who helped shape the leadership qualities you possess. Give tribute to those women who have made – and continue to make – countless leadership contributions to all that you and this world are and shall become.

Chances are, given the opportunity, there is a future woman admiral, general or president working beside you. Do not discount her value and ideas because she is a woman. Truth be told, she along with many other women will be among the best and truest kinds of leaders.

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### Executive Editor:

Army Capt. Cara Thompson: 3596

### Editor:

Army Staff Sgt. Paul Meeker: 3651

### Assistant Editor/Designer:

Army Sgt. Scott Griffin: 3594

### Staff Writers:

Army Staff Sgt. Jerry Rushing: 3499

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class

Cheryl Dilgard: 2171

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class

Nathaniel Moger: 3592

Army Spc. Shanita Simmons: 3589

## Contact us:

Base Information: 2000

Public Affairs Office: 3651 or 3596

From the continental United States:

Commercial: 011-53-99-3651

DSN: 660-3651

Email: [TheWIRE@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil](mailto:TheWIRE@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil)

**ONLINE:** [www.jtfgtmo.southcom.mil](http://www.jtfgtmo.southcom.mil)

## COVER:

**Troopers from Headquarters and Headquarters Service Battery, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Field Artillery from the Puerto Rico National Guard, man a "Maverick," an up-armored HUMMVEE, March 10. The "Borinquenos" now provide external security for Camp America. (Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Nathaniel Moger)**



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.

# New Puerto Rico unit assumes external security duties

Story and photo by Navy Petty Officer  
2nd Class Nathaniel Moger

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Un cielo siempre nítido/  
le sirve de dosel/  
y dan arrullos plácidos/  
las olas a sus pies./

A constantly clear sky/  
serves as its canopy/  
and placid lullabies are sung/  
by the waves at its feet./

From an objective standpoint these words could be recounting any of the innumerable beautiful days on Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. However close these lyrics might seem to be describing Guantanamo, they are not. They are describing Borinquena, a name given to the island of Puerto Rico by its early native inhabitants.

The words are from *La Borinquena*, the national anthem of Puerto Rico, located a little less than 500 miles east of here. Puerto Rico shares more than just similar skies, mountainous terrain and the blue waters of the Caribbean with Guantanamo Bay. Now, more than 140 Borinquenos and Borinquenas are here to protect the Joint Task Force.

On Feb. 28 the Headquarters and Headquarters Service Battery, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Field Artillery from the Puerto Rico National Guard assumed the duties that Company C, 1st Battalion, 65th Infantry from the PRNG have been fulfilling for the past year: the external security for those who work and live in Camp America.

These responsibilities, common to any force protection unit, primarily entail manning, static and roving security positions in and around Camp America. It's a job that requires hours of constant vigilance performed in generally hot weather conditions.

"The hardest part is taking the sun and the heat," said Army Capt. Pedro Pomales, commander of HHSB 2. "It's definitely an outdoors job, not an office or desk job."



**Army Spc. Joseph Sandovar (top) and Army Spc. Miguel Huertas man a "Maverick," an up-armored HUMMVEE, March 10. The "Maverick" is a roving sentry vehicle that provides external security for Joint Task Force Guantanamo.**

Fortunately, life back in Puerto Rico has certainly prepared these Soldiers for the challenges posed by the muggy tropical heat. In fact, these Troopers may be the only ones who look at a deployment to Guantanamo as a trip to a cooler climate.

"My guys are really enjoying this," explained Pomales. "It's not much different than back home. Actually, it's drier here, not as humid and it doesn't rain as much. Now, back in Fort Lewis, Wash. they were freezing."

Fort Lewis was the site of their mobilization training, and they are looking to bring the lessons learned there to bear.

"We were trained well in Fort Lewis," said Pomales. "They taught us how to do all of the different jobs we have down here."

However, there were still JTF specific aspects of the jobs that required a ten day stretch of "left seat, right seat" activity with Charlie Company where HHSB was taught the finer details of their responsibilities.

"Charlie Company showed us the different standard operating procedures for the security positions and the 'Mavericks,' (up-armored HUMMVEEs that provide roving security)," said Pomales. "Altogether the training went well."

Now, with all responsibility for external security in their hands, HHSB is starting to enjoy their role in the JTF.

"This is our first joint mission as a unit, but we don't see any difference between branches," said Pomales. "Everyone's respectful to my guys and they're the same back."

# The people you need to know

Story and photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Cheryl Dilgard

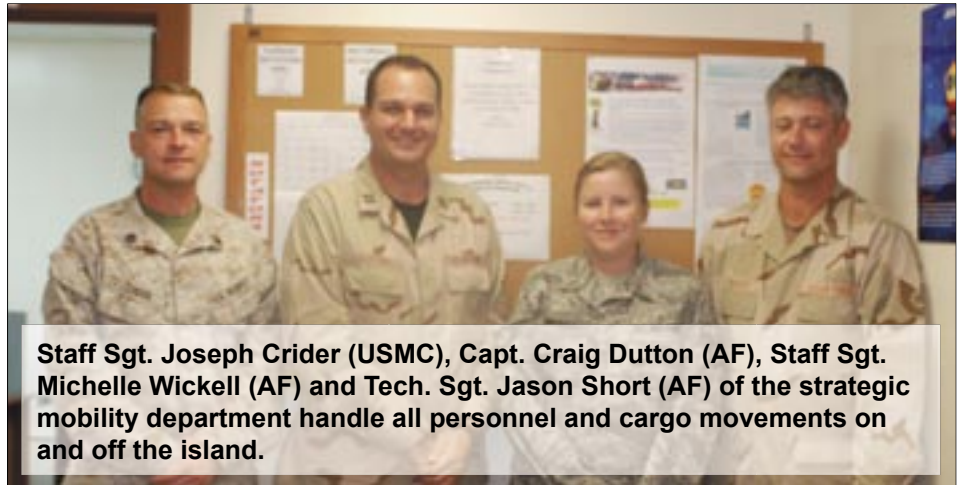
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

If you are ordering or shipping equipment for your unit or just taking leave, you need to become familiar with the staff of the strategic mobility department and the vital role they play in the Joint Task Force mission at Guantanamo Bay. Their official mission is the validation and movement of personnel, visitors and cargo. So when you take leave for any reason, invite a family member to visit or ship cargo these are the people who will help you get it done.

The biggest challenge for the strategic mobility department is moving people and items in a timely manner. Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Joseph Crider, deployed here from Camp Lejeune, N.C., deals with all cargo shipped to and from the island. Crider's chief hurdle is getting people to follow instructions and pay attention to details. Crider explained that most of the complications come when people try to order from vendors in the States, not realizing they need a tracking number from his office. It is those same people who then get upset when no one can find their order.

"They have to get a tracking number from me, otherwise when they order things from DHL or FEDEX it will get to Norfolk and then sit in the frustrated cargo area because the folks in Norfolk don't know where it goes," explained Crider. "That makes items very hard to track."

Crider's office partners, Air Force Capt. Craig Dutton (Ramstein Air Base, Germany), Air Force Staff Sgt. Michelle Wickell (Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.), and Air Force Tech Sgt. Jason Short (Hickham Air Force Base, Hawaii), handle all



**Staff Sgt. Joseph Crider (USMC), Capt. Craig Dutton (AF), Staff Sgt. Michelle Wickell (AF) and Tech. Sgt. Jason Short (AF) of the strategic mobility department handle all personnel and cargo movements on and off the island.**

personnel movement issues. Dutton and Wickell process and verify all JTF personnel movements and Short processes leave transportation.

"One of our greatest accomplishments since I have been here is getting over 100 Troopers off island within 24-48 hours for emergency leave or medical evacuation within the last four months," Dutton said.

Like many other department operations here, planning will only take this group so far; they have to be flexible and resourceful. They often run into problems and challenges that are beyond their immediate control.

For instance, flight patterns don't always meet Troopers' needs. If Troopers have to be medically evacuated or need to take emergency leave on a Thursday, for example, they face a problem: there are no rotator flights until Saturday. It is times like these when the strategic mobility department kicks into high gear to meet the needs of the Trooper.

"Airlifts are beyond our control," said Dutton. "Troopers need to be patient, and often we have delays that are out of our control. Recently we had a lift that was 60 hours behind schedule due to mechanical problems. Mechanical problems, people and weather all play a part. If there isn't a rotator leaving we

will try to put personnel on an FBI flight, or a C-12 if we have to. We get resourceful to try and meet the needs of the Troopers."

This customer service orientation is crucial to their mission. They know that they are counted on to get people on and off the island and that their performance can directly impact the morale of JTF Troopers.

"Many times people will call trying to get off the island for emergency leave and they are distraught or just got off of a 12-hour shift and are tired and not thinking clearly. We have to bear with them and be patient," said Dutton.

The number of people they deal with on a daily basis can be a trial, especially considering each person's specific needs and requirements. The continuous dealing with personnel can be emotionally draining and tiring.

"The biggest challenge for me is the sheer volume of people I deal with on a daily basis," said Short.

Dutton emphasized the importance of Troopers having proper documentation and getting it to the right places so that they can depart and return, regardless of reason, without problems.

"Any time you take leave, whether for recreation or emergency, make sure you have the right paperwork with you," said Dutton.

# JAS CLINIC HEALTH FAIR

By Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class  
Cheryl Dilgard

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Safe sex kits, nutrition information, stress balls and blood pressure checks were among the many health aids and services offered free to Joint Task Force Troopers at the Joint Aid Station health fair, March 6 and 7.

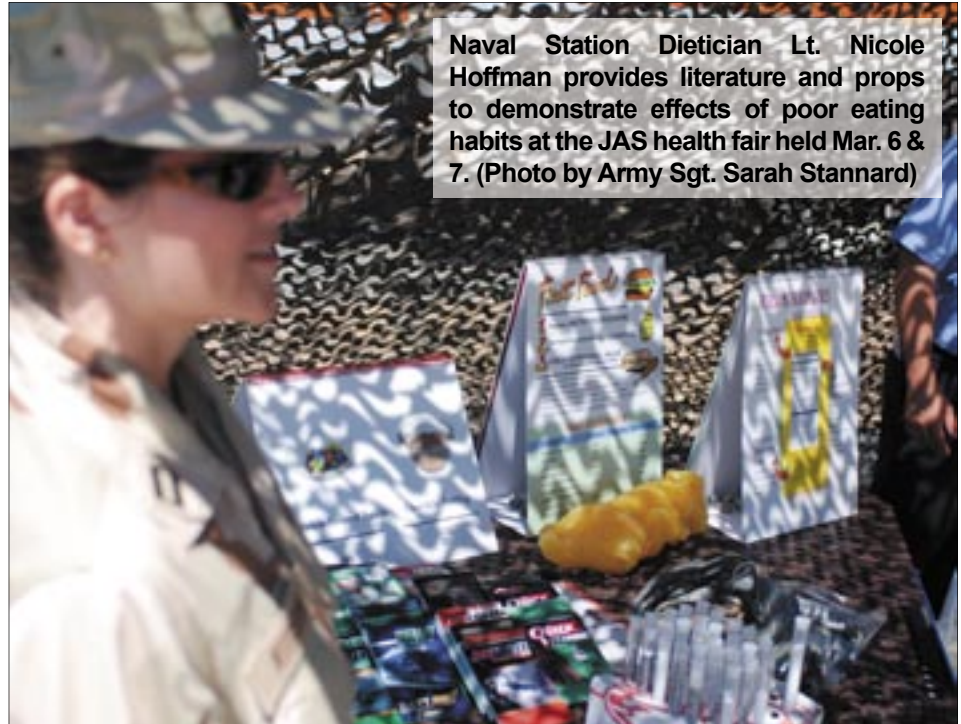
“We want to let people know we’re a resource,” said Navy Lt. Nicole Hoffman, the naval station dietician.

Lt. Hoffman manned the nutrition booth which exhibited how much sugar is in everyday items and what percentage of common foods is made up of fat. Her booth also provided general information on healthy eating, as well as dietary and training logs.

“When deployed, many people eat and work out differently than they do at home,” said Hoffman. “For some it is easy to gain weight when deployed.”

Preventative Medicine, a department of the base hospital, operated another booth that featured information on sexually transmitted diseases and pregnancy. The booth provided free oral sex contraceptives, condoms, and safe sex kits, as well as literature on sexually transmitted diseases and pregnancy.

“We have had a decline in the rate of STD’s,” said Petty Officer 1st Class Fred Turner. “Last summer we had more reported STD’s than we do



Naval Station Dietician Lt. Nicole Hoffman provides literature and props to demonstrate effects of poor eating habits at the JAS health fair held Mar. 6 & 7. (Photo by Army Sgt. Sarah Stannard)

now.”

The JAS staff believes that accurate health information and contraceptive use helped contribute to this decline.

“We are all adults here so celibacy is not likely. People need to act responsibly,” said Navy Lt. Marc Dobson. “If folks used condoms we would see almost zero percent STD transmission.”

“We want to educate people, we want them to come to us before they get an STD,” added Turner.

The JAS clinic provides confidential STD screening and has free condoms

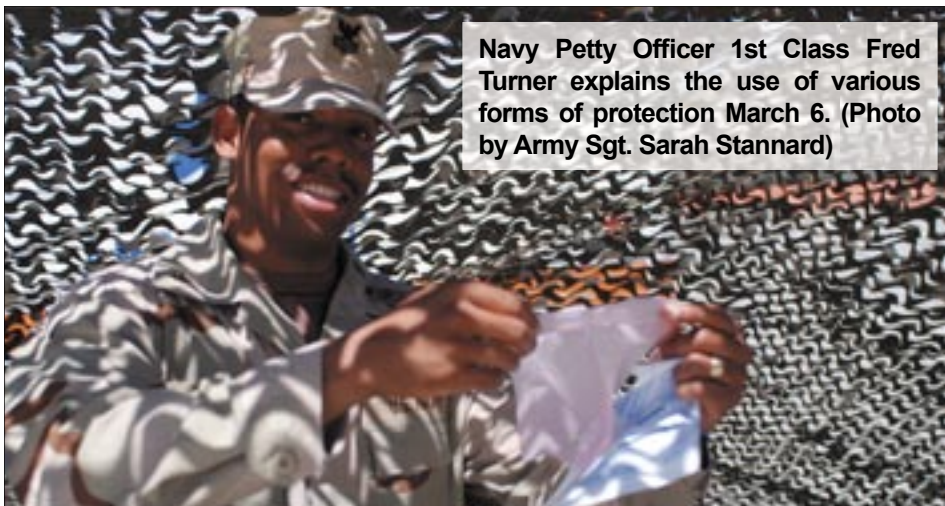
readily available in every exam room as well as the waiting room.

The Joint Stress Mitigation and Restoration team was also represented at the health fair. JSMART provided information on ways to alleviate stress and other services they provide. They gave away squeeze balls, slinkies, yo-yos, stress cards, books, as well as literature on stress and stress relief.

“The most common stresses people deployed here feel are family stressors back home,” said Navy Lt. Angela Coriano, who manned the JSMART booth. “We help them find ways to relieve that stress either by relaxing, breathing, exercise, or hanging with friends, so they will put their focus elsewhere.”

Another booth, manned by Dobson, conducted blood pressure checks and provided information on a variety of health problems that tend to be common in older service members.

“With a more mature JTF population - most reservists and guardsmen being over 30 - there are higher incidences of hypertension, high cholesterol, and more muscle and skeletal injuries that take longer to heal,” said Dobson.



Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Fred Turner explains the use of various forms of protection March 6. (Photo by Army Sgt. Sarah Stannard)

# Can you smell the madness?



**San Diego coaches and players lift the WCC Championship Trophy after San Diego beat Gonzaga 69-62 to win the West Coast Conference championship basketball game Monday night in San Diego. The win puts the Toreros into the field of 65 in the 2008 NCAA tournament. (AP Photo)**

**Story by Army Staff Sgt. Jerry Rushing**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Alright sports fans, lace up your high-tops and get ready for the greatest month in basketball. March is the month all college basketball fans have been waiting for. All of the eliminations, upsets, miracle shots and disappointments will leave their mark in college basketball history.

March Madness is the one college sports event that gets even non-sports fans excited. It seems that everyone, whether they have college basketball knowledge or not, is online filling out brackets or printing them out and penciling in their predictions.

March Madness is like a 65-man cage match at a Royal Rumble event. Anyone can win at any given moment. It is also when dreams become a reality for all the small schools in the field, where all the

rankings are thrown out the window, when legends are born, and one-hit wonders are given the chance to reach the Final Four.

Almost all of the greatest moments in college basketball history have taken place in March.

Who can forget Michael Jordan's shot for North Carolina to knock off the Georgetown Hoyas in the 1982 NCAA Championship? It was made in March. What about Christian Laettner's turnaround jumper that snuffed out Kentucky's title hopes in 1992? It also came in March. How about the Cinderella story of the George Mason Patriots making their run to the Final Four in 2006? Their success came in March.

That barely scratches the surface of memorable moments in college basketball. If you can think of any other amazing moments, chances are they happened in March.

This year, more than in years

past, the field that looks to enter the tournament is so deep that many teams' only chances to enter the Big Dance is to win their respective conference tournaments. Many of these teams are from smaller conferences and have pulled off big wins over teams from major conferences such as the Southland Conference Stephen F. Austin Lumberjacks surprising 66-62 victory against Big 12 Conference Oklahoma Sooners, or the Atlantic Sun Conference Mercer Bears pulling their biggest win with a 96-81 win at Pac-10 University of Southern California.

This year, the competition within conferences will challenge the top teams to play at the top of their games for the entire tournament. Watch out for those close games in the early rounds, especially from the No. 8 and No. 9 seeds, many of capable of going very deep in the tournament. For example, watch out for teams like Southern California and Kansas State who beat top-five teams, UCLA and Kansas respectively, during the regular season.

Like most recent tournaments, this March should not disappoint basketball fans. With the deep field, fans may need a calculator to add up all the potential upsets. The conference tournaments are a mere foreshadowing of what the bigger picture will soon look like.

Now the question remains: If the field is so deep this year, what team will emerge to become the George Mason of 2008?

March is here and the sounds and sights of balls bouncing and sneakers squeaking on wooden floors all across America is already being experienced by millions. Conference tournaments end this weekend and NCAA tournament teams will be selected Sunday evening. March Madness is definitely in the air!

# Main Attraction is the main attraction

By Army Staff Sgt. Jerry Rushing

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Main Attraction walked all over its competition in the Morale, Welfare, & Recreation Captains Cup Men's Softball League by finishing an undefeated season Wednesday at Zaiser Field with a convincing 21-4 win over the defending champion Hydroids in the championship game.

Main Attraction finished out the regular season 11-0 outscoring their opponents by an average of 18-5.

The first game of the single-elimination Captains Cup Softball Tournament pitted the seven seed Thunder Cats against the 10 seed Pirates on Mar. 7. The Thunder Cats eliminated the Pirates with a convincing 14 - 4 win. In the second game, the nine seed NEGB out-dueled the 525 MP BN 21-17 to advance into the second round.

The second round Monday night games started with a bang when four



**Detox outfielder Heath Coulter hits an RBI single up the middle in a 4-3 win against the DOCS in second round action of the MWR Captains Cup Men's Softball League Tournament, March 10. (Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Jerry Rushing)**



**Main Attraction completed an undefeated season after winning the Captain's Cup Men's Softball Tournament, March 12, at Zaiser Field. Main Attraction beat the Hydroids 21-4. (Photo by Army Spc. Dan Welch)**

seed Detox scored two runs in the bottom of the seventh with two outs to pull off a thrilling 4-3 win over the five seed DOCS. The next game saw another thriller when the three seed Hydroids held off a feisty six seed Highly Compliant team with a 13-9 victory. The one seed Main Attraction had no problems as they dismantled the NEGB team 13-3. In the final game of the night, the Thunder Cats pulled off the biggest surprise of the tournament to date when they spanked the two seed GTMO Latinos 22-12 advancing to the semi finals.

In semi-final action Tuesday, Main Attraction squeaked out a victory by scoring nine runs in the bottom of the fourth inning and held off a determined Detox team 12-9 to advance to the finals. In the second game, the Hydroids ten-run ruled the Thunder Cats 14-4, setting up the clash of the titans in the championship.

In the championship game, the clash of the titans was more like a

Hulk Hogan wrestling match vs. a midget as Main Attraction's offense woke up and showed why they went undefeated during the regular season by swinging the whipping stick on the hapless Hydroids.

After a scoreless first inning, Main Attraction started the hitting clinic scoring four runs in the second inning and never looked back as they cruised on to the easy victory.

## Men's Captain's Cup Softball Regular Season 2008

Team	W	L
Main Attraction	11	0
GTMO Latinos	9	2
Hydroids	8	3
Detox	8	3
DOCS	7	4
Highly Compliant	6	5
Thunder Cats	5	6
525th MP BN	4	7
NEBG C's & O's	4	7
Pirates	2	9
Borinqueneers	2	9
Next	0	11



# All abuzz at the Seabee Ball!

Originated during World War II, Seabee is a slang term for Construction Battalion. Upholding the motto "Construimus, Batuimus," or "We Build, We Fight," America's Seabees are known throughout the world for the ingenuity and skills on and off the battlefield. The Seabees were honored with an annual ball held in their honor Saturday night at the Windjammer. Scores of attendees turned out in 'Gitmo Finest' attire for an evening of festivities.

Photos by Army Sgt. Scott Griffin  
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs





# Reading showcases local literary talent

Story and photos by Navy Petty Officer  
2nd Class Nathaniel Moger

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The sun was down and for once the mosquitoes seemed to take a break for an hour outside Guantanamo Bay's Jerk House and Caribbean Coffee and Cream. Instead of the usual background noise of people scarfing down ribs and chicken or sipping lattes, the patio was treated to a different kind of sound: the dance of nouns, verbs and adjectives called poetry.

Spearheaded by Heather Lyon, Guantanamo's Morale, Welfare and Recreation office held an open-mike style poetry reading Saturday evening that showcased local literary talent.

There was a wide variety of poems from talents of all ages.

Themes ranged from love stories to odes to single mothers; there was even a little tale of two orchids and an orchid hunter.

However, for many service members it was an opportunity to express the frustrations of being in a stressful situation during an increasingly controversial war.

"I really enjoyed Brodie Clark's 'A Sailor's Pain,'" said Lyon. "It's one of those poems that communicated exactly how he felt when he wrote it. Very powerful."

'Pain' speaks from the perspective of Sailors who "all want the same. To fight for



**Heather Lyon reads an original poem of hers on the patio outside the Jerk House during a poetry reading March 8. Plans are in motion to have two readings per month and to open them up to local musicians.**

our nation, and none have ever asked for any fame."

Clark, aside from being one of the evening's more prolific contributors, also encouraged burgeoning writers to put pen to paper.

"I'd like to thank everyone for coming out and sharing. It's better than just hearing my poems over and over," joked Clark during a break. "I just want to say, if you ever get a thought that could turn into a poem, just take

the time and write it down."

With the good turnout, Lyon hopes to expand the program.

"We're trying to make it twice a month, or if people want to, even weekly," said Lyon.

Lyon doesn't want these events to be limited merely to poetry.

"If people want to play music or read poems from their favorite authors," said Lyon, "they should feel free to come down."

## Comics on Duty World Tour performs for Guantanamo



**Comedians Gary Brightwell, Dave Mishevitz and Drake Witham sign autographs for fans of the Comics on Duty World Tour.**

Story and photos by Navy Petty Officer  
2nd Class Cheryl Dilgard

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Guantanamo venues rocked with laughter and applause as Dave Mishevitz, Drake Witham, and Gary Brightwell from the Comics on Duty World Tour took the stage and gave great performances to appreciative audiences.

The three comedians came to the island on the Saturday rotator and took a little time to enjoy the island before getting down to comic business. Sunday evening they performed at Club Survivor to an intimate crowd.

On Monday the comedians received a warm welcome at Camp Justice where they

shook hands and visited with Air Force Troopers living and working there. Monday evening concluded at the Windjammer where the comedians used their 'Gitmo best' material to entertain Guantanamo residents.

"It's great doing something I enjoy. I have been doing this for 20 years, and I have got to travel all over just to tell jokes," said Brightwell. "I never would have had the chance to go to many of these places if not for this job."

Guantanamo Bay was their last stop on a tour that took them to different U.S. Southern Command bases in Central America. All three have entertained Troopers in Iraq and Afghanistan as well.

# Gates accepts resignation of CENTCOM Chief Fallon

By Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates today reluctantly accepted Navy Adm. William J. "Fox" Fallon's letter of resignation as commander of U.S. Central Command and request for retirement Monday. Fallon's resignation will take effect March 31, Gates said in a Pentagon news conference.

His deputy, Army Lt. Gen. Martin Dempsey, will take over as acting CENTCOM commander until a permanent replacement is nominated and confirmed.

Gates told reporters Fallon advised him of his decision Monday morning, citing what the admiral called "the current embarrassing situation of public perception of differences between my views and administration policy and the distraction this causes from the mission."

"Recent press reports suggesting a disconnect between my views and the president's policy objectives have become a distraction at a critical time and hamper efforts in the CENTCOM region," Fallon said in a statement released by CENTCOM. "And although I don't believe there have ever been any differences about the objectives of our policy in the Central Command area of responsibility, the simple perception that there is makes it difficult for me to effectively serve America's interests there."

Fallon said this disconnect led him to conclude "that it would be best to step aside and allow the secretary and our military leaders to move beyond this distraction ... and focus on the achievement of our strategic objectives in the region."

Gates said Fallon reached this difficult decision entirely on his own and that he had approved it "with reluctance and regret."

The secretary said he informed President Bush of Fallon's decision and his plan to accept it earlier Monday. "The president has made clear all along that these matters are to be handled strictly within the Department of Defense," he said.

"I believe it was the right thing to do, even though I do not believe there are, in fact, significant differences between his views and administration policy," he said.

Some of the misperceptions involved

perceived differences over U.S. policies regarding Iran. Gates said Fallon fully supported the administration's policy of trying to deal with the Iranian challenge through diplomatic and economic pressures and sanctions.

"So I don't think that there really were differences at all," Gates said. "But I think there is this misperception out there that there were."

Months of trying to "put this misperception behind us," it hasn't succeeded, he said.

Gates said he agreed with Fallon's assessment that whether true or not, he agrees that any misperceptions about the policy proved to be distractions from the mission. "That's why I believe he's made the right decision," he said.

Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said he supports Gates' decision to accept Fallon's resignation and request for retirement. "I also respect the reasons for which Admiral Fallon submitted it and applaud his ability to recognize the responsibility before him," the chairman said.

"By his leadership and through the example he continues to set with this decision today, he has demonstrated to future generations of Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen the highest sense of personal honor and dignity," Mullen continued.

Gates said Fallon will be difficult to replace. "He is enormously talented, very experienced, and he does have a strategic vision that is rare," the secretary said. "So it does leave a hole."

He expressed confidence, however, that a skilled and qualified replacement will be found among the many talented senior military officers.

The secretary praised Fallon's distinguished 40-year military career that included leadership of U.S. Pacific Command and most recently, U.S. Central Command. "Fox Fallon has led our nation and hundreds of thousands of men and women in uniform with conviction, strategic vision, integrity and courage," Gates said.

"As commander of CENTCOM, he has managed with skill and diplomacy the mounting challenges across the broader Middle East and has kept foremost in mind the need to protect our vital national

security interests in the region," the secretary said. "Fox Fallon has dedicated his life to the preservation of the freedoms we in this nation enjoy today, and all Americans should be deeply grateful for his dedication. On behalf of the Department of Defense and the nation, I thank him for his years of selfless service."

Mullen and Bush shared Gates' admiration of Fallon. "On behalf of the men and women of the armed forces, I extend to him and his family my heartfelt gratitude for the extraordinary service they have rendered this nation for more than four decades -- afloat and ashore, in peace and in war," Mullen said.

"Bill Fallon is an extraordinary leader, a visionary and a good friend who answered our country's call time and time again in positions of ever greater responsibility," he said. "He had an enormous impact, not only on the way we operate and fight in this new century, but also on the way in which we stay engaged globally."

Bush noted in a statement released by the White House that Fallon made history as the first naval officer to command Central Command.

"From the Horn of Africa, to the streets of Baghdad, to the mountains of Afghanistan, the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen of Central Command are vital to the global war on terror," the president said. "During his tenure at CENTCOM, Admiral Fallon's job has been to help ensure that America's military forces are ready to meet the threats of an often-troubled region of the world, and he deserves considerable credit for progress that has been made there, especially in Iraq and Afghanistan."

Bush expressed thanks to Fallon for serving the United States "with honor, determination and commitment," and to the family that has supported his military service. "I wish them all the best as they begin the next chapter in their lives," he said.

Commenting on his nearly-42-year career, Fallon said today he is "grateful for having had this opportunity to serve with the outstanding service personnel and civilians of Central Command.

"It has been my high honor to have served my nation and the Navy for four decades, and I thank all of you who continue to serve," he said.



# Kite Runner an uncommonly common tale

By Army Sgt. Scott Griffin  
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Rated: PG13  
Running Time: 122 minutes

Based on the novel by Khaled Hosseini – and allegedly the first in English by an Afghan writer – “The Kite Runner” is an uncommonly common tale of redemption and the grace of childhood friendship. The film takes some Hollywood standards and gives them a pleasing new twist.

Two young stars anchor the movie: Zekiria Ebrahimi is Amir, the privileged son of a businessman, and Ahmad Khan Mahmoodzada is Hassan, Amir’s servant and best friend. The boys enjoy a childhood of storytelling and ebullience. They are the “sultans of Kabul,” innocent kite flying lads who run through the city brimming with exuberance.

Soon enough, evil rears its ugly head and Hassan is brutally raped by a local bully. To make matters worse, Amir watches it happen, hiding in cowardice as his friend suffers. As his self-loathing develops into enmity towards Hassan, Amir betrays his best friend and the two never see each other again.

Shortly thereafter, the Soviets arrive and Amir and his

father are forced to flee their homeland for the U.S. Settling in the Afghan ghettos of California, Amir’s father becomes ill and reliant on his now-adult son (played with a mopey weariness by Khalid Abdalla) who is falling for a fellow exile, Soraya (Atossa Leoni). Eventually, Amir becomes the novelist he always dreamed of only to be called back to Kabul by his late friend’s father.

Director Marc Forster (“Monster’s Ball”) manages the changing landscape well. Kabul in 1978 is an Asian bazaar of the exotic, a beautiful city bustling with culture. Unfortunately, such sights are not appreciated until Amir returns there in 2001 to witness the after-effects of Russian occupation followed by the savagery of Taliban rule. Gone are the trees and markets and scents and wonders, replaced now by beggars selling their own body parts and locals forced to witness public executions. The plot changes with the setting, shifting into Hollywood gear for a cliffhanger moment that really has no cliff.

While “Kite Runner” has an undeniable sentimental power and a classic structure, it also wanders into a melodramatic conclusion that’s only saved by the soaring of kites and a message from the past. Still, the message is strong and clear and only the most jaded of viewers wouldn’t get a little misty by the time the credits roll.

Rating: ★★★★★

## WEEKLY WEATHER FORECAST

Weather forecast provided by [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com)

### Saturday, Mar. 15

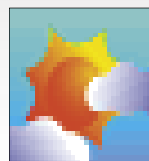
Highs in the mid - 80’s, and lows in the high - 60’s.



**Partly Cloudy**  
Sunrise: 7:09 a.m.  
Sunset: 7:10 p.m.  
Chance of rain: 20%

### Sunday, Mar. 16

Highs in the mid - 80’s, and lows in the mid - 60’s.



**Partly Cloudy**  
Sunrise: 7:08 a.m.  
Sunset: 7:11 p.m.  
Chance of rain: 20%

### Monday, Mar. 17

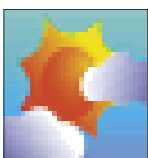
Highs in the mid - 80’s, and lows in the high - 60’s.



**Windy**  
Sunrise: 7:07 a.m.  
Sunset: 7:11 p.m.  
Chance of rain: 20%

### Tuesday, Mar. 18

Highs in the mid - 80’s, and lows in the high - 60’s.

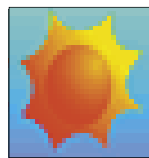


Sunrise: 7:06 a.m.  
Sunset: 7:11 p.m.  
Chance of Rain: 20%

**Partly Cloudy**

### Wednesday, Mar. 19

Highs in the mid - 80’s, and lows in the high - 60’s.

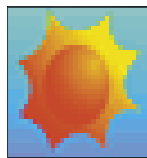


Sunrise: 7:05 a.m.  
Sunset: 7:12 p.m.  
Chance of Rain: 10%

**Mostly Sunny**

### Thursday, Mar. 20

Highs in the mid - 80’s, and lows in the high - 60’s.

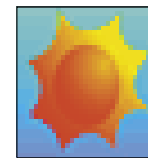


Sunrise: 7:04 a.m.  
Sunset: 7:12 p.m.  
Chance of Rain: 0%

**Mostly Sunny**

### Friday, Mar. 21

Highs in the low - 80’s, and lows in the mid - 60’s.



Sunrise: 7:04 a.m.  
Sunset: 7:12 p.m.  
Chance of Rain: 10%

**Mostly Sunny**

# Easter Worship Service Schedule

## NAVAL STATION CHAPEL

### CATHOLIC SERVICES

- Friday Stations of the Cross 5 p.m.
- Friday Mass 5:30 p.m.
- Soup and Bread Fellowship 6 p.m.
- Catholic Vigil Mass, March 15 5:30 p.m.
- Catholic Vigil Mass, March 15 @ PPI 6:30 p.m.
- Palm Sunday Mass, March 16 9 a.m.
- Holy Thursday Mass, March 20 5:30 p.m.
- Live Stations of the Cross, March 21 4:30 p.m.
- Good Friday Mass, March 21 5:30 p.m.
- Easter Vigil Mass, March 22 7:30 p.m.
- Easter Sunday Mass, March 23 9 a.m.

### PROTESTANT SERVICES

- Holy Thursday Worship Service  
    March 20 7 p.m.
- Good Friday Service  
    March 21 12 p.m.
- Sunrise Service at Windmill Beach  
    March 23 6:45 a.m.
- Interfaith Breakfast at Gold Hill Galley  
    March 23 7:30 p.m.
- Protestant Easter Worship Service  
    March 23 11 a.m.

## TROOPERS CHAPEL

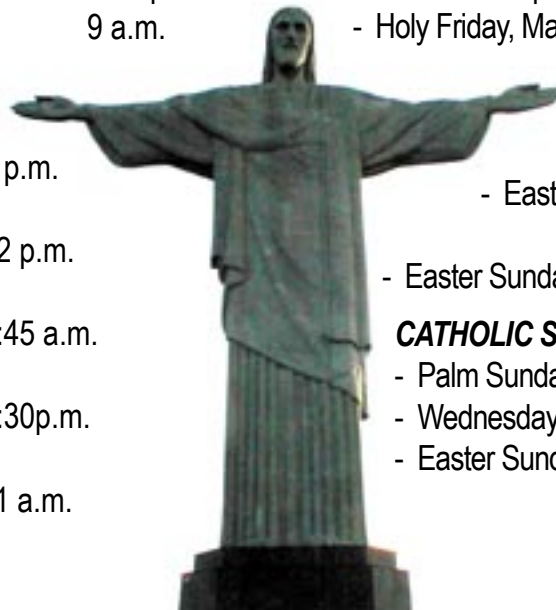
### PROTESTANT SERVICES

- Palm Sunday Service  
    March 16 9 a.m., 7 p.m.
- Palm Sunday Spanish Service 12 p.m.
- Holy Monday – Holy Saturday 12:30 p.m.
- “Seven Sayings on the Cross”
- Mid-Day Devotional, March 17 – 22
- Holy Monday, March 17 7 p.m.
- Film: “The Greatest Story”
- Holy Thursday, March 20 7 p.m.
- Praise & Worship
- Holy Friday, March 21 7 p.m.
- Film: “The Passion”

- Easter Sunday Service  
    March 23 7 a.m., 7 p.m.
- Easter Sunday Spanish Service 12 p.m.

### CATHOLIC SERVICES

- Palm Sunday Mass, March 16 7:30 a.m.
- Wednesday Mass, March 19 11 a.m.
- Easter Sunday Mass, March 23 7:30 a.m.



## Boots on the Ground

By Army Spc. Karen Simmons

*If you were given \$100,000 what would you do with it?*

Army Spc.  
Erica Irizarry



*“I would go around the world with my daughter.”*

Army Sgt.  
Jonathan Goble



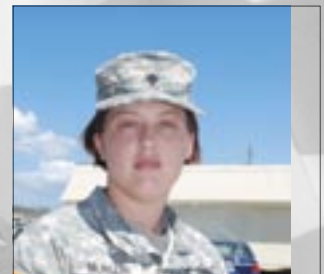
*“I would invest my money and pay off family debts.”*

Army Sgt.  
Adrian De Jesus



*“I would invest my money and buy a BMW M3.”*

Army Spc.  
Christina Munson



*“I would use the money to provide for my family.”*

# What is so good about Good Friday?

By Navy Lt. Cmdr. Daniel McKay

JTF Command Chaplain

Several years ago I served as pastor of a small country church in Texas. One of the parishioners asked me to call upon her neighbor: an elderly man who was in poor health and a fervent disbeliever in all religion. The fact that the Easter season was drawing near probably served in my favor, because as I was walking up the man's front steps he met me at the door as if he was expecting my visit. He had bid me to come in and make myself comfortable in his living room.

I had hardly sat down before the question of the day was hurled in my direction. "So," he began abruptly and in harsh tone, "tell me, young pastor, why do you folks call this coming Friday 'Good Friday'? What's so good about it? Seems to me, making so much fuss over a guy who got himself in trouble with the authorities and was killed on a cross is pretty silly. You all must have a different definition for what's good, that's all I can say." Having made his comments, the elderly farmer just closed his mouth, jutted out his jaw and sat back more deeply into his easy chair, preparing himself for the lengthy response he had no doubt received to such questions during former pastor visits.

Stunned by the man's comments and question, I really didn't know what to say or do. In fact, in all honesty, part of me just wanted to get up and make a hasty departure. Then, however, it occurred to me that he's right. What happened to Jesus on the cross couldn't be considered good in any way, shape or form. An innocent man dying such a horrible, disgraceful and apparently pointless death was, by anyone's measure, a tragedy beyond all proportion. So, that's what I said to him, "Yes, sir, you're right. What happened on that cross over two thousand years ago was anything but good. In fact, it



was brutal, dark and evil."

I could tell by his upturned eyebrows and even more greatly extended jaw that he was annoyed by my agreeing with him. Sitting up in his chair and leaning forward, he responded with a stern voice, "Why call it good, then? Will you answer me that? Why would such a thing be called good?" "Well," I said, hoping some way, some how a helpful answer would quickly come to mind, "I guess," I said, stalling for more time, "I guess because of what happened on Sunday." "Sunday!" he blurted out, "Why speak of Sunday? We are talking about Friday!"

Pausing to let him catch his breath, and me mine, I then explained, "You see, sir, the reason we call good what happened on Friday is because of what Jesus did on Sunday. His coming back to life and departing the tomb proved that everything He claimed about Himself, the Word of God, sin and salvation, and all of life—past, present, and future—is true. Had He not risen from the grave then all we would be able to say is that what happened to Him on the cross made it a very 'Bad Friday.' It's 'Good Friday,' though, for those of us who respond in faith to His offer of forgiveness, because apart from

His death and resurrection we would not know God's love, joy and peace.

"Hmm!" he recoiled, "Just what I thought. Like all your other pastor friends before you, you can't explain it either without jumping to Sunday. I guess I'll never really know why it's called 'Good Friday.'" "Yes, sir," I replied, "I guess without Sunday it's really hard to refer to the day of Jesus' death as 'Good Friday.'"

Henry Barstow beautifully expresses this truth in his poem, "If Easter Be Not True":

If Easter be not true,  
'Twere foolishness the cross to bear;

He died in vain who suffered there;  
What matter though we laugh or cry,

Be good or evil, live or die,  
If Easter be not true?

If Easter be not true—  
But it is true, and Christ is risen!  
And mortal spirit from its prison  
Of sin and death with Him may rise!

Worthwhile the struggle, sure the prize,

Since Easter, aye, is true!

# JTF Marine stays busy after work is done

Story and photos by Army Staff Sgt.  
Jerry Rushing

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Have you ever wondered how things get out of Guantanamo? The answer is simple - Marine Staff Sgt. Joseph Crider. This logistics operator is considered by many to be the key to getting any cargo to and from the Joint Task Force.

Crider grew up in Bernie, Mo., a small southeast town. He wasn't sure what he was going to do after he got out of school so he decided to join the Army National Guard while still in high school.

"My junior year summer I went to boot camp on the split training program," said Crider. "After my graduation, I went back to the military life and entered the AIT [advanced individual training] portion to become a truck driver."

After he graduated from AIT, he married his girlfriend and decided he wanted to get out of the Army National Guard and become a full-time Marine. He then packed his bags and went to his second boot camp, only this time it was the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego.

"The three months while I was in Marine boot camp were the longest three months of my life," said Crider.

Crider added that it is hard to believe, but



**Crider enjoys his free time at Guantanamo as he tries to get in a round of golf every Sunday at the MWR golf course.**



**Marine Staff Sgt. Joseph Crider makes plans for the next cargo shipment leaving Guantanamo Bay March 7. Crider is currently on a six month stint working in the Joint Task Force Strategic Mobility Department.**

the Army boot camp was more physically challenging than the Marine boot camp. However, he conceded that the Marine boot camp was more mentally challenging.

Over the next few years, Crider worked out of Camp Lejeune, N.C., where he received what most would consider bad news.

"In 1995 I was diagnosed with atrial fibrillation," said Crider. "My heart misfires almost on a daily basis, but I would not let it stop me. I kept on going."

For the last 13 years, not only has he stayed in the Marine Corps but he has been able to keep his first class on the personal fitness test, qualify expert with the rifle and pistol, graduate from the Staff Sergeant Academy and finish all his yearly training; all of this with a heart condition.

"Atrial fibrillation is an abnormal heart rhythm that involves the two upper chambers of the heart," said Crider. "The top chambers don't beat. Instead they quiver like jelly shaking. Actually, it's doing about 300 - 400 beats per minute."

While in Okinawa, Japan, in 1998, he had a short burst of atrial fibrillation that wouldn't stop. It sent him into the hospital where he spent 17 hours in the intensive care unit. After waiting over 17 hours his heart beat slowed back to normal. Since

then he has only had short lapses of the problem.

This deployment is not the first for Crider. He has deployed to Korea twice, Australia once, and did a six month 'pump' on sea duty.

"Guantanamo is not a bad place to be deployed to," said Crider. "There are plenty of things to keep you busy when the work day is done."

Crider keeps his weekends busy by snorkeling on Saturdays and hitting the links on Sunday mornings. He tries to get in 18 holes at least once every week. He is also in school earning his bachelor's degree in education.

After this deployment, Crider plans to go back to Camp Lejeune and finish his remaining two years so he can retire from the Marines.

"After my retirement, I would like to stay in logistics, maybe contracted out by the government. If that falls through, then I'll have finished my degree in teaching and maybe teach history or science," said Crider.

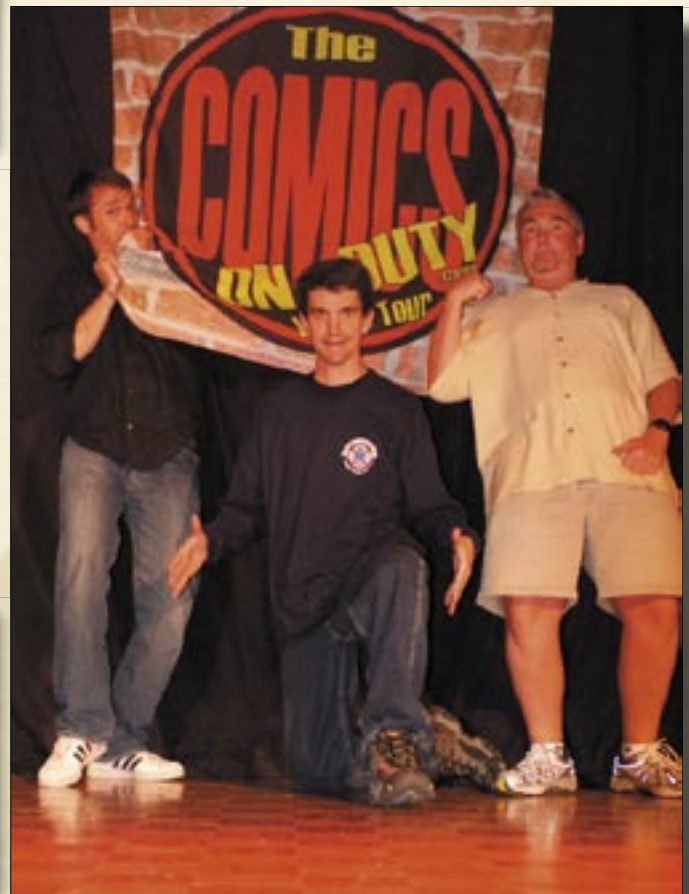
So the next time you see things being loaded up on the barge or on any of the aircraft leaving Guantanamo, you'll know who did all the logistics - Marine Staff Sgt. Joseph Crider.

# AROUND THE JTF



◀ Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class James Lightly reenlists outside the Windjammer Restaurant March 7. Lightly is a member of the Naval Expeditionary Guard Battalion. (Photo by Army Sgt. Joseph Scozzari)

Dave Mishevitz, Drake Witham and Gary Brightwell ham it up for the camera after a side splitting good time at the Windjammer March 10. Performing with Comics on Duty, the comedians entertained troops for two days at various Guantanamo venues. (Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Cheryl Dilgard) ▶



◀ JTF Troopers enjoy barbecue with a Southwestern flair at Cuzco Barracks. The New Mexico Army National Guard hosted a party for visitors from their home state March 9. (Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Cheryl Dilgard)

