



# the Wire

Friday, August 23, 2002  
Volume 2, Issue 11

## Remembering...

MIUWU 204 unit members say good-bye to a fallen friend, who is gone but not forgotten

Story by  
Spc. Michelle M. Scsepko  
The Wire

*"Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we will pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and success of liberty."*

— John F. Kennedy, 1961

The tragic attacks on the United States of America that took place on Sept. 11, 2001 united all Americans and sent thousands of service-members to Guantanamo Bay in their support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Although all who are here were touched by that somber morning that is still fresh in the memories of the people of this nation, members of the Mobile Inshore Undersea Warfare Unit 204 here were especially so, having lost one of their own.

Navy Gunners Mate 3rd Class Thomas Butler, a member of MIUWU 204 for five years, was one of the New York City firefighters who courageously rushed into

the World Trade Center after the terrorist attacks on that gruesome day that America is still mourning.

This Aug. 15, five members of the MIUWU who were close friends of Butler's left GTMO and returned to the U.S. to attend a memorial service in his honor. The service was held in memory of Butler at St. Joseph's Church Saturday in Smithtown, N.Y. There, they were able to bid farewell to their fallen comrade and sailor, whose body has yet to be found.

"With the one-year anniversary of 9/11 approaching and the search for bodies at the World Trade Center site ended, the ceremony gave us closure and a chance to say goodbye," said Navy GM3 David J. Wentworth.

The memorial service consisted of a full mass with eulogies, a final roll call by the FDNY and military ceremony.

"The five of us who attended the service were GMC Robert Christy, GM2 Patrick Donahue, GM3 Daniel Sheehan, EO1 Chris Thatcher, EO1 Yvonne Zirrih, and

See MIUWU, page 5



Photo by Spc. Frank N. Pellegrini

### Go drill it on the mountain

Two masked and goggled SEABEES raise the bit on a hill overlooking Camp America while drilling holes for explosives. The charges will be detonated Friday and the dislodged rock crushed for future GTMO use.

## A look inside...



Page 6



Page 8



Page 15

## Chaplains' Corner

### Draw upon Bible verses for children

Draw upon Bible verses and characters to help you pray more powerfully.

You know how important it is to pray for your children, and you try to do so regularly. But sometimes you don't seem very inspired when you pray. Perhaps your prayers have become just one more thing to check off your daily list of things to do.

Drawing upon the Bible's help when you pray for your children can help you pray more powerfully and effectively.

Here are some ways you can use Scripture to pray for your children:

\*Personalize Bible verses for your children by inserting their names into the verses and paraphrasing them aloud in the form of prayers. Ask God to reveal specific promises from His Word that you can focus on for your

children.

\*Choose some biblical characters whose stories inspire you, and use them as a basis to pray for your children. Consider what strengths the characters demonstrate that you would like God to develop in your children, such as courage or compassion. Consider what your children can learn from the characters' mistakes, and the ways in which God helped them overcome their weaknesses.

[Adapted from *Praying the Scriptures for Your Children*, ©2001 by Jodie Berndt. Published by Zondervan, Grand Rapids, Mich.]

— Submitted by Navy Lt. Sharon Bush, CHC, USNR

## Provost Marshal's Office

Nowadays, many people own or have access to a computer that can surf the Internet. Online shopping is becoming our favorite pastime. Purchases are made at the touch of a button. All that is required is a credit card number.

### BEWARE!

Credit card fraud is a problem affecting thousands weekly. Identity theft is a fast-growing crime. You could become a victim without even knowing it. Exercise caution when purchasing items on the Internet.

Here are a couple of tips.

Purchase items from a company that is well established. Make sure you get the company's phone number and street address. Call to verify that the business exists. Ask friends, neighbors, and co-workers if they've purchased from the company.

When purchasing or finalizing your transactions or submitting any personal information, be sure you are using a secure browser and website. A flashing message should appear indicating that you have entered a secure area.

If you feel you are being scammed, file a

complaint with your state's Consumer Protection Division or National Fraud Center. These agencies can be located on the Internet.

Purchasing even real online items with just a click of the mouse can lead to problems if you are not careful. Debts can add up quickly. Avoid costly purchases. Know what you are buying and how much you are spending. You will be responsible for paying those debts.

It is very important to understand your payment plan when dealing with credit cards. Whether you pay the minimum on your bill or most of what is due, there is still a balance left. It is important to know how your credit card company applies the interest rate and charge fees, and the billing cycle and grace period.

All of us who have credit card bills can benefit by being here in GTMO. Just say "NO" and save money. Work toward paying off debts.

— Submitted by Army Sgt. Deborah Pacheco, PMO

### JTF-160 Command

#### Commander:

Brig. Gen. Rick Baccus

#### Deputy Commander:

Navy Capt. Robert A. Buehn

#### Public Affairs Officer:

Lt. Col. Joseph A. Hoey

#### Joint Information Bureau Director:

Army Maj. Donna L. Scott

#### OIC, Command Information:

Army Maj. Sandra Steinberg

#### Online at:

[www.nsgtmo.navy.mil/JTF-160/index.htm](http://www.nsgtmo.navy.mil/JTF-160/index.htm)

The Wire is produced by the 361st Public Affairs Detachment (PCH) assigned to the Joint Information Bureau at JTF-160. Some content is collected from the World Wide Web and edited to fit. This publication is printed under the provisions provided in Army Regulation 360-1 and does not reflect the views of the Department of Defense or the personnel within.

### The Wire Staff

#### NCOIC:

Sgt. Maj. Daniel Polinski

#### Editor-in-Chief:

Sgt. Michelle M. Pessoa

#### News Editor:

Spc. Frank N. Pellegrini

#### Staff writers and design team:

Spc. Chris S. Pisano

Spc. Joseph A. Morris

Spc. Michelle M. Scsepko

Spc. Jose A. Martinez

Pfc. Jean-Carl Bertin

#### Contact us:

5239/5241 (Local)

5246 (Local fax)

Joint Information Bureau / Pink Palace

## SIA Blotter

### NOTICE OF ARTICLE 15 ADJUDICATION

A soldier was found guilty after a summarized proceeding conducted under Article 15, UCMJ, for violations of Article 92, UCMJ, failure to obey a lawful general order or regulation. The nonjudicial punishment authority found beyond a reasonable doubt that on or about 16 June 2002 on the waters of Guantanamo Bay, the soldier navigated an MWR vessel beyond the northern boundary of U.S. Naval Base, GTMO, and into Cuban territorial waters. This violated both COMNAVBASEGT-MOINSTR 1720.10G and General Order Number 1, dated 20 May 2002. The soldier and his five passengers were subject to arrest and detention by Cuban authorities had they not turned around in time.

The soldier received 14 days extra duty and 14 days restriction. In addition, the Harbor Magistrate suspended the soldier's boating license for one year, effectively revoking it.

**CROSSING INTO  
CUBAN  
TERRITORIAL  
WATERS CREATES  
AN UNWARRANTED  
INTERNATIONAL  
INCIDENT AND IS  
INEXCUSABLE.  
SUCH CONDUCT  
ENDANGERS THE  
BOATING  
PRIVILEGES  
AFFORDED ALL  
SOLDIERS.**

# Profession of the Week

## Army veterinarians

Compiled by Spc. Joseph A. Morris  
and Spc. Chris S. Pisano  
The Wire

*The active-duty soldiers of the Army Veterinary Detachment have two missions while at Guantanamo Bay. One is to care for the military working dogs and other animals on base. The other is to inspect all of the food that comes to the commissary and galleys base-wide.*

*On a day-to-day basis, they see clients on appointments and care for the 324 pets here. They provide full-service treatment, including surgery and dental care. When inspecting food that comes off of the barge, they ensure that it is from an approved source and that is safe and sanitary to consume.*

*The Army is the only branch of the service that does animal medicine, and these vets perform this unique job with utmost pride.*



Photo by Spc. Joseph A. Morris

*Pfc. Anna Grier and Spc. Amber Albrecht skillfully trim the overgrown hooves of Giorgio, the sole goat resident of GTMO.*



Photo by Spc. Chris S. Pisano

*Spc. Amber Albrecht inspects three kittens that are up for adoption. If no one adopts them, they will ultimately be put to sleep.*



**Spc. Amber Albrecht**

"This is a really good job. There's pretty much a new chain of command here, but it's awesome. Being able to work with animals every day is great."



**Staff Sgt. Shelley Casinger**

"I love the Army, and it's good here. This is my second tour in GTMO. The iguanas and Cuban boas are always interesting to work with."



**Capt. Michelle Franklin**

"I love it here. It's been a great experience. I never worked with much exotic animals until I came here. It has been a real eye-opener."



Photo by Army Pfc. Jean-Carl Bertin

### Hard work will make you tired

*Army Pfc. Ted Lachner, 602nd Maintenance Co., fixing a flat, skillfully extracts the rim from a 11" by 20" tire which belongs to a five ton truck. Due to the tremendous size of these types of tires, a lot of strength and sweating must result from such hard work, making the soldiers who toil away on them just as worn out as some of the tires themselves.*

## Man on the street

Compiled by Spc. Chris S. Pisano and Spc. Joseph A. Morris

**This week's question:**

**Where do you think Osama "bin" hiding?**



**Spc. Kim Shavers,**  
114th MP Co.

"He might be on some tropical island somewhere drinking daquiris. He's probably sporting some dreadlocks."



**Spc. Reggie Gokey,**  
571st MP Co.

"He could be hiding in America somewhere, scoping out the scene. Maybe he even shaved off that crazy beard."



**Spc. Ron Coen**  
178th MP Co.

"I'd say he's somewhere in Pakistan. It seems like a likely spot, given that guy's beard would help him to fit in."



**Pfc. Jennifer Doebel,**  
571st MP Co.

"It doesn't matter where he is, eventually he's going to get caught. Even if he's working back in the States."



**Staff Sgt. Patrick Eggert,**  
342nd MP Co.

"With as much money and power as he has, he can be anywhere. But I'd be willing to bet he's straddling along the Pakistani border."

MIUWU, from page 1

myself. We were all good friends of Tom, and were deeply saddened by his loss," Wentworth said.

Butler's life was filled with fire and water.



Courtesy of MIUWU 204

GM3 Thomas Butler's New York Fire Dept. unit patch, Squad One, Park Slope, Brooklyn N.Y.

A firefighter with Squad one in Brooklyn, N.Y., a part-time bay constable in Smithtown, N.Y., and a Navy GM3. His life was dedicated to serving and protecting others.

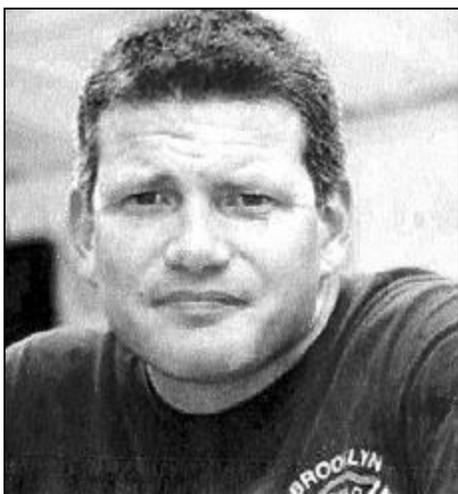


Photo courtesy of MIUWU 204

GM3 Thomas Butler, MIUWU 204 and New York firefighter Squad 1.

"Tom was a great guy. He was very quick-witted. As a sailor, he was completely squared away," Wentworth said. "It is hard to explain just how much he is missed on this deployment. His death justifies our mission here. At least for me; it gives me a purpose for being here," he said.

The mission of the MIUWU here is surveillance and defense.

"We defend our assets, and during this operation, Guantanamo Bay and all that inhabit it are our assets," said Navy Cmdr. Sheldon D. Stuchell, commanding officer of MIUWU 204.

"Since Tom's passing I've spoken to his wife often. She's hanging in there, though she misses him terribly," said Navy Lt. Cmdr. Tracie M. Smith-Yeoman.

His wife, Martha Butler, described him as the epitome of the laid-back man in a New York Times article published in January.

"He was my rock. We would get bills and they would give me ulcers, and he'd say don't worry about it, the bills will be there tomorrow," she said.

Butler, proud father of Sean, Kelly, and

Patrick, was 37 years old on the day he fearlessly rushed into the Twin Towers.

Those who served with him will miss his calm, light-hearted presence.

"He was very quiet, but all of a sudden he would come out with zingers that would make everyone laugh," Smith-Yeoman said.

Members of MUIWU 204 feel the loss of their fellow servicemember and friend everyday due to the cowardly attacks that took place on September 11. Although, they have lost one of their own, they are aware that every American's life was touched or changed by that day as well.

"We are going to commemorate Sept. 11 with everyone. It will be a sad, somber day, in which we can all seek comfort in one another," said Stuchell.

Although the attacks of Sept. 11 were intended to tear the nation apart, it has only united and strengthened it. As John Adams said in 1776,

*"Through all the gloom I can see the rays of ravishing light and glory. I can see the end is more than worth all the means. And that posterity will triumph."*

Thomas Butler did not die in vain on Sept. 11; he lost his life as a hero. Remembering

him and all those like him reminds us why we are here and how important what we are doing is. It reminds us why we are here — the same reason Thomas Butler would have been, but is not. But there are many ways to make the ultimate sacrifice, and many for whom to make it.

"He died doing what he absolutely loved," said Wentworth. "Being a fireman."



Photo courtesy of MIUWU 204

The Twin Towers of the World Trade Center before the terror attacks that took place on September 11, 2001.



Photo Courtesy of MIUWU 204

GM3 Thomas Butler (far left) and MIUWU 204 unit members and friends in Puerto Rico February 2001.

# Everything you always wanted

Story and photos by  
Spc. Frank N. Pellegrini  
The Wire

The name is everywhere — on buses, bulldozers and those white pickup trucks driving everywhere you turn. The crews are everywhere — cutting your grass, fixing your air conditioning (and your “GTMO specials”), exterminating your pests and recycling your garbage.

The name is Kvaerner, and they’re the builders, welders, electricians, mechanics and all-around maintenance men that keep Guantanamo Bay and both Joint Task Forces up and running.

“We’ve had the Base Maintenance Service Contract here since 1993, and that’s our bread and butter,” said Henri Fuentes, Kvaerner’s Senior Project Manager here and thus the company’s head man on the island. “We maintain just about everything from the buses to the barracks and everything in between, as well as some minor construction.”

Fuentes knows what a big job that is these days. Originally from Doylestown, Penn., he started out his builder’s life as a Navy SEABEE with Mobile Construction Battalion 71 and was stationed here back in 1970, when Guantanamo Bay was an even sleepier town than it is today.

“I didn’t like it much — too boring. You could drive down Sherman Avenue in the

middle of the day and literally not see another car,” he said. “And the atmosphere was very tense, not as friendly, mostly because this was when tensions with Cuba were very high.”

Fuentes made his mark, helping to build 54 Butler huts at Camp Bulkeley and put outside walls on the Windjammer. In 1996 he came back as a civilian to head up Kvaerner’s branch here (technically called Kvaerner Process Services Inc.), and since then has been in a prime position to witness the slow fall and fast rise of GTMO’s world.

“We’ve torn down 200 buildings in the last two or three years alone,” he said. “The servicemember housing and most of the other places that were built in the early ‘90s were put into caretaker status by the government and essentially abandoned. The GTMO Gazette was down to one page, folded over. Everything was getting downsized, and there was even talk about closing down the base.”

All that changed in January when the first detainees from America’s global war on terror got their tickets to GTMO.

“The JTF-160 headquarters used to be the dental office,” he said. “They had moved out, and by November and December of last year, they had pulled out all the fixtures and were ready to tear the place down.”

“But since the JTFs arrived, there’s been a real resurgence. It’s refreshing to see this place bustling again.”



Kvaerner Senior Project Manager Henri Fuentes explains a job to worker Jesse Manalansan.



Big dipper: Kvaerner bulldozer operator Jesse Manalansan levels off a hill near Cooper Field.

While that resurgence in demand has for the most part been good for the bottom line at the home office back in Oslo, Norway, it’s also kept Fuentes and his workers here very busy. The arrival of JTF-160 and JTF-170 and their supporting casts has meant that thousands of soldiers needed goods, services, roads and transportation — and first and foremost, their offices, facilities and living quarters brought up to speed.

“When you guys came, suddenly it was ‘get them all back on line,’” he said. “We worked two weeks around the clock to get all the parts and do all the work on these buildings,” he said. “We’ve seen an influx of all different kinds of vehicles, that require different kinds of parts to fix. And 90 percent of that stuff, we wait for on the barge just like everybody else.”

It’s also meant more jobs for the third-country nationals working for Fuentes and 40 other Americans here. The current workforce of about 400 represents a 20 percent increase since the JTFs arrived in January, and Fuentes plans to hire another 25 percent in the next few months as business continues to bustle.

Fuentes said it’s his workers that deserve the credit for meeting the challenges of the JTF invasion. “They make it happen,” he said, “And they give you their all.”

About 49 percent of the workers come from Jamaica, 49 percent are from the Philippines and about 2 percent are from Cuba, Fuentes said. They are screened at home by temp-services companies there, and Fuentes had nothing but praise for his crews.

“They work hard, they work well, and they’re very loyal, not only to the company but to the U.S.,” Fuentes said. “So many of them are still driving around with American



Battle of the bulldozers? No, just heavy-duty teamwork as the Kvaerner dozer on the left helps the one on the right scoop up the remains of a demolished bridge near Cooper Field.

# to know about Kvaerner but...



Workers with Radcliffe Construction Inc., Kvaerner's main subcontractor, trim a new water pipe for installation in a joint project along Sherman Avenue.

flags flying from their trucks."

While the Kvaerner crews might not make as much as someone doing similar work in the U.S., the relativity of global economics means they're also often the breadwinners for their families back home.

"You ask them, 'don't you want a day off?'" said Kvaerner Production Control Manager Reggi Drake, "and they tell you, 'I'm here for one reason — to work.' Many of them have not only wives and children they're supporting but aunts and uncles and cousins and parents. And what they make here is great compared to what they could make back home, if they find work at all."

As the detention operation continues to hum along and GTMO continues to mature into a well-populated (relatively speaking) military-civilian community, the service-members deployed or stationed here will be seeing more and more of those white-hard-hat-clad construction crews, more landscaping and grass-cutting crews with t-shirts shielding them from the GTMO sun.

And yes, more traffic stoppage along Sherman Ave. as the general upgrading of GTMO continues apace. Ask Fuentes what major projects his men are working on these days and in the months to come, and he shakes his head wearily.

"The work along Sherman right now is a joint project between us and our main subcontractor, Radcliffe Construction Inc.," Fuentes said. "It's a base-wide thing to replace all the pipes and upgrade the water lines. Some of those pipes are 50, 60, 80 years

old — in some spots, they're so rotted out the pipe is just the hole in the ground where the pipe used to be."

"One thing we just finished up is the base-wide siren system, for threat warnings and hurricanes — that hasn't been operational for years. We're clearing out the drainage ditches, like around Cooper Field, so that if the hurricanes hit hard the floodwater will get pulled off into the bay. And Tierra Cay — that empty housing out by Migrant Ops — we're bringing that back to life."

One other upcoming project, slated for September and October, that should make a certain group of troops very happy — a total renovation of the shower and toilet facilities at Camp America. "We'll be taking it one building at a time, painting, putting in new lighting, building individual shower stalls, putting in new toilets with seats," Fuentes said. "We've already gotten rid of the push-buttons on the showers out there and put traditional handles so that the water's not on a timer — the next step will be putting in new mixing valves and fixtures so that the showers look and work just like the ones at Windward Loop or anywhere else."

So the boom that began in January shows no signs of slowing. But working for the JTFs also has its downs — most of them having to do with tightened security, high-tech gadgetry and all the headaches that go with them.

"No matter how much we stock, JTF 160 and 170 can always figure out some part that we don't have on the shelf and then demand it right away," Fuentes joked. "We've got \$2 million in stock and it's never enough."

And then there's the security atmosphere that accompanies all things detainee. "It can be frustrating. There's so much work, all you want to do is get in and get the job done. And you've got to wait to get past the security."

And then there's the maintenance of places like Camp Delta. "We wanted the blueprints to the electricity and so forth so we could maintain it more efficiently," he recalled. "But of course they couldn't release them. Finally they told us they'd just black out the high-security details.

"So they gave us a copy," Fuentes said, "and all that was left was the two outer fences. Everything else was black."

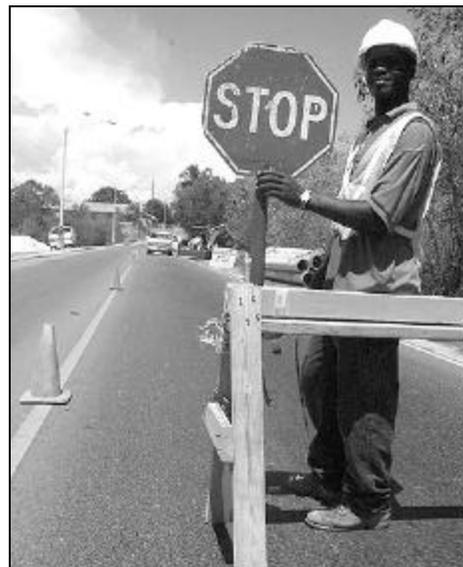


Kvaerner welder Angelo Esquerra fixes a garage door on the HAZMAT building while fellow crew member Ramil Magtoto assists.

But those are little frustrations, Fuentes said. All in all, he's happy with his workforce, happy to be back at GTMO with Kvaerner, and happy to be working for the Joint Task Forces. And not just because of the increased business.

"It makes you feel like there's a purpose of being here," he said. "You can feel the patriotism. You feel like you're part of what they're doing."

"Even though I'm not in the military anymore, I feel like I'm a part of the war on terror, helping the troops here whether it's in their job or in their quality of life. Even if you're just fixing somebody's air conditioner, you're helping them do their mission."



Kevin Reed, a worker with Kvaerner's main subcontractor, Radcliffe Construction Inc., temporarily halts westbound traffic on Sherman Ave.

## Three chow halls, one single mission

Story and photos by  
Spc. Joseph A. Morris  
The Wire

Troops can't complete the mission without fuel, and it's the galley's job at Guantanamo Bay to see that they are well fed. Take Naval Hospital Galley, Camp America's Seaside Galley and the Quick Hall Naval Galley at Marine Hill, the Windward side's finest. Each offers a different eating experience with a common goal in mind: well-balanced meals, which lead to well-balanced servicemembers, who in turn lead to mission well done.

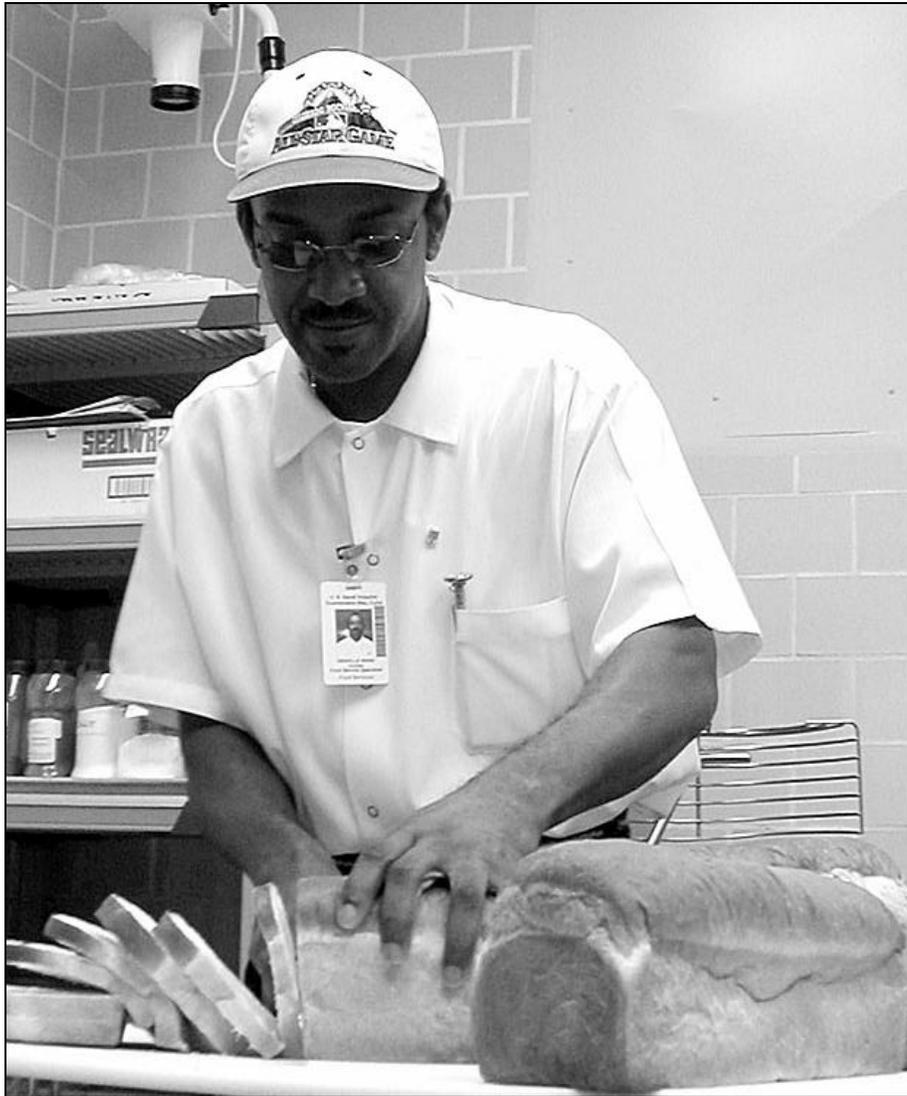
With offerings ranging from fully loaded omelettes for breakfast at the Naval Hospital Galley to the exquisite lunchtime salad bar at Marine Hill's Quick Hall, to perfectly prepared Reuben sandwiches at the Seaside Galley for dinner, servicemembers all over the base can fulfill a variety of appetites at a variety of convivial eating-places.

But being able to provide an array of tastebud-tantalizing entrees for servicemembers to devour is no simple task.

Given that everyone has different tastes, the contract workers and servicemembers who operate these galleys must be ready to provide a beefy variety of dishes to suit the taste of the masses. Their work is hard and exacting, but it pays off when they see you bite into a well-garnished chicken burger and a smile explodes across your face.

So the next time you're off to chow, it doesn't matter which galley because all three of the Windward galleys are here to make sure your stomach is well filled. That way you're mission ready until the next mealtime comes around.

You work hard; you deserve to eat hard. The galley workers at GTMO are here to see that your meal goes down easy.



*Denville G. Mann slices into his freshly baked bread (made from his own secret recipe) at the Naval Hospital Galley. Mann claims that people come from all around the world to have a taste of his sweet loaf.*



*James Govan, the supervisor of the Quick Hall Naval Station Galley at Marine Hill, maintains the salad bar to the highest standard. Govan states his salad bar is by far the best here on Guantanamo Bay.*

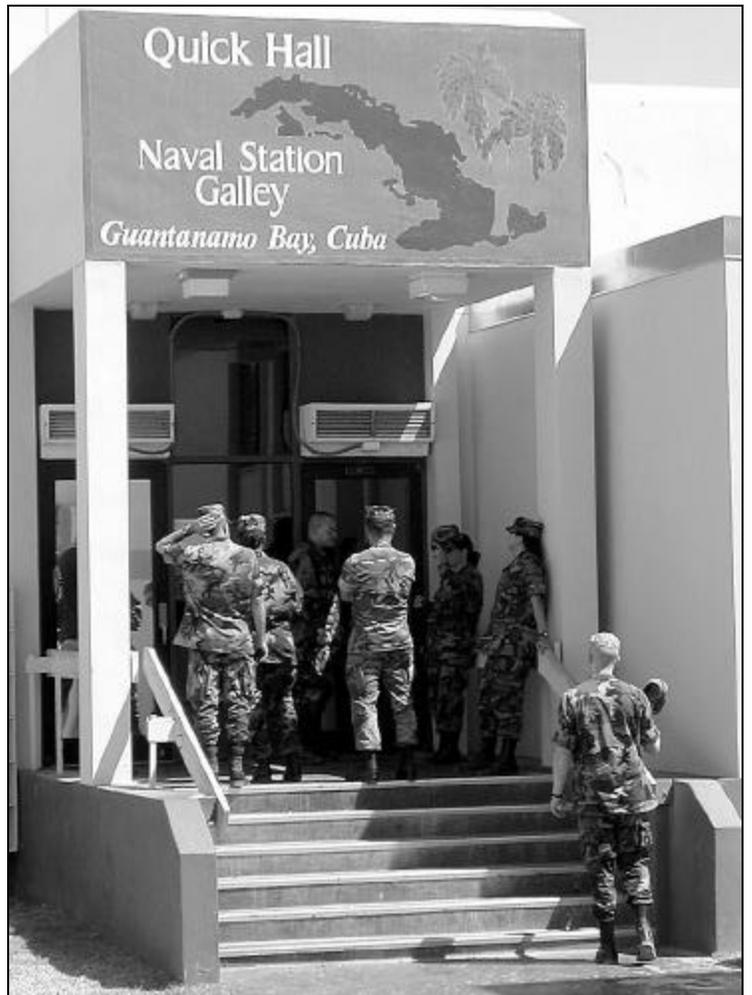


*The highly trained workers from Atlantic Coast Contracting provide above all else delicious meals at the Seaside Galley.*



Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Nickolaus B. Lewis from the Naval Hospital Galley, having not made an omelette in three years, comes out of his retirement.

Behold! The majestic interior scenery of the Seaside Galley at Camp America helps to make the food taste that much better.



Servicemembers from all around the base eagerly await with bated breath for the Quick Hall Naval Station Galley at Marine Hill to open its doors for lunch.



actors proudly serve all of the mouth-watering, well-balanced, nutritional and at Camp America.

# 239th MPs: Louisiana's 'black sheep'

Story and photos by Army Pfc. Jean-Carl Bertin  
The Wire

The 239th Military Police Company, known as the "Black Sheep" of Baton Rouge, was the first Louisiana Army National Guard unit to be placed on active duty since the war on terror began in October.

Now it's the only guard unit from Louisiana deployed to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Like the other MP companies at Camp America, its role is to provide security at Camp Delta and support the mission of JTF-160 through the Joint Detention Operations Group.

At the company's headquarters, there is a stuffed black sheep's head hanging by the entrance door and a Louisiana flag flying from the roof of the main office.

Proud of his company's mascot, Capt. Sam Barbera, the unit's commander, pointed to the black sheep and tried to explain what it represents.

"We've adopted this mascot," he said, "because for many years, we were what we called a traditional unit, not attached to any battalion. We didn't have all the good equipment back then," he said.

But after the events of Sept. 11 and after a successful deployment under Operation Noble Eagle to Fort Polk, La., to provide security for the Army post, the 239th MP Co. was elevated to the top level of readiness.

"After Operation Noble Eagle, we were the first Louisiana MP unit to be activated for Enduring Freedom as well," said Barbera.

With that, the unit gained popu-

larity and received a lot more attention from the media.

"We were on all the TV channels and local newspapers," said Barbera.

The MP company consists of personnel who have worked in various law enforcement agencies, rescue units and correctional facilities in Louisiana.

"We've got a great deal of law enforcement, firefighters, EMS, correctional officers, who really came in handy in the preparation to come to GTMO," said Barbera.

Once here, motivation took over. "Because of what happened on 9/11, a lot of soldiers and civilians have become more patriotic," said 1st Sgt. Darian Williams, who has worked for the fire department back home as a fire inspector and arson investigator. "So being deployed here right now is more a morale thing for us, being able to give back to our country."

"Overall, our soldiers are handling the deployment pretty well," he said.

Well, there's always the inconvenience of being farther away from home.

"When we were deployed to Fort Polk, we were not that far from home. Whenever we were off duty, we would drop by our house to see our families," said Spc. Jonathon Henson, a security guard at Camp Delta.

Although GTMO doesn't offer the comforting location of Fort Polk, the soldiers of the 239th have demonstrated dedication to their work, said Barbera.

Barbera, who has been in charge of the company for three years, said that he is very proud of the way his soldiers have been maintaining security on Camp Delta's day shift.

The 239th replaced the 401st MP Co., one of the first MP units that were deployed to GTMO.

Fortunately, their transition was not as tough as their predecessors, who came to GTMO before the construction of Camp America and Camp Delta.

They had a chance to communicate with the commanders of the



The soldiers of the 239th MP Co. gather for a picture after finishing their shift.

160th MP Battalion and the 401st as they were getting ready for GTMO. Yet even with all that, it was a fast-paced introduction.

"When we first got here, it was baptism by fire," said Barbera. "The ability of my soldiers to learn fast allowed us to get in the groove of things quickly. I like to say, you give them purpose, motivation and direction, and the rest just falls into place. It helps that most of them have had some kind of prior active

have a Louisiana Night at Rick's," said Barbera. "We gonna share some of our unique Louisiana culture with the people of GTMO. We will have jambalaya, fried fish, shrimp creole, cajun music, Louisiana beer, and we might even have some Po' boy sandwiches."

That night will get them in the Louisiana mood of "*Laissez le bon temps rouler!*" said Barbera in French. In other words, "Let the good times roll."

"There is a lot of unit cohesion," said Staff Sgt. Roger Christopher, assistant NCOIC for operations. "What I like the most is the unit's common-sense approach to the mission. This is one of the best deployments I've been on so far."

"What holds this unit together is not necessarily the excellence of the higher command, but the willingness, hard work and dedication of all the soldiers to the mission," said Sgt. William Rose, who oversees the daily procedures at Camp Delta regarding the feeding of the detainees and making sure they get enough time for showers and recreation.

Henson, who also works at the camp, is a prime example. "I've learned how to use more patience in understanding the detainees when they look at me," he said. "You learn with experience."

But experience, day after day, can be numbing, and the 239th knows that staying sharp is as important as sharpening skills.

"I know what I am doing here is extremely patriotic," Rose said. "However, it wears on you. I have to keep my eyes focused on my task. The worst enemy in this camp is complacency."



Capt. Sam Barbera, 239th commander duty experience in one of the four branches of service."

According to Barbera, one of the unit's biggest assets was the opportunity to train at Fort Polk with the soldiers of the 519th MP Battalion, which ran the detention facility at Kandahar, Afghanistan.

"That helped a lot," he said. "And we haven't lost our momentum since."

To keep morale up and maintain unit integrity, many of the 239th's platoons have had their own barbecues. But Barbera said he's waiting for the visit of the Louisiana National Guard's adjutant general to do something big.

"When he gets here, we gonna



Sgt. William Rose and Spc. Jonathon Henson of the 239th MP Co.

# Bus stop home at last at Camp A

Story and photos by  
Spc. Frank N. Pellegrini  
The Wire

Perhaps the ultimate compliment to the new bus stop at Camp America was that the three SEABEES of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 7 still remembered building it.

"This was July 25 — no, July 21," said BU2 Andrew Sherman. "It was supposed to be just a basic bus stop. But I cleared it with operations to get creative, to teach these guys something. So I designed it, and they built it."

"They" — SW3 Jason Clevenger and SW3 Ernest Whitney — originally built the finest bus stop in the land ("Damn right," says Clevenger) to grace the muddy flats near the juncture of Windward Loop and East Caravella, which back in June was

the vicinity. But arriving members of the 418th Transportation Co. were just setting their minds to a complete upgrade of the one thing everybody at GTMO in June seemed eager to complain about — the buses — and they had different ideas.

"Originally, this was going to be the one bus stop that served the whole Loop/Caravella area," said Lt. David Hudak, 418th third platoon leader. "But then we added stops to the Loop and Caravella, so we weren't using it any more."

"At the same time, we were increasing the number of stops at Camp America to six, to make it more convenient for the customers that live out here," he said. "And being that it gets so hot out here, we wanted to make sure that there's some kind of cover over them while people are waiting."

Those twin considerations prompted the 418th to literally pick up the new covered bus stop and move it by forklift to one of the Camp America stops.

The front of the camp already had a covered stop. But with the SEABEES who'd built it booked solid on other projects through the end of their GTMO term, it was decided that this was a showpiece worth showing.

"Call it politics," said Army Staff Sgt. Joseph K. Ronan. "This was the best-looking bus stop, so they wanted it to be out front where everyone could see it. So we moved the old one to the back and replaced it."

The bus stop project won't stop with appearances. As soon as the arriving SEABEE battalion, MCB 5 out of Port Hueneme, Ca., gets settled in at GTMO, Hudak said he'll be working with them to get four more covered bus stops built, one for each of the remaining Camp A stops.

In the meantime, Hudak, Ronan, diminutive forklift operator Spc. Johnny Best and the rest of the second platoon of the 418th Transportation Co. will satisfy themselves with an improved bus-route system that's become a lot more, well, satisfying.

More stops and more buses — and better coordination between those buses — has meant that customers at Camp America and most anywhere else can expect a bus to come by every 15 minutes



R to L: SW3 Jason Clevenger, SW3 Ernest Whitney and BU2 Andrew Sherman stop a minute at their "7"-signed masterpiece.

to the finest bus stop in the land.

The departing SEABEES, meanwhile, are headed back stateside to Gulfport, Miss., this week. And seeing their bus stop become a parting gift to grace the entrance to Camp America proper was just the finishing touch on a satisfying deployment.

"I'd say it was a success," said Sherman. "I'm happy with the quality of work that was done, and we got a lot of recognition, like being in the Wire a couple of different times, for the first time in a long time. That was nice."

"I'm happy I got to do a lot of different stuff," said Clevenger. "We did plumbing at X-Ray, guard towers at Delta, laid concrete. It was great experience."

Indeed, the numbers speak for themselves. After 14 guard tow-

ers, 106 SEAhuts, 10 force-protection bunkers, 3 tension fabric structures, 3 water heaters, 3 bulletin boards and yes, 1 fine-looking bus stop, the leaders of MCB 7 were proud of the six months' work done in support of both Joint Task Forces here.

"It was definitely a successful deployment," summed up Officer-in-Charge Lt. Emily Allen. "A lot of challenges faced and met. And it was definitely the crew that made it happen."

"These guys worked hard," agreed AOIC D.D. Fowler. "I'm proud of what they did here. They know they had a purpose, supporting Operation Enduring Freedom by doing what they do well."

Now all of Camp A knows: that includes building one heck of a bus stop.



Army Staff Sgt. Joseph K. Ronan directs the bus-stop-moving forklift operated by Spc. Johnny Best.

the only bus stop in that area.

An intricate weave of 2x4s, planks and sturdy posts with the battalion's signature "BEEP sticker" (Battalion Equipment Evaluation Program) wood-worked into the floor, the structure took the three "a week, week and a half," said Whitney, and certainly would have classed up



Another satisfied "customer" boards the Camp A bus from the new stop.

**MORE CAMP A  
CONVENIENCE:  
MINI-NEX NOW  
OPEN 1100-2100  
EVERY DAY!**

# Clean up, or the inspectors will get you

Story and photo by  
Spc. Chris S. Pisano  
The Wire

Go along on a housing inspection at Windward Loop with JTF-160 Command Sgt. Maj. Raymond W. Funaro and you might have a better understanding on why your living quarters must meet the standards.

"The problems we have are that people can be real pigs who like to live in pigpens," said Funaro. "No one should have to be forced to

"Whenever one of the commands wants to do an inspection, we go do one," said Navy Chief Eugene Santorella of Naval Station Housing, who accompanies Funaro during the inspections.

Funaro knows what he's looking for, and if he finds a pigpen, he said he'll tell the owners to clean it up and he will come back in a week to re-inspect it. If it's in a condition far below the standard, they must appear in his office and have their house ready for inspection within 24 hours.

Such slovenly extremes are rare, said Funaro, but then again, it all depends on which house he sets foot in.

Walking into one house, Santorella ceremoniously opens the door and lets loose the battle cry of "Housing!" to make his presence known. The resident of the house snaps to parade rest at the sight of Funaro.

"Was this floor mopped?" Funaro inquires. The soldier confirms that he just did it ten "mikes" ago, not even knowing that Funaro was coming.

Going upstairs, Funaro and Santorella find unmade racks and rooms that look like a tornado blew through.

"Those unmade beds really look bad," cites Santorella.

Funaro shakes his head at the sight of cloths piled everywhere.

Upon entering another homestead, the place is found to be clean and in order. Hanging on the wall is a cleaning duty roster. All of the beds are made, save one.

"Even with that one unmade bed, the house still looked good," said Santorella.

"How hard is it to make your rack?" ponders Funaro.

Approaching another house, Santorella points out that both males and females can be equally "jacked up" when it comes to the

cleanliness of a home.

Funaro agrees, and wants to visit one of the cleaner houses on the loop, which as it happens is occupied by females.

Santorella opens the door. The word "Housing!" cuts through the air like a hot knife through butter. Sensing something is amiss, he rushes in and heads right for the back door, which is wide open. A strong gust of wind enters and begins blowing the curtains around. Santorella enters the back yard; the gate is swung open as well. He comes back and looks at Funaro.

"Someone was just here, and they bolted," he said. "Think about it, the room is cold from the air conditioner. If that door was open the whole time, the room would be much warmer."

Funaro doesn't discount the possibility. This sort of thing has happened before, he said. Yet despite the mystery surrounding this house, it is pretty squared away.

"People think they know when I come around, but I'm a sneaky guy," said Funaro.

In another house, an eclectic array of half-eaten food items and empty bottles are strewn about.

"There's no need for that," said Funaro. "There's no reason why people have to leave food out or empty bottles. That stuff is going to start to smell and bring bugs. And let me tell you, roach infestation is a serious problem."

"People also have to take the garbage out first thing in the morning," said Santorella. "The exterminators are here doing 15 houses a week because of ants and roaches. And once roaches get into one apartment, you can expect them to show up in others."

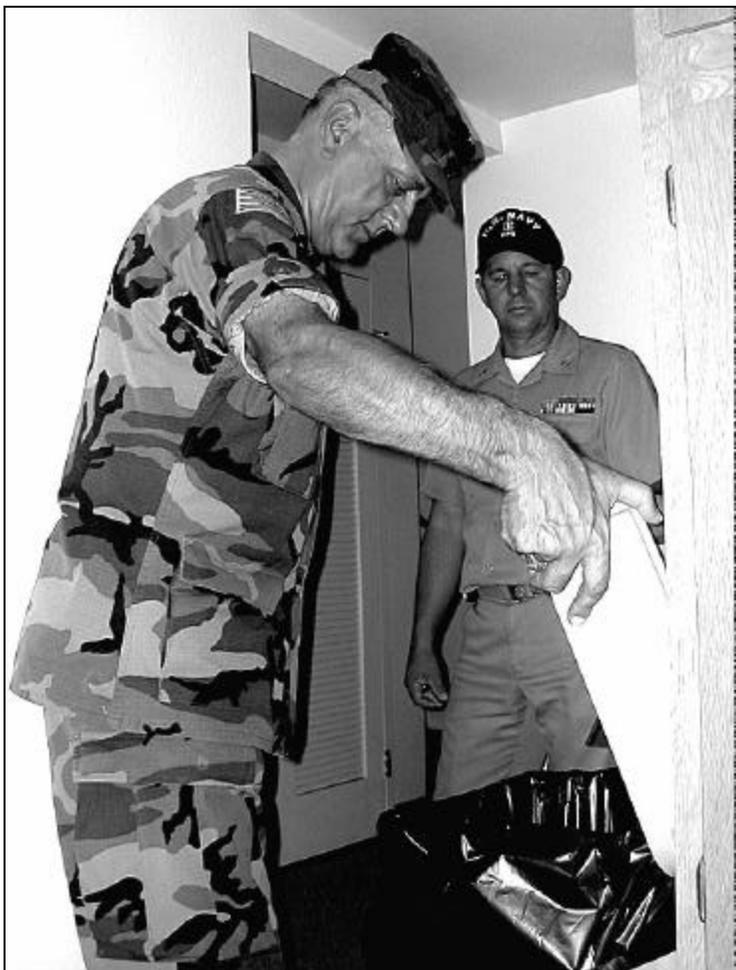
But it is true that some homes were left in poor shape by the permanent party Navy personnel who used to live in the Loop, said Santorella. Only since January have the servicemembers of JTF-160 been living in these homes, which can come in many flavors of cleanliness. While one might appear to be squared away save for an unmade rack, another might appear as if the Apocalypse took place in there. After finishing his inspections, Funaro was satisfied but not overly impressed with the houses that he'd seen.

"Things looked good this week, but not enough of the houses are meeting the standards," he said.

So folks, take care of what you've got.

"If this was a different type of situation or deployment, we wouldn't be living in abandoned housing," said Funaro. "The first group that came here was living in GP Mediums. People take things for granted. Instead of these houses you could be in some barracks or tents."

With that in mind, Funaro wants to make it clear to those who live in their own filth and never pick up a mop that they better "Get it cleaned up, because I'll be back."



"What is that, dog food?" asks JTF-160 Command Sgt. Maj. Raymond W. Funaro as he inspects an unemptied trash can during his weekly random house inspections at Windward Loop. "I've seen that stuff before," said Navy Chief Eugene Santorella, Naval Station Housing. "It's Hamburger Helper, extra chunky!"

live in someone else's filth."

"I've gone into houses with a week's worth of garbage lying around," he said. "I've had people come up to me and ask me to inspect their homes because their roommates are pigs."

While Naval Station Housing performs their own inspections on the houses of Windward Loop, Funaro prefers to make random inspections himself every week to ensure that people are meeting the standards.

LIFE HERE IS STILL A CHALLENGE

**August 3, 2002:** Today I cared for a patient who escaped from Cuba. He was found at sea and brought here by the U.S. Coast Guard. He left his wife and children in search of freedom. His hopes are all those that we have in the USA: Establish himself, bring his family here, and live the American Dream.

Today was also Quarters. That is where all our sailors go out to the flag-pole in front of the hospital and stand in formation at attention in their white uniforms. They pay respect to our flag while the National Anthem is played.

I can't attend because I am caring for patients, but I can hear the Star Spangled Banner being played. I watch my Cuban patient rise to look out the window to watch Morning Colors. His eyes are filled with tears. No words are spoken. I can feel his pain, he wants what we were born with — FREEDOM.

The challenge is knowing that tomorrow I may work in a different area. This area has a patient that has been raised to hate our way of life. His eyes will glare at me when I enter the room. He will constantly wait for the opportunity to strike. With some trepidation, I will stand in harm's way to meet his medical needs.

We as Americans are a caring and compassionate people. It is beyond us why anyone would want to take away our bountiful lifestyle. We help so many countries in need and often don't understand why we have an enemy.

I don't have an answer for this hatred. My mission is to care for all in need. I have just had to switch gears and find the right tempo to handle both those reaching for FREEDOM and those wishing to destroy it.

HANGING TOUGH & STAYING STRONG,  
— Navy Lt. Laura J. Ledyard, Nurse Corps

Movie Schedule

DOWNTOWN LYCEUM

CAMP BULKELEY

Friday, August 23

8 p.m. Stuart Little 2, PG-13 - 70min  
10 p.m. Windtalkers, R - 133min

Friday, August 23

8 p.m. Changing Lanes, R - 90min  
10 p.m. An Officer and a Gentleman, R - 133min

Saturday, August 24

8 p.m. Austin Powers 3, PG-13 - 93min  
10 p.m. Men in Black II, PG-13 - 91min

Saturday, August 24

8 p.m. Monster's Ball, R - 111min  
10 p.m. Courage Under Fire, R - 116min

Sunday, August 25

8 p.m. The Bourne Identity, PG-13 - 118min

Sunday, August 25

8, 10 p.m. Brotherhood of the Wolf, R - 143min

Monday, August 26

8 p.m. Minority Report, PG-13 - 140min

Monday, August 26

8, 10 p.m. Tomb Raider, PG-13 - 101min

Tuesday, August 27

8 p.m. Austin Powers 3, PG-13 - 93min

Tuesday, August 27

8, 10 p.m. Commando, R - 90min

Wednesday, August 28

8 p.m. Juwanna Mann, PG-13 - 91min

Wednesday, August 28

8, 10 p.m. Delta Force, R - 129min

Thursday, August 29

8 p.m. Men in Black II, PG-13 - 91min

Thursday, August 29

8, 10 p.m. All About The Benjamins, R - 109min

Crossword Puzzle

Across

- 1 Baths
- 5 Island
- 9 Assistant
- 13 U.S. Department of Agriculture
- 14 Type of missile
- 15 Longitudinal
- 16 Vilify
- 17 Heroic tale
- 18 Tinkle
- 19 Happy
- 21 Particle
- 23 Flightless bird
- 24 Headed
- 25 Sound of leaves
- 29 Distress call
- 30 Roman garments
- 32 That man
- 33 A vacation (2 wds.)
- 36 Knobby
- 37 Arbitrator
- 38 Point
- 39 Wooden projection

- 40 Clench your teeth
- 41 Downtown
- 42 In more pain
- 43 Piquant
- 44 Conger
- 45 Tails
- 46 Perch
- 47 Fancy
- 49 Blemish
- 50 Owns
- 53 Rinse
- 55 Snobbish
- 57 Cavity
- 60 Land measurement
- 62 Fairy tale opener
- 63 Prostrate
- 64 On top
- 65 Movie star
- 66 Made music
- 67 Crave
- 68 Stringed instrument

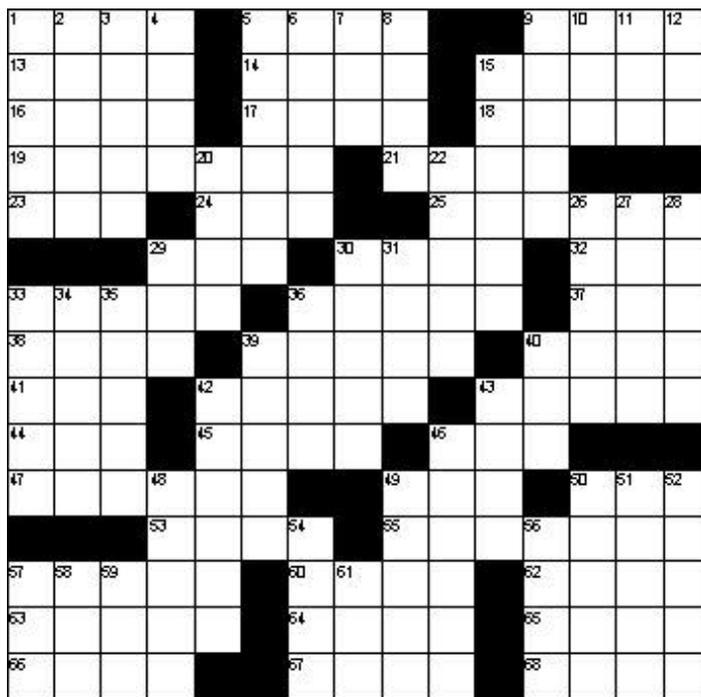
- 29 Sextet
- 30 Sounds
- 31 Aroma
- 33 Was sore
- 34 Not as false
- 35 Shekel
- 36 Smart person
- 39 Frozen pizza brand
- 40 Comprehend
- 42 Bun topping
- 43 Baked pasta dish
- 46 Mum
- 48 Swayed

- 49 Goose eggs
- 50 Eastern religion
- 51 Scarf
- 52 Inscribed pillar
- 54 Pull
- 56 Labor
- 57 Hertz
- 58 Epoch
- 59 Gyp
- 61 Computer part

Down

- 1 Lunge
- 2 Sacred poem
- 3 Adios
- 4 Sold at a discount
- 5 Releases
- 6 Burn with hot liquid
- 7 Drag
- 8 Cheese
- 9 Wheel holders
- 10 Caesar's three
- 11 Newsman Rather
- 12 Moose relative
- 15 Veritable
- 20 Dud
- 22 Piano-like instrument
- 26 Before Fri.
- 27 Confine
- 28 Hollow

Answers to the August 16 puzzle



# Morale videophone lets troops reach out and view loved ones

Story and photos by Army Sgt. Michelle M. Pessoa  
The Wire

Effective immediately, JTF-160 servicemembers have a new way to contact friends and loved ones at home — the Morale Videophone.

Located in room 201 of the Pink Palace, the videophone is a free service offered to servicemembers of all branches. The videophone is in operation 24 hours a day, seven days a week, as long as an appointment is made in advance.

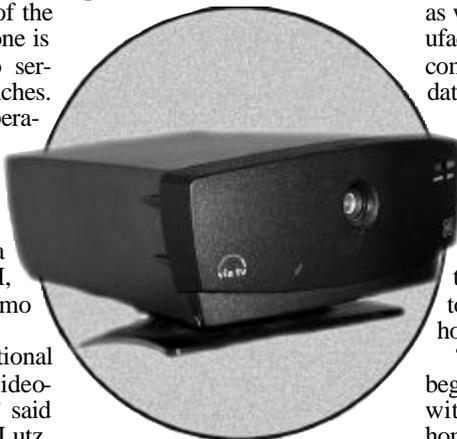
The videophone, a ViaTV model VC105-II, was brought to Guantanamo by the 43rd MP Brigade.

"The Rhode Island National Guard purchased the videophone a few years ago," said Army Capt. Daniel C. Lutz, JTF-160 HQ Commandant. "The phone is deployed with its mobilized units. It was recently used when one of the state's MP companies deployed to Hungary. The JTF has plans to purchase a new videophone that will be permanently assigned to GTMO when we leave."

According to Lutz, the videophone has been functional since late July. Now that it has been tested, it is open for more widespread use.

The set up of the videophone is fairly simple. It con-

sists of a small black box that houses a built-in digital video camera and a high-performance analog modem. The picture quality, size and frame speed can be adjusted on the fly. The unit also allows you to pan, tilt and



zoom the camera.

The ViaTV uses an ordinary phoneline, not a broadband connection like DSL or ISDN. The unit is about the size of a standard cable box, and it sits here on top of a normal 27" color TV in a sparse room, unfurnished save for a two tables and two chairs. The room is locked when not in use.

The user turns on the unit and the TV and makes a call to a DSN number with a standard touchtone phone. On the other end of the line, the servicemember's loved ones sit in

front of a similar videophone setup in a private room. The 43rd MP BDE has a videoconferencing unit set up in their armory back in Rhode Island, but other Reserve and National Guard units have comparable video conferencing equipment as well. According to the manufacturer, the ViaTV is H.324 compatible, so it can receive data from other H.324 compatible videophone manufacturers such as Aiptek, TeleEye or Vizufon.

"Each servicemember should contact their unit's chain of command to see if the videophone can be used to contact their loved ones at home," advised Lutz.

"Some other units have begun to test the videophone with videophones at their home stations. Others are still determining if any videophone resources are in their area back home.

"So far, it has only been used from one videophone to another videophone. However, if a servicemember has a specific need we are willing to test it out and see if it works," said Lutz.

According to Lutz, the policy is that every JTF-160 servicemember is allotted 15 minutes per week on a first come, first served basis. Units can reserve blocks of time to ensure the videophone's availability by contacting Lutz's office at x5253.

On Wednesday alone 11 servicemembers, including JTF-160 Command Sgt. Maj. Raymond W. Funaro, signed up to see their loved one back home. Slots fill up fast, so plan ahead. Time must be coordinated both on the GTMO side and back at the home station.

Finally, for those at Camp America who may be feeling left out, Lutz passed on the following good news:

"Two new videophones are on order — one to replace the current videophone and one for Camp America."



The 43rd's Sgt. 1st Class Vartan Masdarian tests the videophone. His son, Garo, and his brother, Kevork, are awaiting the call back in Rhode Island.

## This Week

The JTF-160 Fishing Rodeo takes place Saturday at Pelican Pete's Marina from 6:00AM to 3:00PM. Contact Capt. Barbera at #3538 or Lt. Bowman at #5256 for information. Men's and Women's Division Soccer Season will be starting on Monday, September 30th and run until Friday, November 8th. All Division Soccer rosters will be due on Friday, September 20th. Please contact Capt. Gormly at #5249 for more information.

- \* Daily Free Daytime & Evening Lessons for Sailing, Kayaking, and Motor Boating at Pelican Pete's Marina.
- \* Free movies: 8 PM Lyceum; 8, 10 PM Camp Bulkeley.
- \* Advanced Step Aerobics Classes, Denich Gym, MWF, 5:15PM-6:15PM.
- \* Tae-Kwon Do Classes, Marine Hill Aerobics Room, M-F, 6:30PM-7:30PM.
- \* 1-On-1 Spinning Classes, Denich Gym. MWF, 5:30PM-6:30PM, Tues. & Thurs. 6:15PM-7:15PM.
- \* Yoga Ultimate Stretch Class, Denich Gym, 5:15PM-6:15PM, Tues. & Thurs.
- \* Flag Football Leagues, Cooper Field, M-F, 6:00PM.
- \* 75¢ Bowling, Marblehead Lanes, M-F, 1:00PM-4:00PM.

### Today, Friday, August 23rd

- 6:00AM-6:00PM, Open Swim, Marine Hill Pool.
- 10:00AM-8:00PM, Open Swim, Windjammer Pool.
- 11:00AM-7:00PM, Open Swim, Deer Point Pool.
- 5:30PM, Night Fishing Trip, M.W.R. Marina.

### Saturday, August 24th

- 6:00AM-3:00PM, JTF-160 Fishing Rodeo, Pelican Pete's Marina.
- 7:00AM-2:00PM, Dawn Fishing Trip, CBQ.
- 10:00AM-8:00PM, Open Swim, Windjammer Pool.
- 10:00AM-6:00PM, Open Swim, Marine Hill and Deer Point Pools.

### Sunday, August 25th

- 10:00AM-8:00PM, Open Swim, Windjammer Pool.
- 10:00AM-6:00PM, Open Swim, Marine Hill and Deer Point Pools.
- 5:00PM, Spades Tournament, JTF-160 Commander's Cup Series, CBQ.

### Monday, August 26th

- 6:00AM-6:00PM, Open Swim, Marine Hill Pool.
- 10:00AM-8:00PM, Open Swim, Windjammer Pool.
- 11:00AM-7:00PM, Open Swim, Deer Point Pool.

### Tuesday, August 27th

- 6:00AM-6:00PM, Open Swim, Marine Hill Pool.
- 10:00AM-8:00PM, Open Swim, Windjammer Pool.
- 11:00AM-7:00PM, Open Swim, Deer Point Pool.
- 6:00PM, Mixed Volleyball, JTF-160 Commander's Cup Series, Denich Gym.

### Wednesday, August 28th

- 6:00AM-6:00PM, Open Swim, Marine Hill Pool.
- 10:00AM-8:00PM, Open Swim, Windjammer Pool.
- 11:00AM-7:00PM, Open Swim, Deer Point Pool.
- 7:00PM, Round One, Table Tennis Tournament, CBQ.

### Thursday, August 29th

- 6:00AM-6:00PM, Open Swim, Marine Hill Pool.
- 10:00AM-8:00PM, Open Swim, Windjammer Pool.
- 11:00AM-7:00PM, Open Swim, Deer Point Pool.

## Sports

# 239th MPs advance by beating PSU

Stories and photos by  
Spc. Jose A. Martinez  
The Wire

The 239th Military Police Company came from behind to beat the 307th Port Security Unit in three games to advance in the mixed volleyball tournament at G. J. Denich Gym Tuesday.

It was an exciting first-round match. The crowd's energy seemed to pour onto the volleyball court. This game had the feel of a championship fight.

When the two teams stepped onto the court they were not only playing for their unit's pride but for points in the JTF-160's Commander's Cup.

Both teams fought like two prizefighters, with the 239th MP's coming out swinging with a 5-0 lead in the first match.

But PSU 307 climbed back into the game, little by little. Both sides were exchanging points in the first set.

PSU 307 tied the game at ten, then took the lead on the next point. The lead was 14-11, but PSU 307 could not put the 239th away. The match became deadlocked at 14.

In the rules of volleyball, you have to win by two points. PSU 307 turned it up and was able to score two straight points to win the first match 16-14.

In the next game, PSU 307 continued play-



*Army Spc. Rauman M. Laurent, 239th MP Co., spikes the ball aggressively to score a point for the Blacksheeps in their victory over PSU 307.*

ing as they did at the finish of the first match. They opened up a 5-2 lead, potentially critical in a close game.

But this lead would not last long. The 239th MP Co. rallied back and tied the match at five.

The lead would go back and forth until the 239th MP Co. scored five unanswered points to win the second game 15-10.

Tying the match gave new life to the 239th. The winner of the third game would be the

team that advanced in the tournament bracket.

It was no easy contest. There were six ties and four lead changes as both teams seemed to want victory equally.

The pressure was mounting as each point became more and more crucial. The teams were tied at twelve when the 239th MP Co. scored two points. Then PSU 307 scored a point.

The atmosphere was tense on the court as the score was 14-13. It was "do or die" time for both teams. Who would step up?

Serving, PSU 307 couldn't tie it up, and the 239th MP Co. was able to score match point to advance, and after winning the first game, PSU 307 had let the opportunity to advance in the tournament slip through their hands.

"The game was pretty close. We had a good chance to put it away in the second match. It was our fault. They played hard and came back to win," said Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class Bradlee T. Starks from PSU 307.

"It was a good and close game," said Army Spc. Rauman M. Laurent from the 239th MP Co. "Both teams went at one another hard. We had minor mistakes in the game, but because we played as a team, we were able to come back and win. Hopefully we can continue winning and take care of business in the tournament. We are going to try our best to win the Commander's Cup."

## Hood Ratz's QB, defense hold off Cactus Curtain

The Hood Ratz flag football team overcame a late charge by Cactus Curtain in the second half to stay undefeated in the flag football season.

The game was a defensive struggle from the start. Both teams had a hard time getting their offense in synch. Defense dictated the tempo in this game.

It seemed that one mistake or a big play would change the outcome of the game.

The first half of the game was all about the Hood Ratz. They were winning the battle in the trenches. As the game progressed, Army Pfc. John P. Gines broke free from the line of scrimmage with a 43-yard touchdown run to put the Hood Ratz on top, 6-0. The extra point was good and the Hood Ratz lead was 7-0.

They increased that lead by capitalizing on Cactus Curtain's mistakes. The Hood Ratz's quar-

terback, Army Staff Sgt. Joseph K. Ronan, saw a blown coverage in the end zone. He stepped back in the pocket and threw a bomb down the field. Ronan was able to thread the needle with a perfect pass. He threw the ball over the hands of the cornerback and into the grasp of Army Spc. William Whittenburg for a 38-yard touchdown pass, and the Hood Ratz had a commanding 13-0 lead.

"It wasn't an easy play. I was able to put a move on the cornerback and beat him down field. Ronan's timing was perfect. It was a great pass," said Whittenburg.

This was the perfect opportunity for the Hood Ratz to let their defense loose on Cactus Curtain and put the game away. They started taking chances on defense by blitzing more often, and it worked. Cactus Curtain was able to score a touchdown on a sec-



*Army Spc. William Whittenburg from the 418th Transportation Company makes an over the shoulder catch to seal the victory for the Hood Ratz 13-7.*

ond-half running play, but it was too little, too late. There was too much defense and not enough time on the game clock for Cactus Curtain, now 1-2 on the season.

"Army Spc. Allen Lamar played big in this game," said Ronan. "He had three quarterback sacks that helped stop Cactus Curtain's momentum in the game. He turned it up another level on defense. He gives everything he has in the game. He is

very important to the team's success."

"We now have a record of 2-0 with this victory. It felt real good beating Cactus Curtain, because they were trash talking a lot in the game. They were lucky we did not play well today," he said.

"I'm look forward to next Friday. That's when we play against Naval Station — they're the team to beat. They have a good team," he said. "We'll see."



# 15 Minutes of Fame

*Spc. Bryan Jones, 2/142nd Inf. Co.*

## Texas pride comes along for the ride

Compiled by Spc. Chris S. Pisano and Spc. Joseph A. Morris  
The Wire

**Q:** Why don't you tell the people where you're from?

**A:** I'm from a small town in Texas, where about 125 people live.

**Q:** What's that place like?

**A:** Well, we have a Coke machine and a stop sign down by the cotton gin. There's no law where I live.

**Q:** You ever get into trouble back home when you were younger?

**A:** A young man living in a town like that can always figure out some kind of trouble to get into.

**Q:** Does everyone in a town like that generally get along with each other?

**A:** Where I'm from, if you get into a fight with someone, you'll end up seeing that person every day. So if you fight with one person for a week straight, you'll end up with no friends in town.

**Q:** So, what do you do in your unit?

**A:** Well, I was an infantryman for six years, but now I work in supply. I inspect all the weapons after the guys finish their shifts. I make sure that they keep up on their maintenance.

**Q:** So, you like weapons?

**A:** Yeah, I've been shooting since I was small.

**Q:** Got a lot of weapons back home?

**A:** Yeah, I got a lot of guns.

**Q:** If there was an intruder in your home, what weapon would you use and where would you aim?

**A:** Where I'm from, the door is always open. If someone who wasn't welcome entered, I'd grab the shotgun and shoot at the head.

**Q:** Would you be able to defend your entire town single handedly?

**A:** Everybody defends their own stuff

pretty well. It's not like they're going to shoot and miss.

**Q:** What if your town was attacked by giant spiders?

**A:** That's a pretty stupid question, but in the slim chance that they did come, you'd have to kiss your life goodbye.

**Q:** Why did you join the military?

**A:** Everybody wants to be a soldier. My grandfather and father were also in the service.

**Q:** How long have you been in?

**A:** I joined the day I turned 18. Ten years now in the National Guard.

**Q:** Has the military changed you?

**A:** I have been, and always will be, the same.

**Q:** You must have learned some survival skills being in an infantry company. How long would you last on a deserted island?

**A:** I'd last until someone came and got me. I don't know how good I'd be living, but dying isn't an option.

**Q:** Have you been on many deployments?

**A:** No, this is my first one. It's been all right, better than being poked in the eye with a sharp stick.

**Q:** Any goals for when you get back home?

**A:** I'm saving money so I can buy some ranch land and put cattle on it.

**Q:** Ever tip a cow over?

**A:** That's stupid, you can't tip a cow over unless you're doing 70 in a car and the thing walks out in front of you.

**Q:** Ever hop on the back of a cow and ride it?

**A:** Well, I used to ride bulls in rodeo shows.

**Q:** What type of weapon would you make out of fruit?

**A:** I would take plum seeds and shoot them from a slingshot. That would hurt pretty bad.

**Q:** What was the most disgusting thing you have ever eaten?

**A:** A Reuben sandwich. Those people should be beat up for making that thing.

**Q:** Last question, can you explain why people are so proud to be from Texas?

**A:** Texas is the greatest place in the world. We have everything there. There is no other place like it.



Photo by Spc. Chris S. Pisano  
*Spc. Bryan Jones: "I have been, and always will be, the same."*

Next week's 15 minutes of fame could be you!