















# Cruising down the GTMO highways

Story and photos by  
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The Wire

A gathering of GTMO residents with a passion for motorcycles took place Sunday at 9 a.m. in the parking lot of the Navy Exchange. Navy Cmdr. William G. Thompson, JTF Inspector General, and Navy Lt. Ruth Goldberg, a social worker at the Naval Hospital, organized the event. The gathering consisted of ten bikers who wanted to show support of Operation Enduring Freedom, as well as get together and have some fun.

The event began with a briefing by Base Safety Director, Dave Nelson, then the gang saddled up and cruised down to Phillips Park to practice riding together in a loose formation.

Once the bikers got the hang of moving like a team, they turned around and headed back past the NEX and down Sherman Ave. to the Northeast Gate.

Once there, Marine Gunnery Sgt. John

D. Banzhof gave the group a wealth of information about the history of the border between the naval base and communist Cuba.

Things were going smoothly for the group until just past Camp X-Ray. One of the bikers got a flat and had to pull over.

"I must've ran over a nail," lamented David Boykin, who works at new car sales at the NEX. "I just got this bike fixed, too!"

Boykin's new friends helped him lift the bike into the back of *The Wire's* humvee. Within five minutes Boykin was back at his home in Nob Hill. Neighbors came out to help him get the motorcycle off the humvee and into his driveway where he would later change the tire.

One of the other bikers kidded Boykin about getting the flat on purpose to avoid giving out some t-shirts, as he'd promised. Boykin kept his word, however. He jumped into his car and headed back to the NEX parking lot where the day began.

Those who had waited for him were rewarded with white cotton t-shirts with the famous Harley logo. Boykin had some "Exchange New Car Sales" shirts to distribute as well.

"I'm pleased with the turnout," said Thompson at the conclusion of the event. "We only briefly advertised this."

Due to the pleasant experience had by all, it's a safe bet that the motorcycle enthusiasts of GTMO can look forward to future opportunities to cruise together.



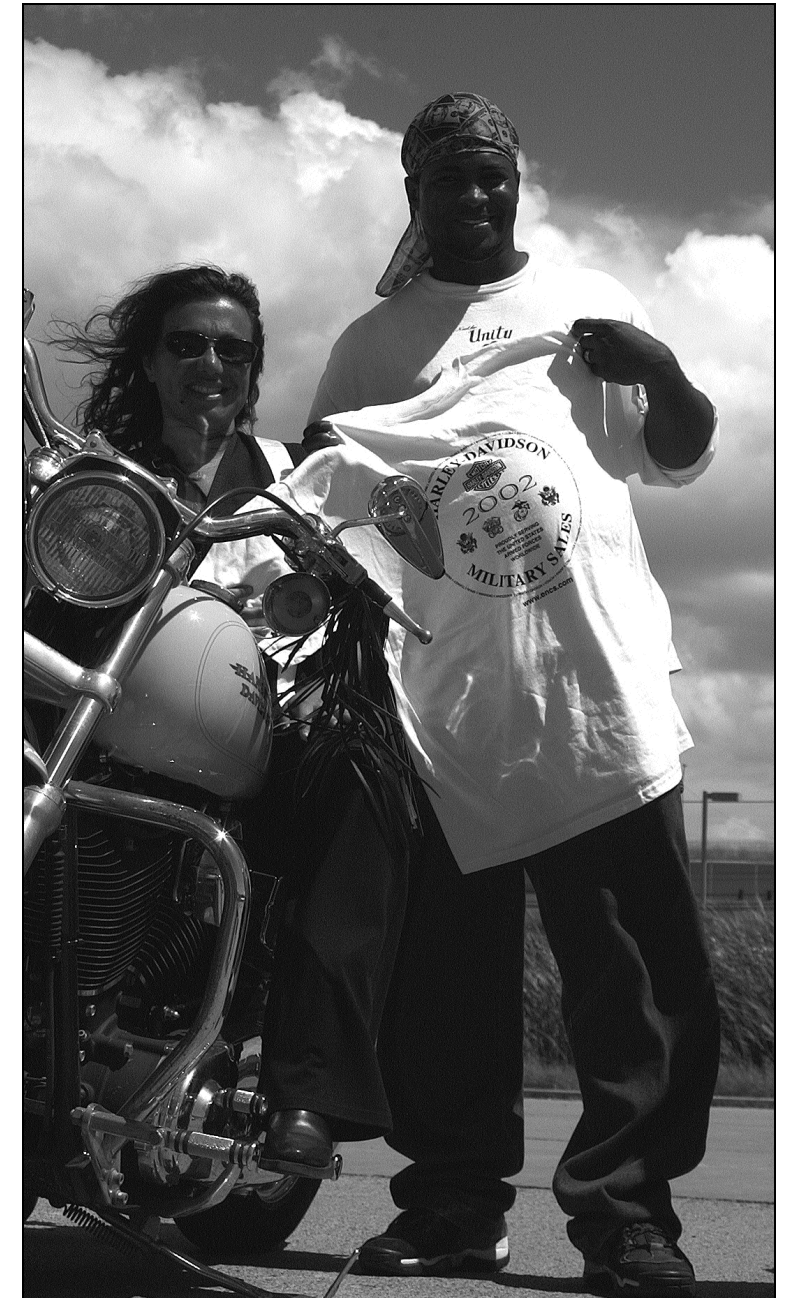
Base Safety Director Dave Nelson leads the pack back to Sherman Ave.



MWR's Athletic Director, Donnell Daniel, David Boykin, John McNew and David Raposo line up their bikes and get ready to roll out.



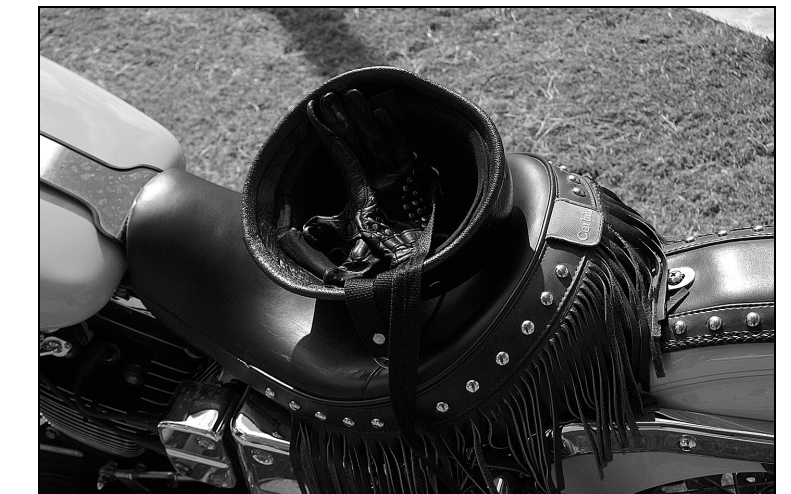
David Boykin of NEX New Car Sales gets a little help from his friends after his bike rolls over a nail. Boykin says that Jose Lopez, a Cuban refugee, rode this very bike over the border to freedom in 1980. He and the previous owner are now pen pals.



David Boykin (r) with the Harley Davidson t-shirt he gave to Navy Lt. Ruth Goldberg (l).  
Photo by Army Pfc. Jean-Carl Bertin



The bikers proudly show off their rides. L to R: Dave Nelson, Mrs. Victoria Thompson, Navy Cmdr. William Thompson, Curtis Wright, Chris Peterson, Navy Lt. Ruth Goldberg, Donnell Daniel, David Boykin, John McNew, David Raposo and Joyce M. Fricker.



Navy Lt. Ruth Goldberg loves to customize and accessorize her bike. Note the studs.