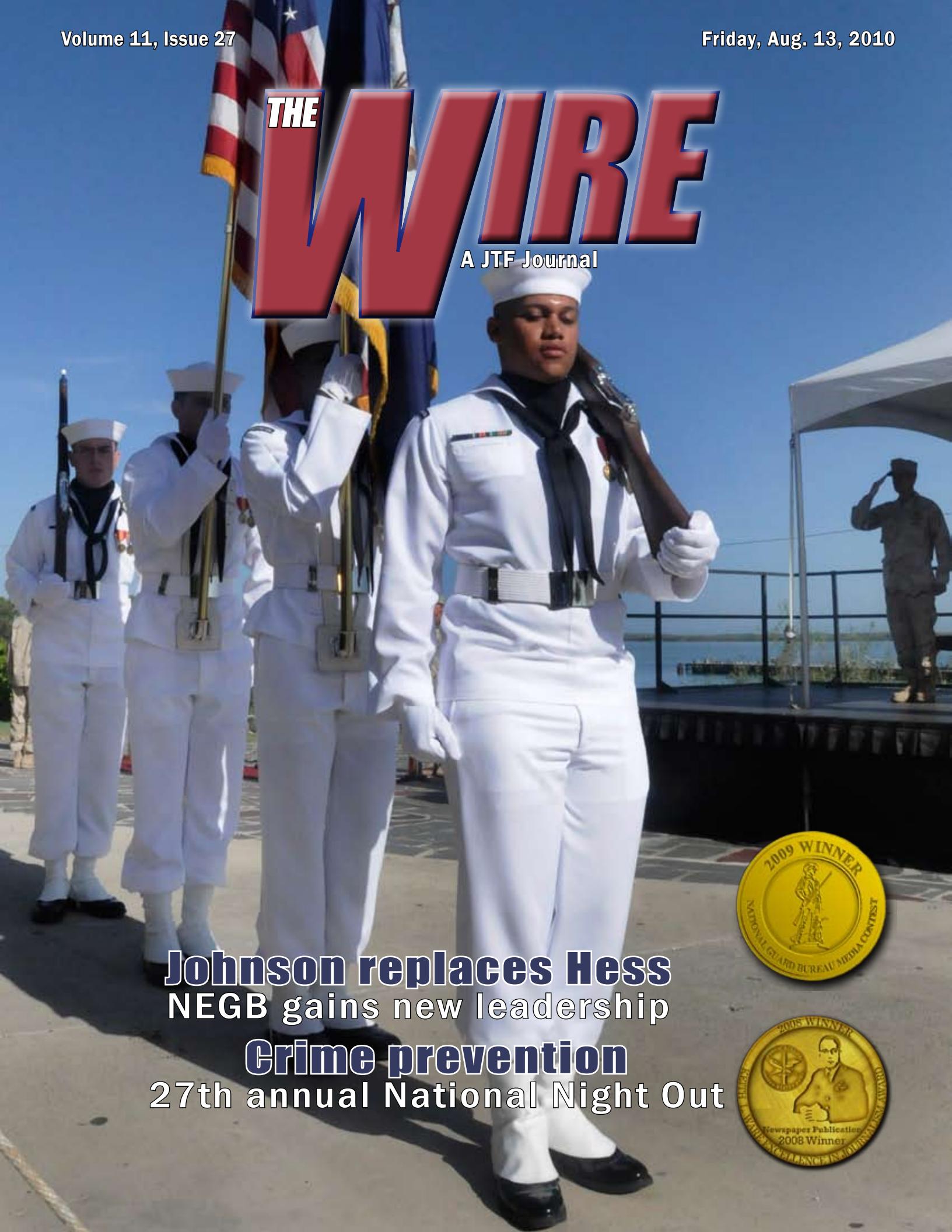


THE

# THE WIRE

A JTF Journal



**Johnson replaces Hess  
NEG Bureau gains new leadership  
Crime prevention  
27th annual National Night Out**



# Self-esteem

## ■ Boost Troopers self-esteem and confidence daily

Army Master Sgt. Grant P. Henne Sr.  
J2 Non-Commissioned Officer-in-Charge

Recently we all participated in the suicide prevention training program. During this training, you should have learned the value that self-esteem plays in the prevention of suicide. I am bringing up this subject because I believe that a person's self-esteem has a great deal to do with how he or she copes with life's stresses and the ability to succeed in today's military.

Troopers who feel good about themselves, their job and their life are less likely to make decisions that can lead to failure. Troopers who possess high self-esteem face each day with a positive "can do" attitude.

As leaders, we should foster an attitude of positive self-esteem in those whom we lead and mentor. All of our fellow Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Coast Guardsmen and Marines should know that the way in which we see ourselves reflects on those with whom we work. If we reflect a positive image and attitude that others can see, then this attitude of self-assurance will lead to a positive working environment.

It is incumbent upon us to enhance our Troops' self-esteem through team building, mentoring and discipline. Troopers come to us from every walk of life, and as leaders it is important for us to take the time to learn about their individual strengths and weaknesses. Some Troopers will walk on the field, and need only a pat on the back and a "go get 'em" to perform up to or above standard. Others will come to us with low self-esteem and feelings, which may hinder their ability to successfully compete with the fast movers. This is why many good Troopers are afraid to step forward and take a chance.

It is our job as leaders and future leaders to teach these Troopers that failing is not necessarily a bad thing. Failure teaches us where we went wrong and allows us to fix the problem.

Abraham Lincoln stated, "I don't think much of a man who is not wiser today than he was yesterday." Continuous reinforcement and encouragement will help improve Troopers' self-esteem, and this will pay dividends down the road. This time and effort will hopefully give those Troopers who are teetering on the edge just enough confidence to step forward and say, "I want to learn, can you help me?" All you can say to that is "Absolutely, let's get this done!"★



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Air Force Master Sgt. John Asselin: 3649

## The Wire

**Executive Editor, Command Information NCOIC, Photojournalist:**

Navy Mass Communication Specialist  
1st Class Edward Flynn: 3592

**Editor, Photojournalist:**

Army Sgt. Tiffany Addair: 3499

**Photojournalists:**

Air Force Tech. Sgt. Michael R. Holzworth  
Navy Mass Communication Specialist  
2nd Class Shane Arrington  
Army Spc. Juanita Philip  
Navy Mass Communication Specialist  
3rd Class Joshua R. Nistas  
Navy Mass Communication Specialist  
3rd Class Kellie Bliss  
Marine Corps Lance Cpl.  
Anthony Ward Jr.

## Contact us

**Editor's Desk:** 3499 or 3594

From the continental United States:

**Commercial:** 011-53-99-3499

**DSN:** 660-3499

**E-mail:** thewire@jftgtnmo.southcom.mil

**Online:** www.jftgtnmo.southcom.mil

**COVER:**  
A Navy color guard parades the colors during Joint Task Force Guantanamo's Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion change of command ceremony at the Bayview, Aug. 4. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Kellie Bliss

**BACK COVER:**  
Navy Master-at-Arms Seaman Ike Lee Go, a patrolman for Naval Station Guantanamo's security department, stands guard on the pier as the multi-purpose amphibious assault ship USS Iwo Jima (LHD 7) prepares to depart Guantanamo Bay after refueling and taking on supplies, Aug. 4. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Joshua R. Nistas

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.

# NEGB command changes hands



**Navy Cmdr. William Johnson, commanding officer of the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion, salutes while passing through sideboys at the NEGB change of command ceremony, Aug. 4. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Joshua R. Nistas**

**Navy Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class**

**Edward Flynn**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Navy Cmdr. William Johnson assumed command of the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion from Navy Cmdr. Richard Hess during a change of command ceremony at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Aug. 4. The NEGB provides a large portion of the guard force at the Joint Task Force Guantanamo detention facilities.

After he assumed command, Johnson took the opportunity to recognize Hess for his hard work and determined leadership as commander of NEGB. Johnson also praised the guard force for their professionalism and hard work in how they carry out the mission of the JTF.

Navy Rear Adm. Michael P. Tillotson, commander of Navy Expeditionary Combat Command (NECC), delivered the ceremony's keynote address and thanked Hess for his outstanding leadership and keen insight in this strategic assignment.

As the commander of NEGB, Hess enforced strict standards in all facets of detention operations. He also played a pivotal role in infrastructure improvement, project development and upgrades within all the camps – both for detainee comfort and better work conditions for the guard battalion.

In one of the most challenging and highly visible, joint and multi-agency

assignments, Hess led the battalion through several company rotations. He led and commanded over 70 percent of the entire Joint Detention Group guard force, and sustained an unprecedented level of proficiency and operational readiness despite intense international, political and media scrutiny.

Tillotson praised Hess for his exceptional attention to detail, which ensured detainees were treated with dignity. Hess was instrumental in improving relationships at all levels within the chain of command, obtaining better gear and improving the quality of life and increasing morale of NEGB Troopers, according to Tillotson.

Johnson, the incoming NEGB commander, enlisted in the Navy in 1982 and rose to the rank of chief petty officer. Johnson served as a limited duty officer (surface electronics) for 17 years. His most recent tours included the Bureau of Naval Personnel as the surface electronics and ordnance officer detailer. It was here when he was selected as executive officer of Naval Weapons Station, Yorktown, Va. Johnson completed a tour as the surface limited duty officer and chief warrant assignments PERS-414 branch head.

In his departing comments, Hess acknowledged the exceptional contributions made by the NEGB guard force.

"I have been extremely honored to have the privilege of leading such an extraordinary group of men and women in this unique and challenging strategic detention mission," Hess said. "The [guard force] perseveres and does a tremendous job. They are truly a tribute to our youth, the United States of America and to the United States Navy." ♦

# A CASUAL attitude toward safeTY = CASUALTY

Army Sgt. Tiffany Addair  
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Joint Task Force Guantanamo has an interest in keeping Troopers safe. When a workplace is safe, Troopers feel more comfortable and confident in their jobs. The safety office strives to promote safety and ensure commands are in line with safety laws.

"A good safety officer wants to promote a safety-conscious culture foremost," said Army Chief Warrant Officer 4 Graham Vockroth, JTF safety officer. "Also, we help commands comply with federal safety laws."

With only two months since arriving on island Vockroth has hit the ground running, conducting inspections and updating important safety information.

One of Vockroth's main missions is to make sure commands are in compliance with federal laws. One of the major safety organizations is the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. OSHA is a proponent of the Department of Labor and Vockroth serves as an OSHA inspector under the DoD.

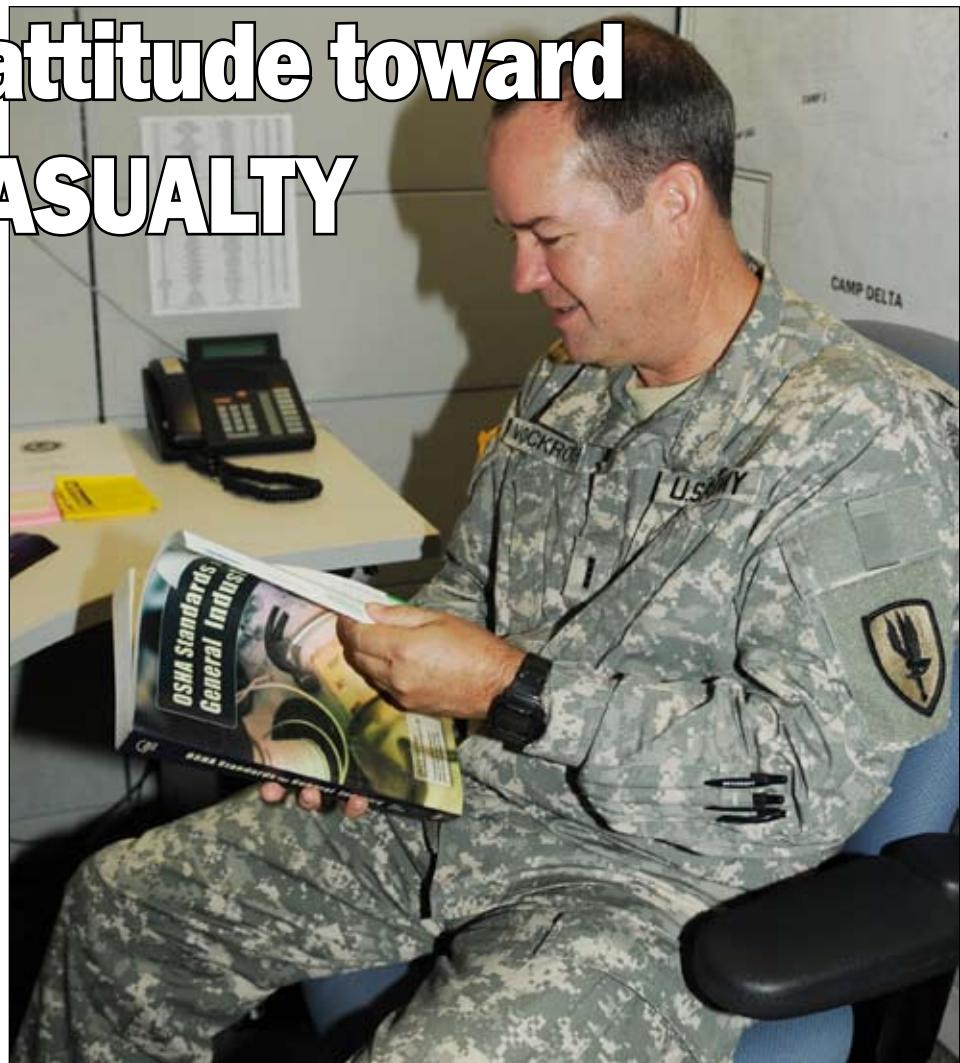
At JTF safety is important. According to Vockroth, every unit should have a safety officer and be in compliance with federal policies regarding safety.

In addition to unit safety officers, a safety council meets quarterly to discuss safety issues and any foreseeable safety concerns. Also, the JTF safety office has a good relationship with the Naval Station Guantanamo Bay safety office. He can go to them with any questions, and vice versa.

"The JTF and base safety offices work closely together," said Joseph J. Perfetto, base safety manager. "Vockroth has a good knowledge of safety; however, if he has any questions the base will assist him in any way that we can."

A primary concern on everyone's minds is water safety. Being deployed to a tropical location, many service members engage in water related activities. Whether you are an experienced diver or just a snorkeler, Vockroth stressed the importance of water safety and gave some tips on how to stay safe.

"If you are out in the open ocean and you aren't diving, just swimming, you



**Army Chief Warrant Officer 4 Graham Vockroth, Joint Task Force Guantanamo safety officer, peruses an Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards book, Aug. 6. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Tiffany Addair**

should wear a mask, snorkel and fins," Vockroth said. "Don't fight the rip currents if they grab you, just let the current take you because if you fight the ocean, the ocean is going to win. Make sure you are with a buddy; maybe even have someone on shore to call for help if necessary."

Recently the Cost Guard has stepped up to take on rescue missions.

"The MSST 91104 is starting to take on additional responsibilities they never had," Vockroth said. "They are coming up with a memorandum of understanding to support the base for water rescue."

New safety updates to the newcomers brief were made and up-to-date information was added on the safety page on the intranet under J1.

An important message that Vockroth emphasized was to follow the standard.

"A good safety officer is a standards guy," Vockroth said. "Every task and every activity, there is a proper way and a not so proper way to do things. The main root cause to accidents is a violation of a standard or not doing something properly."

Safety concerns can be reported free from fear of reprimand from your chain of command.

"I am bound by OSHA regulations to keep confidentiality," Vockroth said. "Not only is a chaplain a person that has confidentiality rights, but so are safety officers in regards to safety issues that people report or accident information."

If you have any safety concerns or ideas you can e-mail Vockroth at safety@jtfgrmo.southcom.mil. Check the safety page for resources and updated information at <https://intranet/j1/safety.html>. ☈

# JTF

# SAFETY

# Salt shakes it up

Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class

Shane Arrington

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Angelina Jolie is no Matt Damon; though really, who is? But Evelyn Salt could be Jason Bourne's long lost sister.

"Salt" stars Jolie as hardcore CIA agent Evelyn Salt. The movie begins in North Korea where Salt is under torture. After a couple minutes of watching a few lackeys have fun poking the nice American spy, Salt's fellow agents and her arachnologist boyfriend come to the rescue.

Post jailbreak, "Salt" jumps a bit into the future to find the heroine married – the man did help save her life after all. As Salt is leaving work to go home and have dinner with her hubby, a Russian man claiming to have top-secret intelligence waltzes into the undercover CIA office. Salt is not happy about pushing back her dinner and tries to get the interrogation over with quickly, and does not do half bad, until he starts to talk.

All it takes is for the guy to mention one Russian spy for the movie to turn upside down. Next thing you know, Salt is kicking butt, building bombs out of table legs and scaling walls with her bare hands. Not that this movie has scenes that are slightly unbelievable or anything.

It takes about 20 minutes to get to this point. That is all the time the director spends establishing the characters, and it is a non-stop roller coaster of action until the end.

There is no lack of awesomeness to look at, as Salt is chased by the CIA. One second she is making a police officer drive a car by continuously setting off the taser in his leg and the next second she is jumping off a bridge onto a moving tractor trailer, and then she spends a few minutes after that jumping from the truck to other vehicles; again, completely unbelievable, but no less amazing to watch.

While "Salt" may not do a good job of providing viewers with believable action, it does do a good job of keeping you guessing just which side Salt is playing for.

The movie is more than just a hot chick kicking butt and taking names. Jolie brings great energy and talent to the screen. If anyone else played this role, especially a man, "Salt" would simply be a "Bourne" knock-off. As is, you have high-speed action, great acting and interesting quirks, such as Salt using a maxi-pad as a bandage. If you are looking for an engaging, action-packed spy movie, and do not mind it being over-the-top, "Salt" is a good way to cure your itch. ♦

PG-13

100 minutes

Rating: ★★★★☆



# National Night Out



Navy Capt. Steven Blaisdell, commander, Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, took time to speak at the event.



Active Duty personnel and family members from Naval Station Guantanamo Bay and Joint Task Force Guantanamo have fun during the Naval Station Guantanamo Bay National Night Out, Aug. 3. The National Night Out campaign involves citizens and law enforcement agencies from over 15,000 communities from all 50 states.

JTF Guantanamo photos by  
Air Force Tech. Sgt.  
Michael R. Holzworth



# Victory Over Japan Day

(Right) Edith Shain at the 2008 Memorial Day parade in Washington, D.C.



V-J day in Times Square, New York City. This photo was published in Life magazine in 1945. The nurse is believed to be Edith Shain; the sailor was never identified. – Photo by Alfred Eisenstaedt

Army Spc. Juanita Philip  
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

A Sailor, a nurse and a kiss. A spur-of-the-moment act in Times Square that was immortalized in an iconic photograph taken Aug. 14, 1945. That is what comes to mind when most people think about Victory Over Japan Day.

V-J Day commemorates the anniversary of Japan's surrender to the Allied forces in 1945, ending World War II. The atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima on Aug. 6 and Nagasaki on Aug. 9, and the Soviet Union's invasion of Manchuria in the previous week, made the surrender inevitable.



The Allies, which consisted of the United States, Great Britain, the Soviet Union and France, had issued the Potsdam Declaration on July 26, 1945, which served Japan an ultimatum to surrender, or face "prompt and utter destruction". When the declaration was ignored, the U.S. dropped two atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The announcement of the surrender by President Harry S. Truman, who said, "this is the day we have been waiting for since Pearl Harbor. This is the day when fascism finally dies, as we always knew it would," set off street celebrations from coast to coast in the United States. In New York City, Times Square was filled with people embracing and dancing.

The official end to the war wasn't until Sept. 2, 1945, when Gen. Douglas MacArthur accepted the Japanese surrender from Gen. Yoshijiro Umezu aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay. He said, "today the guns are silent. A great tragedy has ended ... the holy mission has been completed."

Many V-J Day celebrations have fallen out of favor over the years due to concerns that they are offensive to Japan, now one of America's closest allies, and Japanese Americans; as well as opinions about the nuclear devastation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

In 1995, the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, under the administration of President Bill Clinton, was not referred to as V-J Day, but as the "end of the Pacific War" in its official remembrance ceremonies. The controversial decision sparked complaints that Clinton was overly deferential to Japan and that the euphemism displayed insensitivity to U.S. veterans who, as prisoners of war, suffered greatly at the hands of Japanese forces.

Today, V-J Day is a legal holiday only in the state of Rhode Island, where it is called Victory Day and has been celebrated since 1948. V-J Day parades are held in several other locations across the United States, including Seymour, Ind., Moosup, Conn., and Arma, Kan.

Edith Shain, widely believed to be the uniformed nurse whose embrace with the Sailor in Times Square had been photographed, donned a white nurse outfit and enacted the Times Square kiss on the 60th anniversary of V-J Day. She took part in numerous commemorative events, serving once as the grand marshal of New York City's Veterans Day parade.★

# National Night Out promotes safety, understanding

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

Booths and static displays lined the parking lot of the Downtown Lyceum at the 27th annual National Night Out, Aug. 3.

National Night Out is a crime-prevention program with the goal of building police-community partnership.

Many different organizations volunteered at the event, and supplied equipment such as fire trucks, Humvees and boats.

According to Navy Capt. Steven H. Blaisdell, commander of Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, the residents of Guantanamo Bay need to realize their importance in crime and drug prevention on the base.

National Night Out provided an easy way for members of Joint Task Force Guantanamo and the base community to come together and interact in an informal environment.

"This event brings unity to the community," said Master-at-Arms 1st Class Henry T. Alderte, anti-terrorism security and training leading petty officer

for Naval Security Forces.

Alderte, the director of the event, understands the difficulty in uniting people for one main cause, especially when law enforcement is involved.

National Night Out is a different setting;

## Naval Station Guantanamo Bay Fire Inspector John DiGiovanni gives a hands-on demonstration on how to properly use a fire extinguisher to Army Staff Sgt. Monique Gold at Guantanamo's National Night Out Aug. 3. – JTF Guantanamo photos by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Michael R. Holzworth



usually when you see a master-at-arms it is in a more professional capacity, such as being pulled over, Alderte said.

"This event allows us to build a rapport with Troopers and residents and let them see we are here to help, and not just arrest people or write tickets," added Alderte.

A rapport with the community may cause the community to open up and begin to discuss problems and crimes with law enforcement that would otherwise go unnoticed.

The community showed its support en masse. Many service members from Naval Station GTMO and JTF-GTMO came out to volunteer and support the movement for a safer island.

In an effort to move toward a safer GTMO, a neighborhood watch is being established, Alderte said. The community and local law enforcement must come together and show that crime and drug use will not be tolerated.

The community of GTMO became a bit more informed after attending National Night Out, a big step toward a safer and more secure GTMO.

"We just want to reach out and show that we care," Alderte said. "We are here for you." ★



Navy Master-at-Arms 1st Class Joshua Bright with Joint Task Force Guantanamo's 1st Class Petty Officer Association looks on as 10-year-old plays shuffle board during the Naval Station Guantanamo Bay's National Night Out Aug. 3. – JTF Guantanamo photos by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Michael R. Holzworth



## Continuously providing support

A Coast Guard vessel with Maritime Safety and Security Team 91104 escorts USS Iwo Jima (LHD 7) as it arrives at Guantanamo Bay, Aug. 4. USS Iwo Jima docked at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay for a few days to refuel and restock supplies. The ship finished its first phase of humanitarian assistance operations in Haiti supporting Continuing Promise 2010, a four-month humanitarian and civic assistance mission.— JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Joshua Nistas

## Boots on the Ground

by Army Spc. Juanita Philip

### What is your favorite type of music? Why?

Marine Corps Cpl. James Sullivan



"R&B/hip hop, country or rock. It depends on my mood."

Coast Guard Machinery Technician 2nd Class Mindy Fendley



"Classic rock, the songs are good and almost everyone likes it."

Air Force Staff Sgt. Kendrick Calix



"R&B/hip hop, it is the music of my generation."

Army Sgt. 1st Class David Peltier



"Jazz/soul, it relaxes me and puts me in a good mood."

# Ramadan: The Islamic month of fasting

Air Force Capt. Sharior Rahman  
502nd Air Base Wing

Ramadan, the Islamic month of fasting, will begin on either 10 or 11 Aug. with the sighting of the new moon. One may ask, why the uncertainty of the start and end of Ramadan? Ramadan is the ninth month on the Islamic calendar, which is based on the lunar system. The months on the lunar calendar begin and end with the sighting of the new moon. Because of this, the beginning of Ramadan rotates throughout every month of the standard Gregorian calendar from year-to-year.

Ramadan is a month which Muslims all over the world look forward to. The entire month is spent fasting, praying and reading the Qur'an. In fact, Ramadan is a month in which Muslims commemorate the Qur'an. The religion of Al-Islam is based on five pillars: (1) Belief in one God and Prophet Muhammad as the Messenger of God; (2) Prayer; (3) Alms; (4) Fasting in Ramadan; and (5) Pilgrimage to Makkah, at least once in a lifetime.

The Ramadan fast is applicable to all Muslims who have reached the age of

puberty. The fast begins daily at dawn and continues until sunset. During the daylight hours, those who are fasting must abstain from food, drink and intimate relationships. Immediately after sunset those observing the fast are required to break the fast by eating and drinking; however, one is not to overindulge in these activities. While the daylight hours are spent fasting, much of the night is spent in prayer and reading the Qur'an.

The Ramadan fast is for the benefit of the total person – spiritually, mentally and physically. While fasting, a Muslim is conscious of the need to appreciate and respect both mankind and the outer world as creations of the Almighty God.

Three days of celebration and thanksgiving follow the completion of the month of Ramadan. This celebration is known as Eid-al-Fitr. This fast-breaking celebration will begin approximately on either 9 or 10 Sept., depending on the sighting of the new moon, with an early-morning congregational prayer service.

For more information on Muslim services at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Aug. 21-28, contact the JTF-GTMO chapel office at ext. 3202 or ext. 3203.★

## GTMO Religious Services

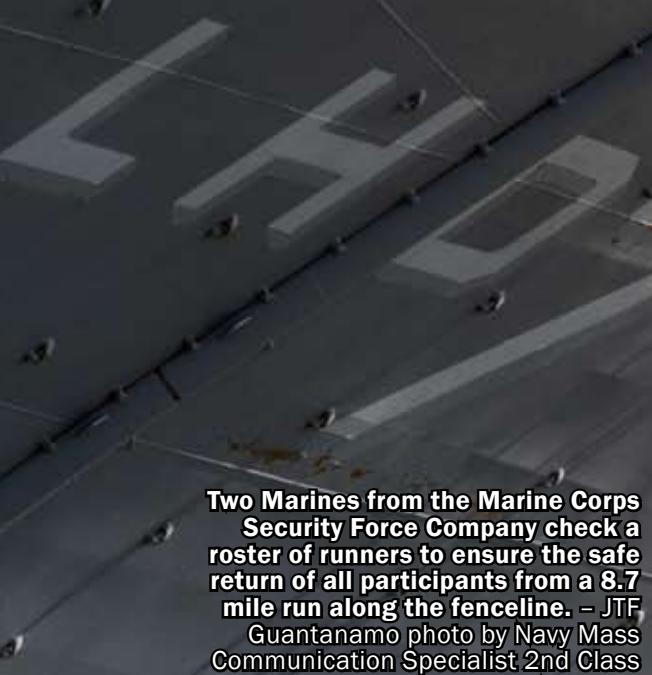
**Daily Catholic Mass**  
Tues. - Fri. 5:30 p.m.  
Main Chapel  
**Vigil Mass**  
Saturday 5 p.m.  
Main Chapel  
**Mass**  
Sunday 9 a.m.  
Main Chapel  
**Catholic Mass**  
Saturday 7:30 p.m.  
Troopers' Chapel  
**Sunday 7:30 a.m.**  
Troopers' Chapel

**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  
**Church of Christ**  
Sunday 10 a.m.  
Chapel Annex  
Room 17

**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



**Two Marines from the Marine Corps Security Force Company check a roster of runners to ensure the safe return of all participants from a 8.7 mile run along the fenceline.** – JTF  
Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Shane Arrington



Service members from Joint Task Force Guantanamo wave good-bye to fellow service members leaving Guantanamo Bay, Aug. 10. – JTF  
Guantanamo photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Michael R. Holzworth



**Army Spc. Renee Thomas, with the Virgin Islands Army National Guard's 786th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, uses a forklift to organize a shipment of bottled water, Aug. 10.** – JTF Guantanamo photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Michael R. Holzworth

