GTMO vet clinic
Taking care of our furry friends
Accountability
JPC conducts personnel inventory
What kind of relationship do you have with yourself?

Army Sgt. Maj. Jerraine M. Miller
NCOIC, J-8

When was the last time you gave yourself time off, bought yourself some roses, or rewarded yourself in some other way? If your answer is more than a week, you need to STOP, look at yourself and identify what kind of relationship you have with you.

Sometimes we forget to take care of ourselves while we continue to take care of others without batting an eye. The question “what kind of relationship do you have with yourself?” might sound perplexing to some. Well, I think it is time for you to ask yourself that question. Do you do for yourself as much as you do for others to ensure that you are spiritually, emotionally and financially satisfied or just plain old happy?

Look in the mirror – are you comfortable with who is looking back at you? Being spiritually in tune allows you to be satisfied with the reflection in the mirror. That reflection is the source of your happiness. When you look into the mirror you should be elated with seeing YOU. If you don’t get along with yourself you cannot and will not get along with others. You must recognize and further develop your skills and talents which will ultimately lead you to discover your own uniqueness. We are spiritual beings and must make our human experience worthwhile. If your spirit is high, your emotions will reflect your spirit of happiness, satisfaction and comfort.

Emotions influence your attitude. You should consciously select your attitudes, behaviors and circumstances. Do not allow another person’s view to control the way you see yourself. Do you use your feelings as a guide to self satisfaction? If you choose to express negative emotions appropriately, your spirit will remain genuinely at peace. Smile-when you have a smile on your face it is hard to think of something negative.

As members of the service we are constantly on a roller coaster with our feelings. Knowing yourself and feeling the immensity of your existence allows you to appreciate yourself and your accomplishments. What was your reason for joining the military? Have you fulfilled or accomplished more than you planned?

Financial stability brings great relief. In the military more rank means more money. Promotion requires more training and more education. The training acquired should not be merely seen as “checking the block” or gaining a rank. If you treat it as a foundation for self-development and career progression, it will provide you with the ability to look at yourself with great pride. Having the spirit of self-determination, self-perseverance, and self-admiration is the building blocks of a positive self image.

Look into the mirror knowing that you have given the motivation, determination and perspiration to create your own uniqueness. Yes, I said perspiration – it also requires sweat to make yourself happy! Use all resources and experiences to have a balanced life. The relationship you have with yourself reflects the attitude you will have with others. If you get bitter you will never get better. Look at life with a positive attitude! 😊
While the census is taking place on the mainland, the personnel office here at Joint Task Force Guantanamo conducted its own personnel inventory.

In an effort to account for 100 percent of the service members and civilian contractors who work at the JTF, the Joint Personnel Center, also called the One Stop, conducted a mandatory joint personnel inventory in the last week of April.

Throughout the week, service members reported to their respective administrative offices or the JPC with their Common Access Cards and meal cards, and their information was verified on the database.

“Staff members at the JPC, or other administrative offices, verified the name, rank, arrival, and projected departure dates and other pertinent information of JTF staffers,” said Air Force Capt. Nate Williams, officer-in-charge at the JPC. “This gives us a 100 percent look at exactly who we have here at JTF Guantanamo and provides a check and balance for our current accountability processes,” Williams said.

When all is said and done, the inventory will determine if the current methods used accurately account for all personnel in JTF Guantanamo.

This inventory will be used to validate and/or correct personnel data and ensure the JPC database contains a record of all personnel assigned or attached to JTF Guantanamo.

The JPC had never been tasked with such an undertaking, but the staff stepped up to the challenge and got the job done. “This was the first time that we had conducted a 100 percent personnel inventory, but repeating the drill on a recurring basis is a possibility,” Williams said.

The service members reported to the JPC office, as directed by their schedules, to verify their pertinent information.

“For the week that we processed all individuals under the JTF, I handled about fifty service members and civilians per day,” said Army Specialist Safiyah Galloway, a receptions administrative clerk with the JPC.

While that is a large number of personnel to handle in a day, the process is not lengthy if the JTF staffer has the right documentation. “The JPI process takes roughly one minute,” Galloway said.

“Their information is accessed, and I asked them to verify if it is correct,” she said. “Questions were in regards to religious preference, blood type, social security number, housing location and phone number, meal card information, arrival and departure dates, and what directorate the service member or civilian contractor works for.”

The inventory this week is just a small part of the JPC mission. The One Stop tracks service members’ from the time they arrive on island to the time they leave.

“The JPC processes all joint awards and serves as the focal point for all in-processing and out-processing actions,” Williams said.

Williams went on to add that although leave requests are turned in to the unit commanders or section leaders, leave requests ultimately end up at the JPC to be processed.

“The JPI was not conducted exclusively at the JPC,” Williams said. “Other admin shops around the JTF put a lot of hard work and long hours into this process.”

Because many staffers at the JTF were not able to report in person, provisions were made to accommodate their schedules.

“Some of the staff could not report in person, so we used the last few days to account for the remaining 10 percent of folks, many of whom were on leave or supporting commissions,” Williams said.

Even though it was the JPC that was tasked with the JPI, other sections assisted with the effort.

“I would just like to thank everyone for their outstanding cooperation and hard work,” Williams said. “This was truly a team effort.”

The other sections that helped with the inventory included the Joint Defense Group, 525th Military Police Battalion, Joint Medical Group, the Coast Guard Maritime Safety and Security Team and Naval Expeditionary Guard Battalion. It was a true joint effort.
Helping GTMO’s furry friends

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

“If your animal starts vomiting in the middle of the night, you can’t run off to Havana to see the vet over there,” Army Capt. Todd French, Naval Station Guantanamo Bay’s only veterinarian, said. “We’re a 24/7 emergency facility.”

As the only veterinary clinic within the 45 square miles of Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, the small facility is the sole care provider for the military working dogs and pets of America’s slice of Cuba.

While they might be an off-the-beaten-path service provider, French says, he and his team have a more than adequate facility to fulfill the base’s veterinary needs.

“We’re set up for the basics of course, and even surgery and radiology. The Navy has done a great job of setting us up here,” said French. “We do, however, suffer the same problem everyone in Guantanamo runs into at some point: getting what we need when we need it, such as medications.”

Being such a small community, French says it’s impossible not to form a bond with the pets and their owners here at GTMO. The good relationship between clinic and community, and a focus on the overall well-being of the animals, is a prime example of the movement being reinforced by Army Col. David S. Rolfe, commander of the Army’s Veterinary Command.

“The veterinary profession is shifting from vaccination-driven appointments, toward wellness-driven appointments,” said Rolfe.

The wellness of pets is the responsibility of the owner, and while it’s always recommended to regularly take your pet to the vet, at GTMO it’s required. French says not following this rule could delay residents leaving the island when it comes time to move on.

“To take animals off island they must have a form from us clearing the animal,” said French. “Not only is it required, but it’s simply good practice to take the best possible care of your pet.”

While the majority of the clinic’s work comes from personally owned animals, French points out it’s only one prong in their three-fold mission. The other two are the care of military working dogs, and the inspection of all food that comes on base. 🐾

Army Sgt. Jamie Murphy, Animal Care non-commissioned officer, Guantanamo Bay Veterinary Treatment Facility, feeds a two-week-old kitten that has a broken femur that was rescued and brought to the clinic, April 13. — JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Joshua Nistas
Twenty-four hours a day, every day of the week, they’re prepared to support the chaplain’s mission by assisting Troopers with spiritual needs: the chaplain’s assistant is the chaplain’s right-hand man or woman.

“We try to raise morale,” said Navy Religious Program Specialist 3rd Class Adam Donato, non-commissioned officer in charge, Joint Task Force Guantanamo Chaplain Section. “Our goal is to ensure and support the spiritual fitness of the Troopers and support the religious needs of detainees.”

The assistants support this mission by providing Troopers with bibles, rosaries and other spiritual books and items. They also market services offered by the chaplain’s office to Troopers and foster relationships with Troopers.

On a daily basis, chaplain’s assistants file paperwork or assist in the preparation for a future religious event or session.

“We spend our regular workday meeting the immediate needs of Troopers,” said Donato. “We lock the doors at 6 p.m. but we’re available 24/7!”

However, chaplain aides can face difficulties.

“There is only a limited number of [chaplain’s assistants],” said Donato. “If there is a high level of need amongst the troops we have the possibility of being spread thin.”

The chaplain’s office always finds the light for solving these problems.

“We overcome these obstacles by being well-organized and by maintaining a high level of communication amongst each other,” Donato said. “We support each other as a team.”

Army Capt. Eric Bey, 525th Military Police Battalion Chaplain, recognizes and appreciates the efforts of his assistants.

“I’m continuously astounded by the work ethic of the assistants from every service,” said Bey. “All of them have strengths and weaknesses, but they compliment each other perfectly. As a team, they work as one with no deficiencies.”

Air Force Airman 1st Class Leah Brownell recently became apart of the JTF chaplain’s team.

“It’s a pretty cool job,” said Brownell. “For me, it’s a great way to catch up spiritually and learn about what chaplains do.”

This is the first time Brownell has acted as a chaplain’s assistant. Before arriving at Guantanamo Bay, Brownell was working as a knowledge operations manager, her actual military profession, on McConnell Air Force Base, she said.

This new job has given her some insight.

“Life is not so simple here,” said Brownell. “For me, it’s a great way to catch up spiritually and learn about what chaplains do.”

Donato feels rewarded by being able to provide for others.

“Our reward is feeling good after providing for the Troops,” said Donato. “When a person doesn’t come back for additional counseling, we’ve resolved the issue.”

For more information about JTF chaplain’s services or information about chaplain’s assistants call ext. 2305.
Work out with new equipment

With new additions to the J.G. Denich Gym and Marine Hill Gym, Troopers are able to sum up their weightlifting experiences in one word: satisfaction.

The new athletic equipment includes at least 38 new pieces of “Life Fitness” gear.

“When I first arrived here there was only a few pieces of equipment,” said Army Pfc. Rondell Love, 470th Military Intelligence Battalion, Joint Task Force Guantanamo. “Now you’re not limited to what you’re able to work out.”

This top-shelf athletic equipment has provided numerous new workouts and maximized space in the designated area.

“Overall this equipment is better,” said Navy Master at Arms 2nd Class John Smith, with the Naval Expeditionary Guard Battalion. “It’s cleaner, nicer and not as cluttered.”

The MWR team continues to find ways to improve the quality of life for people living on base. In addition to the Life Fitness equipment, the extreme MWR makeover included new cardiovascular equipment and free weights.

All of this new equipment is even more efficient than before.

“We have machines to train each specific muscle group,” said Everton Hylton, an aerobics instructor for Morale, Welfare and Recreation. “Most of this equipment is unilateral [affecting one side]. A guy that has a sprung shoulder can come and work out the uninjured arm.”

Also, the new machines are practical by allowing service members to isolate a specific part of their body.

“I really like the new hip rotator machine,” said Smith. “It’s unique and really concentrates on your oblique muscles.”

For Love, some of the new additions provide him with alternatives to working specific muscles.

“Instead of doing squats all the time, I enjoy using the new leg press machine,” Love said.

Alec Culpepper, MWR fitness specialist, enjoys seeing Troopers benefit from MWR’s newest advancements.

“One of the best parts of my job is seeing base personnel and civilians use our athletic services, equipment and programs,” Culpepper said. “With this new equipment, it is another opportunity for the Naval Station Guantanamo Bay community to participate in the many physical fitness programs we offer.”

MWR administers a variety of recreation, social and community support activities throughout Naval Station Guantanamo Bay. This mission also includes contributing to the retention, readiness, physical and emotional wellbeing of military personnel and civilians.

For more information on MWR activities, contact the sports office at ext. 2113.
Kirk (Jay Baruchel) is a dork. He has low self-esteem, a fragile build and acts awkwardly around the opposite sex. In “She’s Out of My League,” he manages to overcome himself and get the girl of his dreams, Molly (Alice Eve).

Kirk is a Transportation Security Administration worker at the Pittsburgh airport. He has no college degree, no significant other and no plans for his life. At the opening of the movie he is attempting to win back his ex-girlfriend, Marnie (Lindsay Sloane) who wants nothing to do with him. His friend Stainer (T.J. Miller) thinks Marnie is the devil and reminds Kirk of this at every opportunity. Unfortunately, for Kirk, Marnie has no intention of getting back together with him and tells him so while at his parents’ house, in an extremely funny and awkward scene early in the movie.

While working at the airport one day, Molly passes through Kirk’s security line, where he manages to fend off his coworkers’ over-the-top advances. In her rush to get to her plane, Molly forgets her phone at the security checkpoint, where it is recovered by Kirk. While returning the phone to Molly at a party, Kirk manages to make an impression on her and receives two tickets to a hockey game as a reward. Between the party and the hockey game, Kirk and his friends discuss the possibility that Molly might be interested in dating him. This leads to a funny conversation at a bowling alley in which the group decides there’s no way Molly would be interested in Kirk.

Kirk goes to the hockey game with Stainer and is surprised to learn that not only does Molly know a lot more about hockey than a woman of her caliber should, but she is also quite interested in pursuing a relationship. This leads to more awkward scenarios where Kirk is embarrassed at every twist, and turn and leaves the audience laughing wholeheartedly the entire time.

“She’s Out of My League” is extremely funny. It is full of raunchy scenarios and foul language. The movie most likely would not be as funny without an “R” rating. The supporting cast of characters and their interaction with Kirk are what drive the movie. There are some typical underdog scenarios such as Kirk being mistaken for a waiter while on a date with Molly; there are also some completely unexpected and hilarious scenes like one in which Kirk meets Molly’s family for the first time.

Baruchel, who played a similar type of character in “Knocked Up,” does a great job playing the awkward Kirk in a role that would typically be played by Michael Cera. The supporting cast gets their share of laughs as well. Miller is absolutely hysterical. The foul-mouthed Stainer and his views on relationships and life keep the audience laughing the entire movie. Molly’s friend Patty (Krysten Ritter) is also quite entertaining and provides a foil to Molly’s sweet-natured character.

While the content may be unsuitable for younger audiences, “She’s Out of My League” will keep the adult members of the audience laughing from beginning to end with its awkward, sometimes over-the-top scenarios and raunchy content.
Troopers of Joint Task Force Guantanamo participate in the Morale, Welfare and Recreation sponsored Spring Softball League at Cooper Field, May 12. MWR provides teams with several opportunities to participate in outdoor sporting events throughout the year.
America would not be the diverse country it is today without the many contributions of immigrants from around the world.

Asian and Pacific islanders immigrated to America as early as 1840s, making heavy sacrifices to help shape the history of Americans. Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month celebrates these events.

“Americans are all unified no matter where we are from,” said Army Sgt. Sandy Cho, 525th Military Police Battalion. “This is due to the contributions of our ancestors before us.”

Contributions like the transcontinental railroad, built largely by Chinese immigrants, and the Vietnam Veterans’ Memorial in Washington D.C. and the Civil Rights Memorial in Montgomery, Ala. designed by Chinese American Maya Lin.

For Cho, her immediate family’s history is a representation of what Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month is about.

“My dad’s family immigrated to California from Korea,” said Cho. “After a few years my dad joined the Army and received his citizenship.”

Cho’s family thinks highly of military service. Most of her immediate family has served: her dad, who is retired from the Army, her sister, a current Army officer, and Cho, who is an active duty Soldier.

“It opened up many opportunities for me and my family,” said Cho, “It helped us to all become strong minded and independent.”

This strong-mindedness is a modern example of the traits that Asian immigrants of the past had.

Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month’s origin was in the Senate in 1977 and was then made an annual celebration in 1978 by President Jimmy Carter.

May became the month of commemoration because the first Japanese immigrants came to the U.S in May 1843. Later, the transcontinental railroad was completed in May 1869.

As part of this month’s celebration, lectures, festivals and speeches, among many other events about Asian heritage and history, are conducted across the U.S.

“It’s important to know about the heritage of the people we work with,” said Navy Hospital Corpsman Mikol Vega, with the Joint Stress Mitigation and Restoration Team, Joint Task Force Guantanamo. “The military is made up of many different ethnicities, so it’s important to acknowledge and celebrate that.”

For more information about Asian-Pacific American Heritage, to include veteran’s history, the Library of Congress provides numerous resources at www.asianpacificheritage.gov.
Troopers from Joint Task Force Guantanamo laced up their sneakers and walked to help raise sexual assault awareness at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay.

Organized by Michele Linger, base sexual assault response coordinator, the route was designed to emphasize this year’s theme: Hurts One. Affects All. The walk started at the base hospital to reflect the Hurts One aspect and ended at the Community Center to reflect the latter, Affects All.

The walk provided the base community and JTF Troopers with a clear message: Sexual assault will not be tolerated and there are many individuals on the base willing to take a stand against sexual assault.

“It is important for the public to know what Sexual Assault Prevention and Response does, so that an individual knows where to turn for assistance if he or she is sexually assaulted,” Linger said. “It is also important for the public to know whom to contact for training so prevention guidance can be sought as well.”

The public can ensure a safe place by recognizing red flag behavior associated with sexual assault, and knowing the tools and techniques for intervening and preventing or responding to sexual assaults.

Sexual assault and domestic violence in the military frequently involves alcohol, and the results are devastating to the victim.

“When someone is assaulted, it changes their life all together,” said Navy Master-at-Arms Chief Quincy Jackson, sexual assault victim advocate and training specialist at JTF. “Over the last two years, in almost all of the sexual assaults [here], both the victim and the assailant were using alcohol.”

To reduce the risk of becoming a victim, both males and females should be familiar with the base sexual assault program and what steps to follow to safeguard them from becoming a victim, Jackson said.

For those interested in upcoming volunteer opportunities, a SAPR Victim Advocate Training will be held from June 1 through June 4. Support is also offered worldwide for service members by Military One Source.

For additional information, please contact Michele Linger at ext. 4141.
TOP FIVE CYBER THREATS
JTF WEEKLY INFORMATION SECURITY UPDATE

#5 Targeted Attacks: Attacks via e-mail aren’t exactly new, but what is new, is how clever these attacks have become. These e-mails are specifically crafted to get the attention of particular individuals. It also doesn’t help that a number of popular applications like Adobe have vulnerabilities. These scam artists count on you to let down your guard when opening attachments or clicking hyperlinks in emails.

#4 Abbreviated URL Services: These services, such as tinyurl.com, replace long web addresses with short aliases, essentially masking the original URL. This has become a good way to direct users to Web sites that they would normally be wary about visiting by hiding the true destination.

#3 Banking Trojans: A Trojan is malicious code embedded into seemingly benign software. Attackers target a users’ bank data by intercepting account information using a Trojan. The user is not aware of anything until their next account statement.

#2 Web 2.0 Services: As more of us get hooked on Web 2.0 services such as social networking sites and video-sharing sites, the dark side is also getting in on the action. The cyber security industry expects to see rogue Web services with the hidden purpose of capturing credentials.

#1 Botnets - A botnet is a group of infected PCs that are all controlled by a centralized "command and control center." Botnets have been used by cybercriminals and nation-states to launch nearly every type of cyber attack. But because a number of botnet operations have been severely disrupted in recent years, we expect to see a trend toward a more distributed and resilient botnet infrastructure that relies more on peer-to-peer technologies like chatting programs.

If you have any question or would like to learn more about cyber threats contact:
J6-IA office at 8984 or e-mail j6-ia@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil
Boots on the Ground

May 16 – June 16 is National Smile month. What makes you smile and why?

Navy Hospitalman Nathan O’Neil

“Serving customers at the JTC, because I like seeing them satisfied and helping my fellow troopers.”

Army Spc. Edward Jones

“My own beautiful smile, because I have pride and respect for myself.”

Navy Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Allen Lara

“Seeing my kids when I come home from work, because I can just relax and play with them.”

Air Force Tech Sgt. Heather Roberts

“Thinking of my children, because they are my life and such a blessing to me.”

Passing the sword

France, 1918: It was the Battle of Belleau Wood. The Marines were ordered to take a hill occupied by the Germans.

In fear of a mustard gas attack, the Marines stormed up the hill wearing gas masks resembling dog snouts. Growling, dripping with sweat, some even climbing the hill on all fours, they took that hill and the Germans feared they were being attacked by the very hounds of hell themselves: Devil Dogs.

The term Devil Dog came to honor the ferociousness and dedication of Marines in battle - a motivational reminder for current and future generation of Marines of the fine tradition they come from.

Well, they hate being called that now. They hate it because usually they are only called Devil Dogs when they are in trouble or when someone does not know their rank.

A Shipmate is supposed to be a respectful way to address someone you serve with when you don’t know their name or rank (especially useful if you are on a carrier with five thousand other people). “Shipmate” is supposed to show camaraderie, but now it is a sign of annoyance or it is used in a derogatory manner. If you really mess up you are called a “shipwreck.”

When John Wesley, the founder of Methodists and Wesleyan movements, went to Oxford, he and a group of other students sought after holy living and were very structured about their prayer and study of the Bible.

The other students called them “Methodists” because they were so strict and methodical about their study.

The term Methodist, which was supposed to be a term of derision, was embraced by community and is used to this day. Even the term Christian (Acts 11:26) was first used as an insult and then as a name of pride by the faithful followers of Jesus. More recently the term “Jesus Freaks” was used to insult people who were serious about their faith, but now they have embraced the term and even consider it a compliment.

“The Shawshank Redemption” is one of my favorite movies, a story about a man falsely accused of killing his wife. Instead of wallowing in self pity, he uses his gifts to improve the lives of the people around him.

The Devil Dog, or Shipmate, Redemption can only happen when Marines and Sailors live up to the rich traditions in which they serve.

The Devil Dog and Shipmate traditions are too important to be used as demotivators.

To redeem something means to free from captivity by payment of ransom. Leaders need to be more creative in showing their disapproval and use the titles of Devil Dog and Shipmate to remind us of our rich traditions of solidarity and distinction.
The bees’ knees

Air Force Tech Sgt. Rodney Buntyn brings more than just his knowledge of power production, he brings 30 years of beekeeping experience to Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay.

Buntyn, who’s been in the Air National Guard 25 years this June, came with the 186th Air Refueling Group Civil Engineering squadron. When he is not serving the Air National Guard, Buntyn is a student service specialist with the Regional Counterdrug Training Academy at Naval Air Station Meridian, Miss.

“We knew the other team before us handled bees,” Lt. Col. David Kennard, 474 ECES commander, said. “We asked the question of who would like to work with the bees, and Sgt. Buntyn said he does it as a hobby.”

Buntyn said that he got started out working with bees in 1979 when he helped a cousin who had beehives. Buntyn brought a protective suit, a smoker, and some hive tools in anticipation of working with bees in Guantanamo Bay.

“The unit here before us had caught a hive,” Buntyn said. “By the time we got here the hive had died out, but we found some bees in the scrap yard, and we decided to move the bees instead of eradicating them.”

Buntyn said that the bees are like the iguanas - they’re a part of nature here - and they help with the plant life. Buntyn said that without the bees, people wouldn’t have food crops, because the bees pollinate them.

“I hate to see people go in and destroy a population of bees,” said Kennard. “Buntyn was very methodical when taking this hive, and went through the whole hive until he found the queen.”

Buntyn said that even though he wore a protective suit, he still got stung four times while moving a hive from a scrap yard to a safe area by Camp Justice.

“The bees have a structured society that’s like the military,” Buntyn said. “The worker bees start out at the bottom and work their way up. As they get older their duties change. Their main mission in life is to support their hive and their queen, just like we support our country and the president.”

Buntyn says he has four hives back home, and was selling the honey that came from them. He said that one hive can make 10-30 gallons or more of honey in three to four months.

“It’s got to be something you like to do,” Buntyn said. “It’s not an easy job dealing with bees. You have to maintain the hives regularly, and you will get stung.”
Army Lt. Col. Patricia Charles, a Joint Task Force Trooper, defeated Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Adam Spacher in the championship game of the singles racquetball tournament, held at G.J. Denich Gym.

Army Sgt. Sierra Bibbs, a generator equipment repair non-commissioned officer with the 525th Military Police Battalion, installs the breaks on a Humvee at the 525th MP Battalion's motor pool.

Army Sgt. Ardicio Galvao, Animal Care non-commissioned officer in-charge of the Guantanamo Bay Veterinary Treatment Facility, examines one of Guantanamo Bay's many wildlife specimens, a red scorpion. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Joshua Nistas