



SHORE TIES – GTMO

The Family Newsletter of PSU 308

Issue #1, Volume 2 – July 1, 2007

THE HISTORY OF SHORE TIES... As many of our loved ones know, PSU 308 has been deployed several times since 2001, all in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom / Enduring Freedom, and The Global War on Terror. First we were deployed to Bahrain for Anti Terrorism, Force Protection (AT/FP) of the Mina Salman Pier. Then in 2003 the unit was deployed to the Port of Ash Shuaiba, Kuwait, where the Executive Officer(XO), Lieutenant Commander(LTCDR) Rick DeChant began sending out a Newsletter, Shore Ties, to the family members of the deployed personnel. This letter was designed to inform the families how things were going with their loved ones that were so far away. All of our family members really enjoyed this, So being the XO of the unit deployed to Guantanamo Bay(GTMO) Cuba, I have decided to keep up this Newsletter, to keep our home front informed about their loved ones, during this seperation.

GUANTANAMO BAY CUBA... Commonly referred to as GTMO or as many of us like to call it, "The Rock". There is actually quite a bit of history for this Naval Base where we are located at. U.S. Naval Base Guantanamo Bay is the oldest U.S. base overseas and the only one in a Communist country. Located on the southeast corner of Cuba, in the Oriente Province, the base is about 400 miles from Miami, Florida. The terrain and climate of Guantanamo Bay make it a haven for Iguanas and Banana Rats, and they are everywhere. The Iguanas are a protected species and therefore we have to be careful not to run over them if they decide to sunbathe on the road.

In December 1903, the United States leased the 45 square miles of land and water for use as a coaling station. A treaty reaffirmed the lease in 1934, granting Cuba and her trading partners free access through the bay for a payment of \$2,000 in gold per year, equating to \$4,085 today, and a requirement that both the U.S. and Cuba must mutually consent to terminate the lease. Today we use the base as a place to detain enemy combatants captured in the War on Terror, as many of you have seen on the news.

JOINT TASK FORCE(JTF)... JTF is what PSU 308 is a part of here at GTMO, Joint means we are a part of all the services, Army, Air Force, Marines, Navy and us, the Coast Guard. Together we all maintain a certain mission here at GTMO; we are commanded by a Navy Admiral and an Army General. Our main mission as the Coast Guard is to protect the Bay and the Naval Base from any Terrorist threat. We also serve as a security force while the Commissions (Trials) are going on for the "War Criminals", among many other daily duties our guys are tasked with.

LIFE AT GTMO... You all should be very proud of your Coastie, as there was a seamless turnover from the prior unit, PSU 301 to our unit, PSU 308. Everybody worked long hard days to make sure 308 rose to the occasion, and we did not go unnoticed by the other commands here on base. As the only Coast Guard entity on this base we are constantly in the lime light and highly respected by the other services for our professionalism and willingness to work for the mission. PSU 301 really set us up for success as they had everything ready and the roads paved for the turn over process, this really helped for the morale of our troops. Most of the members say that this is not a bad place, however they would like for their spouse to believe differently. We have

several places to eat, the Galley which is free for 3 meals per day, has great food and an excellent salad bar. There are two outside movie theaters with new releases playing every night, two gyms and recreation centers, exchange, dive shop, boating and many other things to keep your Coastie occupied on their off time. Many of the guys have already signed up for dive lesson and took the boating course to rent the MWR boats, as if we need this being in the Coast Guard, Our guys should be teaching the course!

COASTIE RECOGNITION...

- PSU PIN(s) : BM1 Michael Bannon, MK3 Jessie Brouliette, BM3 Chason Franks, PS3 Timothy Smith and ET2 Jason Portier
- GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL(s): PS2 John Hall and BM3 Timothy Smith
- CERTIFIED LEVEL 1 COXSWAIN(s): BM2 Jason Bush
- CERTIFIED BOAT CREW MEMBER(s): MK2 Earnest Williamson

HAPPY BIRTHDAY... June Birthday's: PS1 Paul Ford, OSC Patricia Geistfeld. ET2 Jason Portier, and PS2 Bradley Watson.

FAMILIES NEED TO KNOW...

- Mailing Address: Maritime Security Detachment
Rank / members name
JTF-GTMO / USCG, PSU 308
APO, AE 09360
- Contact your Ombudsman for family emergencies.
- Any pay issues, contact your Ombudsman and the unit at 228-868-1224.

That is it for this edition of SHORE TIES – GTMO, **Thank you and PSU 308 appreciates your support.** Until next time...

*LT. Don Cooley
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