THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF JOINT TASK FORCE GUANTANAMO





Islamic prayer beads, known as Misbaha. The beads are usually used while praying the "Tasbih of Fatimah".

My goal with this column is to encourage members of Joint Task Force Guantanamo to continue to be the utmost professionals when it comes to the care of detainees. For this month's column, my focus is the power of connection. As members of the JTF, we have much in common with one another

FORGING CONNECTIONS ACROSS RELIGIONS

through our shared desire to successfully carry out the JTF mission. Sometimes though, you can find yourself focusing on divisions. It is easy to find divisions. It is also easy to find connections, even with sensitive topics, such as religion. A prime example are prayer beads, a tool used in several major religions.

In Islam, prayer beads are called Misbaha and contain 99 beads, representing the names of God in Islam. Sometimes only 33 beads are used, in which case, one would cycle through the beads three times. The beads are traditionally used to keep count while saying the prayer known as the "Tasbih of Fatimah", which was a form of prayer offered as a gift by Muhammad to his daughter.

Why does this matter? As I said before, prayer beads are also used for other major religions such as Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism and Sikhism. In Christianity, some Christians use prayer beads, referred to as the rosary. The rosary has 59 beads used to guide Christians through the recitation of various prayers. In the Hindu faith, prayer beads are called Japa Mala and are typically 108 beads,

also used to recite prayers. Buddhist prayer beads vary in name and bead number but are used as a tool to say prayers. Although the number of beads or prayers said to a higher power may be different in each of the faiths, prayer beads represent just one connection between the major religions. A tool such as prayer beads shows it is possible to ignore divisions that keep one from finding connections.

Finding connections allows you to learn and be a better Trooper. It also allows you to understand the importance of your role in the JTF mission and the best way to support safe and humane care to detainees.

As the strategic cultural consultant, it is my mission to advise all JTF Troopers about Islamic culture, in order to do their job more effectively. If you would like more information on available training or just have general questions, please contact me at x9934.

Article by

ZAK

JTF GTMO Strategic Cultural Consultant



Our words have the power to cause a huge range of effects, everything from long-lasting destruction to enormous comfort. I would like to concentrate on the positive effects of our words. If someone mentioned hearing a great compliment about you, but did not have the time to explain further, how would that make you feel? I know I would feel good, but anxious. Why would it seem to take so long? Why would I feel such anxiety?

A compliment is a gift to be cherished. All of us want to be loved and appreciated. We have an inherent appetite for expressions of praise and appreciation. We all enjoy hearing kind words. No matter our age, there is something about receiving encouraging words and complimentary remarks. We are especially uplifted when another person looks us in the eyes and says, "thank you" or "I

POWER OF WORDS IN APPRECIATION, PRAISE

really appreciate you." There is a feeling of accomplishment and satisfaction when we hear approval for our work, our contribution or our life. Some may say they do not need verbal recognition from others. However, I submit to you that all of us need affirming words and positive feedback. Especially from those close to us and those who work with us. The truth is, whether we admit it or not, it feels good to be complimented.

Compliments are not given as often as they should. Without the occasional words of affirmation, some of us start to feel like we just do not deserve any recognition or compliments. Some may begin to think they are extremely common when compared to others or even feel as though they are not as smart, talented or successful. Yet, we still have a strong need for praise, love and appreciation. In fact, people who do not excel most likely need compliments more than those who do excel. A compliment is ways of saying, "I care about you and I appreciate you." I believe every individual needs, desires and deserves care, appreciation and approval.

If we enjoy being appreciated by others, perhaps we should learn to show appreciation to those around us. If words can lift our spirits,

we should learn to use them.

"Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones," says Proverbs 16:24.

Jesus used compliments frequently and well. He had the uncanny ability to make people feel good about themselves when nobody else did. He knew how to lift individuals' spirits with kind words. You too can stop and consider your words. Ask yourself the following questions. Is what I'm about to say: truthful, is it evidenced based? Is it helpful, will it be useful in moving the other person towards becoming a better version of themselves. Are the words inspiring, will it lift the other person's spirit? Are they necessary, does it actually need to be said? Lastly, are the words kind? Is it motivated by a desire to do the other person good?

Think about it, there is probably someone right now who needs and deserves to be told of the contribution he or she has made in your personal or professional life. If so, tell them.

Article by

ARMY CHAPLAIN (CAPT.)
RONNIE DETTMER

JDG Chaplain













LEADERSHIP & CHAPLAIN

The JTF strategic cultural consultant offers insight into the power of connection. The chaplain reminds us that words of affirmation have the power to lift spirits.

GTMO NEWS / COVER PHOTO

The SOUTHCOM commander visits JTF Troopers. Learn how to prepare yourself as tax season approaches with the help of the OSJA.

PHOTO STORY

Read how the MWR program lit up the night with a little '80s glamor: from music to leggings at the '80s Cosmic Bowling event at Marblehead Lanes.

ENTERTAINMENT

Read how one Trooper used his deployment time to complete personal goals. In light of this upcoming Valentine's Day, read about a "romcom" just in time for the sweetheart holiday.

SPORTS

Troopers gathered in many small groups to share in a piece of an American pastime, the Super Bowl. Discover who wins in the thrilling opening week of MWR kickball.

JSMART & HEALTH

Learn about the benefits of swimming. Loved ones are on our minds as Valentine's Day approaches; JSMART provides advice to maintain intimacy even with distance.

MOTIVATOR OF THE **WEEK**

NAVY PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS KEISHA POWELL

CHAPLAIN

SPC. **PAUL MRABET** 744TH MP CO.

CYBER CRIMINALS WANT YOUR INFORMATION!

Do not give it to them! Make sure you safeguard your passwords. Do not use the same passwords or login names for multiple websites. Do not use obvious passwords like names of pets or children. Do not use birthdays or social security numbers as passwords either. Make unique and strong passwords for all your online accounts. Do not make it easy for cyber criminals to access your accounts or personal information! Use OPSEC

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NEW SOUTHCOM COMMANDER VISITS JOINT TASK FORCE TROOPERS



Navy Adm. Kurt W. Tidd, commander of U.S. Southern Command, talks with Troopers during lunch at the Camp America Galley at Joint Task Force Guantanamo on Feb. 3. (Photo by Army Sgt. Charlie Helmholt)

Navy Adm. Kurt W. Tidd, commander, U.S. Southern Command, visited Joint Task Force Guantanamo, Feb. 3 and 9. The visits included tours of different mission facilities across the installation, briefings with various command elements, as well as lunch with JTF Troopers. Tidd also held two town hall meetings with JTF personnel.

These trips are the first that the SOUTHCOM commander has made to GTMO since taking command on Jan. 14, and has served as the platform for him to get out and interact with service members here.

"It was absolutely critical that I got here as quickly as I could after taking command to be able to meet with the men and women who are executing this difficult and challenging mission," said Tidd. "I want to say thanks to everyone serving here because they are every bit as much in the fight; executing an incredibly tough mission and they're doing it with great integrity, great honor and pride."

Tidd stressed the work service members do here can impact partnerships across the hemisphere.

"The work that we do helps build the trust and confidence that is important for us to have with our partners around the region," said Tidd. "When they come here and see what we're doing, they'll see we're executing the mission with extreme professionalism."

The visit was part of a larger tour by Tidd of locations across the Caribbean, Central and South America.

While at GTMO, Tidd shared his

command philosophy with Troopers at the Feb. 9 townhalls. He said he intends to support JTF by getting the resources needed to accomplish the mission, ensuring the command remains the premier security partner of the hemisphere, and calls for creative and innovative approaches to service members' jobs.

The mission of the JTF GTMO is to conduct safe, humane, legal and transparent care and custody of detainees, including those convicted by military commission.

A portion of his trip on Feb. 3 was reserved

for meeting with Troopers here. He stopped for lunch at the Camp America Galley, along with Army Command Sgt. Maj. William B. Zaiser, senior enlisted leader for SOUTHCOM, and other high-ranking officials from the Coast Guard.

Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class Julia J. G. Skrabacz, unit administrative specialist with the Port Security Unit 313 Maritime Security Detachment, said she was able to connect to the command staff on a different level.

"It was really personal," said Skrabacz. "They asked about us and I had an opportunity to share at the deck-plate level and speak to the leaders of our branches."

Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Matthew Chien-Hom, Maritime Law Enforcement Specialist with the MARSECDET agreed.

"The lunch presented an opportunity to be reminded that the admiral and his party are actual people and not simply a name or signature on a memo or a set of orders. It's easy to lose sight of that when you're wrapped up in the daily grind of work or protocol," he said.

Tidd ended his visits encouraging Troopers to remain committed to their mission assignments and to ignore outside influences. He said the most important thing Troopers can do is to continue their professionalism and service while deployed here at GTMO.

Article by

ARMY SGT. CHRISTOPHER A. GARIBAY



Troopers attend a town hall meeting with Navy Adm. Kurt W. Tidd, commander of U.S. Southern Command, Feb. 9, at the U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba Chapel. (Photo by Army Sgt. Ryan L. Twist)

MOVE MEANS MORE COHESION THROUGH THE UNIT INTEGRITY PLAN



A view of the Cuzco Barracks. The Cuzco Barracks are the first enlisted housing area to participate in the Joint Task Force Guantanamo Unit Integrity plan that began Jan. 18. (Photo by Army Sgt. Ryan L. Twist)

Joint Task Force Guantanamo enlisted Troopers are in the midst of executing the Unit Integrity Plan, moving closer to those in their own units while deployed to U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The Unit Integrity Plan is being completed in 22 waves for most residents of the Cuzco Barracks. The waves began Jan. 18 and will be complete March 10. The plan for the Tierra Kay housing will begin shortly after the Cuzco move and will be completed no later than May.

There were several reasons the Unit Integrity Plan was implemented, said Army Command Sgt. Maj. David W. Carr, the senior enlisted leader for the JTF. The main reason for the move was to achieve unit integrity among the living areas. This is the Army standard, in accordance with the First Sergeant's Barracks Initiative, implemented Army-wide since 2008 to ensure noncommissioned officers have the ability to enforce standards and discipline in their living areas. Since the majority of enlisted Troopers living in JTF housing are Army service members, that is why the FSBI was chosen as the leading standard to follow.

"Living via unit integrity also affords an NCO presence 24/7 and this has statistically been shown to substantially reduce misconduct and sexual assaults," said Carr. "When service members live via unit integrity, it is much easier to identify an 'outsider' within that living area. This greatly reduces the chance for a predator to conduct a sexual assault on a fellow service member."

Army Staff Sgt. Antonio Fair, future operations project manager for J6, believes there are great benefits to Troopers moving closer to their unit leadership.

"This by itself will help with the integrity of the unit," said Fair. "We came as a section with our unit and will leave as such."

Just like execution with any other large plan, challenges arise. However, Carr believes the Unit Integrity Plan is going well overall due to service members' ability to be flexible.

"Conducting the moves without interrupting the mission and the lives of the service members involved ... has been the biggest obstacle," said Carr. "There have been hiccups in the form of broken showers (and) mildew issues, but those issues were overcome with hard work by the J4 housing team and the pride-in-ownership of the service members."



Army Sgt. Charlie Helmholt, a public affairs specialist with the Joint Task Force Guantanamo public affairs office, carries his bags to his new Cuzco room, at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba on Feb.9. (Photo illustration by Army Sgt. Ryan L. Twist)

Air Force Capt. Caleb T. Meacham Sr., officer-in-charge of J4 Housing says executing the plan has also helped J4 Housing better serve the Joint Task Force overall by bringing to light different ways to improve internal standard operating procedures as well as reviewing the housing repair contract, in order to improve service response times.

Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Yanitza Borrero, the International Committee of Red Cross noncommissioned officer-in-charge of detainee communications for the office of the staff judge advocate at the JTF, had mixed feelings about the move because she leaves in a few months. She said, moving from one room to another with little time left seemed pointless at first, but having all of her gear packed turned out to be an advantage.

Borrero experienced some initial challenges when it was time for her to move.

"The first room I was scheduled to move in to was not cleaned by the person who used to live in that room," said Borrero, who moved in the sixth wave. "I could not move into my room because the shower had mold and the floor in the shower needed to be replaced."

Alternately, Fair's move went smoothly and he said he felt great about it. He said his leadership gave him ample time to prepare, move and settle in to his new room.

Fair enjoyed relocating to his new room and because Troopers are closer to their units, they already know their neighbors. Living in closer proximity of fellow service members also builds unit cohesion and teamwork, he added.

Carr believes the Unit Integrity Plan will benefit current and future Troopers during their deployment here.

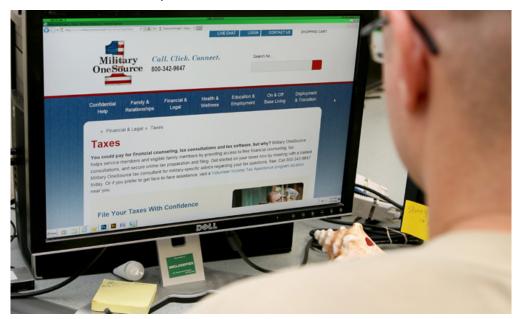
"In my opinion this a positive move for all involved in the JTF," said Carr. "Once we achieve living via unit integrity we will be better postured to greatly reduce misconduct and eliminate sexual assaults within our ranks. Additionally, the quality of life will dramatically improve for all JTF service members as unit integrity ensures immediate leader involvement with housing related issues and helps foster a pride in ownership mentality."

Service members should submit work orders as soon as they have issues with their barracks by calling the J4 housing repair office at x2806.

Article by

ARMY SGT. RYAN L. TWIST

TIPS TRICKS, USEFUL INFORMATION FOR FILING TAXES AT GTMO



Benjamin Franklin is often quoted as stating, ". . . in this world nothing can be said to be certain other than death and taxes."

Tax season is certainly upon us and the Joint Task Force Guantanamo Office of the Staff Judge Advocate and U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo, Bay, Cuba, Legal Assistance Offices are here to assist Troopers.

Filing taxes while at a deployed location can be very challenging. Here are some general tips on income tax filing, requests for filing extensions, resources and the tax services provided locally to help you.

Prior to filing any income tax returns, it is important you accomplish the following: first, have personal information, such as full names and social security numbers, for both you and your dependents readily at hand. Second, gather income documents you have received from your employer or employers, banks, investment companies and the like. Third, gather documents to support adjustments to income, sometimes called above-the-line deductions, such as records of Traditional Individual Retirement Accounts. Thrift Savings Plans or 401K contributions for the year, 1098-Ts for tuition paid, or 1098-Es for student loan interest paid. Fourth, if itemizing, you will need supporting documents to include home mortgage interest statements, qualified medical or dental expenses, receipts from qualified charitable contributions, day care expenses and similar documents. Fifth, research what your filing status should be. Sixth, check your state revenue collector's website for anything you may need for your state income tax return, if one is required by your state of residency. Lastly, have a copy of last year's state and federal income tax returns.

The 2015 federal income tax year filing deadline is April 18. All federal returns must be filed by that date or the taxpayer will be subject to a late-filing penalty. However, as noted by IRS Publication 54, U.S. citizens who are in the military or naval service on duty outside of the U.S. and Puerto Rico,

MILITARY MEMBERS HAVE MANY TAX PREPARATION RESOURCES AVAILABLE...

qualify for a two-month extension to June 15, provided you attach a written statement to your return explaining you were outside the U.S. on a deployment on April 18.

Taxpayers may also file for a six-month extension by e-filing through an online tax preparation service or by mailing a Form 4868 prior to April 18. Please note that if you choose to file for a six-month extension, you must include a payment equaling your estimated tax liability, if any. Failure to include an

estimated payment with your request will subject you to late-payment penalties.

Military members have many tax preparation resources available to them. The IRS has a publication dedicated to military members' tax issues, Publication 3, The Armed Forces' Tax Guide, which can be found at https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p3.pdf. This publication is a good starting point for Armed Forces members to review prior to filing returns. Military OneSource has a tax portal that provides access to free tax filing through H&R Block, tax education links, and a hotline with tax consultants available. This resource can be found at http://www. militaryonesource.mil/financial-and-legal/ taxes. Last, the Navy Judge Advocate General's Corps has a website, which includes a yearly state tax guide providing information for each of the fifty state's income tax rules, and can be found at http://www.jag.navy.mil/ organization/code_16_tax_info.htm.

By appointment only, the NAVSTA Legal Assistance Office runs a self-help tax assistance center where service members can file their simple tax returns on Military OneSource or the H&R Block website and VITA certified volunteers will be available to answer basic questions. To make an appointment, call DSN 660-4692.

In the event you receive a notice from the IRS, you can make a legal assistance appointment with a Joint Task Force Guantanamo OSJA legal assistance attorney by calling DSN 660-8589.

Keep in mind that the IRS will never call you or your family. You will only receive notices by mail. If you received a call from someone stating they are from the IRS, it is a scam and you should terminate the call and contact local law enforcement. General tax filing inquiries should be directed to Military OneSource tax consultants.

The JTF-GTMO OSJA provides full-spectrum legal services and advice to the JTF command and its warfighters. If you have questions regarding the content of this article or need assistance with a personal civil legal assistance matter, please contact the JTF Legal Assistance office (Bldg. 2525 - x8589).

Courtesy article by

JTF OFFICE OF THE STAFF JUDGE ADVOCATE

Photo illustration by

ARMY SGT. CHRISTOPHER A. GARIBAY

ASSISTANCE FOR TROOPERS THROUGH TRANSITION PROGRAM



The countdown has started. You are nearing the end of your military career and ready to trade your combat boots for high heels, dress shoes or sandals. While all good things must come to an end, it is important to plan the next phase of your life and educate yourself on the resources and benefits you have earned during your military career. There are three general steps a service member should take before they make their way into civilian life.

The first step is to attend a pre-separation counseling. During this counseling, service members receive a checklist on which they are briefed during the course of the session. This particular program is lead by the Department of Defense and is available to Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers and U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, service members.

Petty Officer 1st Class Sean McCormick, command career counselor with NAVSTA, said the counseling benefits those who appreciate smaller class sizes and an abundance of information. Typically, those retiring should start this process 2 years out, others choosing not to extend should start 12 months before retirement.

"The class is about 2 hours long and covers all the benefits and entitlements service members have earned over the course of their military careers," said McCormick. "They are generally held at Bulkeley Hall and the next class is Dec. 2."

Troopers will go through the pre-separation counseling checklist, which encompasses more than a dozen sections of information including employment assistance, education and training, insurance, and veteran benefits.

Once Troopers complete this counseling, the next step is to attend the five-day Transition Goals, Plans, Success program, where Troopers are given a thorough overview of what to expect during the transition process. This program is led by the Department of Labor and is aimed at helping usher Troopers into the civilian workforce.

"In the civilian world, if you notify them you're leaving, you walk out the door and your time with them is over," said Emily Kolenda, work and family life specialist with Fleet and Family Support Center. "The military is more proactive in that they help you transition so you have a better success story."

Kolenda said the TGPS course benefits Troopers because of the individual attention Troopers receive in the class, similar to the pre-separation counseling. During the course, service members receive in-depth knowledge on veteran benefits, employment assistance and other entitlements they have earned during the course of their career.

Although it is a mandatory program, the feedback on the course is positive overall, said Catherine Koop, work and family life specialist with the FFSC. She said the most important piece of the course is that it provides Troopers with accurate and specific information to guide them through the transition process. If Troopers overlook information at first, they can participate in future events, and only sit in on the portions needed.

The final step in transitioning out of the military is the Capstone. Kolenda said it is the

ending event in the process. Once all forms are completed, and service members are informed of their entitlements and resources, their information is sent back to their personnel officials for out-processing.

Kolenda said giving yourself plenty of time will ensure a smoother transition out of the military. She said talking to your command to jumpstart your transition is the first step to initiate the process.

The three-phase transition assistance program is the culminating event of your military career. According to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics, 5.2 percent of male veterans and six percent of female veterans are unemployed. The relatively low unemployment is largely due to the successful implementation and use of these transition assistance programs. According to the Federal Reserve, the entity responsible for monetary policy and domestic and international financial conditions, a normal economy has unemployment rates between 4.7-5.8 percent.

Troopers interested in registering for preseparation counseling may contact McCormick at x4488 or email him at Sean.McCormick@gtmo.navy.mil. Troopers who have completed the initial counseling can contact the Emily Kolenda with Fleet and Family Service Center at x4141 or email her at Emily.kolenda.civ@gtmo.navy.mil to register for the TGPS class being from Dec. 7-11.

Article and photo illustration by

ARMY SGT. CHRISTOPHER A. GARIBAY



Marblehead Lanes Bowling Alley transformed into the '80s Cosmic Bowling event, Feb. 6, at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, adding disco lights and music videos from the '80s to the distinct black-lit cosmic bowling decor.



Navy Lt. Thomas A. Sarti, a nurse with the Joint Medical Group, rolls a bowling ball down his lane during the '80s Cosmic Bowling event held at the bowling alley Feb. 6.



Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers and NAVSTA residents filled the Marblehead Lanes Bowling Alley during the '80s Cosmic Bowling.



The brightly colored bowling balls sit in a rack at the Marblehead Lanes Bowling Alley giving off an iridescent glow.



Residents dressed up and posed for a photo in their '80s themed outfits for the event. Jennifer Hahn, pictured second from the right, won the evenings dress up competition impressing the crowd with her brightly colored leggings and crimped hairstyle.

WE GOT TO HOLD ON TO WHAT WE GOT: 4805 COSMIC BOWLING

The lights were turned down low and the music was turned up high at the '80s Cosmic Bowling event held at the Marblehead Lanes Bowling Alley on Feb. 6, at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The Rolling Stones, David Bowie, Madonna, Janet Jackson, Metallica, Van Halen and many more artists who performed throughout the '80s were played during the special bowling event.

If someone has never experienced a cosmic bowling event, it is a fairly simple idea. The normal florescent lights are turned down or off and black lights are turned on giving brightly colored objects a quasi "Tron" glow.

The '80s Cosmic Bowling event combined this idea with music and music videos played on huge projection screens in all four corners of the bowling alley. From a decade known for its bright colors and unique fashion trends, throw in a few disco ball party lights for effect, and it seems like a recipe for fun.

"We are on a remote island, people here look for different stuff and doing something like this makes it feel a little more like home," said Annetta V. Robinson the manager of the bowling alley. "I spoke to the community events coordinator, John Gilligan and he and I worked together on putting the '80s night on."

Those in attendance seemed to enjoy the evenings' music and events, which included a '80s dress competition and raffle giveaways.

This is Coast Guardsman Petty Officer 1st Class Chris Schmidt's eighth time to GTMO in 10 years, but it was his first time attending the '80s event here.

Schmidt is a crew member of the Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron Jacksonville.

"Most of these guys were born in or young in the '80s, so it's pretty cool to have something like this with all the music from that time," said Schmidt.

Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers Army Sgt. Robert H. Pant, an operations noncommissioned officer with the 525th Military Police Battalion, along with Army Sgt. Philip Gavin and Army Sgt. Mike L. Noel, also members of the 525 MP Bn., all served together in Afghanistan before being deployed to GTMO together.

"It's awesome," said Pant. "I am an '80s kid and I'm enjoying telling these younger guys old stories about when my generation was younger; sitting in the basement before internet, watching MTV back when they actually played music (videos) like the ones on here."

Robinson said she and Gilligan asked around to see what themes people would be interested in and try to implement those themes in various events to make them unique and fun.

"I would like to tell the GTMO community that we are here, and if they feel like they need a place to go, they can come here," said Robinson. "You can chat with your families on the Wi-Fi, get some food or just hang out...so come on down and enjoy what we have..."

Article and photos by

ARMY SGT. CHARLIE HELMHOLT

PERFECT PLACE TO SET GOALS, WRITE YOUR OWN STORY



"Good writing is supposed to evoke sensation in the reader – not the fact that it is raining, but the feeling of being rained upon." – E.L Doctorow

I have always loved reading and writing, at times I feel they go hand in hand. From having Tolkien read to me as a child to devouring Weiss, Hickman, Lackey, Rowling, and dozens of others as soon as I could pick up their books, the written word has always been an extremely important part of my life. One side effect of the love of reading has been a strong desire to create something of my own and to share it with the world.

If there is something concrete, physical and tangible I can take away from this tour of duty, it is that I have finally had the opportunity to fulfill the goal of writing a book.

I have been asked many questions by my friends and coworkers such as, how did you do it? Where did you find the time? Was it hard to do? Why did you do it? What was it like?

The simple answer to encompass all of those questions is that I made the time. I made the effort. Call it cheesy, call it trite, but if you want to accomplish your goals and to do the things you dream of - you have to be willing to obsess; want it more than you want sleep, have free time or take naps.

I knew coming into this deployment that I had goals to accomplish and this would be a perfect opportunity to accomplish them. I found, as I suspected, I had an inordinately low number of distractions at Guantanamo Bay,

Cuba. I could either go to the Windjammer, beach, sit around playing video games every night, or I could use the isolation and lack of places to go as a great way to focus my energy on things which would impact me beyond this tour.

I had normal deployment goals as well, such as getting fit, participate in a 5K and improve my fitness test results. While I have also accomplished those, I knew this was

...PICK A PROJECT, SOMETHING MANAGEABLE, MEANINGFUL AND IMPACTFUL

the time and place to embark on a larger project. In my case, I chose my novel and for 90 days, I dedicated time every single night to accomplish my goal.

I stayed late at the office, writing anywhere from a few hundred to a few thousand words per night on my personal laptop, fueled by coffee and a strong desire to succeed.

I set goals for myself such as writing 1,000 words in one night, completing chapter three

by the upcoming weekend, no sleep until this page is done and the like.

People frequently asked how I did it or what the secret to getting it done was.

There is no secret. I accomplished this just like anyone else accomplishes their goals, through working hard and simply making it happen.

So, here is my advice to you: pick a project, something manageable, meaningful and impactful. Choose something you really, really want to accomplish. Then do it.

Put in time every single day. Make yourself accountable by setting short-term goals and reaching them. Do not spend time playing video games or watching movies, until you have reached your daily goal. Playing one more round of "Call of Duty" stops mattering the moment you set down the controller, but accomplishing your big goal, whether it be a novel or something else, will matter for the rest of your life.

I am a firm believer in the idea that people can accomplish a great deal more than they allow themselves to, and I am no exception. Maybe nothing serious will ever come of my book but I can walk away with something I did, can be proud of, and check off my bucket list. A pipe dream made real.

Article by

ARMY SGT. IAN WITHROW
Photo illustration by
ARMY SGT. CHARLIE HELMHOLT

IN THEATERS THIS WEEK

The Downtown Lyceum showtimes are shown in the top row and the Camp Bulkeley Lyceum showtimes are displayed in the bottom row.



The Revenant (New) R, 7 p.m. The Big Short R, 9 p.m.	13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi (New) R, 7 p.m. Daddy's Home (LS) PG13, 9:30 p.m.	Norm of the North (New) PG, 6:30 p.m. Kung Fu Panda 3 PG, 8:30 p.m.	The Forest PG13, 7 p.m. Ride Along 2 PG13, 9 p.m.	Point Break (LS) PG13, 7 p.m.	Joy PG13, 7 p.m.	Concussion PG13, 7 p.m.
2/12 FRIDAY	2/13 SATURDAY	2/14 SUNDAY	2/15 MONDAY	2/16 TUESDAY	2/17 WEDNESDAY	2/18 THURSDAY
2 Guns <i>R, 8 p.m.</i>	Think Like a Man PG13, 8 p.m.	As Above, So Below <i>R, 8 p.m.</i>	LYCEUM CLOSED	This Means War PG13, 8 p.m.	LYCEUM	The Goonies PG, 8 p.m.

Call the Movie Hotline @ 4880 or visit the MWR Facebook for more info.

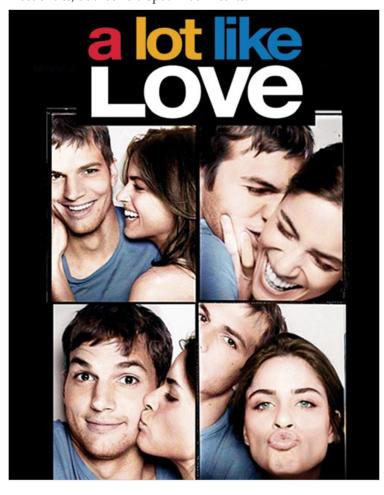
Concessions at Bulkeley are closed until further notice Stay classy, GTMO! No alcohol or tobacco at the Lyceums.

*Want to write a movie review for The Wire? Send your movie review to: thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil

MOVIE REVIEW / A LOT LIKE LOVE



Ah Valentine's Day, the mixed-bag holiday that stands for love or loneliness, for sweet gifts or for corporatized social engineering. Some people love it, others hate it. For me, it is the perfect excuse to cuddle up with my wife and watch one of our favorite warm and fuzzy movies. This year, unlike previous years, we will still watch a movie together, but in separate places. What's our movie of choice this year? "A Lot Like Love," the 2005 film that went underrated by most critics, but found a spot in our hearts.



Oliver Martin (Ashton Kutcher) plays opposite Emily Friehl (Amanda Peet). The story itself is one of love, poor timing, serendipity and struggle and it will work its way into your heart more and more with each fresh viewing.

Oliver and Emily meet on a flight from Los Angeles to New York, hitting it off spontaneously but ultimately deciding they are better off heading separate ways.

Nonetheless, the next seven years have them meeting time and time again as their lives tumble through the kind of relatable mishaps we can all identify with.

I know it is a 10-year-old movie, but I still loathe spilling too many plot points. So, I will give you the skinny instead. It is a love story about two twenty-something adults, who grow more and more in love. Boy, Oliver, meets girl, Emily, but she is in a relationship and he misses his chance. After they go their separate ways, they meet again, only this time Oliver is the one taken and Emily is not. The pattern repeats as the two grow into adulthood.

The writing itself is, at times, more than a little corny but take the film for what it is; a couple of kids who suddenly find themselves grown-ups, falling in love slowly. I think it gives a realistic sense of place and touches on real world struggles and roadblocks to love. It has relatable characters that you come to know well.

The sound track deserves an honorable mention as well, it has solid track after solid track, including the breakout single "2 a.m." by then newcomer Anna Nalick, as well as other millennial pop tunes and even some very well-timed Bon Jovi hits.

As a personal favorite, I give this film five banana rats. I think the greatness of this movie lies not in just one piece of the puzzle, but rather in the sum of all the parts. There are times when the dialogue is tired or the scenery is maybe a touch drab, in each single piece you could poke at the holes where the filmmakers have goofed in some way. Together though, they form a patchwork quilt that, from my perspective, certainly looks a lot like love.

"A Lot Like Love" is rated PG-13 for sexual content, nudity and language.

Movie review by

ARMY SGT. IAN WITHROW

MVR 2016 SPORTS SCHEDULE

Starting dates are subject to change. All leagues last 2-3 months, including playoffs.

MONTH / DAY

.....

February 13 February 15 February 16 February 20 February 27

March 5 March 12 March 14

March 14 March 19 March 26

April 2 April 4 April 11

April 16 April 18 April 23

May 7 May 9 May 14

May 14-15 May 20-21

June 4 June 11 June 18

June 25 June 27

July 2 July 2 July 4

July 11 July 16

July 23 July 25

August 6 August 8

August 13 August 20 August 20

August 22 August 27

September 3September 5
September 6

September 11 September 13

September 17

October 22 October 29

November 5

November 19 November 24

November 26

December 3 December 9

December 23 December 24

ACTIVITY

Adult 1 Mile Swim Dodgeball Trnmnt. Basketball League starts GTMO Mudder **Sprint Triathlon** Northeast Gate Run Max Performance Games Ultimate Frisbee League Lucky Dog 5K Aquatics Easter Egg Hunt April Fools' Softball Trnmnt. Softball League starts Flag Football League starts Youth Swim Meet Golf League Olympic Triathlon Color Run Indoor Volleyball League Adult 500 Yard Swim GTMO Golf Open Captain's Cup Events Max Performance Games JPJ 5 Miler Youth Summer Splash Power Lifting Meet Soccer League starts Softball Tournament Ridgeline Trail Run **Golf Tournament** Basketball League starts Cable Beach Run Adult Swim Sprint 300 Yard Badminton League starts Duathlon Beach Volleyball League Paddle, Pedal, Paintball Back to School Splash Fitness & Figure Ultimate Frisbee League All-Night Softball Trnmnt. Sprint Triathlon **Golf Tournament** Co-Ed Softball League 9/11 Memorial Run Flag Football League starts Adult 100 Yard Swim Meet Glow Run Zombie Run Olympic Triathlon Max Performance Games

SUPER BOWL BRINGS CHEERS, JEERS



Troopers and residents watch Super Bowl 50, between the Carolina Panthers and the Denver Broncos, on the big screen TV at the Windjammer Ballroom at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba on Feb. 7.

Cheers, jeers, groans and roars took place across U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, during Super Bowl 50, between the Carolina Panthers and the Denver Broncos on Feb. 7.

While some Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers went to the Windjammer Ballroom to view the game on the big screen, many decided to stay in the Cuzco Barracks or come together in the common area of Windward Loop. In any case, Super Bowl 50, one of the country's most popular forms of entertainment, drew 114 million viewers worldwide. Members of the JTF came together to see the showcase between two prolific quarterbacks – Cam Newton of the Panthers and Peyton Manning of the Broncos, who are at different points in their careers.

While many who follow football believe this may be Manning's last year the playing the sport professionally, Newton's career is just starting, this being his best season thus far, highlighted by his Most Valuable Player award. The story of the night, however, would end up being about how effective the Bronco's defense was against the Panthers, who have torched teams offensively throughout the postseason.

Two competing fans, viewing the game at the Windjammer Ballroom, wearing their respective teams' jerseys, were very positive about having a venue to watch the game.

"I think it's great GTMO has places where people can enjoy the game on the big screen TV," said Hayley Morrison, a Panthers fan. "This weekend is awesome; it's a nice change."

She was confident her team would win, despite Carolina being down 7-13 at half-time.

Charles Long, a Broncos fan, said this game brought retribution from his team's last Super Bowl appearance.

"I'm very appreciative of what GTMO has

provided as far as festivities," said Long. "It's a good time to watch it out here."

Those at the Windjammer Ballroom had enough space and seats in the large room to watch the half-time show, one of the most grand performances of the year. This year's performance consisted of Coldplay, Beyoncé and Bruno Mars. The three artists were generally well received in previous Super Bowl appearances and to have all three for this half-time show was less visually extravagant than usual

Some Troopers decided it was better to stay home to watch the game. They hooked up TVs, pulled benches together, and hosted potlucks during the game. Those interested were glued to their seats, while others simply lingered in the general area.

"This is our home and this is our family," said Alexis Ball, a Panthers fan, said she was stressed out by the second half. "We didn't want to be anywhere else or around loud and obnoxious people, so it was a great choice to be here."

In the end, it was the Broncos who were victorious. They won handily, 24-10, in a game that was thought to be an offensive battle, but quickly became a defensive clash. Broncos linebacker, Von Miller, won the evening's MVP award, racking up six tackles, two and a half sacks and causing two forced fumbles from Newton, both leading to touchdowns.

While away from home, Troopers made the most of their experience here. The common theme was Troopers gathering to share a memorable experience of their deployment, watching the Super Bowl at GTMO.

Article and photo by

ARMY SGT. CHRISTOPHER A. GARIBAY

Thanksgiving Half & 5K

Power Lifting Competition

Holiday Basketball Trnmnt.

Across the Bay Swim

Army vs. Navy Game

Jingle Bell Fun Run

KICKIN BALLS TRIUMPHS IN OPENING WEEK OF KICKBALL

To open the season, two teams faced off on the youth baseball field on Cooper Field at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, for a Morale, Welfare & Recreation kickball game Feb. 4. *Kickin Balls* left victorious, beating *BEEF 18*, 5-0, cruising to their second win.

"We are playing pretty well together," said Tyler Teadt, shortstop and coach for *Kickin Balls*. "More importantly we are having fun. It feels good."

This being the second game of the year, the team was rusty their first game, said Teadt.

Kickin Balls did not play kickball together before this season. On the offensive side of the game, their team was able to kick the ball properly, which led to them finding holes in the opposing team's defense.

BEEF 18 struggled to get runners past second base while *Kickin Balls* was able to get runners on base every single inning. *Kickin Balls* scored a single run in the first inning and struck gold again with two more in the second inning to take a 3-0 lead, which is all they needed as their team played lights-out on the defensive side.

According to Trevor Webber, shortstop for *BEEF 18*, the young season has brought on some challenges. *BEEF 18*, also having never



Kickin Balls center fielder, Kenneth Deist, attempts to kick the ball in the first inning. Kickin Balls came away victorious against BEEF 18, winning 5-0.



The first baseman, Joseph Oblek, a team member of Kickin Balls, attempts to tag Adam J. Brand, a BEEF 18 runner, out during the kickball game, Feb. 4, at Cooper Field, at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

played together before, Webber added, the first few games were more or less trial and error.

"We are hoping that every game is a better learning experience," said Webber. "We are already starting to get a hang of it and getting that chemistry as a team. We will definitely come closer together as a team."

Throughout each game, team members will be evaluated and moved to different positions based on where they fit best, said Shane Price, third baseman for *Kickin Balls*.

"We don't get to see each other that much," said Price. "When there are opportunities like playing kickball or soccer, we all come out. There were a lot of people who wanted to play. It doesn't take a lot of skill to play, just kick the ball and have some fun."

Kickin Balls scored two more runs in the fourth inning to push them to the winning score of 5-0, but no one could muster any more runs and after seven quick innings. One team cheered and the other walked off the field waiting for the next game. Kickin Balls has moved to 2-0 as BEEF 18 has fallen to 0-2 for the short season.

"The ultimate goal is to be undefeated and win a championship," said Teadt.

Kickball League occurs every Monday through Friday night with games starting at 7 p.m., 8 p.m. and 9 p.m. at the youth baseball field on Cooper Field.

Article and photos by

ARMY SGT. RYAN L. TWIST

MWR KICKBALL

No.	Team Name	Standings
01	Blue Ballers	2-0
02	Cyclone Enforcers	2-0
03	Flying Monkeys	2-0
04	Kickin Balls	2-0
05	The Innocent Runs	2-0
06	Wu-Tang Forever	2-1
07	Ball Kickers	1-1
08	443rd MP Co	1-1
09	Ballsagna	1-1
10	Iguanamo	1-1
11	EWA	1-2
12	GTMO Latinos Plus	1-2
13	BEEF 18	0-2
14	Confusions	0-2
15	Mountain Maniacs	0-2
16	Ballz on Fuego	0-3

MWR SOCCER

MALE

		IVIALE
No.	Team Name	Standings
01	Manchester City	4-0-0
02	Fire Department	3-0-0
03	XMart	3-1-0
04	NEX United	2-2-0
05	Shamuri	2-3-0
06	Spartans	1-2-0
07	Manchesthair United	1-2-0
08	Young Strikers	0-3-0
		FEMALE
Nο	Team Name	Standinas

No.	leam Name	Standings
01	MisFits	3-0-0
02	One Love	1-1-0
03	Soccer Bombers	0-3-0



SCULPT YOUR BODY BY SWIMMING

Arm day, leg day, abdominal day. Workout enthusiasts often break their exercise regimen up into pieces to target specific muscle groups in an effort to maximize their results. What if there was a way to target almost every muscle group simultaneously? Fortunately, there is-swimming. Swimming targets arms, legs, chest and back and will give you a sculpted beach body in no time.

Your body will burn around 500 calories after an hour of moderate swimming and will boost your metabolism for long after you have dried off. Swimming requires greater breath control and has more aerobic benefits than running, according to www.bodybuilding.com.

Additionally, swimming is a very low-impact activity, meaning it is perfect for someone with bad knees or recovering from an injury. Unlike running, it will not give you shin splints or blisters.

At U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, there are not only pools to swim in, but also an ocean available to swim. While swimming is a great exercise, it can be just as risky as pushing around heavy weights in a gym.

Staying safe is important and the first step is to be comfortable and confident in your ability to swim, especially in open water.

One thing to keep in mind for open water swimming is to wear goggles. It may seem silly, but being able to see will help you navigate more clearly, as well as protecting your eyes from the unfortunate burn of the salt water.

As with anything, swimming has its risks, but the benefits are incredible. If you are not a big swimmer, it could be an exciting change for you!

Article by

ARMY SGT. IAN WITHROW



INTIMACY: MORE THAN ROMANCE

With Valentine's Day around the corner, our loved ones are on our minds. Not just our romantic relationships, but all with whom are we are close or intimate with. Intimacy is more than just romance or a physical act; it is a familiar, loving, personal relationship with another person or group.

There are many forms of intimacy including intellectual, experiential, emotional and passionate. Intellectual intimacy is where two people exchange thoughts and ideas and enjoy similarities and differences between their opinions. Experiential intimacy includes the time you spend with those you are close to doing mutually enjoyable activities. Emotional intimacy is when two people can comfortably share their feelings and they empathize with each other while trying to understand and be aware of the other person's emotional side. Passionate intimacy includes any sensual expression between people such as, hand holding or big hugs.

Two ways you can strengthen, the intimacy in your relationship is through awareness and knowledge. Be aware of yourself and where you

are comfortable or not comfortable. Every intimate relationship does not have to include all the types of intimacy mentioned, in fact, most would only include one or two. Many compatible and satisfying intimate relationships can exist in any one of the four areas or combination of those areas.

Lastly, although it is a bit more difficult, intimacy can be achieved from a distance. For Valentine's Day or any time of year, take time out of your day to show your loved ones you care. You could send a letter expressing your feelings, a funny card with an inside joke or make a photo collage of fun memories together. You could also, stop by the Joint Task Force Guantanamo Chaplain's office to read a story while being video recorded to send a book and video home to your child or any other special small person in your life. All these suggestions will help you show your loved ones you care, even from a distance.

Article by

NAVY PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS JONNI GILLISPIE

Joint Medical Group



ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY FEB. 12

881 – Pope John VIII crowns Charles the Fat, the King of Italy: Holy Roman Emperor.

1429 – English forces under Sir John Fastolf defend a supply convoy carrying rations to the army besieging Orléans from attack by the Comte de Clermont and Sir John Stewart of Darnley in the Battle of Rouvray, also known as the Battle of the Herrings.

1554 – A year after claiming the throne of England for nine days, Lady Jane Grey is beheaded for treason.

1593 - Japanese invasion of Korea: Approximately 3,000 Joseon defenders led by General Kwon Yul successfully repel more than 30,000 Japanese forces in the Siege of Haengju.

1733 - Englishman James Oglethorpe founds Georgia, the 13th colony of the Thirteen Colonies, and its first city at Savannah, known as Georgia Day.

1825 - The Creek cede the last of their lands in Georgia to the U.S. government by the Treaty of Indian Springs and migrate west.

1909 - New Zealand's worst maritime disaster of the 20th century

happens when the passenger steamer Penguin, an inter-island ferry, sinks and explodes at the entrance to Wellington Harbour.

1914 - In Washington, D.C., the first stone of the Lincoln Memorial is put into place.

1921 - Bolsheviks launch a revolt in Georgia as a preliminary to the Soviet invasion of Georgia.

1946 – African American U.S. Army veteran Isaac Woodard is severely beaten by a South Carolina police officer to the point where he loses his vision in both eyes. The incident later galvanizes the Civil Rights Movement and partially inspires Orson Welles' film "Touch of Evil."

1994 – Four men break into the National Gallery of Norway and steal Edvard Munch's iconic painting "The Scream."

2001 - Near Earth Asteroid Rendezvous, Shoemaker spacecraft touches down in the "saddle" region of 433 Eros, becoming the first spacecraft to land on an asteroid.

Article by

ARMYSGT. CHARLIE HELMHOLT

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

ROMAN CATHOLIC (NAVSTA Chapel)

Saturday* 1700

Sunday* 0900 (Side Chapel)

Mon-Thurs* 1730&0900

PROTESTANT SERV. (JTF Troopers' Chapel)

Sunday* 0900&1900

Friday night movie Friday 1900

PROTESTANT SERV. (NAVSTA Chapel)

Traditional* 0900&1900 Annex Room 1 Sunday Contemporary* Sunday 1100 Main Chapel

Sunday 1300 Main Chapel Gospel

OTHER SERV. (NAVSTA Chapel)

1315 Annex Room 2 Islamic Prayers Friday

7th Day Adventist Saturday 0900 Annex Room 1 (Sabbath School)

> 1100 Annex Room 1 (Sabbath Service) Saturday

Latter Day Saints Sunday 0900 Annex Room 19 Pentecostal Sunday 0800 Annex Room D

Sunday 1700 Annex Room D

1800 Main Chapel (Non-denominational) Christian Fellowship* Sunday

1900 Call JTF Chaplain for location* *Jewish Study* Friday

BIBLE STUDIES (JTF Troopers' Chapel)

1900 JTF Troopers' Chapel Monday Wednesday 1800 JTF Troopers' Chapel 1900 JTF Troopers' Chapel Saturday

DAVE RAMSEY'S FINANCIAL PEACE / MILITARY EDITION (JTF Troopers' Chapel)

1900 Taught by Navy Chaplain Tuesday

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS

1830 NAVSTA Chapel Annex, Room 16 Mon/Wed/Sat

These services are conducted by Army or Navy chaplains / For more information call ext. 2218*

FERRY SCHEDULE

Game Night

Monday - Saturday

FERRY Windward:

0630/0730/0930/1030/1130/1330/1530/

1630

Leeward:

0700/ 0800/ 1000/ 1100/ 1200/ 1400/ 1600

UTILITY BOAT Windward:

1630/1730/1830/2030/2230/2330

Leeward:

1700/ 1800/ 1900/ 2100/ 2300/ 0000

Sunday & Holidays

FERRY

Windward:

0730 / 1330

Leeward:

0800 / 1400

UTILITY BOAT

Windward:

1030/ 1530/ 1730/ 1830/ 2030/ 2230

1100/ 1600/ 1800/ 1900/ 2100/ 2300

BUS SCHEDULE 05:00 - 01:00

Camp America :00/:20/:40

Gazebo:01/:18/:21/:38/:41/:58

Camp America NEX :02/:17/:22/:37/:42/:57

Camp Delta :04/:13/:24/:33/:44/:53

Camp 6:07/10/:27/:30/:47/:50

HQ Building:55/:15/:35 TK 1:01/:17/:21/:37/:41/:57

TK 2:02/:16/:22/:36/:42/:56 TK 3:03/:15/:23/:35/:43/:55

TK 4:04/:13/:24/:33/:44/:53 CC:00/:19/:20/:39/:40/:59

JAS:14/:34/:54

Windjammer / Gym

:02/:17/:22/:37/:42/:57

Gold Hill Galley :04/:15/:24/:35/:44/:55

NEX:06/:13/:26/:33/:46/:53 NEX Laundry:07/:27/:47

C Pool:10/:30/:50

Downtown Lyceum:11/:31/:51

EXPRESS BUS SCHEDULE 09:55 - 19:55

Camp America:48/:55

TK 1:05/:36

Windjammer / Gym:11/:31 Gold Hill Galley:14/:29

NEX:16/:27

Downtown Lyceum: 17/:25

BEACHBUS (Saturday & Sunday only)

Windward Loop / E. Caravella:

0900/0930/1200/1230/1500/1530/1800/

1830

SBOQ / Marina:

0905/0935/1205/1235/1505/1535/1805/

1835 NEX:

0908/0925/1208/1225/1508/1525/1808/

1825

Phillips Park: 0914/1214/1514/1814 Cable Beach: 0917/1217/1517/1817

Return to Office: 0940/1240/1540/1840

JTF CHAPLAINS OFFER SCHEDULED HOURS AT IGUANA CAFÉ

In an effort to better serve Troopers near their living quarters, Joint Task Force Guantanamo chaplains will be available weekday afternoons at the Iguana Café in the Naval Station Chapel Annex starting Feb. 15 from 1-4 p.m. A private office at the annex is also available for confidential counseling.

Monday: Chaplain Brown at x84679 Tuesday: Chaplain Cox at x55312 Wednesday: Chaplain Dettmer at x84838 Thursday: Chaplain Lofton at x84733 Friday: Chaplain Hoskins at x84522

Photo by Jeffery L. Walling PARTING SHOT



'IGUANA IN A LOG' BY JEFFERY L. WALLING. FOR A CHANCE TO HAVE YOUR PHOTO FEATURED IN THE PARTING SHOT, PLEASE SEND SUBMISSIONS TO: THEWIRE@ JTFGTMO.SOUTHCOM.MIL

THEWIRE

