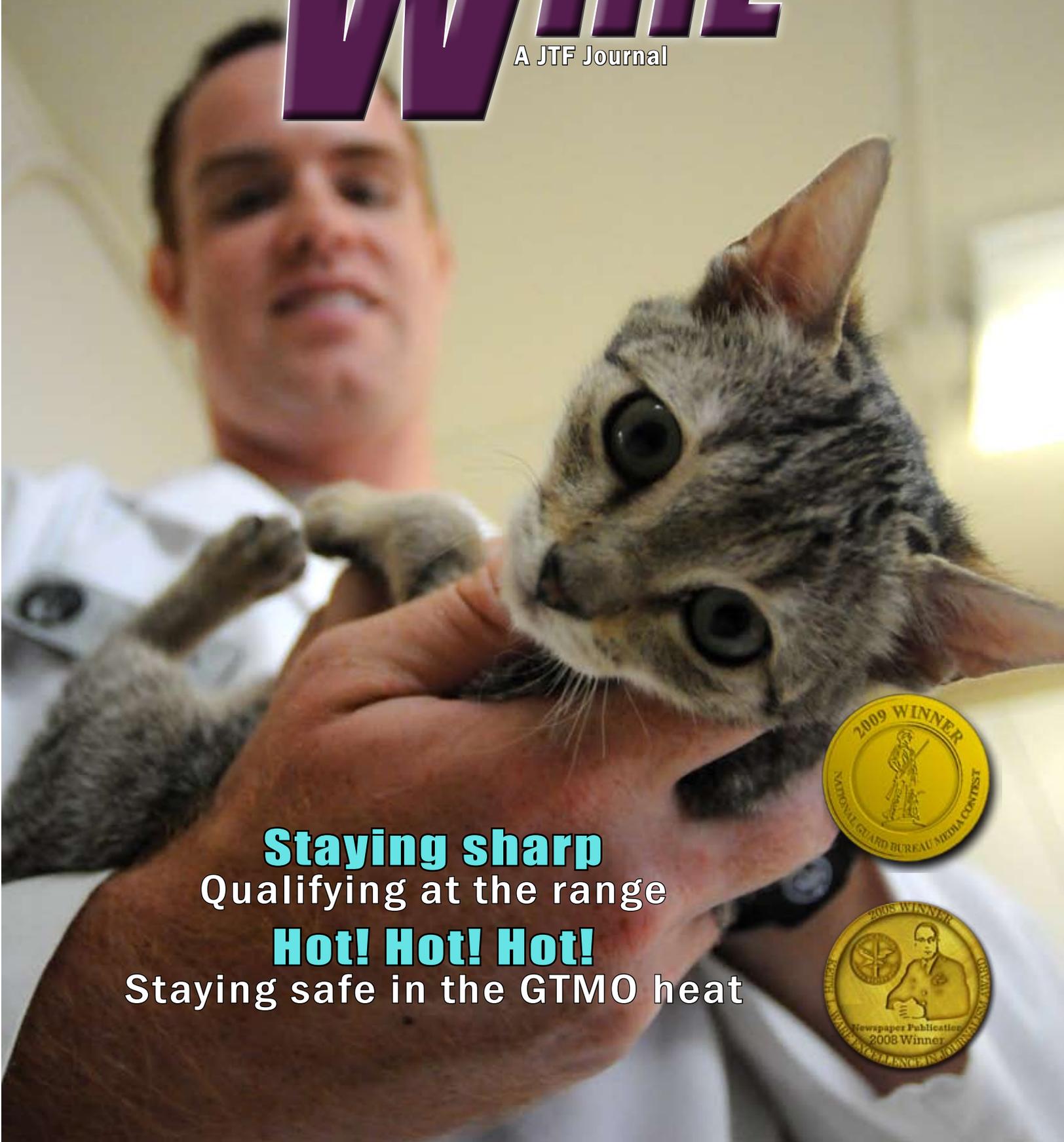


THE WIRE

A JTF Journal



Staying sharp
Qualifying at the range
Hot! Hot! Hot!
Staying safe in the GTMO heat



Knowledge is power

Army Master Sgt. Luis J. Espinosa
525th MP Battalion Personal Security Manager

The Armed Forces is no different from the rest of corporate America in terms of know-how. Knowledge is power in all walks of life. Knowledge is power when it comes to making a point in either an argument, a sell or in an attempt to persuade others. When it comes to life in general, knowledge is power. The person who understands self and also understands human nature, more often than not, gets along better with others. Having a sense of humanity can assist in understanding how to care for others, how to gain respect for self and how to learn and teach.

Virtually everything the military does is covered by a written regulation, manual, directive, instruction, policy letter or standard operating procedure.

My point is that simply knowing or having the power of knowing does no good when kept to one's self. The inherent responsibility of teaching, coaching and mentoring our young Troopers is vital when passing along information critical to the success of the mission. We must be able to not only lead with knowledge, but also pass on that knowledge to our young warriors. Many times, without thinking we just do for our Troopers in the process of taking care of them, but our methods need change in order to nurture the new generation of leaders. We must take the time to really teach so that they too will know and have the confidence to accomplish their task.

Want to know how many pounds of household goods you are authorized to ship? Want to know if you're eligible to move off post? Want to know what the requirement is for spousal support? Want to know the minimum requirement for promotions? You can find it all in writing, somewhere amongst the many regulations. Examples such as this are too often overlooked in not teaching them to our juniors. We simply tell them with a "because we said so" type mentality. We feel that having the "knowledge is power" base over them will make us better leaders. I don't believe this view works well, if we intend to foster a generation of Troopers that can accomplish any tough assignment.

Just remember, it is not always the one with the most rank who has the know-how that enables us to accomplish a given task or mission. Individuals of all ranks need to be mindful and understand that even the most junior Troopers could possess a very significant, and important, skill set. More often than not, we are under the impression that our most senior leaders will have the answers to our problems or issues. Yes, I do believe that as seniors we must possess the knowledge that will assist us in taking care of those that we are responsible for. But, don't think for a minute that we, the seniors, are the only ones with a certain degree of "knowledge is power!" ☆



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COVER:

Army Capt. Todd French examines a cat at the base Veterinary clinic, July 14. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Joshua Nistas

BACK COVER:

A statue stands tall in honor the of Marines who protect the fenceline. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Justin R. Wheeler

CORRECTION:

Last week The Wire printed that the 525th change of command and change of responsibility was held on June 13. It was July 13.

The WIRE is the official news magazine of Joint Task Force Guantanamo. It is produced by the JTF Public Affairs Office to inform and educate the Troopers of JTF Guantanamo through news, features, command guidance, sports and entertainment. The WIRE seeks to provide maximum disclosure with minimum delay with regard to security, accuracy, propriety and policy. This DoD news magazine is an authorized publication for the members of the Department of Defense. Contents of The WIRE are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or Joint Task Force Guantanamo. It is printed by the Document Automation & Production Service with a circulation of 1,000.



Personnel from the Marine Corps Security Force Company and Joint Task Force Guantanamo Headquarters and Headquarters Command listen to a safety brief at Granadillo Range, July 8. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Juanita Philip

A day at the range

Army Spc. Juanita Philip
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Several Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers, including Soldiers from the 786th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, recently reported to the Granadillo Range for annual weapons qualification and familiarization training on the Marine M9 service pistol qualification table.

After a safety brief by Marine Corps Security Force Company personnel, who were conducting operations at the range, the 786th personnel donned their protective gear and got on the firing line.

“All of the officers who were scheduled to train that day were afforded the opportunity to fire and the option to qualify,” said Marine Corps Gunnery Sgt. Jose L. Mercado, the JTF Guantanamo J-3 operations non-commissioned officer-in-charge.

While the course qualification is an annual requirement for all Marines who carry the 9mm pistol, the Army personnel used it for practice, said Mercado, who also is the JTF-GTMO Marine senior enlisted adviser.

“The Army is not required to use this course for their annual training; however, successfully completing and qualifying this course of fire will improve the shooter’s marksmanship skills,” Mercado said.

Unlike the Army qualifications, where the personnel remain stationary and fire

at pop-up targets ranging from 25 meters to 300 meters, the targets remained in one place and it is the Troopers who fire from a variety of distances, starting at 25 meters from the targets, moving up to seven meters, and finally back to 15 meters.

One of the officers who qualified, Army Lt. Col. Patricia Charles, deputy director of the J-4 section, had a total score of 319, which placed her in the qualification class of sharpshooter out of the three classes. There are three qualification categories: marksman, sharpshooter and expert.

“It gave me additional experience, due to the fact that we usually qualify on pop-up targets,” Charles said. “This familiarization on the range will make our future training on the pop-up targets easier.”

Mercado stressed that the range is open to all personnel.

“All enlisted members who are required to carry or use the M9 pistol are all invited to request a slot on any future ranges coordinated by the JTF-GTMO J-3 training section,” he said.

“The coaching given by the Marines was beneficial to my qualification,” said Charles. “They [Marines] were able to see where we were firing and provided tips to adjust the target acquisition.”

The training, which is scheduled to take place throughout the month, will continue with designated personnel using the range one day a week until the end of July. ★



Army Spc. Keith H. Chambers inspects a 9mm pistol at Granadillo Range, July 8. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Juanita Philip

Maintenance provides safety, security



Coast Guard Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class Kyle O'Connell (left) and Coast Guard Chief Warrant Officer Robert Ornelas, members of Marine Safety and Security Team 91104, apply wax to the hull of a boat, July 15. Coast Guardsmen with MSST 91104 provide maintenance for all vehicles, boats and equipment in its fleet in order to stay mission ready. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Anthony Ward Jr.

Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Anthony Ward Jr.
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Since its inception in 2002, Coast Guard Maritime Safety and Security Team 91104, based in Galveston, Texas, has protected the waters where it has been assigned.

Currently serving at Guantanamo Bay in support of Joint Task Force Guantanamo, MSST 91104 is tasked with many different missions.

MSST 91104 supports operations in GTMO by providing security for Office of Military Commissions proceedings, ensuring the borders of Guantanamo Bay are not breached, and ensuring all incidents that occur in nearby waters are handled properly, said Coast Guard Machinery Technician 2nd Class Isaac Renfro.

As a machinery technician, Renfro maintains the boats, vehicles and property that belong to MSST 91104.

"We have a number of vehicles that we

must maintain along with the grounds we work on," said Renfro. "We also have a total of six boats that we keep in rotation."

In order to keep boats in the best possible condition, MSST 91104 uses two boats for one duty, another two for a separate duty



We work as a team. If the boats don't work, then work can't be done. – Navy Machinery Technician 1st Class

Isaac Renfro

and keeps the last two boats in its arsenal for maintenance. This steady rotation allows all the boats to stay in top condition.

Renfro is among many other Coast Guardsmen who work together to ensure mission accomplishment.

"We work as a team," Renfro said. "If the boats don't work, then work can't be done."

Maintenance and mission accomplishment go hand in hand for MSST

91104, and being here in Guantanamo Bay allows unit members to build more experience in their job field and allows unit cohesiveness.

"Everyone in the unit knows their job, but we are also cross-trained," said Coast Guard Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class Cesar Gallegos. "Even the yeoman knows how to do my job and I can do theirs."

This cross training allows the members of MSST 91104 a level of comfort that increases morale and promotes camaraderie.

The Coast Guardsmen of MSST 91104 are gaining a great deal of experience while deployed to JTF-GTMO by working alongside the other services and getting field experience in their respective occupations, Renfro said.

Whether it's fixing engines and patching holes on the boats, or filing paperwork and fixing boat electronics, the members of MSST 91104 are the heartbeat of the Coast Guard and provide a safer Guantanamo Bay and a more secure America. 🇺🇸



Great story, terrible direction

Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class
Shane Arrington
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Before going to see “The Last Airbender”, I had received mixed reviews from my friends stateside. The general consensus was if you hadn’t seen the animated series, then the movie would be decent, if not great.

Well, after sitting through the terrible acting, poor cinematography and overall butchering of a good story, I have to disagree. I came in with a clean slate, never having seen the animated version, and I still would have walked out if I wasn’t working. I feel badly for the people who, even having no obligation to stay, continued to watch the movie through the multiple rain showers that was probably Mother Earth’s way of telling us it wasn’t worth it.

The movie begins in a frozen tundra that is home to Katara (Nicola Peltz) and her brother Sokka (Jackson Rathbone). Katara controls the element water, making her the last water “bender” in her tribe. Sokka ... well, he throws a mean boomerang.

The entire world is under oppression from the Fire Nation, who came to power after the disappearance of the Avatar, the one person who controls all four elements (Air, Water, Earth, Fire) and is responsible for keeping the peace between each elemental nation.

While out hunting, Katara and Sokka find a young boy, Aang (Noah Ringer),

barely alive in the frozen wastes. They take pity on him and take him back to their village. Prince Zuko (Dev Patel) of the Fire Nation descends upon the village knowing Aang to be the Avatar.

After Zuko takes Aang away on his steam-powered ship, that isn’t cheesy looking in the slightest, Katara and Sokka take it upon themselves to rescue him, a decision that changes their lives forever.

They arrive, just in time for Aang to rescue himself, and take him to safety. Their journey after that takes them to one beautiful place after another. M. Night Shyamalan may have completely ruined the movie, but the graphics people were on point.

They eventually find their way to the spiritual fortress of the Northern Water Tribe where Aang learns to control his next element, water.

Once again the Fire Nation swoops in to ruin the day. Aang’s new mastery of water saves the fortress and sends the Fire Nation retreating with their tails between their legs in their ridiculous-looking steam ships.

This movie is supposed to be the first movie of three; however, it will be a shock if Shyamalan is allowed after this disgrace to show his face in public long enough to make another movie.

The “Last Airbender” tells an amazing story, one with depth and meaning. Shyamalan takes that story under his wing, flies it to the top of a mountain and drops it to its death. ☆



PG

103 minutes

Rating: ★★☆☆☆

NEGB GUARDS SHOOT, QUALIFY



JTF Guantanamo photos by
Navy Mass Communication Specialist 3rd
Class Joshua Nistas

Players from the Cool Guys line up to defend a corner kick, July 16. – JTF Guantanamo photos by Army Spc. Juanita Philip



World Cup sparks fever

Army Spc. Juanita Philip
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

With the advent of the World Cup and fans all over the globe in a frenzy over the sport, it didn't take long for Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers, Naval Station Guantanamo Bay service members and civilian contractors to catch soccer fever.

In their off-duty hours, many people have joined the Morale, Welfare and Recreation soccer league and have taken to Cooper Field to emulate the professional players of the most widely played and popular sport in the world.

One such team, the Cool Guys, has been reincarnated many times depending on the sport that is in season.

"There is a core group that makes up the team, but for the most part we join based on whatever sport the Cool Guys are playing," said Ben Toomey, a linguist with the Joint Intelligence Group.

Toomey has been with the league for about a month and plays the midfielder position with the team.

Army Spc. Archie Corbitt III, a broadcast journalist with the JTF-GTMO public affairs, plays the position of defenseman.

"I joined the team purely by accident," Corbitt said. "I was at the NEX buying a soccer ball for physical training, in honor of the World Cup. In the process of cashing out the cashier said, 'Why don't you join a team?'" He showed up at the appointed time and place, met the Cool Guys, and has been a defender for the team ever since.

As opposed to some of the other teams, like NEX United and the Fire Department, which are composed mainly of civilians who have been in GTMO for years, teams composed mainly of military members, like the Cool Guys, only have a short while to establish a good rapport.

When all is said and done, the players just want to get together and play.

"Of course we want to win like everyone else, but our main goal is to have fun," Corbitt said.

Although the Cool Guys have won their last three games—two actual games and one by forfeit—these players get together for camaraderie and fitness rather than winning.

"We're not head hunting for anybody," Corbitt said. "We're just here for love of the game."

There are eight men's teams and three women's teams that make up the 11 teams in the league. The league championship game will be played Friday, Aug. 13 at 7 p.m. for the women's league, and 8:30 p.m. for the men's league at Cooper Field. ★



Navy Master Chief Petty Officer Evan Cutler, a goalkeeper for the Cool Guys, blocks an attempted goal by the opposing team July 16. – JTF Guantanamo photos by Army Spc. Juanita Philip

Battling the heat

Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Justin R. Wheeler
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Between the years of 2004 and 2008, 300 medical facilities worldwide have diagnosed patients with heat injuries, according to the U.S. Combat Readiness/Safety Center. The heat of Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, is some of the worst service members can experience during their military careers.

Whether deployed to a Middle Eastern destination or Joint Task Force Guantanamo, keeping a close eye on the temperature to avoid heat injuries is imperative to a Trooper's well-being, especially during the months of July, August and September.

"A heat injury is when the body loses its ability to regulate its natural temperature, which is usually caused by dehydration in a hot weather environment," said Army Sgt. Ronald McDaniel, a healthcare sergeant at the Joint Trooper Clinic. "Make sure you're hydrated and make sure your acclimatized."

Heat illnesses are classified as one of the following three: heat cramps, heat exhaustion and heat stroke.

Heat cramps, the first sign of heat injury, can turn into exhaustion and eventually heat stroke. Heat cramps are painful muscle spasms that happen in the arms, legs or abdomen. Additional symptoms may include heavy sweating, staggering, dizziness, rapid pulse and shortness of breath.

"Heat injuries happen anytime the body's fluid requirement drops below a crucial limit," said Army Sgt. Lee McClure, JTC non-commissioned officer-in-charge. "The body has a certain amount of fluid it's supposed to have at all times. If it drops below the minimum, the body starts to compensate and that's when everything goes downhill."

When heat stroke, the worst heat illness, occurs, sweating will discontinue, the skin will become hot and the body's temperature will increase above 104 F. Heat stroke can cause confusion, bad headaches, dizziness, nausea and a strong pulse, which could eventually lead to loss of consciousness, coma, seizure or even death. Service members, especially those stationed in hot environments, should educate themselves to help prevent reaching the stage of heat stroke.

"When it comes to heat injuries, the best thing you can do is catch it early," McClure said. "It's always good to know your limits, maintain high hydration levels and wear appropriate gear. It's good to know when you've had enough heat and when you need to go inside."

Heat injuries can occur anytime throughout the day and night.

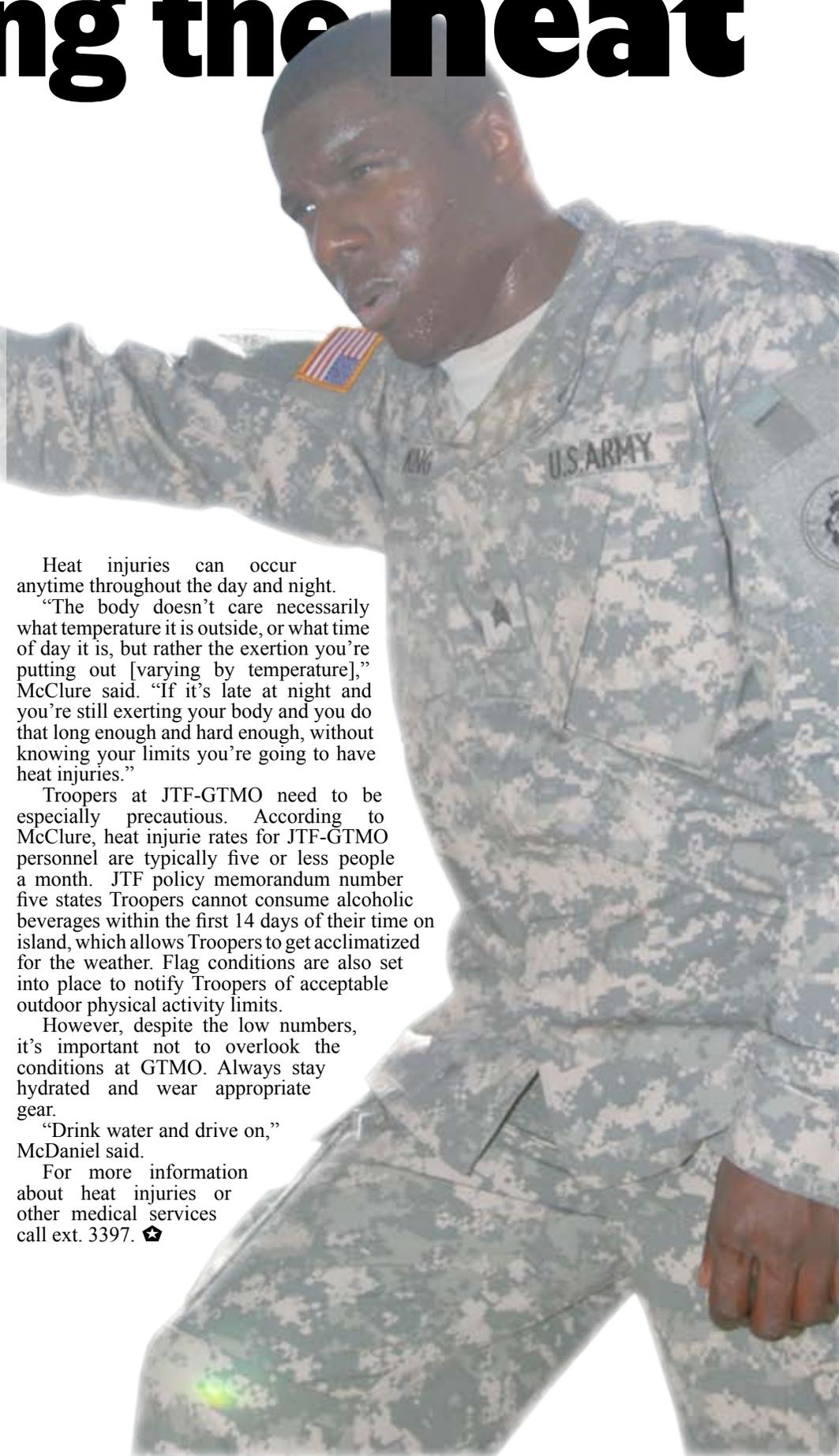
"The body doesn't care necessarily what temperature it is outside, or what time of day it is, but rather the exertion you're putting out [varying by temperature]," McClure said. "If it's late at night and you're still exerting your body and you do that long enough and hard enough, without knowing your limits you're going to have heat injuries."

Troopers at JTF-GTMO need to be especially precautionous. According to McClure, heat injury rates for JTF-GTMO personnel are typically five or less people a month. JTF policy memorandum number five states Troopers cannot consume alcoholic beverages within the first 14 days of their time on island, which allows Troopers to get acclimatized for the weather. Flag conditions are also set into place to notify Troopers of acceptable outdoor physical activity limits.

However, despite the low numbers, it's important not to overlook the conditions at GTMO. Always stay hydrated and wear appropriate gear.

"Drink water and drive on," McDaniel said.

For more information about heat injuries or other medical services call ext. 3397. ★





All hands on deck

Navy Rear Adm. Jeffrey Harbeson, Joint Task Force Guantanamo commander, addresses Troopers during an all-hands call, July 13. Harbeson held all hands meetings at different times over a period of a few days to give out information and field questions. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Michael R. Holzworth

Boots on the Ground

by Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Anthony Ward Jr.

What is your favorite summer activity?

**Air Force 1st Lt.
Robert Threatt**



“It has to be the water parks. The slides ... I love the slides.”

**Navy Hospitalman
Maikol Vegasuarez**



“I enjoy biking and the beach, biking more so because of the exercise. It’s exciting and gets your adrenaline pumping.”

**Air Force Airman 1st
Class Leah Brownwell**



“Swimming, it’s hot here and swimming cools me off and it’s great exercise.”

**Army Spc.
Keith Chambers**



“The Beach. I like to dive, swim and fish, you can also relax and do a variety of sports.”

Gone fishing

Army Capt. Eric Bey
525th MP Battalion Chaplain

I recently just got back from leave, but while there I did some fishing. It was early one particular morning that I woke up before my family and decided to go down to the lake. We were staying at a cabin that someone graciously let us use. Heading down to the lake's edge, I decided to go with a Zoom plastic watermelon worm. After trying that with no luck I noticed that the water was like a mirror and that perhaps a top water jig would work. I fumbled with the knot and began to get frustrated when He began to speak to me, "Patience, son, enjoy the process!"

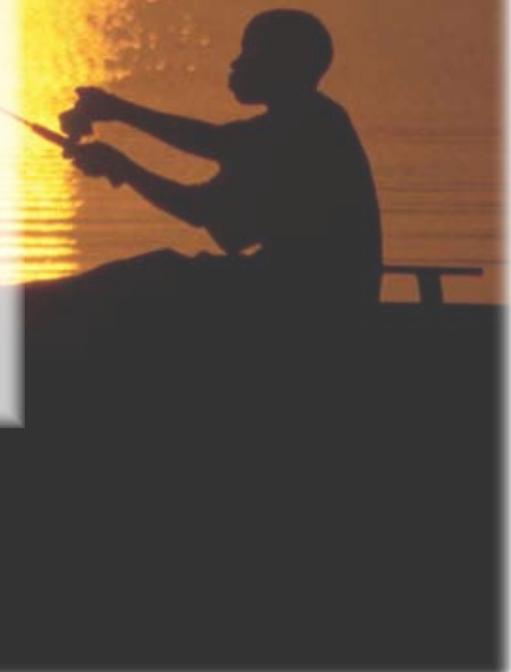
I began to remember how peaceful the walk down was, and then I remembered the anticipation and giddiness of getting a hit and setting the hook and how it was going to feel. Somewhere along the way I had lost the joy of it all. It was subtle, but as I was fumbling with the knot I felt my temperature rising. He gently reminded me how much I love puzzles, problems and brain teasers. I began to look at the knot as a challenge. I picked up another hook and went at it with a new perspective and, from then on, my entire day was great.

The knot came out so easy and I was popping the top water lure within minutes. I didn't catch a thing that morning but had a great time nevertheless. That little incident and His intercession caused me to reflect and get perspective. I remembered scripture where He says to total strangers, "Come with me and I will make you fishers of men." I meditated on how fishing is a lot like the kingdom of heaven and soul winning. Like fish we were all in the same predicament: hungry for something but not really knowing or caring what.

Evangelically speaking, I thought of the many different approaches I use when talking to people about the Lord. Not everyone responds to the same thing. It was like me choosing a lure. The Gospel is the Gospel, but the way you make it palatable to some may not work for another, so it is like dragging, jerking, bouncing or just letting your bait lay there.

I further thought about how much safer it is to fish from the shore or on a boat. You could get into the water but there are risks. This reminded me of how much better it is to stay in your own environment when sharing the Gospel. You could well enough witness in a bar but there are dangers there. You might be enticed to drink or the people you want to engage might already be drunk, or at least on their way. It would be way better to wait and talk to them at work or a coffee shop after hours to get them out of their environment.

You may be having a difficult time here on station, but if you apply a little bit of perspective with a heaping, helping of good attitude and perhaps a smidgen of spiritual insight, you can turn this around. For those of you who claim Father, I expect nothing less. You think about that. ☆



GTMO Religious Services

Daily Catholic Mass Mon. - Fri. 5:30 p.m.

Main Chapel

Vigil Mass

Saturday 5 p.m.

Main Chapel

Mass

Sunday 9 a.m.

Main Chapel

Catholic Mass

Saturday 7:30 p.m.

Troopers' Chapel

Sunday 7:30 a.m.

Troopers' Chapel

Protestant Worship Sunday 9 a.m.

Troopers' Chapel

Islamic Service

Friday 1:15 p.m.

Room C

Jewish Service

FMI call 2628

LORIMI Gospel

Sunday 8 a.m.

Room D

Seventh Day Adventist Saturday 11 a.m.

Room B

Iglesia Ni Cristo

Sunday 5:30 a.m.

Room A

Pentecostal Gospel

Sunday 8 a.m.

Room D

LDS Service

Sunday 10 a.m.

Room A

Liturgical Service Sunday 10 a.m.

Room B

General Protestant

Sunday 11 a.m.

Main Chapel

United Jamaican

Fellowship

Sunday 11 a.m.

Building 1036

Gospel Service

Sunday 1 p.m.

Main Chapel

GTMO Bay Christian Fellowship

Sunday 6 p.m.

Main Chapel

Bible Study

Wednesday 7 p.m.

Troopers' Chapel

The Truth Project

Bible study

Sunday 6 p.m.

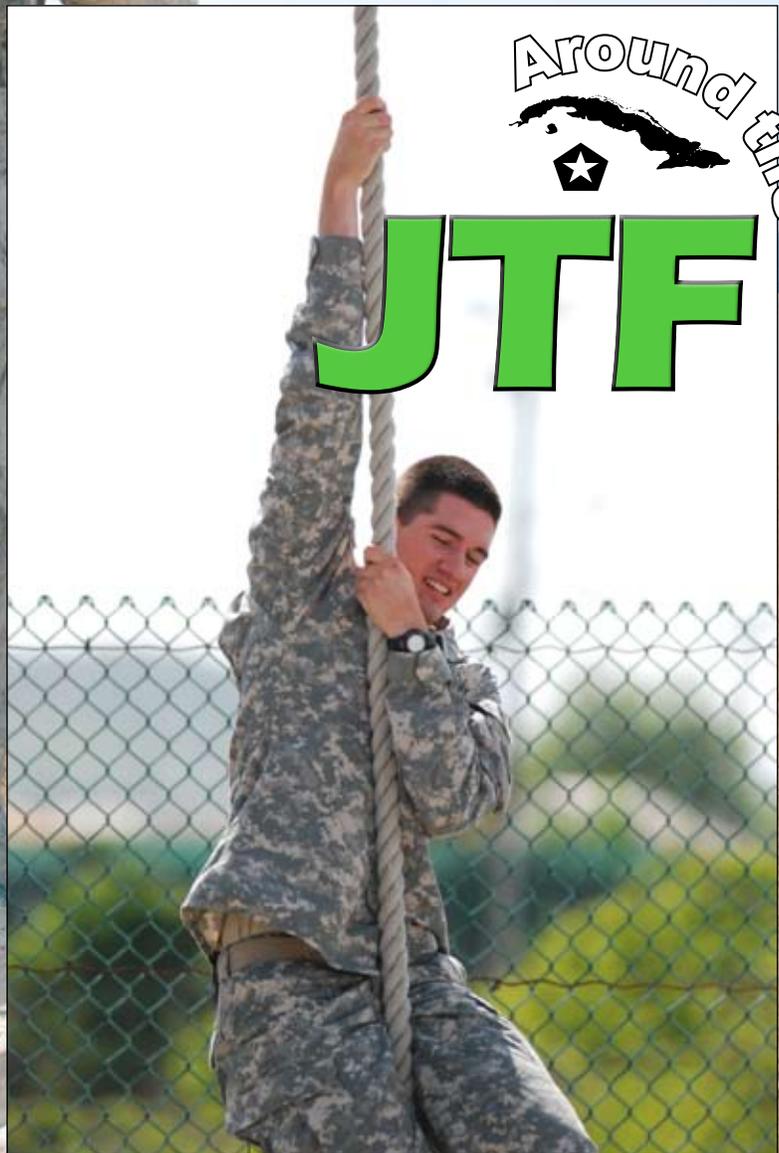
Troopers' Chapel



Army Sgt. Ardicio Galvao, animal care non-commissioned officer, does an eye examination on a kitten, July 14. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Joshua Nistas



Airmen with the Base Emergency Engineering Force build a structure in support of Commission Support Group, July 14. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Justin R. Wheeler



Army Pvt. Darren Riggsby climbs a rope during warfighter training, July 23. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Justin R. Wheeler