



TO: Stakeholders and Media

FROM: Russ Haddad, Director

RE: *The Guardian*

DATE: January 23, 2007

THE GUARDIAN NOW OUT ON DVD

ELIZABETH CITY – Thumb through the bonus features on the recently released DVD of the motion picture *The Guardian*, and you may see something or someone familiar.

During behind the scenes interviews and footage, Ashton Kutcher is wearing an Air Station Elizabeth City baseball cap. Kutcher played cocky swim champ Jake Fischer, who trains to be a Coast Guard rescue swimmer in the movie.

His training class instructor is Ben Randall - played by Kevin Costner. Randall is sent to teach at “A” school, an elite training program for Coast Guard rescue swimmers, after losing his crew during a fatal crash.

Randall helps mold Jake’s character, combining his raw talent with the heart and dedication required of a rescue swimmer.

Scenes from *The Guardian* were filmed at the air station in March 2006. Many local Coast Guardsmen were used as extras during the filming.

Coast Guard Station Elizabeth City, which opened in 1940, is the largest Coast Guard installation in the country. Search and rescue missions are among its chief responsibilities, and the station is also home to the Aviation Training Center.

Maybe the mountains in the background don’t look familiar, and the signs may say Alaska, but several scenes in the motion picture *The Guardian* were shot at Coast Guard Station Elizabeth City.

During the “Making of The Guardian” segment on the DVD, several Coasties from Elizabeth City were shown providing technical support for the production’s authenticity.

One of the more moving extras on the DVD is a tribute to the real Coast Guard folks who risk their lives “So others may live.”

The Elizabeth City Area Convention & Visitors Bureau estimated that the four days of shooting that took place in the community brought in \$1 million in economic impact.

A total of 187 hotel rooms were used by cast and crew during the filming. More than 40 local vendors and merchants were used during production.

More than 100 media outlets – print, television, and web in the United States, Canada and Australia – carried stories mentioning Elizabeth City’s role in telling *The Guardian* story. These stories ran during the filming and pre-promotion of the movie’s original release in September 2006.

The experience of *The Guardian* filming has opened doors for more productions in the Harbor of Hospitality® in the future.

For more information about Elizabeth City, contact the Elizabeth City Area Convention & Visitors Bureau at 1-866-324-8948 or log onto www.discoverec.org.