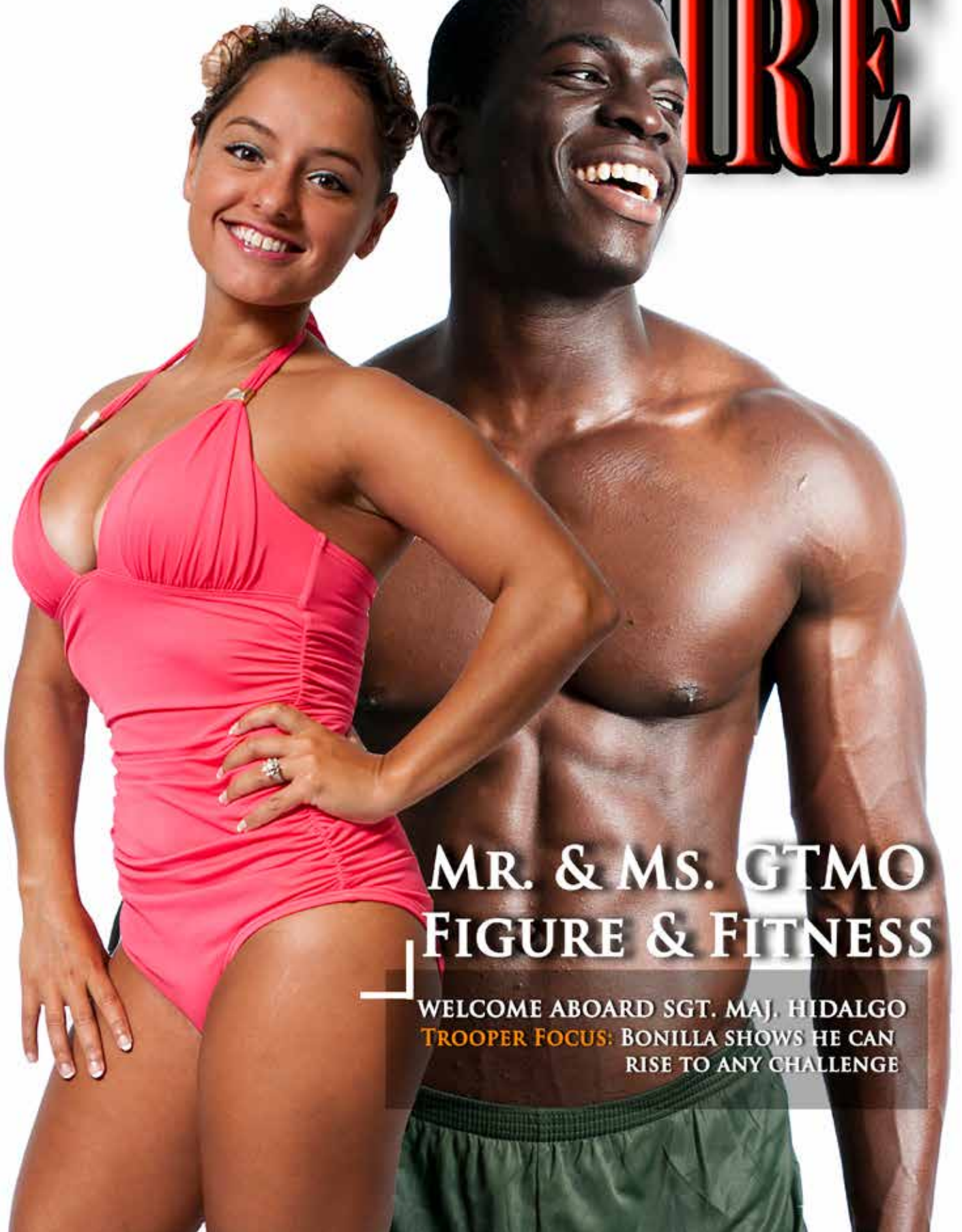


W7 The MORE



MR. & MS. GTMO FIGURE & FITNESS

WELCOME ABOARD SGT. MAJ. HIDALGO
TROOPER FOCUS: BONILLA SHOWS HE CAN
RISE TO ANY CHALLENGE

COMMAND CORNER

CAPT. JOHN SCHOMMER

CHIEF OF STAFF, JOINT TASK FORCE GUANTANAMO

It is hard to believe I have already completed more than half of my deployment as the chief of staff of Joint Task Force Guantanamo.

It is even harder to believe how much the organization has changed in five months. Not only in personnel, in which there seems to be a constant turnover, but also in the day-to-day operations, and as we are all aware by now, the attention we are receiving from outside the command.

Everyone in the command should be proud of the mission we accomplish every day in a difficult and highly dynamic environment. Stay focused on your job and how you can do it to the best of your ability every day. Look out for each other. Leaders now more than ever need to get out and visit their spaces and talk to their Troopers.

At the risk of "preaching to the choir," there are several items that I would like for the command to renew focus on to ensure that we all can accomplish our mission and complete our deployments at GTMO with our careers and reputations intact.

OPSEC (Operational Security). We are fortunate that with current technology we are able to keep in regular contact with family and friends. The technology also allows those outside the command to search for operational information that Troopers may innocently or inadvertently post because they do not understand OPSEC requirements. "Never post anything that you wouldn't send directly to the adversary." Remember also, 100 percent shredding of all paper, including from your quarters.

Alcohol Consumption. Zero consumption of alcohol if you are driving any vehicle, government or personally owned. No underage drinking. Do not drink and drive. Remove your battle buddies from a possibly damaging situation if they have had too much to drink. Excessive alcohol is more times than not the common denominator of incidents with JTF

Troopers that result in disciplinary action.

Recreational Activities. As summer approaches and the heat and humidity increase, ensure you hydrate and use sun protection. Diving is a popular pastime but can be dangerous and even deadly if the proper safety precautions are not followed. Organized sporting events do not relieve you of your responsibility to behave with appropriate military bearing. Do not let your competitiveness cause you to do or say something that can be punished under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Vehicle Safety. There are way too many JTF personnel receiving traffic tickets. Obey the posted speed limits. Wear seatbelts. Do not overload vehicles with passengers. To repeat: Don't drink and drive.

I realize that the majority of the command is diligent and professional and my points do not apply. Unfortunately, the entire command can be detrimentally perceived because of the actions of a few. Please look out after each other and thank you for your outstanding service. I am proud to be a part of the JTF GTMO team.

Word of the Week from JTF Command Chaplain

"CACTUS"

As I look around GTMO, I can't help but see the forest of cacti on the hillsides. These plants stand tall in an adverse climate – through hurricanes, winds, drought, and high heat. A person of good character is similar. They stand strong in difficult times and weather adversity.



JTF Guantanamo

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Deputy Commander
Army Brig. Gen. James Lettko
JTF Senior Enlisted Leader
Marine Sgt. Maj. Juan Hidalgo Jr.
Office of Public Affairs Director
Navy Capt. Robert Durand: 9928
Deputy Director
Army Lt. Col. Sam House: 9927
Operations Officer
Army Maj. Alvin Phillips
JTF PAO Senior Enlisted Leader
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JOINT TASK FORCE GUANTANAMO

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NEWS FROM THE BAY

Cicada invasion coming soon to U.S. East Coast

Story by Seth Borenstein, Associated Press

Any day now, billions of cicadas with bulging red eyes will crawl out of the earth after 17 years underground and overrun the East Coast. The insects will arrive in such numbers that people from North Carolina to Connecticut will be outnumbered roughly 600-to-1. Maybe more.

Scientists even have a horror-movie name for the infestation: Brood II. But as ominous as that sounds, the insects are harmless. They won't hurt you or other animals. At worst, they might damage a few saplings or young shrubs. Mostly they will blanket certain pockets of the region, though lots of people won't ever see them.

"It's not like these hordes of cicadas suck blood or zombify people," says

May Berenbaum, a University of Illinois entomologist.

They're looking for just one thing: sex. And they've been waiting quite a long time.

Since 1996, this group of 1-inch bugs, in wingless nymph form, has been a few feet underground, sucking on tree roots and biding their time. They will emerge only when the ground temperature reaches precisely 64 degrees. After a few weeks up in the trees, they will die and their offspring will go underground, not to return until 2030.

"It's just an amazing accomplishment," Berenbaum says. "How can anyone not be impressed?"

And they will make a big racket, too. The noise all the male cicadas make when they sing for sex can drown out your own thoughts, and maybe even rival a rock concert. In 2004,

Gene Kritsky, an entomologist at the College of Mount St. Joseph in Cincinnati, measured cicadas at 94 decibels, saying it was so loud "you don't hear planes flying overhead."

There are ordinary cicadas that come out every year around the world, but these are different. They're called magicicadas - as in magic - and are red-eyed. And these magicicadas are seen only in the eastern half of the United States, nowhere else in the world.

There are 15 U.S. broods that emerge every 13 or 17 years, so that nearly every year, some place is overrun. Last year it was a small area, mostly around the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia, West Virginia and Tennessee. Next year, two places get hit: Iowa into Illinois and Missouri; and Louisiana and Mississippi. And it's possible to live in these locations and actually never see them.



Photo Of The Week
by Michael Fabunan

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GTMO JOE by Spc. David Marquis





The Great Gatsby

PG-13 142 min.

The latest rendition of *The Great Gatsby*, directed by Baz Luhrmann (director of other movies you've never heard of like "Moulin Rouge" and "Australia") was a relentless attempt to make a piece of American literature written during the 1920s appealing to a modern generation.

The movie was filled with music that literally mixed hip-hop with classics of that time, which only makes sense when you realize that Jay-Z was an executive producer on the film (Yes, the same Jay-Z who visited Cuba with Beyonce but conveniently forgot to make a stop at GTMO. But I'm not bitter or anything). Whether you liked the modernization of the music comes down to preference, but it didn't work for me.

The movie was also filled with lavish Manhattan parties, portraying New Yorkers of the roaring 20s as immoral, corrupt, and myopic party-goers who only care about having a good time at the expense of others. So, I guess the city hasn't changed (Just kidding to all those from New York). All of this was able to keep the tempo up and help separate the movie from that boring reading assignment you were given in the 7th grade, but I suppose if you were to add sex, drugs, and Alicia Keys to *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, that could become interesting too.

Never having read F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel, I think it had a great storyline, which was complimented by most of the lead actors giving a great performance. Leonardo DiCaprio, as always, played a great Jay Gatsby, along with his opposite, Carey Mulligan ("Wall Street 2" and "Drive") as

Daisy Buchanan.

However, I wanted to tell the narrator and co-star of the film, Tobey McGuire, playing Gatsby's friend Nick Carraway, to take off his Spiderman mask the entire time, only to realize it was just his face. Like in all his movies, he gave a performance equal to that of Kristen Stewart, only showing one convincing emotion: crying like a little girl.

There were also appearances by Joel Edgerton (The SEAL team leader in "Zero Dark Thirty") as Daisy's husband, Tom Buchanan, along with Jason Clarke (Dan from "Zero Dark Thirty") and Isla Fisher (you know, that hot red-headed chick from "Wedding Crashers") as George and Myrtle Wilson, who all did a great job in their roles.

The film kept up a good pace, until about halfway when it slowed down and actually told the story. The pace once again picked up as it approached its exceptional ending. So, in my opinion, if you can get past the unnecessary made-for-3D visual effects, the soundtrack and Tobey McGuire, "The Great Gatsby" was actually an exceptional story told in a way, that even without modern music, was appealing to today's audience. Overall it was an above average film, deserving of three, well-earned, banana rats.



Weekend Domestic Box Office (May 10-12)	
Iron Man 3	\$72.5 Million
The Great Gatsby	\$50.1 Million
Pain & Gain	\$5 Million



An oil painting by David Cartwright of the Battle of Flamborough Head, where John Paul Jones led the USS Bonhomme Richard and four ships to engage the HMS Serapis and HMS Countess of Scarborough.

Who was John Paul Jones?

Walk up GTMO's John Paul Jones Hill gives anyone a view of the vast expanse of Naval Station Guantanamo Bay. But, the view doesn't give credit to the life of one of the most famous naval figures in U.S. history, whom the hill is named after.

John Paul Jones was born as John Paul to a gardener and began serving as a merchant sailor at the age of 13, when he discovered a knack for the sea. While living a seafaring life, he became friends with Allen Jones and Willie Jones, who lived in Halifax, N.C. He had a profound respect for the Jones brothers, so much that after the death of John Paul's brother, he chose to take the name of his friends from Halifax and become John Paul Jones. This is the name that would become profound in the history of the American Revolution.

During the Revolution, he would eventually become the commander of a sloop, the USS Providence, as he gained the rank of captain. Aboard the Providence, Jones captured many British commercial ships and acquired supplies for the Continental Army. After commanding the Providence, he would sail to Europe as the commander of the USS Ranger. While sailing around Great Britain and Ireland, the Ranger successfully raided the British port of Whitehaven and planned to capture the Earl of Selkirk, Thomas Douglas, in Scotland. However, Douglas had the opportunity to flee and

avoid capture before the Americans got there.

On April 24, 1778, Captain Jones and the Ranger encountered the British HMS Drake, and the two ships battled it out for an hour. Drake became the first British warship to be defeated by a ship of the Continental Navy. This was a large step for the United States and for John Paul Jones himself.

Jones would later become the commander of the USS Bonhomme



John Paul Jones is often referred to as the father of America's Navy.

Richard, and on Sept. 23, 1779, as the head of a squadron of five ships, he encountered the HMS Serapis and the HMS Countess of Scarborough of the British Navy. It was during this battle that John Paul Jones is believed to have responded to a British demand of surrender, supposedly saying "I have not yet begun to fight!" It is not fully agreed upon whether this quote is accurate, but it does not neglect the fact that his ship came back during the battle and defeated the Serapis. The other ships under his command would eventually capture the Countess of Scarborough on Sept. 25.

The naval victories under the command of John Paul Jones gave him the reputation in the U.S. Navy that many consider equal to George Washington and the Army. His efforts during the American Revolution forced the British to create propaganda characterizing him as a pirate and earned him the rank of "chevalier" by French King Louis XVI. His efforts gave him the experience to also serve under Catherine the Great of Russia after being discharged from the Continental Navy.

Jones continued his naval career and retired in France. He died in 1792, and his remains are interred in the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis. John Paul Jones lived a life of dedication and service and is often remembered today as the father of the U.S. Navy.

Sgt. Maj. Scott Smith closes out GTMO tour, ends Marine Corps career

Story by Army Sgt. Jonathan Monfiletto

As Marine Sgt. Maj. Scott Smith prepared last week to step down as Joint Task Force Guantanamo's senior enlisted leader and end a 31-year career in the Marine Corps, he said his greatest accomplishment here was not one of his own but one for all of the Troopers.

"For us, for the senior enlisted leadership, nobody died and nobody got killed," Smith said in an interview last week. "Nothing for me. ... I don't believe in single, individual accomplishments. No members of JTF-GTMO died. That's a team effort. We accomplished our mission."

That team effort is what led Smith — one of the few Marines at JTF-GTMO and arguably the most visible one — to request the SEL position here, along with the opportunity to serve in a joint command after working exclusively with Marines for most of his career.

Now, after a year at GTMO and three decades in the military, Smith will hang up the uniform one last time and said he has mixed feelings about both an assignment he has really enjoyed and the career he has known his whole adult life.

"Mixed, in that this has been a great tour," Smith said on how he felt about leaving GTMO. "Very few Marines get the opportunity to be in a joint command, and part of this is we're brainwashed to be Marine only. ... That's why I put in to come to JTF. I wanted to see something different."

Something different is what Smith will experience as he closes a career that began in 1982 when he needed money for college and one that he expected would last just four years. Despite staying in 27 years longer than he originally planned, Smith is thankful for having been a part of the military.

"All my adult life, all I've known is the Marine Corps," he said. "I've gotten to see a lot of the world and meet some interesting



Marine Sgt. Maj. Scott Smith, former senior enlisted leader of Joint Task Force Guantanamo, addresses a group of Troopers during a visit to one of the detention camps. As he prepared to step down last week, Smith said one of his favorite aspects of his job was getting "down in the dirt" at the tactical level and meeting with Troopers working inside the camps. Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Lewis Hilburn

"All my adult life, all I've known is the Marine Corps. I've gotten to see a lot of the world and meet some interesting folks. I'm blessed ... I'm grateful for the opportunity given by being in the Marine Corps to see the world and see a lot of different cultures."

- Marine Sgt. Maj. Scott Smith, former senior enlisted leader, Joint Task Force Guantanamo

folks. I'm blessed. ... I'm grateful for the opportunity given by being in the Marine Corps to see the world and see a lot of different cultures. I guess I was always bitten by the 'get out and see the world' bug."

Still, he said he realizes it's just simply time for him to go and let the future sergeants major take his place.

Looking at a calendar, Smith pinpointed Nov. 8, 2013 as the date when his replacement — the Marine who will eventually move up the ranks and become a sergeant major — will graduate from Marine boot camp.

Smith graduated from boot camp on Nov. 9, 1982, so he said the date nearly 31 years later best correlates to when he began his career and his replacement will likely begin his own career around the same time.

"It's time to allow the Marines who are junior to me, to give them an opportunity to move up and get promoted," Smith said. "I'm holding that up."

While his replacement prepares to go to boot camp without even realizing what the

future may hold, Smith said he too never gave any thought when he enlisted that one day he would hold the highest enlisted rank.

"Not even a sliver," he said. "My expectation was to do four years, get out and go to college, but everything happens for a reason."

There's a reason, for example, that he became a drill instructor, a reason he chose to become a first sergeant instead of a master sergeant, and a reason he was selected to be the JTF-GTMO senior enlisted leader.

Whatever the reasons that carried him to ending his career at JTF-GTMO, Smith said he will miss most of all the opportunity he had here to work at the tactical, operational, and strategic levels all at once.

Just in one day, he can be "down in the dirt" at the tactical level in the detention facilities, then just a few minutes later be in the operational level at Joint Detention Group headquarters, and finally at the strategic level in the admiral's office a short while after that.

Working among those three levels and with all five branches of the military — being part of team at JTF-GTMO — has helped Smith end his career with a unique opportunity, especially as one of the few JTF Marines.

"I enjoy serving with other services," Smith said. "It doesn't matter what service, you're here on this team. It's not the individual service that gets the job done. It's the team that gets the job done. ... Every day when I get up and put on this uniform, I'm reminded that I'm the senior enlisted leader for JTF, but I'm a Marine and I represent the Marine Corps."

As far as any parting advice to the Troopers, Smith kept it pretty simple, and he said he didn't have any particular advice for his successor, Marine Sgt. Maj. Juan Hidalgo Jr., because "he's got it."

"Just continue to take care and watch out for each other," he said. "I wish him [Hidalgo] the best of luck. I know he is going to have a rewarding, enjoyable tour."

FEATURE

SATURDAY
MAY 18TH
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SPOKEN WORD POETRY NIGHT

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MR. & MS. GTMO FITNESS



Story and photos by Army Sgt. Ferdinand Thomas



(Top Left) Female competitors pose from the front. (Top Right) Male competitors pose turned right. (Far right) Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Sean Dickinson poses. (Above) Dancers from Roxy and Dance Company open up the competition with a performance.

Service members and civilians throughout the Naval Station Guantanamo Bay community showed up Saturday to view the 2nd annual Mr. & Ms. GTMO Figure & Fitness competition. Lots of cheers and various other displays of appreciation echoed through the Windjammer Ballroom as the competitors showed their best assets.

The Navy Fitness and Morale, Welfare and Recreation-sponsored event showcased six males and four females. This was a first-time experience for most of the males and all of the females.

"I've never done anything like this before, but I really enjoyed it and look forward to entering another one in the future," the male 18-29 year old first-place finisher, Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Sean Dickinson, said.

Even though this was an individual competition, one would think it was a team sport. The competitors were very supportive of each other. High five after high five and positive gestures of praise rang through the backstage area as each contestant completed his or her poses and routines. Some were even inspecting their fellow man and woman to make sure their outfits and hair were properly worn and displayed, before coming on the stage.

While out on the stage, all the competitors donned big smiles on their faces, and again and again the sounds of 'quarter turn left, quarter turn right and quarter turn back' were commanded by the judges. The fatigue showed on most of them as they were holding flexed poses for minutes before having a chance to rest.

The competition, which lasted almost three hours, consisted of four age groups in 18-29, 30-39, 40-49 and 50 and up. Each contestant exercised four official poses and performed a routine of no more than 90 seconds. Some chose to flex their muscles to music. Others choreographed a dance performance for the crowd. The more creative the routine, the louder the crowd roared.

"I was so nervous performing my routine and posing in front of all those people, but it was so much fun," the female 18-29 year old first place finisher, Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Melissa Crespo, said.

Crespo and Dickinson, respectfully, took the crown for the youngest age groups. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Nina Pinidi won first place in the females 30-39 age group, and Army Staff Sgt. Travis Sand took first place for the males 30-39 age group. No one competed in the 40-49 age group. However, there was one

competitor in the 50 and up age group. Army Sgt. Stan Manikowaski, 56, really amped the crowd up by showing seasoned people could still be physically fit at his age. Many people in the audience yelled 'Blue' like the character from the movie "Old School" in support of his efforts. Manikowaski won first place in the 50 and up males category. The competition's highlight was a motivational speaker. He gave some encouraging words about the MWR and Navy Fitness for helping him lose more than 130 pounds. Bobby McCloskey entered GTMO more than a year ago at more than 300 pounds. He is near 190 pounds now because of dedication and hard work. McCloskey specifically credited Navy Fitness and service members for keeping him motivated and helping him to continue achieving his goals. "You all saved my life. No, really. I don't think you'll understand that you really saved my life," the grateful 50-plus-year old man said humbly.

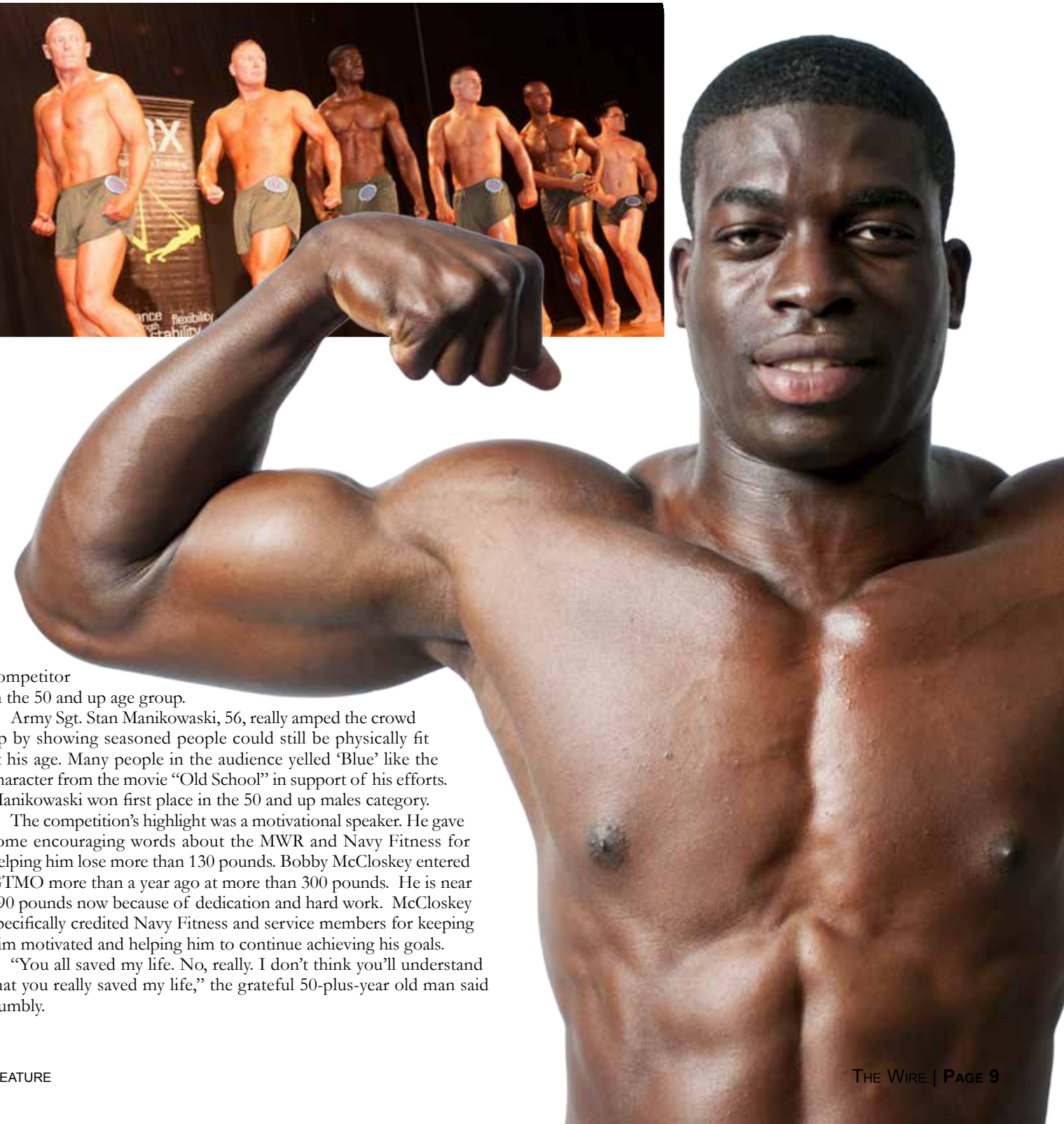


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Relief and appointment

JTF-GTMO honors Sgt. Maj. Smith, welcomes Sgt. Maj. Hidalgo at ceremony



From left, Joint Task Force Guantanamo commander Rear Adm. John W. Smith Jr., JTF-GTMO senior enlisted leader Marine Sgt. Maj. Juan Hidalgo Jr., and former senior enlisted leader Marine Sgt. Maj. Scott Smith stand at attention after Hidalgo received the noncommissioned officers sword from Rear Adm. Smith to symbolize the transfer of authority at Tuesday's relief and appointment ceremony at the Camp Bulkeley Lyceum. The ceremony marked the end of Sgt. Maj. Smith's - and the beginning of Hidalgo's yearlong tour as the JTF-GTMO senior enlisted leader, as well as the start of Sgt. Maj. Smith's retirement from the Marine Corps. Photo by Spc. Cody Campana

Story by Army Sgt. Jonathan Monfiletto

What would you find if you searched “senior enlisted advisor” on the internet?

If you were to ask Rear Adm. John W. Smith Jr., the commander of Joint Task Force Guantanamo, he would tell you that you would find someone who exhibits faithful service, outstanding leadership, and true concern for those both under and over him.

In fact, Rear Adm. Smith told those gathered at the Camp Bulkeley Lyceum on Tuesday morning, you would find Marine Sgt. Maj. Scott Smith, the former senior enlisted leader of JTF-GTMO.

Smith was honored – and his successor, Marine Sgt. Maj. Juan Hidalgo Jr., welcomed – at a relief and appointment ceremony hosted at the lyceum on Tuesday for the outgoing and incoming sergeants major.

Among the attendees were Rear Adm. Smith, JTF-GTMO deputy commander Army Brig. Gen. James Lettko, Naval Station Guantanamo Bay commander Navy Capt. J.R. Nettleton, and the commanders and senior enlisted leaders of the Joint Detention Group, Joint Medical Group, 525th Military Police Battalion, Port Security Unit 311, Base Emergency Engineer Force, and Marine Corps Security Force Company, as well as numerous other leaders, Troopers and civilians from around GTMO.

To start the ceremony, Cmdr. Terry Eddinger, the JTF-GTMO command chaplain, delivered the invocation in which he asked blessings for Sgt. Maj. Smith as he leaves GTMO and begins his retirement from the Marine Corps and for Hidalgo as he arrives at GTMO and begins his tour as senior enlisted leader.

After the playing of the national anthem to honor the nation and “Ruffles and Flourishes” to honor the admiral, Rear Adm. Smith took center stage while both sergeants major marched to the stage, with Hidalgo at the lead, to report to the admiral.

First, Sgt. Maj. Smith reported as the old sergeant major, handing off to the admiral the noncommissioned officer sword that is symbolic of the leadership of a Marine Corps sergeant major. As in Tuesday's ceremony, the sword is passed from the outgoing to the incoming leader to represent the transfer of authority.

Once Sgt. Maj. Smith handed the sword to the admiral, he stepped to the side of the stage and then Hidalgo reported as the new sergeant major. He received the sword from the admiral and officially began his duties as the senior enlisted leader for JTF-GTMO.

Then, Hidalgo stepped to the side of the stage next to Sgt. Maj. Smith and Rear Adm. Smith. The two sergeants major then departed the stage, while the admiral delivered his remarks for the ceremony.

The admiral spoke metaphorically of looking up “senior enlisted advisor” in the dictionary and on the internet and said he found Sgt. Maj. Smith both times.

“Sgt. Maj. Smith is the epitome of a Marine Corps senior enlisted advisor,” Rear Adm. Smith said. “He’s given 30 years of faithful service to this nation and to other nations that he has happened to cross paths with, as well as to this organization we have here today. ... The last year of his service falls on my watch, your watch, our watch.”

The admiral reminded the audience the Marine Corps tradition at GTMO began in 1898 with the Spanish-American War that led to the establishment of the naval station and continues today with the Marine sergeants major that serve as the JTF-GTMO senior enlisted leaders.

“He [Sgt. Maj. Smith] is part of that history,” Rear Adm. Smith said. “There’s no need to tell you what he does. You already realize each and every day what he brings to this organization. I don’t have to ask him to do anything. He knows exactly what he needs to do.”

As senior enlisted leader, the admiral said Sgt. Maj. Smith went above and beyond to take care of the chain of command and regular Troopers and civilians alike because he truly believed that was his duty.

The admiral said the sergeant major brought him out of the office and into the

detention camps to talk to and engage with the Troopers working there. For the sergeant major, Rear Adm. Smith emphasized, it was all about showing his concern for both their mission and their well-being.

“He does that because he cares,” Rear Adm. Smith said. “I can see they truly believe he cares about them. That’s what a senior enlisted advisor is all about. ... He doesn’t tell me what I want to know. He tells me what I need to know.”

Hidalgo followed Rear Adm. Smith, thanking the admiral and the commandant of the Marine Corps for their confidence in his ability to lead JTF-GTMO and telling Sgt. Maj. Smith that he realizes he has quite the tradition to carry on.

“I’ve got big shoes to fill. I got it,” Hidalgo said. “You’re definitely a legacy to measure up to. Thank you for setting the bar. My goal is to provide that leadership that the Joint Task Force has already been given. ... I look forward to serving you. My job is to serve each and every one of you that is part of this Joint Task Force.”

When it was his turn, Sgt. Maj. Smith took the time to thank the admiral and the rest of the chain of command “for your guidance, your leadership, but most of all, your patience” during his term as their senior enlisted leader.

“What people from JTF don’t get to see ... is what you’ve got going,” Sgt. Maj. Smith said. “You’re spinning multiple plates at any given time, night and day. That’s a difficult job, and we appreciate it.”

He also noted that Lettko was there for him any time he needed to ask a question or seek advice on anything related to GTMO.

In his remarks, Sgt. Maj. Smith acknowledged each and every one of the commands that make up the JTF-GTMO team, from the JDG and JMG, to PSU 311 and the BEEF, to the NAVSTA side, and to MCSFCO.

“The mission conducted here is as different and unique as anything else our nation has ever known,” Sgt. Maj. Smith said. “It’s all about mission accomplishment.”

He also thanked his wife and three children for their service in the past year. While

not GTMO residents, his family was present at Tuesday's ceremony.

“Over the past year, this hasn’t been easiest on them,” Sgt. Maj. Smith said. “They’ve given this more than what anybody should be required to give, and I’m humbly thankful.”

In a separate interview before the ceremony, Hidalgo spoke about his excitement about working in a fully joint command for the first time and his eagerness to serve as both an advisor to the JTF-GTMO chain of command and a leader to all of the Troopers and civilians around the JTF.

He described his style as “humble leadership” and said he is here not just to serve the admiral and the general but to serve all of the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Coast Guardsmen and civilians who make up the JTF-GTMO team.

“My goal is to take care of the Joint Task Force, to provide them positive, outstanding leadership,” Hidalgo said. “I look forward to being their sergeant major and seeing how I can serve best. ... That’s my job – serve everybody. I work for everybody here.”



Marine Sgt. Maj. Juan Hidalgo Jr. leads Marine Sgt. Maj. Scott Smith as the two march to the stage during Tuesday's relief and appointment ceremony at the Camp Bulkeley Lyceum. Photo by Army Sgt. Jonathan Monfiletto



Marine Sgt. Maj. Juan Hidalgo Jr., left, and Marine Sgt. Maj. Scott Smith report before Rear Adm. John W. Smith Jr. during the Tuesday's relief and appointment ceremony at the Camp Bulkeley Lyceum. Photo by Spc. Cody Campana



Marine Sgt. Maj. Scott Smith, right, reports to Rear Adm. John W. Smith Jr. as the outgoing Joint Task Force Guantanamo senior enlisted leader. Photo by Army Sgt. Jonathan Monfiletto



Marine Sgt. Maj. Juan Hidalgo Jr., right, reports to Rear Adm. John W. Smith Jr. as the incoming Joint Task Force Guantanamo senior enlisted leader. Photo by Army Sgt. Jonathan Monfiletto



Rear Adm. John W. Smith Jr. shakes hands with Marine Sgt. Maj. Scott Smith, while Marine Sgt. Maj. Juan Hidalgo Jr. looks on at Tuesday's relief and appointment ceremony at the Camp Bulkeley Lyceum. Photo by Spc. Cody Campana

Q&A

TROOPER FOCUS

Interview and Photo by Army Sgt. Ferdinand Thomas

ARMY SPC. ALBAN BONILLA, A HUMAN RESOURCE SPECIALIST, GREW UP WITH A VERY UNCOMMON DISEASE IN THE STREETS OF N.Y.C. AND BRINGS HIS STORY TO LIFE HERE.

Q. Where are you from?

A. "New York City, The Bronx"

Q. How many years have you been in the military?

A. "Five years"

Q. What is alopecia?

A. "Alopecia is a disease. Basically you can lose your hair in certain places or throughout your entire body. In my case, I have alopecia areata universalis. At first they said the cause was stress because I was so young and my family divorcing. Then they figured out later on that it was an immune deficiency. My body cannot support the hair vitamin. Other people get it throughout the year cause they're stressed and malnutrition."

Q. Were you born with alopecia?

A. "No. I had hair until I was like six years old. This year will make 20 years with the disease. It was tough. It was tough at six years old watching my mom cry. One day you have hair and the next day you're bald."

Q. What was life like as an adolescent with this disease?

A. "It was tough. I grew up in New York City, South Bronx, and little kids were mean. They are mean. Of course very few people understood alopecia then because the disease was very fresh. At that time there was like 5000 cases worldwide that people knew of. Now there are organizations to support it and all kinds of literature to educate people on the disease. That time I was a rare case. People thought I had AIDs. Some people thought I was dying. A lot of

people thought I had cancer growing up."

Q. How did you overcome?

A. "Close family and friends supported me. They used to tell me, 'Your hair doesn't make you. You make you.' At first you hear things that your family tells you and you don't listen. For a while I wore hats, sun glasses and tried to hide it. One day I was like 16 years old and I woke up out of it. I'm beautiful. I came to a realization that bald is beautiful. I saw the older bald dude in the suit and thought that's a good look. Bald is beautiful. Ever since then bald is beautiful stuck with me."

Q. How does your experience help you in being a Soldier?

A. "Being in the military is about confidence. Even if you only know half of the answer, but you believe you know it, you're confident, then someone is gonna believe you. Obviously you're gonna have to come up with a better answer after that. Confidence is key. The Army pushes you to find your limits. Having this experience with the disease helped me make military training because I had the confidence to believe I could accomplish tough obstacles."

Q. What are the benefits of having alopecia being in the military?

A. "I was coming from court, going through a green light down Central Ave in a marked unit. A young lady made a left hand turn on red. Some people try to beat the light and that's what she did. She t-boned me. My car spun around and flipped over in a ditch. Col. Robinson here, Sgt. Robinson back home, heard my vehicle number on

the radio and was the first person to respond. He was the first person I saw when I came to. I broke bones in both of my legs, four bones in my neck and had a contusion on my head from hitting the window. I was in recovery for nine and a half months. Here I am now walking, talking and shortly here I'll be running my first marathon."

Q. How have all of these experiences affected you as a person?

A. "I don't have to shave so I don't have to worry about senior leaders worrying about my appearance. I don't have to pay for haircuts. I have my lotion."

Q. What are you doing to give back to people who weren't as fortunate as you with this disease who have not embraced 'Bald is Beautiful'?

A. "There is an alopecia foundation. My mom made me join it when I was younger. I didn't even know at first. After I got the confidence to visit some of the places, I saw the kids and talked to them. They were crying. They were in worse situations than I was in. Mommy and daddy didn't understand. The kids think they are one in a million but they don't know there are many more. I come in and show them the possibilities of life; being socialable, making them laugh and things of that nature. I showed the kids that I'm a Soldier. Of course they had lots of questions but it raised their spirits.

There was a female one time I met who was 25 years old. She went completely bald. She called me to a corner to talk to me about the disease. I told her that she's got to live her life love herself. That's how I make it through my everyday." ■





Outdoor BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

4vs.4



Outdoor Basketball Court



May 25, 2013

COACHES MEETING:

Wed., May 22 at Denich Gym at 6:30 pm

REGISTRATION DUE:

Tuesday, May 21 at Denich Gym

Brackets will be drawn immediately before the tournament. This is a free tournament, open to ages 16+. FMI, call 2113.

GTMO encounters uncommon women of God



Women socialize at the fellowship breakfast during the Encounter women's retreat. Women from all walks of life were welcomed to the retreat. The retreat was held at the Naval Station Guantanamo Bay chapel and fellowship hall on May 9 and 10.

Story and photos by Spc. Raechel Haynes

Uncommon. Merriam-Webster defines uncommon as not ordinarily encountered, unusual, remarkable, or exceptional. Some treat being uncommon as a bad thing. Others treat it as a desired thing. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay saw an uncommon occurrence at the base chapel on May 9 and 10 - a women's retreat.

The Encounter women's retreat was hosted by the Command Chaplain's Office. The retreat was the first women's retreat held in GTMO in a long time. Organizers and chaplaincy staff couldn't recall when the last women's retreat was held, if at all.

"It is important here because there are not a lot of opportunities to attend these sorts of events like we would get to in the states," retreat organizer Keli Caraveo said. "I think it is a great opportunity to grow in the Lord and get to know one another and have community."

The service opened with a prayer from naval station command chaplain Navy Capt. John Dickens, followed by a meet and greet with the women. A worship session was held before the beginning of the message. After the message, women were invited to the fellowship hall after the service for snacks and social time. Saturday morning, the retreat began with a fellowship

breakfast then worship to start the service. The retreat focused on being an uncommon woman of God and was taught by guest speaker Jamie Tanner, Caraveo's mother. Tanner said the whole retreat started as a simple plan for a visit.

"When I decided to come see Keli, we talked about doing a Bible study," Tanner said. "I've done Bible studies before, Sunday schools before, and women's retreats before. We were talking about a Bible study, but then it turned into a women's retreat. Keli talked to Chaplain Dickens, and he asked to see



Encounter women's retreat guest speaker, Jamie Tanner, teaches about being an uncommon woman of God.

my notes and talked to Keli about it. Before long, what started as an idea became a women's retreat. It was a lot of fun to plan, and when God is in the middle of something, he makes things clear and opens doors that would otherwise be shut. Those doors were opened for us, so we walked through."

Tanner's gift for teaching started in her mid-20s, and it is a passion she has continued throughout her life.

"Her gift is teaching, hands down," Caraveo said. "She is passionate about the word of God. She is passionate about teaching it and making it real and applicable for everyday life. To the point that women can come and they will walk away from the retreat having learned something."

Women from all over GTMO walked away with something from the retreat. The retreat was open to all female residents, no matter what age or denomination.

"It is important to bring together denominations across the board," Tanner said. "When women get together, those lines in the sand become diminished and we have a lot in common that we can share. What we can learn when we come together helps us become better individuals and have more for our families in our walk with the Lord. Women love fellowship, and women thrive when there are friendships. When women find that unity in Christ, there is a strength and a confidence that when the enemy comes at them, they stand together and don't let the enemy win."

GTMO Says.....

What is the best way that people show you appreciation for your service?



Spc. Malcolm Geans says.....

Personnel receptionist,
Joint Personnel Center

"The thank you they give you and the handshakes. Just meeting people who really appreciate what we do and meeting people who have done what we have done."

Staff Sgt. Karla Gonzalez says.....

Superintendent,
Joint Personnel Center

When a stranger shakes your hand or when blessings are sent to us for the sacrifices that we make and they realize what our family put up with while we are away from home. Especially as a single parent; it's just a great feeling to know that there are people who really see and appreciate what we do.



Master Sgt. Anthony O'Neal says.....

Inspector general,
Joint Task Force

A handshake and a thank you for my service when people see me in uniform. Sometimes they are veterans that didn't get that when they returned, and other times its just at my local Veterans of Foreign Wars or American Legion and you know they really mean it in their heart because they once walked in your shoes.

Maj. Gordon Czajka says.....

Deputy engineer,
Joint Task Force

"I prefer a simple handshake and 'Thank you for your service,' particularly from fellow veterans or their families. Anything more, while appreciated, seems excessive."



Sgt. Julia Griffin says.....

Human resources
non-commissioned officer,
193rd Military Police Company

"When complete strangers walk up to me, and say 'Thank you for your service,' by shaking my hand. It's a very simple gesture, but it adds a very personal touch for me."



Trooper to Trooper

Personal and professional goals

MASTER SGT. HUGH WADE
OPERATIONS SERGEANT, 602ND MP COMPANY

After Sept. 11, 2001, I decided to return to the military service as a member of the military police corps, changing my military occupation specialty from medic. I wanted to serve in a field in which I had civilian experience, and since I was a police officer, MP was the logical choice.

Upon my return into the service, I immediately requested leadership schools. I completed Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course and had plans for my other career courses. I was determined to advance my career and become a senior leader within the MP corps.

I deployed to Iraq in March 2003 and stayed there for just over a year. I was promoted to staff sergeant while on the deployment. I served in combat as team leader, squad leader and mentor.

I have discovered the most important role that I had as an NCO was to be a mentor. If, as a leader, I don't take anyone with me to the top, then I have failed as a leader. As a leader, one of your professional goals should be to never leave any of your Soldiers behind.

I serve my Soldiers, and part of that service is to mentor them to become successful leaders and to take my place when I am gone. During my first deployment, I had a Soldier who came to me as a private E-2. She was quite new to the military. It required a lot of patience and mentoring, but I was able to mentor her into becoming an NCO.

After my deployment was over and I returned to my civilian career, I had a goal

for that career as well. As my goal in the Army was to make sergeant and move up as a leader there, my ultimate goal for my civilian career is to be the chief of police one day. I hope to get there by studying hard and learning the ins and outs of the profession.

As a leader, I never stop reaching for the stars for myself and for my Soldiers. I planned out my NCO education system and had successfully completed all required NCOES for my current grade. I have also

As a leader, I never stop reaching for the stars for myself or my Soldiers. I planned out my NCO education system and successfully completed all required NCOES for my current grade. ... I close on this note: If you fail to plan your career, you will fail in your career. Set goals for yourself and try hard to attain those goals. Always remember to never give up on your goals and never quit. Never walk on any of your Soldiers to achieve your goals, but take them with you as you succeed.



attended battle staff training to better myself as a battalion plans NCO.

I close on this note: If you fail to plan your career, you will fail in your career. Set goals for yourself and try hard to attain those goals. Always remember to never give up on your goals and never quit. Never walk on any of your Soldiers to achieve your goals, but take them with you as you succeed.

Whatever your reason is for seeking those personal and professional goals, I believe you should never leave God out of your goals and always ask the Lord to help you.

PROTECT YOUR INFO!

ALERT Do you Yahoo?

Do you use Gmail or Hotmail? Is the email account you use one that you got for free just for signing up? If so, remember that things obtained for free may not be all they're cracked up to be. Most "free email" accounts are not encrypted and do not have very strong security. Make sure that you are careful and avoid sending sensitive information via email. Personal information should not be emailed. Work documents marked "For Official Use Only" should never be sent to these email accounts. Just taking off the "FOUO" label doesn't make the information safe to email. Hackers have been known to target personal email accounts of military people, looking for sensitive data, personal information or information about military operations. Think before you hit the "send" button. Be safe. Use OPSEC!



Whit's BBQ Pit

As told by Spc. Phil Whitaker
Photo by Spc. Chalon Hutson

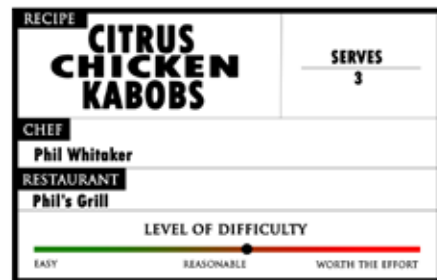
Happy Friday GTMO and welcome back to Whit's BBQ Pit! This week I thought that we could stay on the lighter side of grilling and put an island feel to a BBQ classic. If you have never had a shish kabob before then you are in for a treat. For those of you who have had kabobs before, this recipe will quickly become one of your favorites. Citrus Chicken Kabobs are a very simple barbecue meal but the combination of flavors keep them high on my list of favorites. In my opinion, the best part of grilling shish kabobs is the assembly. From choosing the color of peppers and fruit to making patterns on the skewers, this meal can be fun for the whole family! So without further ado, let's light those coals and grill up some Citrus Chicken Kabobs! This dish is very easy to make and this recipe serves eight.

BBQ Tip of the Week: Don't cook cold meat! Always bring your meat back to room temperature before cooking. The biggest struggle with cooking on the grill is to get the heat from the outside of your food into the middle without burning the surface to a crisp. The warmer things are in the middle before it goes onto the fire, the easier it is to win the battle.

Submit your recipes & photos to
phillip.r.whitaker@jftgtmo.southcom.mil



Once again, eating healthy does not mean that you have to eat bland, basic, boring food. Avoid the three B's of healthy eating by dusting off your grill and finding new ways to flavor your meals. Enjoy your Citrus Chicken Kabobs and until next time GO, FIGHT, WIN!



INGREDIENTS

- Orange Juice
- 1 Pineapple
- 2 Bell peppers (your color choice)
- 1/4 cup Olive Oil
- 1 teaspoon Chili Powder
- 1 Orange
- 3 boneless, skinless, chicken breasts

METHOD

1. **Marinate thawed chicken** in orange juice overnight.
2. **Cut chicken** into 1 inch pieces.
3. **Pour olive oil** into a gallon sized, zip top plastic bag, add chili powder and squish to combine. Add chicken, seal bag, and turn until chicken is covered in mixture.
4. **Assemble the kabobs** by placing chicken, peppers and fruit on skewers (I used 10 inch skewers) in any pattern that you like.
5. **Coat the grill** with a nonstick cooking spray. Cook kabobs on medium heat for 5-7 minutes on each side. Spray with fresh juice from the orange and serve immediately. Grilling on low heat keeps the chicken tender and juicy while still cooking thoroughly.



	17 FRI	18 SAT	19 SUN	20 MON	21 TUE	22 WED	23 THU
Downtown Lyceum	Stark Trek Into Darkness (NEW) (PG-13) 8 p.m. Evil Dead (R) 10:30 p.m.	Scary Movie 5 (NEW) (PG-13) 8 p.m. The Great Gatsby (PG-13) 10 p.m.	Iron Man 3 (PG-13) 10 p.m.	Temptation (Last showing) (PG-13) 8p.m.	The Host (Last showing) (PG-13) 8p.m.	42 (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Oblivion (PG-13) 8 p.m.
Camp Bulkeley	Scary Movie 5 (NEW) (PG-13) 8 p.m. Iron Man 3 (PG-13) 10 p.m.	Stark Trek Into Darkness (NEW) (PG-13) 8 p.m. Evil Dead (R) 10:30 p.m.	The Great Gatsby (PG-13) 8 p.m.	CLOSED Note: Concessions at Camp Bulkeley are also closed every night until further noticed.	CLOSED Note: Concessions at Camp Bulkeley are also closed every night until further noticed.	CLOSED Note: Concessions at Camp Bulkeley are also closed every night until further noticed.	G.I. Joe: Retaliation (PG-13) 8 p.m.

Call the movie hotline at 4880 or visit the MWR Facebook page for more information.

GTMO RELIGIOUS SERVICES

For more information, contact the NAVSTA Chaplain's Office at 2323 or the JTF Chaplain's Office at 2305

NAVSTA MAIN CHAPEL

- Daily Catholic Mass
Tues.-Fri. 5:30 p.m.
- Vigil Mass
Saturday 5 p.m.
- Mass
Sunday 9 a.m.
- Spanish-language Mass
Sunday 4:35 p.m.

General Protestant

- Sunday 11 a.m.
- Gospel Service
Sunday 1 p.m.
- Christian Fellowship
Sunday 6 p.m.
- CHAPEL ANNEXES
Pentecostal Gospel
Sunday 8 a.m. & 5 p.m. Room D

LDS Service

- Sunday 10 a.m. Room A
- Islamic Service
Friday 1 p.m. Room 2
- JTF TROOPER CHAPEL
Protestant Worship
Sunday 9 a.m.
- Prayer Time
Wednesday 6 p.m.

GTMO BUS SCHEDULE

All buses run on the hour,
7 days/week, from 5 a.m. to 1 a.m.

Bus	#1	#2	#3	
96 Man Camp	:31	:51	:11	
NEX	:33	:53	:13	
Gold Hill Galley	:37	:57	:17	
Windjammer/Gym	:36	:56	:16	
West Iguana	:39	:59	:19	
TK 1	:40	:00	:20	
TK 2	:43	:03	:23	
TK 3	:45	:05	:25	
TK 4	:47	:07	:27	
KB 373	:50	:10	:30	
Camp Delta 1	:52	:12	:32	
IOF	:54	:14	:34	
NEX Trailer	:57	:17	:37	
Gazebo	:58	:18	:38	
Camp America	:00	:20	:40	

GTMO Beach Bus Schedule

Saturdays and Sundays only

Location	Run #1	Run #2	Run #3	Run #4
Windward Loop/ East Caravella	0900	1200	1500	1800
SBOQ/Marina	0905	1205	1505	1805
NEX	0908	1208	1508	1808
Phillips Park	0914	1214	1514	1814
Cable Beach	0917	1217	1517	1817
NEX	0925	1225	1525	1825
Windward Loop/ East Caravella	0930	1230	1530	1830
SBOQ/Marina	0935	1235	1535	1835
Return to Office	0940	1240	1540	1840

SAFE RIDE – 84781

W1 The WARRIORS

WELCOME ABOARD, SGT. MAJ. HIDALGO

Troopers compete for Mr. & Ms. GTMO

Trooper Focus: Spc. Alban Bonilla

Marine Sgt. Maj. Juan Hidalgo Jr., Joint Task Force Guantanamo senior enlisted leader, receives the noncommissioned officer sword from JTF-GTMO commander Rear Adm. John W. Smith Jr. during Tuesday's relief and appointment ceremony at the Camp Bulkeley Lyceum. Marine Sgt. Maj. Scott Smith stands in the background after relinquishing the sword and his former role as the SEL. Photo by Army Sgt. Jonathan Monfiletto