JMG “A Day in the Life”

U.S. Coast Guard B-day
Wood Hobby Shop
We are all key Players!

By Army 1st Sgt. Jose De Jesus
JTF-GTMO HHC 1st Sgt.

On Oct. 7, 2001, Operation Enduring Freedom roared to life, with the objective of eliminating the Taliban military government, which was clearly supporting Al Qaeda. The enemy that American and coalition forces faced in Afghanistan did not respect any rules on the battlefield. Coalition forces encountered a battlefield filled with terrorist trainers, bomb makers, suicide bombers and other combatants who were not part of a uniformed, organized army. This enemy killed indiscriminately, targeting civilians, children, medics and journalists. Besides being extremely dangerous, these enemy combatants had and still possess vital information about the inner workings of Al Qaeda.

In order to consolidate the process of gathering information and interrogating these detainees, the U.S. required an adequate detention center built for this purpose. This is the reason that Joint Task Force Guantanamo and the detention facilities were created. The information gathered from detainees here is essential to the identification of potential threats and the assurance of safety for every American.

Even though Guantanamo Bay is far away from the combat taking place in Afghanistan and Iraq, Troopers must bear in mind that they are a vital part of the Global War on Terror, and the pride and professionalism they display everyday is essential in upholding freedom. We represent the best that our country has to offer, representing all walks of American life.

Regardless of what our duty is at Guantanamo, we must give 100 percent effort! When we let our guard down, we give our enemy an opportunity to exploit that weakness. We must remain vigilant always. Every single Trooper has an essential job in the Joint Task Force or he or she wouldn’t be here.

There is a need in every human being to feel important and needed. Right now, I can’t think of anything more important than being a key player in our nation’s fight for freedom and preserve our American way of life.

Troopers, you must always remember the importance of the mission that you are taking part in. I know that as you go about your daily tasks, it’s hard to see the fact that what you do here matters. But I know that when we go home and watch the news and see Guantanamo in the headlines, we feel pride in our mission here. What we do here counts.

Our fellow Troopers in Afghanistan and Iraq are fighting for the sole purpose of protecting our nation and its citizens. These combat Troopers deserve our best efforts. What we are doing here directly impacts and supports their efforts and contributes to their safety on the battlefield. The intelligence we gather here is a unique weapon that directly supports the U. S. mission to suppress the efforts of Al Qaeda.

Never forget that we are all key players in the Global War on Terror.
When one Navy Corpsman left his permanent duty station to work for six months in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, he was not sure what to expect. All he knew was that he would be attached to the Joint Medical Group detainee hospital here. He soon learned that his primary mission would be helping feed detainees who choose to go on hunger strike.

A typical day for the team composed of this Navy corpsman and a supervising nurse begins in the same way as that of several other colleagues. The team arrives in the early morning to make sure all materials used during the day are sanitized and ready for use. This preparation occurs in an empty holding cell that has been converted for this purpose. As the team members exit the prep room and walk down the block, they come face-to-face with a number of individuals, their patients, the detainee hunger strikers.

The corpsman and nurse are tasked with the daily feeding of hunger-striking detainees here. Detainees are considered hunger strikers if they miss nine consecutive meals and they demonstrate intent to go on a hunger strike. Once a detainee is considered a hunger striker, he is closely observed for any deterioration in his health that can be life threatening. When it is determined his hunger strike has continued to the point where his health is in jeopardy, an individual nutrition plan is created for each detainee to ensure each receives the proper nutrients to sustain them safely and humanely.

As the corpsman walks towards the cell block, he observes feeding chairs set up where detainees will be placed to undergo the enteral feeding process. Directly across from the chairs are the cells that house the hunger-striking detainees. As the corpsman goes about his duties, he does not hear pleas for help or calls of distress. What he does hear is idle conversation and occasional laughter from some of the detainees. What he observes is a group of detainees who are expecting to be enterally fed.

Many detainees look forward to their feedings. “Some of the hunger striking detainees will even remind the guards that they need to be fed and will sometimes complain when other detainees are fed before them. There is never a dull moment, they are always making jokes and singing,” said the corpsman.

Once the corpsman completes the meal preparation, the detainees are brought over and assisted into the feeding chairs where the enteral feeding begins. An anesthetic (numbing agent) and/or lubricant is placed on the tube before it is inserted through the detainee’s nose.

“The guard force works pretty well with us, and it is a smooth process. If you respect the detainees, they will respect you. I do not worry about them trying anything against me; however, you must always remain vigilant. You must always watch what you do and say because they are always watching you and talking to each other.

“What they [the detainees] pick up on is your facial expressions and how you carry yourself. They may call you a name to test you and to see how you will react. If you ignore them like it was nothing, they will realize that they cannot get to you. They will then leave you alone,” said the corpsman.

The enteral feeding process varies for each detainee. The typical hunger striker is fed twice a day. As the first feeding period ends, the corpsman begins preparing for the next.

After a long day of preparing for the feedings, checking detainees’ vital signs, and completing other associated tasks, the corpsman sanitizes the materials used during the feeding process and prepares for the next day.

He finishes the day by walking the block where the detainees are held for one last time and glances at their faces as he says good night. This final courtesy underscores the corpsman’s “Honor Bound” dedication to his mission – providing safe and humane care for hunger striking detainees.

“Many people don’t like it [working in the camp] because it is so hot out there on the block,” said the corpsman. “I volunteered to come here to Guantanamo Bay, and I then volunteered to help feed the hunger-striking detainees. So I am just completing the mission that I volunteered for.”
eKnowledge Prepares Troopers and Family Members for Academic Rigors

By John J. Kruzel
American Forces Press Service

A company that makes test-preparation products for students gearing up for college entrance exams is offering free materials to servicemembers and their families, sacrificing a chunk of its bottom line for those on the front lines.

eKnowledge is an online and CD-ROM based learning program that teaches test-taking techniques for the Scholastic Aptitude Test, or SAT, and American College Test, or ACT, among others. The company plans to expand its coverage soon by offering complimentary programs to Junior ROTC members.

Charlie Beall, eKnowledge chief executive officer and a former Marine, fought in Vietnam as an infantry officer. He said he has sympathy for service-members whose income might be strained by $300 or $400 price tags attached to premium test-prep products.

“A sergeant in the Air Force stationed in Singapore who’s got a couple of teenage kids that are getting ready to go to college can’t afford $400 or $500 apiece for these test-taking preparations products,” Beall said. “A lot of these folks have children in the JROTC program, so they’re going to have help with tuition because they’re going to go to school on ROTC scholarships.

But that doesn’t help them financially with their ACT and SAT test preparation, which ultimately is going to have an influence on which schools they can go to,” he added.

SAT and ACT exam scores often weigh heavily in college admission judgments and can tip the scales toward an applicant’s acceptance or rejection. Beall estimates students scores improve their scores 30 to 40 percent when they prepare with eKnowledge products, compared to those who don’t use a premium-prep program.

A group of National Football League players last year heard through their agency, Victory Sports Group, about eKnowledge’s plan to donate study materials to boost troops’ and their family members’ chances of gaining admission to choice schools.

The seven NFL players – Mark Anderson of the Chicago Bears, Jon Bradley of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Garrick Jones of the Atlanta Falcons, Corey Williams of the Green Bay Packers, Jason Radar of the Miami Dolphins, Ahmad Galloway of the San Diego Chargers, and Scott Young of the Philadelphia Eagles – jumped at the chance to support servicemembers and their families.

With the football players’ help, eKnowledge donated $6.9 million worth of multimedia SAT/ACT preparation materials.

Young said he was inspired to team with eKnowledge because of Jake Johnson, Young’s best friend since high school. As a Marine, Johnson spent four years serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

“When people are willing to put their lives on hold to serve and protect the U.S., our freedoms [and] everything we know as a country, it’s the least we can do to help these people in the military come home and get back to a civilian lifestyle, to get back and get that little jumpstart into education,” Young said.

“I think it is owed by the civilian population to help out people who are fighting for us and risking their lives and the families [who] are right there with them,” he said. eKnowledge and NFL participants have donated more than 48,000 test preparation CDs and DVDs, and received roughly 20,000 thank you notes from satisfied troops. One note was even postmarked from Africa, where a servicemember was stationed.

“As a military parent residing in Kenya,” Air Force Maj. Douglas McClain wrote, “I truly appreciate the opportunity to obtain these products for my daughter who attends the international school here.

“This program will guarantee that she has current material to prepare for the SAT and ACT,” the note said. “Thanks from and Air Force major who is trying to serve his country and also take care of his family.”

Servicemembers interested in receiving free eKnowledge products can complete an online request form at www.militarthomefront.dod.mil by following the link to “Donation: VSG/NFL Players,” and Junior ROTC cadets should visit sat.eknowledge.com/JROTC. Requests can also be mailed by calling eKnowledge at 951-256-4076 or via e-mail at support@eknowledge.com.
JTF Coastguardsmen to Celebrate 217 Years of Faithful Service

By Army Sgt. Jody Metzger
JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Port Security Unit (PSU) 308 Coastguardsmen will celebrate the 217th birthday of the United States Coast Guard here at Guantanamo Bay on Saturday, Aug. 4, with a presentation of awards by Rear Adm. Mark H. Buzby and a special dinner.

The Coast Guard’s roots lie in the Revenue Cutter Service, which was founded on August 4, 1790 as part of the Department of the Treasury. An act of the U.S. Congress created the Coast Guard in 1915, with the merger of the Revenue Cutter Service and the United States Lifesaving Service. The United States Lighthouse Service was merged into the Coast Guard in 1939.

The legal basis for the Coast Guard is Title 14 of the United States Code, which states: “The Coast Guard as established January 28, 1915, shall be a military service and a branch of the armed forces of the United States at all times.” Upon the declaration of war or when the President directed, the Coast Guard operated under the authority of the Department of the Navy. The Coast Guard later moved to the Department of Transportation in 1967, and on February 25, 2003 it became part of the Department of Homeland Security.

The Coast Guard’s origins can be traced back even further to 1716 during the time of the original 13 colonies when organized citizens assumed the responsibility of manning the first lighthouses.

This service was a great protection to the both the Atlantic coastal waters and the waters of the Great Lakes. Since then the lighthouse has become an important symbol of the Coast Guard and its early mission.

Since its early years the Coast Guard’s essential mission has grown considerably. The Coast Guard’s present mission is to promote safe use of the sea and navigable waters by regulating ship movements, maintaining aids to navigation, documenting sea-service workers and cargo, and maintaining security in ports and harbors both inside and outside of the continental United States.

Port Security Units, such as PSU 308, provide waterside protection to key high-value assets such as U.S. warships and military supply vessels in foreign and domestic ports. PSU 308’s specific mission here is to provide harbor defense and supplement the Joint Task Force as an indirect entity providing security for the transportation of detainees.

The boat division remains the most visible element to the PSU. Their Boston Whalers – known as the “unsinkable boats” - are fast, maneuverable Transportable Port Security Boats armed with mounted machine guns and are the mission platform for defense operations such as search and rescue, port protection and law enforcement.

Yet the tasks of providing protection to vessels in security zones and pier areas, plus internal unit needs such as operating command center, communication center, berthing areas, entry control points, vehicle control points and traffic control/vehicle movements fall to the security division, a section of the PSU that is not so visible, but just as important.

All of these missions require a considerable amount of specialized training. Chief Petty Officer Patrecia Geistfeld, communications division chief of PSU 308 believes the multi-level training contributes to the success of their missions.

“We train from the moment we come into the Coast Guard to be ready for anything,” Geistfeld said. “Anyone who comes into the Coast Guard goes through not only the combat skills learned in basic training, but over the course of several years, lots of cross training that results in Coastguardsmen being knowledgeable in every aspect of the Coast Guard mission.”

The Coast Guard has always had the ability to adapt to change, explained Command Master Chief Robert Fowler. Referring to the disasters of 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina, Fowler stated that, “They were a two-edged sword for the Coast Guard. Through the years the Coast Guard has been a little service with a big job to do.

“These two tragedies tested the mettle of the U.S. Coast Guard; however, in the aftermath, it was evident by the Coast Guard’s successes that the Coast Guard still had the ability to stand by its motto, Semper Paratus - ALWAYS READY.”

The United States Coast Guard Cutter Eagle has been training future U.S. Coast Guard Officers for over 50 years using 19th century technology and 21st century leadership principles. (www.wikipedia.com)
By Army 1st Sgt. Patrick Sellen
JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

If you are like me and millions of other crazed fans all over the world, the answer to that question is a resounding Hell Yeah! The National Football League (NFL) season is on the horizon, all 32 teams have reported to training camp and the drama and hysteria has begun. There are the teams with new coaches, high profile rookies and holdouts, plus the usual quarterback controversies and sensational off-field problems.

The defending Super Bowl champs, the Indianapolis Colts, enter the season with a bulls-eye planted firmly on their jerseys. The New England Patriots and San Diego Chargers are favored to overthrow them for the American Football Conference title. In the National Football Conference, The Chicago Bears will try to return to the dance again this year, but the upstart New Orleans Saints and sentimental favorites, the Dallas Cowboys, are looking forward to having their tickets punched as well.

Seven teams enter this NFL season with new coaches, three of which have significant player talent. Wade Philips will attempt to lead the ever-controversial Dallas Cowboys to the Promised Land. Norv Turner will try to finish what Marty Schottenheimer couldn’t in San Diego, while Mike Tomlin will try to return the Pittsburgh Steelers to their 2005 championship form.

Ken Whisenhunt (Arizona Cardinals), Lane Kiffin (Oakland Raiders), and Cam Cameron (Miami Dolphins) all hope to get their respective teams on the winning track and Bobby Petrino’s (Falcons) hopes rest on his ability to control the dog fighting in Atlanta.

In addition to the barking and growling haunting Atlanta’s Michael Vick, there’s plenty more to hash out regarding NFL quarterbacks … so let’s get talking. Rookies Jamarcus Russell (Oakland Raiders) and Brady Quinn (Cleveland Browns) – if they ever end their holdouts – will attempt to lead their teams to winning seasons. Sophomores Vince Young (Tennessee Titans) and Jay Cutler (Denver Broncos) try to improve on impressive rookie seasons. Tavaris Jackson (Minnesota Vikings), Trent Green (Miami Dolphins), Matt Schaub (Houston Texans) and Brodie Croyle (Kansas City Chiefs) are all new faces for 07.

Quarterback controversies rest with the Buccaneers (Tampa Bay) with Jake Plummer, Chris Simms and Jeff Garcia battling for control, and Jake Delhomme and David Carr (Panthers) duking it out for the top spot there at Carolina. Old guy, Donovan McNabb (Philadelphia Eagles) tries to recover from last year’s injury and even older guy, Brett Favre, (Green Bay Packers) looks to add to his Hall of Fame numbers in his 17th season.

There is plenty to be excited about for the upcoming year and the keg has barely been tapped. So get all of your fantasy teams drafted and your NFL gear shipped and hold on for what will surely be another great NFL Season. Pay attention to upcoming issues of The Wire. We’ll be digging deeper into the NFL season and previewing the college season as well.
On Monday night, the eerie glow of a full moon added to the orange tinge of the lights at Cooper Field. A game that was billed as an epic struggle between two titans of the Guantanamo Bay softball world, the Hydroids and Lockdown, instead turned into a one-sided affair, with the Hydroids putting on a hit parade that Casey Kasem would have been proud of.

Early on, the full moon was not the only oddity, as neither side could seem to muster any power at the plate. Hydroids pitcher, Kenny Buonviri, and Lockdowns pitcher, Louis Sterle, both looked to have their “A” games working as neither side could mount much of an attack.

However, with the score deadlocked at 1-1 going into the top of the fourth inning, the Hydroids blew the game open by scoring six runs, aided by a cavalcade of errors by Lockdown. After scoring twice earlier in the inning, and again scoring twice more on a bases-loaded walk, Jonathan Higdon’s smash single to left field drove in two more runs, breaking the game open.

For Lockdown, this proved to be too much, even with the motivational cries of Noah Uttech yelling, “Lets get ‘em back!”; they could not match the Hydroid’s output in their half of the inning, scoring only three times.

For Lockdown, this proved to be too much, even with the motivational cries of Noah Uttech yelling, “Let’s get ‘em back!”; they could not match the Hydroid’s output in their half of the inning, scoring only three times.

The Hydroids went back to work at the top of the fifth, Michael McCarrver tripled to left to open the inning and later scored on a bloop hit to right field by Jaime Minton, who advanced to third on more suspect fielding by Lockdown. Minton scored on an error on a shot back to the pitcher by Corey Whipple and Buonviri knocked in Whipple with a double. Buonviri then scored on a Chris D’Andrea triple.

Again Lockdown could not find an answer for the hot bats of the Hydroids, being held at bay by the outstanding pitching performance of Buonviri.

The Hydroids padded their lead again in the sixth, scoring four more times, and seemingly were on their way to putting Lockdown away.

However, Lockdown would not go out quietly in their final at bat and fighting valiantly until the end. After a string of hits loaded the bases and scored one run, Corey Becherer drilled a shot to right field scoring all three runs, and ending up on third base after a series of throwing errors in the outfield. A fly ball scored Becherer, who tagged in from third and closed the gap to 15-8. Unfortunately, Lockdown was buried too deep in the hole and grounded to a defeat on consecutive outs.
GITMO LOVES TO HIT IT!

SOFT OR HARD
OVER THE NET

Photos by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Jeff Johnstone, Army Staff Sgt. Paul Meeker and Army Spc. Daniel Welch
If you are looking for a creative way to spend some of your time in Guantánamo Bay, you should check out the Wood Hobby Shop off of Sherman Avenue behind the Pottery and Ceramic Shop. This shop has much to offer Troopers that want to expand their carpentry skills, as well as help them save money.

In the Wood Hobby Shop, Troopers can make many things such as shadow boxes, book shelves, picture frames and coffee tables. If the project is too big to finish in a day or two, such as a dresser or an even an armoire, then Troopers can leave it at the shop to complete over time. The shop has over ten different pieces of industrial carpentry machines that Troopers can use, but they will need to pass a basic test consisting of 28 questions. If they have problems with the test, Boyboy will help explain all the questions and walk Troopers through the proper use of each piece of equipment.

There are no fees for using the Wood Hobby Shop but you do have to provide your own materials such as wood, glue, nails and screws. You can buy all these supplies from the Wood Hobby Shop, though you’ll find that the wood, depending on type, can be expensive. Prices for popular wood types include the following: Poplar $3.60, Red Oak $4.20, Maple $5.30, Walnut $6 and Mahogany $6.70. (These prices are per board foot, which means one linear foot of board regardless of width.)

"The wood here is a little expensive, but unless you tell me that you don’t want my help, I will make sure you don’t make any mistakes that will cause you to use excess wood," said Boyboy. “The most common woods used are Poplar, Red Oak and Maple, because they are cheaper.”

“You don’t have to use the wood we sell. If you have a place to buy wood here, you can bring your own but we do have a rule that you can not use dunnage wood in this shop. Dunnage is wood from pallets.” said Boyboy.

The Wood Hobby Shop is open Tuesday through Friday from 2:00 to 8 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 12:00 to 9:00 p.m. For more information call Boyboy at 74796.
"I’m Capt Rob Sides, Information Assurance Manager for JTF-GTMO, and I need some information from you in order to verify that you have the necessary access to our networks. Please send the following info to Rsides@gtmo.aol.com: UserID, Password, Rank, Branch of Service, and Date of Birth."

How many would send me this information? Hopefully, not a single person would take the bait. Scenarios like this occur everyday on the information super highway and people do fall prey to scams like this.

These types of scams are commonly referred to as “Phishing.” Phishing attacks use email or malicious web sites to solicit personal, often financial, information.

Other phishing attacks are bogus web sites with embedded malware in them. Malware is software designed to infiltrate or damage a computer system. For example, attackers may send e-mail seemingly from a reputable credit card company or financial institution that requests account information, often suggesting that there is a problem. When users respond with the requested information, attackers can use it to gain access to the accounts.

Take a look at this actual phishing attempt in the graphic.

As you can see, this looks like legitimate e-mail from Wells Fargo Bank. Many times, these e-mails will state that if you don’t take immediate action, your account could be suspended. These criminals are just trying to entice you to give up your personal information and will say anything to get this information. Don’t take the bait!!

Other companies that have been used as phishing bait by criminals include Citibank, Bank of America, Halifax Bank, and PayPal. Military web sites are not immune to this style of attack. The perpetrators do their homework and create very convincing emails and websites that can easily fool users at first glance.

Here are some actions to prevent you from being hooked by a “Phisherman”.

- Be suspicious of unsolicited phone calls, visits, or e-mail messages from individuals asking about employees or other internal information. If an unknown individual claims to be from a legitimate organization, try to verify his or her identity directly with the company.
- Do not provide personal information or information about your organization, including its structure or networks, unless you are certain of a person's authority to have the information.
- Do not reveal personal or financial information in e-mail. Do not respond to e-mail solicitations for this information. This includes following links sent in e-mail.
- Don't send sensitive information over the Internet before checking a web site's security policy or looking for evidence that the information is being encrypted.
- Pay attention to the address of a web site. Malicious web sites may look identical to legitimate ones, but the address may use variations in spelling or different domains, e.g., .com vs. .net.
- If you are unsure whether an e-mail request is legitimate, verify it by contacting the company directly. Do not use contact information provided on a web site connected to the request; instead, check previous statements for contact information.
- Never give your passwords to anyone in any fashion. Just say no. You (and only you!) should know your passwords. (Remove them from under your keyboard or mouse pad, too).

Information about known phishing attacks is available online from groups such as the Anti-Phishing Working Group http://www.antiphishing.org/phishing_archive.html. If you have any questions, call 3333 or e-mail at J6-IA@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil.
**SURVIVING SEPARATION**

From the JTF-GTMO Command Chaplain’s Office

This week’s action item is:

**Action Item #6 – See things from the other person’s point of view.**

You, your family and friends have experienced the separation differently. It takes time and patience to help each other understand the different experiences and problems it created.

Still, life goes on and we may be pleased and pleasantly surprised by the changes that have occurred. If we think about what the other person has experienced and the challenges that they have met, we will be better prepared to accept why they have changed. Anger and surprise can be our automatic feelings, but we have to keep these feelings under control. Emotional overreaction to change does not allow us to positively adjust and adapt to what can never be the same as it was before we deployed.

Seek professional and sympathetic support if you are having a difficult time adjusting to your stateside life through your chaplain and family readiness and support programs and staff.

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**WEEKLY WEATHER FORECAST**

**Surprise, Aug. 4**

Highs in the low - 90’s, and lows in the high-70’s.

- **Isolated T-storms**
  - Sunrise: 6:37 a.m.
  - Sunset: 7:37 p.m.
  - Chance of Rain: 30%

**Sunset, Aug. 5**

Highs in the low - 90’s, and lows in the high-70’s.

- **Partly Cloudy**
  - Sunrise: 6:37 a.m.
  - Sunset: 7:36 p.m.
  - Chance of Rain: 30%

**Monday, Aug. 6**

Highs in the high - 80’s, and lows in the high-70’s.

- **Partly Cloudy**
  - Sunrise: 6:37 a.m.
  - Sunset: 7:36 p.m.
  - Chance of Rain: 30%

**Tuesday, Aug. 7**

Highs in the high - 90’s, and lows in the high-70’s.

- **Partly Cloudy**
  - Sunrise: 6:38 a.m.
  - Sunset: 7:35 p.m.
  - Chance of Rain: 20%

**Wednesday, Aug. 8**

Highs in the low - 90’s, and lows in the high-70’s.

- **Isolated T-storms**
  - Sunrise: 6:38 a.m.
  - Sunset: 7:34 p.m.
  - Chance of Rain: 60%

**Thursday, Aug. 9**

Highs in the low - 90’s, and lows in the high-70’s.

- **Scattered T-storms**
  - Sunrise: 6:39 a.m.
  - Sunset: 7:33 p.m.
  - Chance of Rain: 60%

**Friday, Aug. 10**

Highs in the low - 90’s, and lows in the high-70’s.

- **Isolated T-storms**
  - Sunrise: 6:39 a.m.
  - Sunset: 7:33 p.m.
  - Chance of Rain: 60%
**Harry Potter: Order of The Phoenix**

By Army Sgt. Jody Metzer

Rated: PG 13
Duration: 138 minutes

Piloted by the hardships of Daniel Radcliffe’s character Harry Potter, “Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix” ventures into deeper and darker territory than the previous Potter movies. This adaptation of J. K. Rowling’s popular saga of wizardry and magic contains more dark than light as it navigates the many traumatizing events of Harry’s fifth year at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

“The Order of the Phoenix” opens with Harry Potter living with the Dursleys on Pivot Drive. Bored to tears, and pained by this family’s unusual distaste for him, Harry finds himself battling the nightmares and building obsession brought about by the return of Lord Voldemort and his responsibility for the death of his good friend, Cedric.

Suddenly boredom jettisons out the window as the movie takes off through wild turns of events that reflect the inventiveness of these J.K. Rowling stories. Harry and his cousin Dudley are attacked by evil soul-sucking Dementors. The only way Harry is able to fight them off is by using magic, something that is forbidden in the Muggle world.

It doesn’t take long before Harry finds himself in trouble with the Ministry of Magic. A trial soon arises to expel Harry Potter from Hogwarts.

Minister Fudge, head of the Ministry of Magic, and his group are under the belief that the Dark Lord Voldemort has not returned and deny that any incident has transpired between Harry and the Dark Lord. To the ministry’s displeasure, Dumbledore comes to the rescue, swinging in at just the right moment, with his long white beard and lofty cloak.

As one would expect, Harry escapes the trial and sentencing and is swept away by the Weasley clan and taken to the residence of Harry’s godfather, Sirius Black (Gary Oldman) which is known as the secret meeting place for the Order of the Phoenix. This newly formed secret society is a combination of the most powerful good wizards and aurors (a special wizard police force), who have all formed for one purpose, to bring down the resurgent Lord Voldemort.

Harry, Hermione, Ron, and a handful of fellow classmates take action by constructing their own secret society, Dumbledore’s Army to take on the Dark Lord and his death eaters. The question becomes, “Will they ready for the battle?” If you’re a fan, you know the answer.

**Rating:** ★★★★★

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**Boots on the Ground**

“*If you could retire in five years, where would you go?*”

-Army Sgt. Ronnel Aviles
-Army Pvt. Norivette White
-Army Sgt. Jesus Munoz
-Navy Petty Officer First Class Baron Charles

**By Army Spc. Jamison Self**

I would live in the Dominican Republic because it’s real cheap, women are beautiful, and I can live like a king.

I would settle in Oahu, Hawaii. There are pretty beaches, aloha sun and pretty international ladies.

Spain, because it’s pretty and I will be able to learn real Spanish.

Boston, Mass., because it is a nice area.
Joint Task Force Value of the Week: Compassion

Submitted by Army Command Sgt. Maj. Avery Jones

Compassion is sometimes defined as a feeling of sorrow or concern for another person’s suffering or need accompanied by a subsequent desire to alleviate the suffering. This phrasing focuses on compassion as an “emotion”: a short-lived feeling that anyone may experience.

Strict dictionary definitions have a hard time separating the feelings of empathy, sympathy, pity and compassion. Often these words are used to define each other. However research on the concepts has begun to pull them apart. Empathy is considered a mirroring or vicarious experience of another’s emotions, whether they are of sorrow or joy. Sympathy, on the other hand, is a feeling of sorrow associated specifically with the suffering or need of another. Literally, it is fellow-feeling, and requires a certain degree of equality in situation or circumstances. This is in contrast to pity, which regards its object not only as suffering, but weak, and hence as inferior. Compassion is much like sympathy in that it stems from the suffering of another, but it also includes the need or desire to alleviate suffering.

These definitions, unfortunately, all fall short in that they focus only on feelings of concern and, perhaps, desire to help others. None incorporate real acts of caring. Perhaps the definition of compassion can be expanded to mean having a kind of divine respect that results in real acts of caring between human beings, between those who are able to alleviate suffering and those who are suffering.

Ham Radio thrives in Internet World!

“CQ CQ calling CQ – this is KG4MP calling CQ DX”

By Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Patrecia Geistfeld

JTF-GTMO Port Security Unit 308

Do you have a dusty amateur radio call-sign? Would you like to be the DX station answering that DX call? You have that opportunity here at Guantanamo!

Amateur radio, often called ham radio (“ham” because its operators are non-commercial, amateur operators) is a hobby enjoyed by about six million people throughout the world. An amateur radio operator, also known as a ham or radio amateur, uses various types of radio and computer equipment to communicate with other radio amateurs for public service, recreation and self-training.

Amateur radio operators conduct personal wireless communications with friends, family members, and even complete strangers, and often support their communities with emergency and disaster communications while increasing their personal knowledge of electronics and radio theory.

Are you aware that there is a “Ham shack” and radio equipment provided by Morale Welfare & Recreation here at Guantanamo.

For more information contact OSC Patti Geistfeld at 84403 or email patrecia.f.geistfeld@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil
For service members of all branches of the military, becoming their respective command’s Senior or Junior Soldier, Sailor, Marine or Airman of the Quarter puts them on a level that sets them apart from an average work-a-day, nine-to-five Trooper. For Joint Task Force (JTF) Senior Trooper of the Quarter, the joint forces environment sets this particular honor apart from any received from a previous service-specific command.

Navy Petty Officer 1st Class William M. Paeth, Joint Detention Group assistant leading petty officer of escorts and JTF International Committee of the Red Cross leading petty officer, was named JTF Trooper of the Quarter Friday, July 27. According to Paeth, the recognition is quite an honor, considering the quality of competition he faced at the board.

Paeth, along with several other Troopers nominated by their respective commands, stood in front of a panel of the top senior enlisted JTF leaders, and answered questions ranging from topics such as military knowledge, leadership and even current events. Each Trooper who stood in front of the board was a proven leader and professional, but only one would be chosen as the top senior and junior Trooper of the current quarter.

“It makes me feel pretty good,” said Paeth. “It’s a heck of an accomplishment when you think of all the Troopers I competed with and all the competition that’s here on the First Class Petty Officer level. The Trooper of the Quarter award I received Friday is even more important to me because I was competing against all the other branches, not just within the Navy. This is also the first time since we’ve been here that a Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion (NEGB) Sailor has received the award. That fact in itself adds a little extra excitement knowing that I’m the first person from NEGB to win the award. That makes me feel real proud and excited.”

Paeth brings an abundance of leadership experience to his fellow Troopers. Paeth was attached to Navy Region Security Command in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and while there, he served as leading petty officer. “It doesn’t get any better than Pearl Harbor,” he said, referring to the historic USS Arizona (BB-39) remembrance ceremonies he attended, events he considered a high point during his tour there. His leadership there earned him Sailor of the Quarter. Prior to Pearl Harbor, he served as command urinalysis coordinator aboard USS George Washington (CVN-73), where he was recognized as Junior Sailor of the Quarter.

Along with many other Troopers here, this is Paeth’s first tour at a joint service command. While he admits that it was a tough transition at first, he is now happy to be in a unique environment that comes with working alongside the other services and looks forward to doing it again in the future.

“It was a little rough at first not knowing or understanding the terminologies and the different ways of doing things and the different ways of conducting business,” said Paeth. “Ultimately, though, it’s been a really good experience.”
Capt. Kevin Behler presents the Good Conduct Medal to Spc. Kristopher R. Mong during a Joint Detention Group award ceremony Wednesday, Aug. 1 at Windjammer Pool. (Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Jeff Johnstone)

The night life is wild and restless here in Guantanamo Bay. Feral cats lurk beneath Cuzco barracks. (Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Paul Meeker)

Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 65th Infantry serving with the Joint Task Force at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba earned the Honor Ribbon from the 525 Military Police Battalion for excellence in duty and discipline during the 2nd quarter of 2007. (Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Paul Meeker)