



To our valued Guam readers

The next issue of Stars and Stripes Guam will publish April 17. Due to COVID-19 safety measures impacting flights to Guam, we will temporarily publish every 2 weeks until further notice. We will resume our weekly schedule as soon as the situation allows. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your support during this time. To stay up to date on the latest news and information from Stars and Stripes Guam, visit [guam.stripes.com](http://guam.stripes.com).



– Stars and Stripes

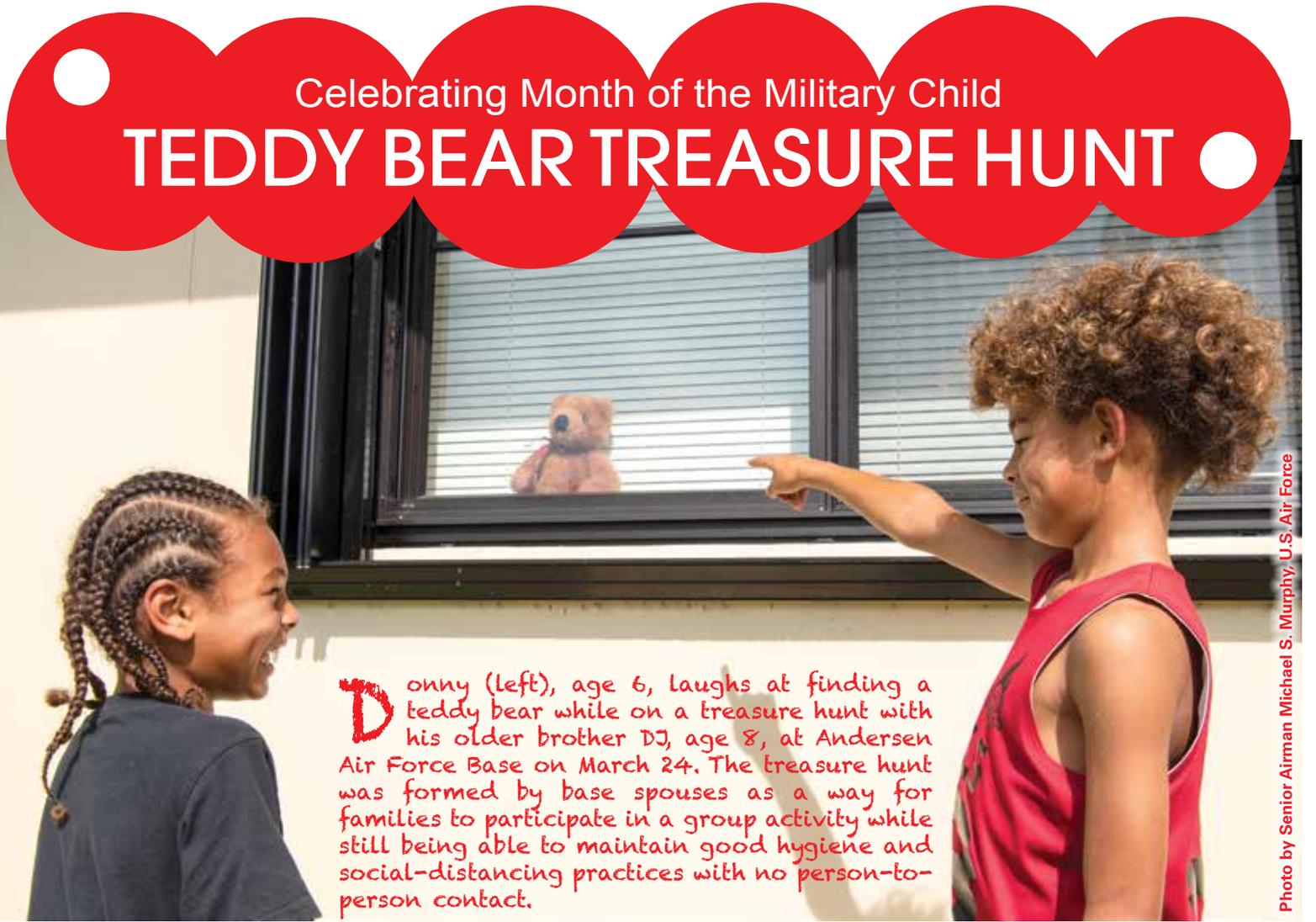


Photo by Senior Airman Michael S. Murphy, U.S. Air Force

Donny (left), age 6, laughs at finding a teddy bear while on a treasure hunt with his older brother DJ, age 8, at Andersen Air Force Base on March 24. The treasure hunt was formed by base spouses as a way for families to participate in a group activity while still being able to maintain good hygiene and social-distancing practices with no person-to-person contact.

Dear U.S. Marine Corps,

Hello old friend, it's been a while since we last spoke, but in two years time I will have to move on without you. You've been there for all 18 years of my life, and I just want to say... thank you! It was because of you that my mom and dad met, and I was born. It was because of you my mom and I met so many amazing people, and it was because of you that my family has grown so big over the years.

You are what made me who I am today: sweet, understanding, flexible, and socially awkward. You haven't always been the nicest to me, since I've had to leave friendships, family, and homes behind, but you never once left my side. You were always there. Even when I went through my terrible middle school phase.

You knew that I always liked hanging out with my mom's friends rather than other children, so you always gave her

people who liked hanging with me too. I think you gave me issues with talking to people my own age, or people in general (besides my sisters) because you made me different, but I've gotten better over the years with your support. You are one of my best friends. We may not agree with some subjects, and I might have gotten mad at you in the past, but there will always be a place for you in my heart.

It's crazy how much time has flown by, I can't even believe it will be almost time to say goodbye. I don't know if I'll be ready to let you go, but I know this is a part of growing up. Will I be able to make friends without you? Will I be able to settle and be normal in two years? No, I don't think I will, it's not how you raised me. I may not be able to settle for a very long time, but I will always try to leave a little joy before I go to the next place.

I will not forget all of the fond

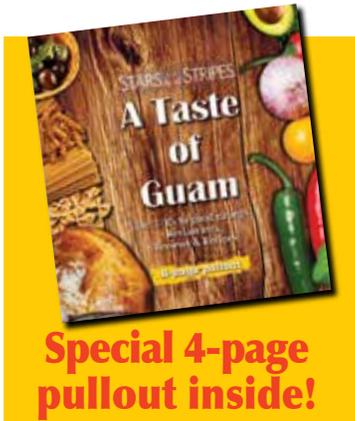
memories we shared, and I'll even cherish the sad ones. I am grateful for you, you have helped me in becoming the person I want to be. Until we meet again my dear friend.

– Hope Martin,  
12th Grade, Kadena High School

KIDS, TELL US YOUR STORY!

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# 'The situation was grim'

## How a life was saved during flight from Guam to Hawaii

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
MAJ. MELODIETAFAO,  
9TH MISSION SUPPORT COMMAND

On January 27th, 2020, United Airlines Flight 200 from Tamuning, Guam to Honolulu, Hawaii started off as any other ordinary flight across the Pacific. However, when a medical emergency emerged, this routine flight quickly "went south".

First Officer Christopher Stokes, who is also a Colonel in the U.S. Air Force Reserve assigned to U.S. Indo-Pacom and Capt. Tom Roth, the pilots on the Boeing 777, were notified by the flight attendants of a medical emergency.

"We were notified that there was a life-threatening situation," said Stokes, a 23-year veteran United Airlines pilot and former A-10 pilot in the Air Force. "The situation was grim, and the crew initially suspected the worse."

That's when Lt. Col. Jayne Strathe, Deputy Surgeon for the 9th Mission Support Command, headquartered in Honolulu, Hawaii heard the announcement and offered to help. Strathe was headed back to Honolulu from a Soldier Readiness Processing event for



Lt. Col. Jayne Strathe

the U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers in Guam, where she was in charge of the medical portion. Although the SRP mission was complete, Strathe had yet another medical event to tend to.

"The patient was deaf and blind. By signing with his father, he was able to communicate that he was having chest pain," Strathe said. "His father did not have a list of his medications, but gave his medical history as best he could. He was then put on oxygen, and we started vitals."

During the remaining 4-5 hours of this flight, Strathe continued to work on and monitor the patient. She was key in providing accurate information to Stokes and Roth, who had

"We were lucky we were there at the right time, with the right experiences."

to relay the situation to MED-LINK, a commercial service that assesses the situation and makes the decision to divert.

"This was a different situation than flying on the mainland," said Stokes. When flying over the continental United States, there are opportunities to divert and temporarily land elsewhere to ensure an ill passenger receives the health and services they need in a life threatening situation. "The flight between Honolulu and Guam is a 7-plus hour flight over open water, with no medical divert bases along the route."

Through the consistent and accurate assessment and

communication from Strathe to the cockpit, the flight was authorized a priority landing in Honolulu where they were met with civilian paramedics at the gate. Strathe's selfless service and expertise were vital in the improvement of the patient's health.

"He looked a lot better. He wasn't pale and his vitals improved," said Strathe. "The patient signed that his pain decreased."

Stokes commended Strathe on her immediate and life-saving actions.

"Lt. Col. Strathe selflessly and professionally saved this man's life," Stokes said. "She expertly managed all the people, the medical equipment, drugs, communications with the crew, and was the key factor in the crew's decisions associated with the safe and prudent conduct of the flight. Her leadership, successful outcome, professionalism, and ability to work non-stop for 4+ hours on our passenger is testament to the quality of people in the 9th Mission Support Command."

Strathe was happy to help.

"We were lucky we were there at the right time, with the right experiences."



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# A Letter From Our CEO

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- We will have same day repair and next day install should any network events impact your services at home and work.
- We are doing our part to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus. Our stores and call center will remain open with some schedule adjustments.

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- **Navy Exchange:** M-Sat 9am - 8pm, Sun 9 am - 7 pm
- **Upper Tumon Headquarters:** Closed for bill payments.

We encourage you to call us at 644-4482, email, or chat with us online at [www.gta.net](http://www.gta.net) for any support you need.

Families are at the heart of everything we do, and we're committed to keeping you and yours safe. We will continue providing our community with updates as we navigate through this together. Thank you for your continued trust and support in GTA.

Sincerely,



Roland Certeza  
President and CEO, GTA



# If trend continues, is draft inevitable?

The place where our family lived the longest was Virginia Beach, Va. Our first house, a vinyl-sided Dutch Colonial on a cul-de-sac, was close enough to the elementary school to hear the morning announcements from our porch. Despite deployments that took my husband away, we spent nine wholesome, grounding, family-oriented years there, growing roots, making friends and providing stability for our kids.

That rare nine-year stint was made possible because nearby Norfolk is home to the largest Navy base in the world, and many other military installations, support detachments and training centers are located in the surrounding areas. My husband was able to follow orders to different commands while we stayed put, in a community with long ties to and respect for the military.

But according to the newly-released 2019 Blue Star Military Family Lifestyle Survey, many military families don't find the sense of belonging that is key to overall quality of life and well-being. Forty-seven percent of military families said that their local communities lacked awareness of

their lifestyle and did not offer respect, understanding and support. The top stressors for military families are arguably related to this absence of belonging: relocation stress, high military spouse unemployment, inability to earn two incomes, childcare expenses, financial stress, isolation from family and friends, deployments, separation and child education issues.

The Blue Star survey and other research indicates a steady widening of the military-civilian divide that began after the draft ended in 1973, and a decrease in the propensity of young adults to serve, slowly turning the military into an insular and largely ignored subset of the U.S. population.

Today, public war protests are rare, even though the American public disapproves of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq as much as it did the Vietnam War. During the January faceoff with Iran, the public took interest — for a millisecond. “The American public tends to only pay close attention to military matters during moments of crisis,” says Thomas Brody, a student journalist at University of Amherst.

Complicating concern over

## The Meat and Potatoes of Life

Lisa Smith Molinari



Complicating concern over the growing disinterest in military issues is decreasing interest in military service.

the growing disinterest in military issues is decreasing interest in military service. According to the survey, the number of Americans who serve has dropped to roughly 0.5%. Furthermore, the most significant recruiting factor today is whether one comes from a military family. In 2019, 79% of

those who enlisted in the Army had a military family member. Considering that the number of young adults who have parents who served has decreased from 40% in the 1990s to 15% today, it doesn't take a military analyst to see a problem with the sustainability of our all-volunteer force.

“If we're not able to reverse these trends ... what is it going to look like when today's youth become the parents and today's parents become the grandparents?” asked Katherine Helland, Director of the Department of Defense's Joint Advertising and Research Studies center. Helland said that while Gen Zers know that military service is risky, their family members don't teach them the “value proposition” of serving their country.

Retired Maj. Gen. Dennis Laich, director of the Patriots program at Ohio Dominican University, told Fortune magazine that the draft will return because the Pentagon is already spending too much money on new enlistment bonuses and recruiting strategies. “We say that it's an all-volunteer force, but we're paying huge sums of money to induce people to join.”

The Blue Star report recommends that civilian and military leaders, schools, employers, corporations, philanthropies and military families take action — but what, specifically, will fend off conscription?

Knocking on a new military family's door? Inviting a civilian family to dinner? Asking the new military kid to eat lunch at your table? Advising high school students on the honor of serving one's country? Whatever it is, we need to do it before the idyllic military lifestyle we had in Virginia Beach becomes an anomaly.

Read more of Lisa Smith Molinari's columns at: [themeatandpotatoesoflife.com](http://themeatandpotatoesoflife.com)  
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CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

# Edgren High School

**Dr. Leah Sledge**

I am from the time of new coming social media. I am from the devastating time of terrorist attacks such as 9/11. Growing up with role models like Kobe Bryant, LeBron James, Stephen Curry, and Dwayne Wade had inspired me to play basketball.

I am from the 17th state. The city where Halle Berry and Arsenio Hall were born. The home of "The Avengers" and "A Christmas Story". I am from the place where rock and roll was founded. I am from the city where a lake has caught on fire 13 times.

I am from more than one family. Mostly raised by a man who stepped up to the plate and took me in. Being a role model to my younger sister is a roller coaster. Aside from my famous role models, my parents highly influenced me to be a part of the world of sports.

I am from the Indigenous group of Americans and Puer-torriqueños. Growing up in a bilingual home brought me closer to my dad's family even though I might not have been close to him. I am supported by my many family members and know I always will have someone on my side.

I am from the times where hip-hop and rap were very popular. I would say hip-hop and rap highly influenced my music taste now. Hearing my parental figures listen to these kinds of music gave me the opportunity to be a part of the world that I enter when I am trying to forget about my problems.

I am currently part of the Eagle nest. I did not only learn book smarts from school but street smarts from playing basketball and being surrounded by a multigenerational family and learning from their experiences. My level of education doesn't just stop there. I have learned what it's like to be a friend and a good person to others not only from my parents but from the friendships and families I've gained and strengthened over time.

– Nathan Wallingford, 9th grade

I am a military child who likes to travel  
I wonder how it feels to live in one place for more than 3 years  
I hear the different languages around me  
I see different ways of life  
I want to immerse myself  
I am a military child who likes to travel

I pretend to be part of other cultures  
I feel like they are glad to share with me  
I touch different lands from various places  
I worry about not being accepted  
I cry when I can't help  
I am a military child who likes to travel

I keep small souvenirs to remind me of the memories  
I remember the wrinkled faces of the elderly  
I learn foreign practices  
I read the news and think  
I am a military child who likes to travel

I reach for my camera to capture the memory  
I whisper to myself in awe when I see historical places  
I will continue to meet new people  
I won't disrespect others  
I love traveling  
I am a military child who likes to travel

I understand the language barrier  
I say thank you in different languages  
I dream that I could speak every language  
I try to make the most of my travels  
I hope I can share my experiences with others  
I am a military child who travels the world

– Jackson Smith, 12th grade



**Editor's Note: These high schoolers have something to say, and they say it well. So, sit down and give these a read.**

I am from the start of the Disney Channel Golden Age  
Where fashion statements were bold  
From Bratz Dolls and child-sized electric sports cars  
Where all I needed was bucket of soap  
I am from the best of both worlds

I am from the rising sun  
Where the forest are blue and white  
I am from a retired airman's daughter  
Where we both grew up  
I am from the first flight over the Pacific Ocean

I am from The Jackson Five  
Where all of us are girls  
From living near 2 previous generations and their Cardinal male children  
Where I only spent my summers  
I am from Love

I am from the Little Rock 9  
Where my family's education began  
From Hot Sauce and Mardi Gras  
Where the Mississippi River begins to end  
I am From the hot and beautiful south

I am from the heart of Soul  
Where my family bonded through Motown's Christmas Albums  
From The Killers and MCR  
Where I found myself through angsty love songs  
I am from Destiny's Child

I am from High School Musical  
Where love was complicated  
I am from Nap time and recess  
Where I lived stress free  
I am from half a GED

– Genesis Miller, 9th grade

I am from the decade of the show Victorious were I sat around the t.v and waited for the parts where Victoria would sing.  
From where my hair was so big and it was all pinned down by two little barrettes.  
I am from the time where skinny bell bottoms jeans were looked at as one of the everyday things.

I am from the "the yellow brick road" where the dry and desolate roads go.  
From where tornadoes come and go but still keep us grounded in our family morals  
I am from the Pizza Hut birth state, and the yummy white castle sliders which satisfied my never ending hunger.

I am from a descendant of "Little Rock Nine" where school was looked at an individual prize.  
From where my mom had to fight just to read and write to accomplish the goals she had set for her life.  
From where the prolonged "bad boy" turned right, who got his degrees and turned out alright.  
I am from the time where my mom and dad taught my siblings and I that we can't just simply sit but we must fight for what we believe is right.

I am from North America, Africa, and Europe and much more, so the color of my skin doesn't define all of me at all.  
From where the tambourine shakes and the cries of the baptist church was the closest thing I considered home.  
I am from the beautiful nubian King and Queens who paved the way for boys and girls like me.

I am from the time in elementary school where I first found my love for classical piano. From where I listened to great artists from Tamela Mann to SZA, who swarmed my device and showed me a thing or two about life.  
I am from the quiet and sorrowful RnB, which helped ease my soul when school was too much to handle.

– Michaela Marks, 9th grade

I am from the time of High School musical and Britney Spears  
Where "hit me baby one more time" was more than a song but a statement.  
From choosing dresses over jeans and Hi-C was a necessity.  
I am from the place where all kids love ice cream trucks  
But nothings wrong with the 2000's it was the decade that started this millenium.

I am from the place of heat and star  
Where the summer breeze feels the best and the grand canyon, elegant.  
From where the fiery sun burns and home of the sun devils  
I am from the south-west where sonic lies  
This is where I was born and I'm a proud cardinal.

I am from a man who serves and a Myhsa who cares  
From being raised as the youngest of 4 was torture and being the only female was sweet.  
I, the last, but the best to arrive.  
I am from the parents who loved with care and  
The brothers that protected.

I am from the land of tortillas and farikal  
Where Spaniards conquered and vikings once ruled.  
From the salsa dance being a delicacy and the countryside being lushful.  
I am from the great Norwexican race  
That gives me the existence of originality.

I am from Love Yourself  
Where language isn't a restriction.  
From inspiring others and meaningful lyrics.  
Where overseas isn't a boundary but an opportunity.  
This music holds meaning and presence in both my mind and everyday life.

I am presently from Edgren High School and know that I am a proud eagle.  
Where moving schools is normal and students come and go.  
From where I hope to go to college and find out who and what I want to be.  
I am not upset at the constant traveling, but  
I am grateful for the educational opportunities it provides.

– Jordan Alsvig, 11th grade

I am a military child who likes to travel and sleep  
I wonder when I can go to Korea  
I hear about corona  
I see people getting sick because of the virus  
I want to travel to korea because of the food and culture  
I am a military child who likes to travel and eat

I pretend to like school  
I feel good everytime I take a nap  
I touch my bed every time I leave for school  
I worry about what an I going to have for dinner  
I cry everytime the food taste terrible  
I am a military child who likes to travel and eat

I keep my calm and composer  
I remember the first time I pasta it was wonderful  
I learn to not get lost when it's time to board on the plane  
I read travel brochures  
I am a military child who likes to travel and eat

I reach for my the menu  
I whisper what am I craving today?  
I will learn how to cook  
I won't ever like ravioli  
I love to travel and eat  
I am a military child who likes to travel and eat

I understand that I will travel around the world  
I say thank you everytime the bell rings at 2:05  
I dream about retirement  
I try to sleep more  
I hope I get to see my bed again  
I am always tired!

– Kristen Battle, 11th grade



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#### Tyeis Kemp

Kinnick High School Alumna  
and a LUJ Graduate



“Lakeland University Japan Campus (LUJ) is a school that provides an environment with students from all around the world, which was perfect for me after graduating from high school at an American military base. There are a variety of classes from which to choose from. These classes help guide me to seek my future major.

Being an LUJ student changed my perspective significantly. It certainly has shown me a diverse environment as the campus is located in the city of Tokyo and many opportunities are filled within this college. For example, there are temples and shrines to visit not too far from school. Also, the size of each class is quite small, which makes it easier to get individual help from the professors. There is nothing comparable with studying in a delightful locale in a beautiful country.”

#### Quinn Borders

Lakeland  
University Japan  
Academic Program



My name is Quinn and growing up I lived mostly in America. I was thankful to not have to move very often because my dad was already close to serving 20 years in the military, at which point he retired. When I was 16 we moved to Australia, but I

had always been really interested in going to Japan. It started with meeting our neighbors, whose father was also in the military. They had just moved back from Japan and I became really good friends with their son, a half Japanese-American. Eventually, I went to Japan by myself when I was 18 because I really wanted to learn the language. I started at a language school and then was having trouble finding a university that even knew what the GI Bill was. That was when I found Lakeland University and talked with the Dean and was interviewed by staff. Once I was accepted after the interview, the school was very quick with starting me on the GI Bill from my father's service. I really do appreciate my father giving the GI Bill to his two kids. If it weren't for him, I wouldn't be able to attend this great school.

Celebrating Month of the Military Child

# Lester Middle School

### A Great Adventure

Moving is a big part of the great adventure of being a military child. I have lived in San Diego for three years and now I live in Okinawa, Japan. Moving is a great way to experience new things and meet new people. When I moved I thought I would make no friends. I also missed my old friends but it turned out I made a lot of new ones. A fun fact about Military children is we have our own flower. It's a Dandelion because it represents "the plant puts down roots almost anywhere, and it's almost impossible to destroy." Our color is purple. We wear it to show support and thank the Military youth for their strength and sacrifices. Being a Military child is a great respect to have and I'm proud to be a Military Child.

- Cinnamon Escamilla

They joy of getting you toys  
They are good, exciting, and overwhelming  
As you capture the sight of everything you own  
Then the sight of it all in your new house  
And the sight of all your favorite toys  
You will never forget that one feeling  
The Joy of getting your toys  
- Collin Graniero



I think moving is a part of life. I have to pack, live, pack again, and then leave. Then the whole process starts all over again. Everyone I meet, I'll probably never see again. I have to make new friends, start a new system, and make things seem like they're normal when they aren't. Everything and everyone around me is different. There are different customs and traditions I have to get used to, like when Japanese people take their shoes off in specific places. I just end up in a world of confusion from what everyone is used to.



I think moving is different for everyone. Some people have to be left, while others are the ones that leave, but I think in the end, everything gets better. For example, I get to meet people I've never met before, see more places like Japan and Spain, and even try new food like sushi.

When I move I feel that I can see the world through the eyes of many different people. I can live like how other people live and enjoy their customs. To me, moving is a gift, and I am so glad to be a military child.

- Eiva Maizano

**Ms. Migita**  
Editor's Note: Every year Kendra Migita's students enlighten us with their prose. This year is no exception. Take a look at what they have to say.

Being a military child is not as bad as it sounds. I know that there are a lot of stories of people who don't quite fit into groups when they move. And I know that some of these stories are true and others are made up because of the military child stereotype and people feel bad. But there is one thing that I don't like about being a military child is that everybody treats you like that stereotype like "Oh you poor little thing you must be so upset that you left your friends behind and I feel so bad for you" And all I can think is "person Excuse me but my life is amazing I get to travel the world with my parents and they serve the united states of america the greatest country in the world. My parents get paid enough to feed me and buy a house. I am anything but sad I am proud. I am proud my Dad defends my country OUR country. And yes I am sad about leaving my friends but I can always call them or text them so they are never truly gone. And so I don't think that being a military child is that bad.

- Jedidiah Goebel

I am a military kid because my dad is in the military. Being a military child is difficult, because I need to move around many times and meet new friends. The excellent thing about moving around is that I can go to new places and learn about new cultures such as in Japan. I needed to get used to eating different foods but they were delicious. The rough thing about moving around is that I need to meet new friends and leave my other friends behind. My experience about moving every 3 years is difficult because I need to learn the other peoples culture and adapt to their culture. I don't really want to move around because I would need to get used to the environment all over again. Another good thing about moving is I get to meet heaps of new people. Since my dad is in the military I am a military kid and sometimes he has to go on trips to other places since he is a food service officer. He has to check the water to make sure it is potable, which means to check if it is okay to drink. My dad goes there for 3-4 weeks sometimes and it is difficult without him being at our house. It is stressful moving because I would need to get ready to move 6 months ahead. It is stressful being a military child because I have moved around many times. As a military child, I know what it feels to move around many times and need to meet new friends and learn new cultures that I haven't ever learned before.

- Mina Hyatt



As I look to my window,  
I see a world full of hate.  
I see no smile  
Nor a laugh  
I only see black  
I pick up my stuff  
For today I leave  
To go across the world  
Do I see a point to go?  
No. I see no point to go.  
I'll just have to pick up again  
And leave my life behind.  
- Rebekah Roundy

### Think

Have you ever seen a military child's reaction when asking them "Where are you from?" I'm going to tell you about what most military children have to go through when being asked that question. Military kids are always on the move, so when being asked that question, it is difficult for them to answer. They travel around the world to many different places that they may not want to go to. I, who have experience, understands how they feel because I too am a military child. But we military children have quite a few stories to tell about our adventures in the outside world. We take pride in your adventures that you had. We have more protection while we are moving around. We can make more friends while we are away from you other friends. But remember that we still need to be careful. We can still be kidnapped, poisoned or, made sick with a virus. In places, certain people don't like the military and cause riots.

- Israel Alvarez-Giron



Send your Month of the Military Child submission to [MilitaryChild@stripes.com](mailto:MilitaryChild@stripes.com) by April 15!



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Hagatna

# Exploring Guam's villages

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
GUAM VISITORS BUREAU

**O**ur footprint-shaped island is divided into 19 villages, each with its own distinct history and character.

Each of Guam's villages is also home to its own Catholic church.

Over the centuries, these communities' identities have evolved from bases for farming, ranching, and fishing to residential centers, hubs for commerce and history,

and bases for the same food-producing activities that have long been a focus of life on Guam.

Visitors are invited to take special note of the island's colorful and uplifting village murals, beautiful works of art that arose as part of a revitalization project to unify the island, spearheaded by the Guam Visitors Bureau in cooperation with local mayors, businesses, schools, and residents.

Architecture in Guamanian villages varies widely, from strongly Spanish-influenced edifices to the matching two-story concrete homes in Asan-Maina, where in

the 1980s the Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority undertook a major redevelopment of residential structures, even painting the suburban-style houses the same color.

Some villages' borders are formed by modern highways, while the boundaries of others are defined by natural features; the municipality of Chalan Pago/Ordot, across the narrow "waist" of Guam, divides the predominantly volcanic southern half of the island from its mostly limestone northern half.

## Agana Heights

**CATHOLIC CHURCH:** OUR LADY OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT  
**FIESTA:** FOLLOWS THANKSGIVING WEEKEND

### VILLAGE DESCRIPTION

The villages of Asan/Maina, Hagåtña, Ordot/Chalan Pago and Sinajana border Agana Heights.

The sections of the village are As Apugan, Tipugan, Fonte, Hilaan, Taigigao and Charito. Fonte River divides Agana Heights from Maina village and Taigigao Street is the boundary separating Agana Heights from Ordot/Chalan Pago. Sinajana village and Agana Heights village are also separated by a shared roadway.

Prior to World War II, Agana Heights was a farming community for residents who lived in Hagåtña. Today, sprinkled throughout the village are some beautiful homes with gated and manicured lawns, quaint residential homes, apartment complexes, and a row of buildings that serve as homes to different religious denominations and organizations. Agana Heights has been transformed into a thriving cosmopolitan community.

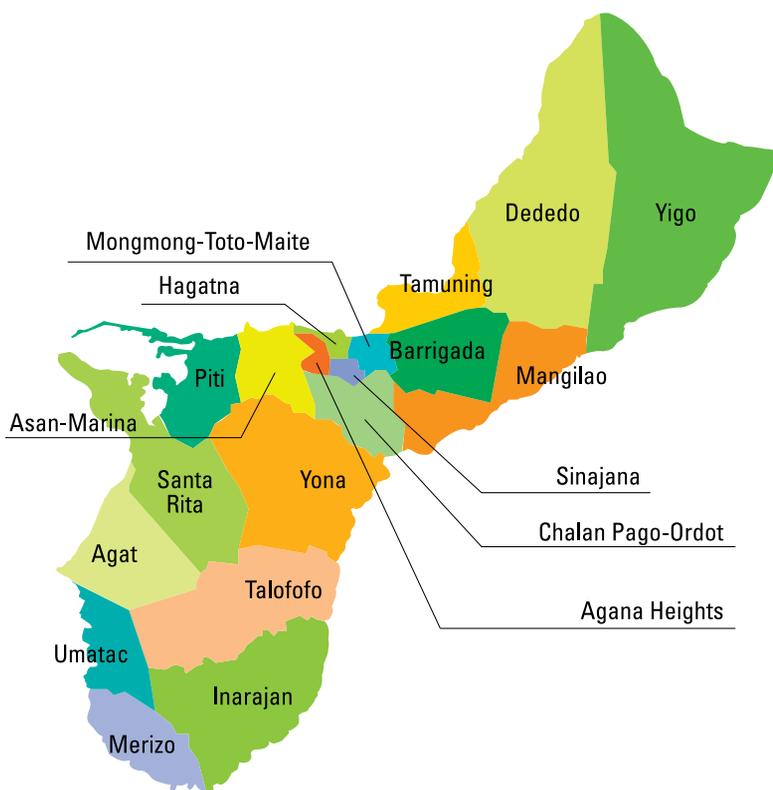
### HISTORY

Before World War II, Agana Heights was primarily farmland for the residents of Hagåtña. It was also the site for the Spanish militia's "lookout" for incoming ships and possible danger.

That site today is Fort Santa Agueda, also known as Fort Apugan, which is a popular tour site because of its panoramic view of the island's capital city, bay of Hagåtña, the Philippine Sea, and the sheer northern cliffines of Oka Point and Urunao Point.

Before World War II, the US military used the area where the US Naval Hospital Marianas now stands for officer's quarters and a sick bay. During the war, the Japanese military used the facilities for training carrier pigeons as a means of communication.

After the recapture of the island by U.S. forces, the facilities were utilized as an internment camp for prisoners of war.



## Agat

**CATHOLIC CHURCH:** OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL AND SANTA ANA  
**FIESTA:** JULY

### VILLAGE DESCRIPTION

While many regard Agat as the western gateway to the south, it is also the commercial center of the south. Numerous businesses - from merchants and restaurants to the seventy-room Inn on the Bay - have sprung up in the once-quiet seaside village in the last twenty-five years. Despite Agat's thriving business center, the old heart of the village that includes Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church, Convent and School, still exists.

The seaside village of Agat lies just south of Naval Base Guam. The village's main road, Route 2, meanders through several commercial and residential areas. The road also leads to a group of public buildings, such as the Agat Community Center and mayor's office and a community library and police station. Farther south, Route 2 runs along the coast of some of the finest beaches on Guam including Nimitz Beach. Nearby is the popular Agat Marina.

The village of Agat is also home to several parks dedicated to the events of World War II. These parks are part of the National Park Service's War in the Pacific National Historical Park.

### HISTORY

It is believed that Chief Coroo headed the first clan of Agat. Beloved by his people, he was also the eldest in the clan. Chief Coroo divided the village into families, each with its own surname. Many of these survive today but are referred to as Chamorro family names, such names as Koroo, Kamachili, De'chi, Dagu, Kusi, Min, Ato and Gotgohu, to name a few.

Spanish Governor Don Jose Quiroga then designed Old Agat between 1680 and 1684 as a settlement for rebellious Islanders whose homes he had destroyed during the Chamorro rebellion. Many of its citizens were brought from the interior village of Fena. The first church in Agat was established in late 1680. In the early 1700s this church was one of only six parishes on Guam.

Pre-war Agat was a small village with coasts lined with coconut trees that produced copra (coconut meat). The village also supported farming, ranching, and fishing. Rice paddies existed on the coastal flats as well as the flat inland areas.



Dededo

# GUAM: Hagatna the county's capital

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

## Dededo

**CATHOLIC CHURCH:** SANTA BARBARA  
**FIESTA:** EARLY DECEMBER

### VILLAGE DESCRIPTION

Dededo is Guam's second largest and most populous village, encompassing thirty square miles of northwestern Guam. Most of Dededo is located on Guam's limestone plateau and sits above the Northern Aquifer, an important fresh water resource for the island as it provides for about eighty percent of Guam's drinking water.

The main sections of this northern village lie on either side of Route 1, officially known as Marine Corps Drive, Guam's main thoroughfare. From a small pre-war farming community, it has become a major commercial and residential center.

Dededo is home to the Micronesia Mall, the largest shopping mall in Micronesia, located at the corner of Route 1 and Route 16 (Army Corps Drive). Along Route 16 there are several small stores and other businesses that cater to the area's Filipino residents. Also along this strip is a two-story McDonald's restaurant, the Guam Power Authority main business office, and the gated Iglesia Ni Cristo Church. Along Fatima Road, off the highway, there are several vegetable stands selling local crop products.

### HISTORY

The history of Dededo is complicated by the fact that the boundaries of the village have changed considerably during the twentieth century. During the Early American period, the northern half of present-day Dededo was the village of Machanao. Most of Machanao became Andersen Air Force Base and Naval Communications Station, and Machanao is no longer a village, but a section of Dededo. The pre-war village of Dededo extended further south to include what are now the villages of Tamuning-Tumon-Harmon while the village center of old Dededo was located in present day Harmon between the two-story McDonald's and the San Miguel Brewery building.

Dededo began in the early twentieth century as an area of widely spread ranches centered in what is now the Harmon Industrial Park. Among the agricultural products of the area were copra, timber, fruits, vegetables and cattle. The village center, which included a Padre San Vitores School (opened in 1929) and Santa Barbara Church were located in the vicinity of the present-day Harmon McDonald's Restaurant. Fishing also played an important role in the life of many Dededo residents since the village was only a short bull cart or horse back ride from Tumon Bay. There were also two stores that served the community where residents could exchange farm produce, especially copra, for various goods. By 1941, at the outbreak of World War I, 1,529 people lived Dededo and the surrounding ranch areas of Tumon and Tamuning.

## Hagatna

**CATHOLIC CHURCH:** DULCE NOMBRE DE MARIA CATHEDRAL BASILICA  
**FIESTA:** DECEMBER 8

### VILLAGE DESCRIPTION

Hagåtña, located in central Guam, is nestled between Agana Bay and the cliffs of Agana Heights. It is considered the first European city in the Pacific because of the early colonization of the Marianas, as compared to the rest of the Pacific. It was declared a city by a Spanish royal decree March 30, 1686 as the capital of the Marianas, the residence of the Spanish governor and the site of the garrison.

Guam's main roadway, Marine Corps Drive, runs through the village from east to west. Another major artery, Route 4, dissects the village from the shoreline to the central part of the island, running east. Hagåtña borders the village of Tamuning in the east and Asan to the west.

The capital of Guam, Hagåtña is the seat of the island's three branches of government: Judicial, Legislative, and Executive as well as the religious center for the Catholic Church. It is also home to numerous commercial activities including legal offices, banks, department/variety stores, insurance, technical and professional services and restaurants.

The cultural resources of the village are significant being home to a large number of Guam's historical sites. The Hagåtña boat basin (formally known as the Gregorio D. Perez Marina), the Guam Public Library (formally the Nieves M. Flores Memorial Library) and numerous public facilities are also located within the village.

As opposed to the island's historical past, Hagåtña is currently one of the least populated villages on the island. Residential homes primarily are located below the cliff at the western portion of the village.

### HISTORY

Few detailed accounts of the village are known prior to the arrival of the Catholic mission headed by Father Diego Luis de San Vitores in 1668. San Vitores is credited with establishing the Catholic Church in the Mariana Islands. Shortly after arriving on the island of Guam, he renamed the village of Hagåtña, "San Ignacio de Agaña," in honor of his holy father and patriarch. At that time Hagåtña was reported to be the island's principal village. It is estimated that 1,000 people lived in the village that reportedly had 203 dwellings; fifty-three upper class homes and one hundred and fifty other dwellings that belonged to lower caste residents "who had no part of the affairs of Agaña."

## Inarajan

**CATHOLIC CHURCH:** ST. JOSEPH, HUSBAND OF MARY AND CATHOLIC CHURCH: SAN ISIDRO  
**FIESTA:** MARCH MALOJLOJ AND MAY

### VILLAGE DESCRIPTION

To the outside eye, the village of Inarajan seems to have been untouched by the hand of change. It is known as the most distinctly Spanish-style village on the island, with the village proper on Inarajan Bay, remaining basically intact over the decades.

A visitor could drive through the small Spanish barrio-style streets, which until recently were one-way streets, and see the history of Inarajan in its old houses. The houses reflect a mixture of architecture influenced by the Spanish period and the early American period (early 1900s).

The village retains many of its traditional ways, with the St. Joseph Church still at the center of many activities, including the village's annual fiestas. Residents of the village are still a small number of families whose roots are deeply entwined in Inarajan. Very few outsiders have moved into the village, and very few modern structures have been erected.

Part of what gives Inarajan its heritage-rich flavor is one of its more recent additions: the Gef Pa'go Cultural Village, which sits right on the bay. The village, which consists of ancient-style thatch-roofed huts, is staffed mainly by elder Chamorros who demonstrate traditional Chamorro arts, crafts, and cooking to visitors.

### HISTORY

Not much is known about the early inhabitants of Inarajan, which was a village before the Spanish arrived on Guam. The village was officially established in 1680 by the Spanish, along with St. Joseph Church, and was one of the main villages on Guam during the Spanish era. The village was designed in the Spanish custom with the church as its focus.

The Spanish were also responsible for an unusual addition to the residents of the village, as the residents of the northernmost Mariana Islands, known as Gani (including Anatahan, Sarigan, Alamagan, Pagan, Agrihan, and Asuncion), were relocated to Inarajan and Merizo in the late 1600s. The Spanish relocation of the Chamorros, including the consolidation of the villages of Guam, was done to better control the local people during the Spanish-Chamorro wars that were going on at the time. There is still a section of Inarajan known as "As Gani" today.

The St. Joseph Church is named after the village's patron saint of San Jose or St. Joseph. It contains a large statue of St. Joseph that, according to oral tradition, was brought to Guam by the Spanish, who intended to bring it to Umatac. But a storm prevented the ship from going to Umatac, and it ended up landing in Inarajan, where the statue remained.

The church has been rebuilt several times, and the current church was built in 1939. It was damaged during the bombing of World War II, and in the earthquake of 1993, the church's steeple fell to the ground. It was rehabilitated in the late 1990s by the Parish Council, the church Pastor, and parishioners.

## Mangilao

**CATHOLIC CHURCH:** SANTA TERESITA  
**FIESTA:** LATE SEPTEMBER

### VILLAGE DESCRIPTION

The village of Mangilao is located in central Guam. It lies between the villages of Barrigada and Chalan Pago. The village also branches off into subdivisions bordering Dededo and Yigo. These subdivisions include Latte Heights, Latte Plantation, Sunrise Villa, Banyan Heights, and lower and upper Pagat. The village has been called "Guam's capital of education" because both the University of Guam and the Guam Community College are located there.

### HISTORY

The village of Mangilao today is fairly new, but the area has ancient sites that date back more than a thousand years. The district of Pagat, located on Route 15 (also commonly referred to as the back road to Andersen), was once an ancient Chamorro village. Pagat is one of the most scenic areas on the island, with breathtaking cliff lines that overlook the Pacific Ocean, and jungle trails that lead to freshwater caves and ancient latte.

Originally, Pagat was thought to have been occupied during the later part of the Ancient Guam Period or early in the Spanish Period in the late seventeenth century. Because of the areas limited accessibility, it was theorized that the first inhabitants had fled from Spanish rule, but the discovery of a certain type of pottery found there in the 1980s has proven to be typical of an earlier settlement, perhaps just more than a thousand years ago.

Mangilao lacks a natural water source, therefore, it was not until the late 1920s that the area would be repopulated after water wells, a school, and a road were built. People who owned ranches in Mangilao farmed there during the day and, at night, would return to their homes in Hagåtña. In the 1920s, naval Governor Henry B. Price launched a vigorous "back-to-the-soil movement" to convince Chamorros to develop their agriculture and become self-sufficient. Part of his program was the concentration of farms in a given section.

The Mangilao-Barrigada area was chosen because of its rolling plateaus and proximity to the island's capital, Hagåtña. To encourage people to live on their farms and produce more, Price built a road into the area and then the Mangilao School in 1926. He ordered families to send their children to the school, so they would have to live in Mangilao during the week and in their Hagåtña homes only during the weekend. Price ordered that an agriculture department and a dairy factory be built in the village.

After World War II, Mangilao continued to be Guam's main farming area. Some of the village's major crops included tapioca, cassava, corn, mongo beans, tomatoes, peppers and other beans. Many people paid for their homes by selling these crops to a new population of people that moved to Mangilao – construction workers. The village housed thousands of construction workers employed by the military who lived there during the post-war rebuilding boom. Roads and houses were built to accommodate the workers, and grocery stores began to line the village's main road.

Mangilao

# Asan-Maina

**CATHOLIC CHURCH:** NIÑO PERDIDO AND MAINA: OUR LADY OF PURIFICATION  
**FIESTA:** LAST SATURDAY IN DECEMBER AND LAST SATURDAY OF JANUARY

## VILLAGE DESCRIPTION

The district of Asan-Maina encompasses a large area, including the main coastal village of Asan, the community of Maina nestled in a valley between Nimitz Hill and Agana Heights, and most of Nimitz Hill (also known as Libugon) and land beyond it further inland.

The main village of Asan was redeveloped in the 1980s by the Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority (GHURA). The redevelopment changed the village's look from its more traditional Spanish flavor to a fairly modern-looking suburban appearance. The streets were straightened, sidewalks were added and the houses are nearly all concrete with many two-stories high. GHURA still owns many of the houses in the main village, houses that were all built exactly alike, and even painted the same color. Space was limited by the ocean to the west and the hills to the east, which necessitated the two-story structures and small yards.

The village sits partly on the hillside of Nimitz Hill and partly on the flat land below it, just in front of the sea. Many of the houses are built on steep roads going up the hillside, reminiscent of San Francisco. The Catholic church, Niño Perdido Y Sagrada Familia (Holy Family), sits at the center of the village, along with the community center and mayor's office.

Maina rests in a valley of lush vegetation, bamboo groves and colorful flowers that come right up to the houses and the main road. The small community is spread out along one small, winding main road, one end of which meets the road going up Nimitz Hill and twists its way to the back side of Agana Heights. The small Fonte Bridge at the end of the road is the site of the famous Guam legend of the "White Lady."

## HISTORY

The village of Asan was predominantly a fishing village in pre-Spanish times that switched to farming with the settlement of the Spaniards. Villages grew taro, rice and sugar cane on the fertile flatland between the beach and the hills.

In 1892, Asan beach was the site of a Leper Colony, which was used for eight years until destroyed by a typhoon. Then in 1901 the area was turned into a prison camp for exiled Filipino insurrectionists, including Apolonario Mabini, a leader against the US takeover of the Philippines, who is today considered a Philippine national hero.

In 1917, when the US declared war on Germany, the enlisted men of the German cruiser SMS Cormoran, which had been docked in Apra Harbor for three years, were imprisoned at Asan Point by the naval authorities.

In 1922, Asan Point became a US Marine Corps camp with a quartermaster depot, a small arms range, and barracks, but the area, along with most of the island, was demilitarized in 1931.

During World War II, Asan beach played a vital part in the American recapture of Guam from the occupying Japanese forces. On July 21, 1944, the American invasion took place on the beaches of Asan and Agat, beginning with a bombardment of the island at 5:30 a.m. Japanese defensive positions were placed on top and on both sides of Asan and Adelup points. The United States Armed Forces had four battleships, three cruisers, and three destroyers just off of Asan.

# Barrigada

**CATHOLIC CHURCH:** SAN VICENTE  
**FIESTA:** EARLY APRIL

## VILLAGE DESCRIPTION

Barrigada is a land-locked village located near the center of the island on Guam's limestone plateau. It stretches from the cliffline overlooking Harmon Industrial Park in the East to Mt. Barrigada in the north. Upscale homes have been developed on Mt. Barrigada along an area known as Barrigada Heights overlooking Tiyan, the interior hills of Guam and the Philippine sea. To the south is the village of Mongmong-Toto-Maite and to the east is the village Mangilao.

In the past, Barrigada was a popular ranching area for people from Hagåtña. Today some parts of the village still have a rural feel attributed to the long winding roads that make their way through hills, valleys, dense vegetation and wetlands. Nevertheless, the village of Barrigada is now a heavily populated residential area bordered by considerable commercial development along routes 8 (Purple Heart Memorial Highway), 10 (Vietnam Veterans Highway) and 16 (US Army Corps Drive). The recently returned former federally-designated land located in Tiyan (formerly the Naval Air Station, Guam) has become the site of some government of Guam offices, private businesses, and residential homes.

## HISTORY

Little is known about the ancient villages that were scattered through central Guam. However, early archaeological studies on Guam found a large number of latte stones in the region now called Tiyan, which suggests that the area was well populated. Chamorros were forced out of this region during the Spanish-Chamorro Wars of the late seventeenth century. However, it was not long until Chamorros started using the area for ranching, hunting, and for grazing cattle.

During the early twentieth century, the village of Barrigada was established near the current location of P.C. Lujan school which was surrounded by scattered ranches. Some of the island's best soil was located at Tiyan, which was ideal for corn. Early in the US Naval Era a deep well was drilled here to attract farmers to settle and by 1924 there were enough people to warrant the construction of Barrigada's first school. By 1940, about 875 people lived in the municipality of Barrigada, which at the time also included what is now Mangilao and Toto.



Chalan Pago/Ordot

# Chalan Pago/Ordot

**CATHOLIC CHURCH, CHALAN PAGO:** SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND ORDOT: SAN JUAN BAUTISTA  
**FIESTA:** LATE MAY AND LATE JUNE

## VILLAGE DESCRIPTION

The municipality of Chalan Pago-Ordot stretches across the narrow "waist" of the island of Guam. Housing areas are built mostly along Route 4. These villages are on the dividing line between the mostly volcanic southern half of the island and the mostly limestone northern half of the island. The result is a diverse and rugged topography characterized by low hills, small valleys, wetland areas and streams that seem to disappear into the ground. The area is covered with lush green vegetation and homes are built on flat areas of land at times next to small valleys. Some residences have also been built at the foothills of nearby mountains.

The area had long been a center of ranching for people from Hagåtña but since World War II, it has become home to two tight knit village communities as well as several new housing subdivisions.

Chalan Pago also leads to Pago Bay where homeowners have a view of the ocean on Guam's eastern coast. A few people have also taken advantage of mountain properties, building residences overlooking the bay.

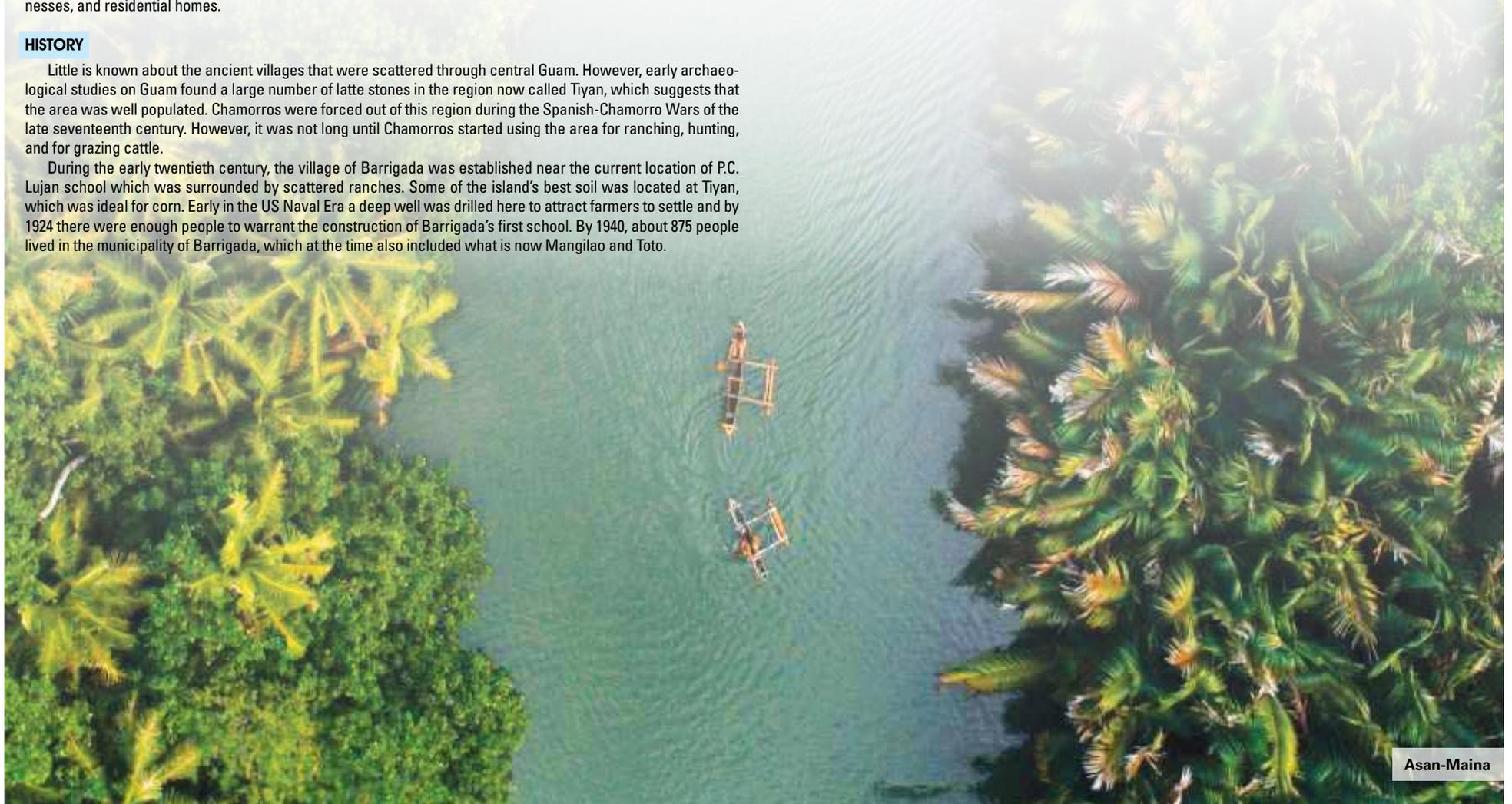
Ordot is also the site of the island's landfill. In March 2008, U.S. District Court of Guam Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood placed the dump under federal receivership after the local government failed to close it and build a sanitary landfill in another location as ordered by a federal mandate. An off-island solid waste management consulting firm has been given full authority to take over the closure of the dump.

## HISTORY

Pago is an ancient settlement in Pago Bay along the southeastern coast of Guam. In the 1670s, Pago was resettled as a Catholic village, established when Chamorros were forced to leave their homes throughout the Mariana Islands during the Spanish reducción. In the 1700s, Jesuit missionaries established an agricultural station at Tachogna which encompassed much of the present-day village of Ordot.

Other ancient settlements in the area included Fagtu, Tagun, Pumud, Tinaka, Pohund and Aguan. A typhoon and an epidemic struck the island in the 1850s which caused massive population loss as well as the abandonment of the village of Pago. Survivors were absorbed into other villages. The area remained a popular ranching area, however, because of its fertile soil and proximity to peoples' homes in Hagåtña. Corn was the most popular crop although some rice, taro and yams were grown in the wetlands. Gaddo' and dago (types of yams) were also plentiful in the region. It was not until after World War II that people again began to build permanent houses for use as their primary residences. Initially, the villages were considered suburbs of Sinajana but in 1956, Ordot and Chalan Pago combined to become its own municipality.

**SEE GUAM ON PAGE 12**



Asan-Maina



Mongmong-Toto-Maite

# GUAM: Piti waters popular for diving

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

## Merizo

**CATHOLIC CHURCH: SAN DIMAS**  
**FIESTA: APRIL**

### VILLAGE DESCRIPTION

Merizo skirts Guam's scenic southern shoreline on a long strip of land between mountains and sea.

Cocos Lagoon, several miles square and enclosed by a large triangle of reef, extends about three miles out from the village. Cocos Island Resort draws day visitors to the small, densely vegetated, low-lying strip of land along the lagoon's southern exposure. The lagoon is distinguished from the deeper water outside the reef by an array of vivid blues and greens that signify shallow water over sand flats and protected coral gardens. Mama'on Channel, the lagoon's deep main pass, runs west to east past Merizo Pier and the village boat ramp, gradually shallowing as it cuts farther into the lagoon.

Fiestan Tasi (Festival of the Sea) is held annually in Merizo, and celebrates the importance of the ocean to Guam's past, present and future. It often includes boat races and other water sports competitions and exhibitions. Dates of the festival vary from year to year.

On the other side of the winding main coastal road, Route 4, several rivers flowing to the sea from the nearby mountains cut lush valleys through dry savanna foothills. Much of the population lives in these rural valleys, which are mainly residential areas dotted with a few farms and ranches, shadows of the community's agrarian past.

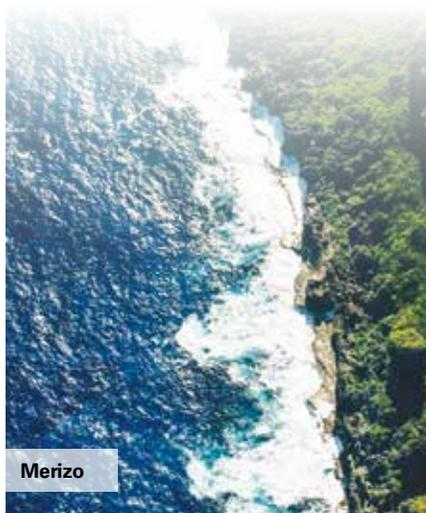
### HISTORY

While there are few accounts of the pre-Spanish colonial era on Guam, Merizo's abundance of fresh water, its protected lagoon, extensive reef and shorelines, and its fertile valleys suggest that the area likely sustained a large population. By 1833, however, the population was estimated at only 318. By this time, disease, calamity and the Spanish-Chamorro wars had reduced the native Chamorros.

Despite the dramatic decrease in the Chamorro population during the Reducción (efforts to subdue Chamorros into accepting Christianity and Spanish rule), the population of Merizo was significant enough for Father Diego Luis de San Vitores to order the building of the fifth mission on Guam in Merizo in 1672. No trace of the original mission structures exists today. The restored Malessos' Kombento, home to the parish priest, and the Kampanayun Malessos' (Merizo Belltower), both Spanish-era structures, as well as the new church dedicated in September 2002, attest to the church's enduring place in village life.

The Japanese occupation of Guam set Merizo on a course that, in July 1944, would make the village a locus of infamous brutality and stirring heroism. Almost four years after the Japanese invasion and occupation of Guam, their situation began to grow desperate as American ships bombarded the island in preparation for the July 21 landing and retaking of Guam. The Japanese troops stationed in Merizo rounded up two groups of thirty Chamorros each. Forty-six Chamorros were slaughtered with grenades, bayonets, and sabers.

At Tinta, in the Geus River valley, some escaped death by lying still under the corpses of their relatives and friends, while others were able to flee. Not one of the thirty in the second group survived the massacre at Faha, just behind the village cemetery. Each year in July, people hike for prayer services to the original massacre sites in remembrance of the forty-six villagers. Similar massacres took place in Fena, near the present day Santa Rita, and Yigo.



Merizo

## Mongmong-Toto-Maite

**CATHOLIC CHURCH, MONGMONG: NUESTRA SEÑORA DE LAS AGUAS**  
**FIESTA: JANUARY**  
**CATHOLIC CHURCH, TOTO: IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY**

### VILLAGE DESCRIPTION

Mongmong-Toto-Maite is located in central Guam, just north of the capital city of Hagåtña. Aside from the airplanes flying directly over the tri-village before landing in the neighboring area of Tiyan, many residents of Mongmong-Toto-Maite find it to be a very quiet and peaceful place to live. Maite's cliffline, with beautiful sunset views, is home to some of the island's most well known families, including the Calvo's, whose attractive homes line the cliff above East Hagåtña.

Mongmong and Toto for the most part are rural, residential areas. Mongmong runs parallel to Maite and is at the center of the tri-village. It is heavily vegetated and is the most populated of the three villages. Toto borders Barrigada to the north of the other two villages, and is known for its winding roads and swamplands.

However, there is also a busy industrial side to the Mongmong-Toto-Maite. The area of Maite and Toto along Route 8 between Tiyan and the island's capital, Hagåtña is primarily an industrial area, filled with warehouses, hardware and furniture stores, mom-and-pop markets, and many popular bargain shops.

Mongmong's Catholic Church is Nuestra Señora de Las Aguas (Our Lady of the Waters). Parishioners celebrate their annual fiesta in honor of their patron saint on the last day of January.

The Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Toto celebrates its patron saint's fiesta on the second or third Saturday of June each year.

The village of Maite does not have a Catholic Church and does not have a village fiesta. The Bayview Baptist Church and Son of God Baptist Church are located in Maite.

### HISTORY

Sixty years ago, Mongmong-Toto-Maite was not a place to live; it was a place to work. And working at that time didn't mean reporting to an eight-hour job in an office. It meant walking a few miles to a ranch to farm for food as was typical for many areas of Guam.

Before the Japanese occupation of Guam in 1941, Mongmong-Toto-Maite was mainly used for small-scale farming and raising poultry and other livestock. Most of the people who used the land prior to the war lived in Hagåtña and would walk through jungle trails to the tri-village to farm in the morning and return home in the evening.

Mongmong was particularly popular during the early months of the year when people from all over the island would travel there to honor the village's patron saint Nuestra Señora de Las Aguas, or Our Lady of the Waters. They would pray to her for rain during the island's dry season. In 1881, a man named James Young wrote to his sister in Australia telling her about the residents' devotion to the saint. He said people believed that this image of the Virgin Mary appeared to some villagers during a strong typhoon in 1850, and caused a perfect calm that saved their farm from destruction.

In 1898, only seven families lived in the area. Others simply owned ranches there. But this quickly changed during World War II. While the Japanese Imperial Army populated Hagåtña, several families began migrating to the Mongmong-Toto area. And even more families moved there after the heavy U.S. bombardment followed by an invasion of troops on the island, which eventually ended the Japanese occupation.

As Hagåtña became a business area, Mongmong-Toto-Maite was one of the villages that housed the families who used to live in the capital. At this time, Mongmong and Toto also accommodated the Fifth Service Depot, a U.S. Marine supply outlet, pushing residents to the hilly, rugged and swampy areas of the tri-village. It became a popular place to live because residents felt safe being so close to the Marines right after a war. And many villagers found jobs at the depot. Several Quonset huts were built in Mongmong and used for schools, such as the original George Washington High School.



Piti

## ↘ Piti

**CATHOLIC CHURCH:** ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY  
**FIESTA:** AUGUST

### VILLAGE DESCRIPTION

Most Guam residents know the village of Piti from what they see along Marine Corps Drive, Guam's main thoroughfare. The first noticeable landmark in the village along Marine Corps Drive when heading southbound is the Piti Underwater Observatory. The observatory juts out from the coastline into the ocean.

The Piti coastline is lined by two beach parks: Tepungan Beach Park, with newer pavilions, and the Pedro Santos Memorial Park, with an older, large pavilion and unused basketball court. This area of the coast, known as the Piti Bomb Holes, is a marine preserve, where fishing is now prohibited. This prohibition has resulted in an abundance of fish and other sea life that make the Piti waters popular among divers and snorkelers.

Slightly further south, across the road from the ocean, is the New J-Market grocery store and a gas station, just before the Piti Power Plant at the junction of Marine Corps Drive and Route 11, which leads out into Cabras Island. Cabras Island extends into the ocean to form part of Apra Harbor and is further extended by the Glass Breakwater, named after U.S. Navy Captain Henry Glass. On this island is the Cabras Power Plant, the Port Authority of Guam and the Commercial Port. Further out is Family Beach, a secluded recreational spot.

The village proper is located just across from Cabras Island, on the cliffside of Marine Corps Drive. The village is a small residential area with curved two-lane roads and a scattering of homes, many of which date back to the decade after World War II. The village's most prominent features are Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church and the Mike S. Tajalle Baseball Field. The mayor's office is in a small house-like structure, and the old senior citizen's center is now being used as a youth center.

### HISTORY

Piti started out as a small pre-Spanish settlement, with plentiful fishing for the ancient Chamorros. Even after the arrival of the Spanish, Piti remained a small village until the Port of San Luis of Apra (Apra Harbor) near Piti became the chief harbor of the Spanish government.

With the increased presence of other European powers in the Pacific in the early 1700s, Spain ordered the improvement of Guam's defenses. Between 1720 and 1730, Fort Santiago, a small emplacement with cannons, was erected on top of Orote Peninsula overlooking Apra Harbor. In 1734, the Spanish opened a new anchorage for ships in Apra Harbor, offering better protection from storms and a higher level of defense than fortifications in the village of Umatac. In 1737, Fort San Luis, with six cannons, was completed on Orote (near what is now Gab Gab Beach) to defend the anchorage. The area near Gab Gab Beach was a part of Sumay village, which is now U.S. Naval Station Guam.

After 1740, most ships began to anchor in Apra Harbor when the wind was favorable, with cargo transferred via small boats to a pier near the village of Piti. From the village, the goods were transported by two-wheeled carts pulled by steer or oxen to the government store in Hagåtña. For many years, the road connecting the pier at Piti to Hagåtña, made of crushed limestone, was the only real road on Guam.

In the 1830s, the Spanish helped plant the first rice paddies in Piti, which continued until after the World War II.

Piti and Apra Harbor played an important role at critical points in Guam's history. The surrender of the Spanish government and military on Guam to U.S. Navy Captain Henry Glass, for example, took place at Piti on June 21-22, 1898 during the Spanish-American War, with the cruiser USS Charleston and a contingent of U.S. Marines anchored in Apra Harbor.

Apra Harbor became the port for U.S. naval vessels under the new American government, and in 1899 a navy yard was created on the former Spanish crown property at Piti.



Santa Rita

# Santa Rita

**CATHOLIC CHURCH:** OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE  
**FIESTA:** MAY

### VILLAGE DESCRIPTION

The village of Santa Rita proper, not including the military housing areas, Naval Station and Naval Magazine, is one of the smallest, quietest, and least modernized villages on Guam. There are two small stores – D's Corner Store and Santa Rita Store – and a more recent addition, the Santa Rita Video Store adjoined to the Santa Rita Store within the main village. The village is surrounded by natural water sources. It's boundary with Yona is marked by Tarzan Falls, while it's border with Talofoto is in the vicinity of Fena Lake. Santa Rita's border with Piti lies along the Guatali river, while it shares a border with Agat along the Namu River. The village flower, previously the gardenia, has recently been changed to the ginger because of its present abundance throughout Santa Rita.

Most of the village's activities revolve around the church, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, as well as the Mayor's Office and new Senior Citizen's Center, and the baseball field that lies between them. Most of the families in the village have been there since it was built, just after the war, so most of the residents know each other or at least see one another at church every Sunday.

The Fena Reservoir in Santa Rita, located within the gates of Naval Magazine, was completed in 1951 with the intent of providing a dependable water supply to the U.S. Navy on Guam. It now serves as the main drinking water supply to a considerable portion of the southern region of the island. The reservoir is also home to a large population of carabao, once valued as an important animal for farm labor and transportation that has now become a cultural and historical icon on Guam. To support growing demand for water, a \$1.5 million upgrade was completed in 2007 on the Santa Rita Springs Booster Pump.

### HISTORY

The history of Santa Rita starts in the ancient village of Sumay, a small village on Orote Peninsula, whose residents were evicted from the village during the Japanese occupation of World War II before eventually being relocated by the Americans to the current village of Santa Rita to make room for the construction of Naval Station. Being the first village bombed during the invasion of Guam by Japan on December 8, 1941, the residents of Sumay took refuge in the outlying area of Apla where many families had ranches. Most would remain there for the duration of the occupation.

As American troops made advancements toward the retaking of Guam in 1944, many of the Sumay residents, as well as many from neighboring Agat, took shelter in the Fena caves located in what is now the municipality of Santa Rita. As American forces built up in the waters near Guam, Japanese soldiers one day forced more than one hundred Sumay and Agat people taking refuge at Fena into the caves, many of them in their late teens and early twenties. Many of the women were repeatedly raped, and many of the men and women were killed in the caves by hand grenades, machine guns, and bayonets. On the next morning, dozens of prisoners escaped into the jungle, although some were killed as they fled.

A memorial Mass was held each year at the Fena caves to commemorate those who died there, but post-9/11 security has closed the area off as it is located within the perimeter of Naval Magazine. The annual memorial Mass is now held at the Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Santa Rita.

In the battle to recapture the island, the American forces completely destroyed Sumay. When the U.S. forces regained control of the island, the people of Sumay were still to be moved, resulting in the naval government's construction of a temporary settlement of wooden houses with thatched roofs for the Sumay residents at the Santa Rita site. Although this site was supposed to be temporary, the majority of Sumay residents chose to remain in Santa Rita because they were exhausted from being forced to constantly relocate during the war. They were also forbidden to resettle in their old village by the Navy, which expropriated Orote Peninsula and all other property in and around Apra Harbor, including the entire village of Sumay. The land where Sumay once sat is now part of Naval Station.

The once coastal people of Sumay now made their home in the foothills of Mount Alifan, which are not well suited for farming or fishing. The contour and slopes of the mountains made lot apportionment difficult. Many of the postwar houses can still be seen today within the edges of the precipices and deep chasms of Santa Rita, raised on stilts to avoid the floods during heavy rains and to keep pests and other animals out of the house.

# Sinajana

**CATHOLIC CHURCH:** ST. JUDE THADDEUS  
**FIESTA:** OCTOBER

### VILLAGE DESCRIPTION

Sinajana is perched along a hilltop between Agana Springs and Agana Heights. When entering the village from San Ramon Hill, one comes upon the Catholic Saint Fidelis Franciscan Friary, whose order maintains Sinajana's Saint Jude Thaddeus Catholic Church, among others. The annual village fiesta is celebrated on the last weekend of October, in honor of Saint Jude, patron saint of the impossible.

The two main schools are Carlos L. Taitano Elementary School, a public school, and Bishop Baumgartner Memorial School, a private Catholic school.

C. L. Taitano Elementary School is centrally located within walking distance of the village fire station, St. Jude Thaddeus Church, mayor's office, and community center. Within this busy block one will also pass the old Won Pat store, which is now an apartment complex. A hotnu, or old Spanish oven, can still be found in the yard.

Bishop Baumgartner Memorial School sits on the site of the old Saint Jude Thaddeus Junior High School campus.

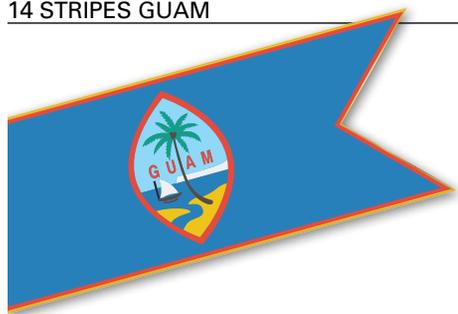
### HISTORY

Sinajana was in existence before the arrival of Spanish missionaries in 1668 and was bordered by the areas now known as Cha'ot and Otdot, the present-day Otdot village. This ancient village was the domain of Hineti, a Chamorro who was loyal to the Spanish and the Marianas Mission, and was baptized Don Ignacio de Hineti. On July 23, 1684, at the climax of the Chamorro-Spanish Wars, Hineti joined with the Spaniards and recruited about fifty Chamorros, armed with lances, to secure the Spanish stockade and the Spanish flag in Hagåtña from Chamorro homeland defenders. For this he was rewarded the position and title of sergeant major by the Spanish governor Captain General D. Antonio de Saravia.

The last Spanish census, taken in 1897, listed 133 residents in Sinajana. There were family names that still exist today, including Quidachay, Fegurgur, Atoigue, Taisague, Concepcion, Agualo, San Nicolas, Dela Rosa, Taimanglo, Gogo, Quichocho, Agui, Neputi, Lujan, Tertaotao, Achaigua, Matanane, Navaro, Castro, Crisostimo, Balajadia, and Fejaran.

Although pre-World War II Sinajana was an agricultural village, at one time operating as the coffee capital of the island and supplying all of civilian Guam, much has changed with modern urbanization. The destruction of Hagåtña during WWII sent thousands in search of homes, and Sinajana absorbed many families when the U.S. military government erected temporary housing in the village. By 1950, the population had swelled to 3,000.

St. Jude Junior High School, built in 1955 under the guidance of Sinajana pastor Fr. Raymond Demers, had the distinction of being the only school on island built entirely through "happy labor." More than five hundred men from the village volunteered for the construction. The Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, from Lacrosse, Wisconsin, administered the school at the request of Bishop Apollinaris William Baumgartner, who the school is now named after.



# GUAM: Yigo the largest village

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

## Talofofu

**SAINT:** SAN MIGUEL  
**FIESTA:** SEPTEMBER

### VILLAGE DESCRIPTION

Former Mayor Tito Mantanona coined the name “God’s Country” for Talofofu, a nickname affectionately used by many residents and seen on signs throughout the village. At the heart of Talofofu is a four-way intersection recognized as the crossroads of this small village. Anyone giving directions to a location in this village inevitably starts with this intersection, which is also at the heart of economic activity in Talofofu, with three corner stores doing business near the four-way intersection. North from the intersection is the village’s Catholic church, San Miguel Church, as well as the mayor’s office and houses, most of them similar to homes in suburban communities.

East from the intersection is the Onward Talofofu Golf Course, after which the road intersects with Route 17, locally known as Cross Island Road.

West from the intersection are more houses and Talofofu Elementary School, a sports field, and the Talofofu gym.

South of the intersection is the Seventh-day Adventist Church and Notre Dame High School, and as the road heads downhill toward the Talofofu subcommunity of Ipan and Talofofu Bay, it passes the ancient Talofofu Caves.

Sitting below the hills of the main village is the coastal community of Ipan, Talofofu. A number of secluded beaches and a scattering of houses, along with a gas station, make up most of Ipan. The area also includes Ipan Beach Park, a popular spot for barbecues. Jeff’s Pirates Cove is located on the northern border of Ipan and has become an institution in the area. It is best known for its relaxed-atmosphere bar and grill, along with a small souvenir store and an outdoor area used for arts and craft fairs, concerts and other gatherings.

The southern boundary of Talofofu is marked by the Ugum River (joined by the Talofofu River), which flows into Talofofu Bay. But as the Talofofu Bay park facilities are on the southern side of the bay, the area most people visit in Talofofu Bay is actually part of the neighboring village, Inarajan.

### HISTORY

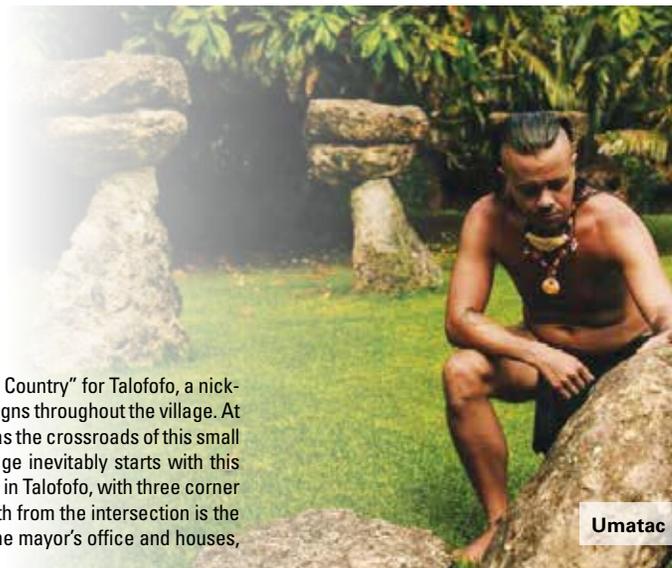
The original pre-Spanish inhabitants of Talofofu lived mostly in settlements along the Talofofu and Ugum rivers, although artifacts have been found in the Talofofu Caves, perhaps suggesting that people used the caves for shelter during typhoons.

In 1672, Spanish Jesuit priest Father Diego Luis de San Vitores ordered a church to be constructed at the Piggug settlement near Talofofu Bay, and this church became the center of the new Christian community.

The settlement never grew very large in size or prominence, although Talofofu Bay was the site of a few notable landings. One such landing was in 1788 of a large group of islanders from Lamotrek in the Caroline Islands, who arrived in canoes on a trading mission to obtain iron. It was the first such expedition since inter-island trade had come to a halt due to the Spanish-Chamorro Wars one hundred years before. The Spanish-Chamorro Wars were a series of rebellions by some of the Chamorros against Catholic indoctrination many years before.

After several months, the Carolinians departed for Lamotrek with iron and trade goods, but it later turned out that they never reached home and were probably hit by a storm. Don Luis de Torres, a Spanish-Chamorro military officer, travelled to Woleai in 1804 to reassure the Carolines that their peers had not died at the hands of the Spanish. Carolinians subsequently resumed their annual trading voyages to Guam.

Talofofu Bay was also the site of the eastern landing of Japanese forces during the invasion of Guam on December 10, 1941, when a detachment meant to land at Ylig Bay in Yona mistakenly landed at Talofofu Bay instead.



Umatac

## Tamuning/ Tumon/Harmon

**CATHOLIC CHURCH, TAMUNING:** ST. ANTHONY

**FIESTA:** JUNE

**CATHOLIC CHURCH, TUMON:** BLESSED DIEGO LUIS DE SAN VITORES

**FIESTA:** JANUARY

### VILLAGE DESCRIPTION

The main geographic features of this region are the low plateau of Oka (Saupon) Point which divides Tumon and Hagåtña bays, and the Tumon Bay area which is enclosed by high cliffs leading to relatively flat Upper Tumon/ Harmon areas.

Tumon, with its beautiful white sand beaches and protected waters, has developed over the last four decades into Guam’s tourism center while Tamuning has become a major commercial and residential area. Harmon, the sight of the post-World War II airfield, is now an industrial park.

### HISTORY

Tamuning, and its surrounding areas, has a rich history. The large number of latte stones and other archeological finds around Tumon Bay are evidence that Tumon Bay, with its freshwater springs and excellent inshore fishing, has long been a major population center of the island. During the Spanish conquest of Guam in the late seventeenth century, Tumon (Tumhun), Ipao, and Apotguan were all listed as major villages.

However, with the resettlement of Chamorros during the Spanish-Chamorro wars the area was completely emptied of people. For the next two centuries the area was primarily used for ranching, hunting and fishing. The village of Tamuning was established in 1849 by Governor Pablo Perez as a refuge for a group of Carolinians whose islands had been destroyed by a 1848 typhoon.

During the American naval era several changes came to the area. Unhappy with the cultural practices of the Carolinians, Governor Seaton Schroeder transported them to the neighboring island of Saipan, north of Guam, in 1901, which was then under the administration of Germany. Schroeder also established a leper colony at Ypao in 1902 which lasted until 1912 when its inhabitants were exiled to the Philippines, most never to be heard from again. During Guam’s American naval era people began to settle permanently in this part of Guam and established the village of Dededo which was centered at the current location of the San Miguel Brewery building in Harmon but included what is now considered Tamuning and Tumon. Tumon was a popular fishing and salt making area during these years.

World War II brought many changes to the Tumon-Tamuning region. Life went on as usual for the Dededo villagers who did not have to leave their homes during the war, but Tumon Bay was fortified by the Japanese and ranchers were restricted from the area.

Before Guam was liberated from occupying military forces in 1944, most residents in this part of Guam were forced into Japanese concentration camps. After the war, when people began to return to the area, they discovered that their former homes and ranch lands were to be used by the U.S. military for the new Harmon Air Force Base which stretched from Two Lovers Point and Ukudu to what is now the intersection of Airport Road and Marine Corps Drive. Much of the land in Tumon Bay was also now off limits because it had been designated as an Army Air Corps recreation area.

## Umatac

**CATHOLIC CHURCH:** SAN DIONISIO  
**FIESTA:** OCTOBER

### VILLAGE DESCRIPTION

The small village of Umatac is located in southern Guam along Umatac Bay. The community of Umatac is relatively smaller than others on Guam and made up of a handful of residents, many of whom are related to each other.

Interspersed between old houses that sit along the bay’s shoreline are ruins that have become prominent reminders of the Spanish colonial era in the village. Plaques are placed throughout the village that describe the Spanish era to visitors. Remains of the Spanish times include the former Spanish governor’s residence, the site of the old San Dionisio church and several Spanish forts and a battery.

A bumpy two-lane road runs through the center of the village, and visitors coming down into Umatac from the steep hills in the north will first notice stones placed into a hillside in the shape of the island of Guam, welcoming them to the village. A couple of small stores and the San Dionisio Church, built at its current location in 1939, sit along the road.

The road, with houses built in the first half of the last century, then opens up into a spectacular view of the bay before coming to a small park with a children’s playground built by IT&E in the 1990s. Adjacent to the park is the mayor’s office, right on the beach, with perhaps the best view of any mayor’s office on Guam.

At the center of the bay is an obelisk monument to Ferdinand Magellan’s landing in 1521, bearing the inscription, “Magellan landed here.” The bay is also home to some of the island’s best surfing.

### HISTORY

The history of Umatac is among the most rich of all the villages of Guam, especially during the Spanish era. Among other distinctions, Umatac is the home to Fouha Bay in which a rock called “Fouha” Rock sits. The ancient Chamorros believed this rock to be the resting place of a goddess called Fu’una who, with her brother Puntan, is credited with creating the world and people. The rock is also called Creation Point.

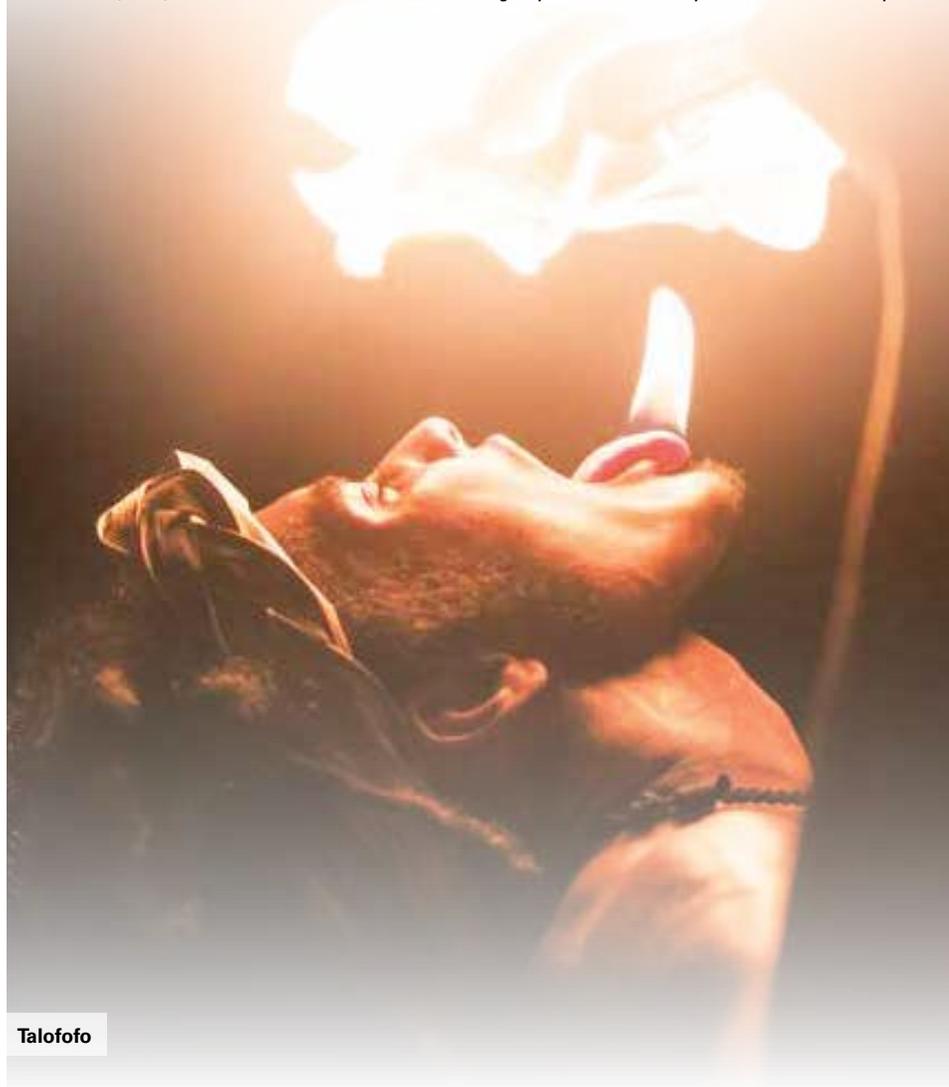
The pre-contact Chamorros made a pilgrimage to the rock every year to pay homage to Fu’una and to have their rice blessed to be used to cure people according to Spanish accounts. Umatac is perhaps most famous for being the site, by long oral tradition among the Chamorros, Ferdinand Magellan first landed on Guam. Although other theories about Magellan’s landing site have arisen, the residents of Umatac still proudly celebrate Discovery Day every March 21st with a re-enactment of the 1521 landing.

The next landing by Europeans on Guam, that of Miguel Lopez de Legazpi, forty-four years later in 1565, was indisputably at Umatac. Legazpi anchored at Umatac Bay for thirteen days and formally claimed Guam for Spain, and during his stay, a Catholic mass was celebrated in a large cruciform canoe house by the bay.

By the time of Legazpi’s visit, Umatac was already a Chamorro coastal settlement that included a large communal house raised on latte stones, so spacious it could accommodate 200 people along with large canoes, as described by the Europeans. There were also other low houses in which the Chamorros cooked and roasted food.

Umatac was the chief port for the Spanish during the early galleon days, when it was visited annually by a galleon from Acapulco, usually in May or June. In late 1680, a Spanish settlement was established at Umatac for the first time to serve the galleons, along with a supply ship that stopped on Guam from Cavite in the Philippines, usually in August or September. The supply ship brought necessities such as soap, flour, tools, metal, animals and seeds. The galleon also brought supplies, but mainly Spanish money of Mexican silver to pay soldiers and mission personnel.

These visits were so important that the Spanish governor transferred his residence from Hagåtña to Umatac when the ships were expected. Governor Damian de Esplana built the governor’s palacio, or palace, surrounded by a presidio compound in Umatac in 1690. After the supplies were unloaded from the ships, they were transported by boat from Umatac around Orote Point to Hagåtña since no road existed between the two towns.



Talofofu

Yigo



# Yigo

**CATHOLIC CHURCH:** SANTA MARIAN LOURDES  
**FIESTA:** FEBRUARY

**VILLAGE DESCRIPTION**

Yigo is the island's largest and most northern village, encompassing thirty-five square miles. On the map the village looks like a triangle that stretches from Pati Point to Ritidian in the North and from Ritidian to the coast near Pagat.

Yigo is the home to Andersen Air Force Base and has secured access to the beaches of the village. Yigo has numerous housing subdivisions that have sprung up in the last three decades, but it still retains a rural feel thanks to its large open spaces and dense forests supported by some of the richest soil on Guam. Like all northern Guam villages, it sits on top of the Northern Aquifer, which supplies about eighty percent of the island's drinking water supply.

**HISTORY**

During ancient times, Guam's Northern coast was home to a large number of villages. Evidence of latte dwellings also point to a significant population living in the Mt. Santa Rosa and Mataguac areas. During the Spanish Chamorro Wars in the late seventeenth century, major areas of settlement included Hanom, Tarague, Hinapsan and Upi. Hanom, a fresh water spring on the coast south of Mt. Santa Rosa played an important role as a refuge for the Chamorro resistance during the Spanish-Chamorro Wars. In August of 1679 Spanish forces along with their allies from Nisihan defeated the Hanom Chamorros. The battle was described as "one of the fiercest which had taken place in the Marianas."

By the early eighteenth century the population of Guam had been greatly reduced by war and disease and all remaining Chamorros from the northern part of Guam were relocated to six church-centered villages in central and southern Guam (Hagåtña, Agat, Umatac, Merizo, Inarajan and Pago). However, the area remained open to hunters and fishermen.

During the nineteenth century wealthy residents of Hagåtña began to acquire large areas of land in this fertile part of the island. The rich soil proved excellent for cocoa which was used to make hot chocolate, a popular afternoon drink for Hagåtña residents. Other agricultural products that the area was known for were coffee, avocado, citrus and copra. The area of Upi, now Northwest Field, was particularly important for its cattle ranches while several wealthy landowners established copra plantations along the Northern coast and in the area of Yigo proper.

By the early years of the American administration, some Chamorros chose to settle permanently in Yigo and surrounding areas. In 1912 the first school opened for grades one through four. In 1919 the U.S. Government authorized land use permits for up to twenty-five years to attract more farmers to the area. In 1920, Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel was erected so that the people of Yigo would no longer have to make the long journey to Hagåtña each week for mass.

The new village of Yigo was highly self sufficient because of its excellent farm lands. However, people still had to travel to Hagåtña to buy household goods. In 1925, Jose M. Torres solved this problem by building the first village store. Torres was a copra trader and would accept coconuts in exchange for groceries. By 1940, Yigo and surrounding areas were home to about forty families spread out over large distances.

# Yona

**CATHOLIC CHURCH:** ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI  
**FIESTA:** FIRST WEEKEND OF OCTOBER

**VILLAGE DESCRIPTION**

Yona is the first southern village on the eastern side of Guam. Its boundaries stretch for six miles, from the south side of Pago Bay to the north side of the bridge at Jeff's Pirates Cove in Ipan, Talofofo. The village also extends west on Route 17, or Cross Island Road, from Route 4, or Chalan Kanton Tasi, to Tarzan Falls, near the Naval Magazine overlook.

Its jurisdiction also includes the area from Pulantat and Manenggon Valley to Lonfit Bridge in Chalan Pago. As such, Yona is one of Guam's largest municipalities in area and is divided into ten sections: Baza Gardens, Windward Hills, Ylig, Manenggon, CampWitek, Pulantat, Triangle, Central Yona, Tagachang and As Namu.

**HISTORY**

Yona's history dates back to ancient times. Pulantat, one of the village's ten sections, was a prominent interior district before the Magellan arrived in 1521. Many latte stones and an ancient burial site have been discovered in this area. Another ancient burial site has been discovered about 100 feet north of Ylig Bridge along Route 4 along the Ylig Bay. Latte were also discovered and destroyed during the development of Baza Gardens along Route 17. Tagachang Beach Park, along the coast, is also believed to have been the site of an ancient Chamorro village.

From ancient times until after World War II Yona was a rich farming area with fertile soil, good water, and abundant fishing grounds. People lived in scattered ranches. Only two buildings in the entire area were built of wood before the war with the rest being thatch. The village's first public school was built in 1915.

Yona remained a relatively peaceful farming area during the war until the last few weeks of the Japanese occupation of Guam. On July 12, 1944 the Japanese command ordered the relocation of people from their homes to camps in various parts of the island. The Japanese Imperial Army forces knew United States forces were approaching. Even the sick were forced to leave their homes and march from one concentration camp to another, until they reached the largest campsite in Yona's Manenggon Valley.

During those last days of war, Manenggon Valley became home to about seventy-five percent of the island's population which is about 18,000 people. People used the Manenggon River's waters to wash themselves and their clothes and for cooking. They built shelters of wooden frames and coconut leaves. Terrible rains came and flooded these temporary homes. As more people crowded into the two-square-mile valley, conditions worsened. Many people died of malnutrition and other illnesses.

Every day groups of men were taken from Manenggon to various worksites. Some were killed by the Japanese soldiers. Others will killed by U.S. air raids or from shells from naval vessels that were bombarding the island. Many victims were buried in the riverbanks. Some of the remains were later exhumed and given a proper burial.



# Boonie Stomps Guam

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY  
GUAM BOONIE STOMPERS

Every Saturday, Guam Boonie Stompers offers public hikes to a variety of destinations such as beaches, snorkeling sites, waterfalls, mountains, caves, latte sites, and World War II sites. We meet at 9 a.m. in the Center Court of Chamorro Village in Hagatna. The cost is \$5.00 for hikers over 17. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Hikers should provide their own transportation. Guam's trails are not developed. Weather conditions can make the hikes more difficult than described. No reservations required.

**For more information:**  
www.facebook.com/GuamBoonieStompersInc  
or call 787-4238.



**MOONIE STOMP**

**Apr. 4** *Difficult*  
**Atitlong Acho to Sella** *4 hours for 3 miles*

We hike down the narrow, open ridge, then over the two huge black rock hills with good views the whole way. We then head over gently rolling terrain to the coastline at the head of Cetti Bay, then north to Sella Bay for swimming and snorkeling.  
**Bring:** 3 quarts water, good shoes, gloves, sun screen, insect repellent, lunch, camera, swimsuit, and snorkel gear.  
**Special conditions:** Very steep slopes, sword grass, little shade.

**Apr. 4** *Difficult*  
**MOONIE STOMP - Anao** *3 hours for 2 miles*

We hike out to the overlook for great views of the shoreline and cliffs, then descend down the cliff and over to Sherwood Forest for a fireside gathering to roast marshmallows and hot dogs. A short trip over to the push-suck cave is an option  
**Bring:** HEADLIGHT or flashlight, 2 quarts water, sturdy hiking shoes, gloves, and insect repellent.  
**Special conditions:** A steep hill to descend and climb, mosquitoes, and hiking over rough sharp rocks.

**Apr. 11** *Difficult*  
**Mt. Sasalaguan** *5 hours for 4 miles*

We go to hell and back! We hike to the magnificent views from the top of Mt. Sasalaguan. We climb steadily up the long eastern ridge leading to the mountain, climb very steeply up the sword grass wall, then continue on an easier grade to the summit.  
**Bring:** 2 quarts water, hiking shoes, swim suit, Flashlight, gloves, sun screen, insect repellent, lunch, and camera.  
**Special conditions:** Walking in cave water, walking over rough limestone rocks, and steep slopes.

**Complete 10 Boonie Stomps to earn a Boonie Stomp T-Shirt!**

**Stomp Tip:**

- 1) Alcohol and hiking do not mix.
- 2) Do not bring beverages with caffeine on hikes.
- 3) Bring plenty of water with you on hikes.
- 4) Do not hike alone and let someone know where you are going and your return time.
- 5) Always carry a well stocked personal first aid kit.
- 6) When hiking, lots of little snacks are better than one big meal
- 7) Always bring a small flashlight in case you get lost, or delayed. Save your phone battery for calls.



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# Life lessons learned through marathon training

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
JENNIFER BROWN,  
STRIPES GUAM

Has anyone ever thought about setting off on an endeavor as a child, but forgot about it later on? When I was younger, I thought running a marathon would be a huge achievement. As a high school student, my grandmother even encouraged me to join cross-country. While I had always thought about joining the team, I did not see myself as a runner, at least, not like those on the varsity team. I soon realized though, that running is more than the sport itself; it is about self-exploration, pushing beyond your comfort level, and teamwork. As a young woman, I embarked on training for my first marathon... and completed it! In doing so, I have come to realize now that dreams I once created can become a reality.

## Why train and run a marathon?

While I ran 5Ks during cross-country, running a marathon had always seemed to be a momentous achievement to me. In my mind, if I could run a marathon, what couldn't I do? Nevertheless, running the entire 26.2 miles was still very

intimidating. While I thought that 12 miles was tough, I had to run double that...I sometimes felt wiped halfway through!

## Why did I train for it now?

One of the things I have realized as an adult is that other aspirations I created as a child have come and gone. For instance, I have had a few opportunities to pursue work with children, something that I envisioned for myself someday. The problem is, I found myself making excuses when opportunities came up to actually work with kids. Instead of running toward my dream, I still held onto anxiety about pursuing it. For example, I was embarrassed to go to an event at a school because I am not a super outgoing person. Now if I had chosen to listen to my fear, I would have regretted not going and missing out on the opportunity.

This is the same concept I came across when I started training. The lesson I have found here is that fear and anxiety seem to be at the forefront of any decision. The important thing is to move forward anyway. This is one of the principles I am following during my marathon training. Sometimes I was



fearful about a run and had doubts that I would actually follow through with it; I had to keep reminding myself that this is all normal. Moreover, if I do not feel like I am living up to my own expectations, it is probably just part of the process; there is nothing wrong with me.

## Making Dreams become reality

If you asked me last summer if I was going to sign up for the marathon this past February, I would have said, "I don't think I can handle that"! I was invited to train for the marathon and thought I should tackle a half first before attempting a full marathon. After a few days though, I decided to give it a try. What's the worst that could happen? Even if I didn't make it, I could at least say I trained for a marathon; that I attempted my goal.

Perhaps another important lesson I have found while training is that running is not easy. Unlike other sports, running is more mental than anything else. You are running against yourself, and in training, sometimes you are the only one who keeps yourself accountable.

These are just a few examples of the lessons I have learned while pursuing my dream. Do you have any dreams you are on the fence about pursuing? If you do, what is stopping you? Is it you?

Jennifer Brown is a hospital corpsman at U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa. Originally from Florida, she joined the Navy in 2018 and has been on island for over a year. During her free time, Brown enjoys spending time with animals, running, rock climbing, and hiking. She is a graduate of the University of Central Florida and holds a Bachelor of Science in Psychology. Her professional interests include social work, animal welfare, and children.

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# Historic places offering virtual tours

BY DREW JONES,  
THE WASHINGTON POST

As governments across the world implement “social distancing” efforts to curb the spread of coronavirus, in some cities, bars, restaurants and other public spaces have been ordered to close. That leaves self-quarantined people with a lot of free time and nowhere to go.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended postponing all large gatherings or events of 50 or more people until May, which left operators of tourist attractions with few options.

Museums, historical sites and national parks have stepped up to deliver their signature experiences by offering virtual tours to anyone from the comfort of their homes.

Here’s a list of few places travelers can tour — without having to leave the couch.

## The Louvre

Last year, the world’s most visited museum was the subject of lamentations over overcrowding and peculiar guest behavior. Now because of its closure, visitors to the Louvre can check out virtual tours of

the Egyptian antiquities collection, remains of the Louvre’s moat and the Galerie d’Apollon without having to brush by anyone’s shoulders.

## Sistine Chapel

The national lockdown in Italy has forced the country to a near-standstill, shuttering public events, soccer stadiums and even the Vatican. Now, visitors can tour the interior artworks of the chapel, including its renowned ceiling and “The Last Judgment,” by the Renaissance-era painter Michelangelo.

## Guggenheim Museum

The Guggenheim is offering VR access to its entire contemporary arts collection through a partnership with Google Arts & Culture. Using the Street View feature, visitors can tour the museum’s iconic architecture, sprawling design and any of its galleries.

## Yosemite National Park

While parts of the park are still open for the season, those who can’t make it to California’s Sierra Nevada region can still tour the park — complete with sound — and visit some of Yosemite’s iconic landmarks, including the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias, the top of the Half Dome and the eponymous Yosemite Falls.



Photo by Phillip Walter wellman

## Van Gogh Museum

The largest Van Gogh collection in the world — 600 artworks and 700 letters — is housed in this Amsterdam museum and can be viewed via a virtual guided tour. View the inside of the museum along with insights into the Dutch postimpressionist artist’s life through paintings including “Sunflowers” and “The Yellow House.”

## The Great Wall of China

China’s most famous attraction offers virtual tours of some of the most visited sections of the wall, 3,000 miles of which are walkable. With much of the country under quarantine measures, the virtual tour offers a reprieve from the crowds who normally come from all over the world to see the 2,000-year-old marvel.

## Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History

The Smithsonian is offering virtual tours that let visitors take a self-guided, room-by-room trip

through the museum’s slate of exhibits. The current exhibits include the Butterfly Pavilion and the David H. Koch Hall of Fossils, and visitors can even journey through past exhibits, on topics including the last American dinosaurs, the universe, and DNA and genomics.

## Yellowstone National Park

National parks are known for their dazzling views and historical landmarks, and Yellowstone holds some of the nation’s most iconic ones. The virtual tour takes visitors through the first national park, showing Wyoming’s most treasured sites including its canyons, hot springs and geysers, the most famous being Old Faithful.

## Museum of Modern Art

The MoMa is one of over 500 museums and galleries Google Arts & Culture has partnered with to offer an interactive experience of the gallery space. The nearly 100-year-old museum is home to some of the contemporary art world’s most famous pieces, including Claude Monet’s “Water



File photo

### G.A.I.N. Pet of the Week

**Vanilla Pea**

This tiny girl is a torbie with all the love and life to give! She is eager to meet her new humans and spend the rest of her days basking in the glow of a loving family.

Call G.A.I.N. (Guam Animals In Need) Animal Shelter in Yigo at 653-4246 or visit <www.guamanimals.org> for more information on adopting this pet. G.A.I.N. is a shelter-based humane society with a mission to prevent cruelty to animals, educate the public and promote good animal laws. Under Water World will donate one adult admission for every Pet of the Week adopted.

## GREEN LIZZARD

# CLOSED

FOR TWO WEEKS  
DUE TO CORONA VIRUS

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Photo by Les Demoiselles d'Avignon

Lilies," Vincent van Gogh's "The Starry Night" and Pablo Picasso's "Les Demoiselles d'Avignon."

### San Diego Zoo

The most visited zoo in the

country is known for its open-air, cageless natural habitats and is famous for being one of the few zoos in the country that spearheaded conservation efforts of giant pandas. Even though pandas are no longer in the United States, the San Diego Zoo has set up live

streams of its habitats for anyone to view the koalas, baboons and penguins that call the zoo home.

### British Museum

The world's oldest national public museum is another space that has partnered with Google Arts & Culture to showcase a virtual, interactive gallery. Visitors can roam the halls of the museum, peruse the exhibits and see famous objects like the Rosetta Stone, the Parthenon sculptures and Egyptian mummies. Just don't expect to see any Banksys lying around anytime soon.

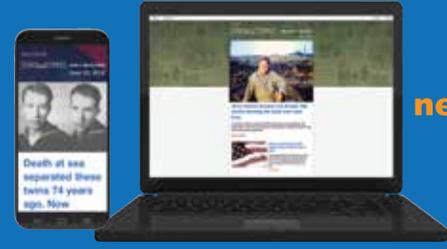
### Metropolitan Opera House

The Met in New York will host nightly encore performances of some of its most iconic shows throughout its season. The free streams will go live at 7:30 p.m. each day and be available for 20 hours after the performance. The slate includes the likes of Puccini's "La Bohème" and Verdi's "Il Trovatore" for viewers on-demand.

"We'd like to provide some grand opera solace to opera lovers in these extraordinarily difficult times," Met General Manager Peter Gelb said in a statement.

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### The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

#### ACROSS

- 1 Reading aid
- 5 Crosswise, on deck
- 10 "Now hear \_\_\_!"
- 14 Song for a diva
- 15 Pigeon's perch
- 16 Utterly detest
- 17 Small brook
- 18 Book you can't put down
- 20 Speed
- 22 Mind-boggler
- 23 High cost of leaving?
- 24 Slinky's shape
- 25 Margarita fruit
- 26 Grocery store haul
- 30 Stephen King's home
- 32 Netflix offering
- 33 Sib for sis
- 34 Not tricked by
- 35 Bartender's mixer
- 36 Urban eyecore
- 37 Till bill
- 38 Soupy "Oliver Twist" fare
- 39 Slug's trail
- 40 Third in rank
- 42 Horsewhip
- 43 Picnic hamper
- 44 Boastful display
- 47 Part of AWOL
- 50 Like many a rescue
- 51 Place for early 20th century TB patients
- 53 Tethered toy
- 54 Fox or turkey follower
- 55 Flaxlike fiber
- 56 Minute amount
- 57 "Dear" advice-giver
- 58 Pass, as time
- 59 Soon, to a bard

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
17				18					19			
20				21				22				
23							24					
	25					26				27	28	29
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47	48	49					50					
51							52				53	
54							55				56	
57							58				59	

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- 2 Animated mermaid
- 3 Tiny metric volume
- 4 Trigger was one
- 5 Skiing specialty
- 6 Birth surname of Warren and Shirley
- 7 On pins and needles
- 8 Bio bit
- 9 Rapid, as a rise to fame
- 10 Word before ride or seeker
- 11 Send to the gallows
- 12 News tidbit
- 13 Hospital fluids
- 19 Band together
- 21 Command to Fido
- 24 Object pettily
- 26 Brooklyn's \_\_\_ Island
- 27 Responsibility
- 28 Type of lily
- 29 Rotunda feature
- 30 Like some points
- 31 Green Gables girl
- 32 Lament a loss
- 35 Turncoats
- 36 Neighbor of Poland
- 38 California slugger
- 39 Close with a bang
- 41 Versailles agreement
- 42 Like Roger Rabbit
- 44 UCLA player
- 45 Likewise
- 46 "Caribbean Queen" singer
- 47 Dog in "The Thin Man"
- 48 Fishhook feature
- 49 Uppity one
- 50 A \_\_\_ a dozen
- 52 50 Cent piece?

#### Answers to Last Week's Crossword:

T	I	D	A	L	M	I	S	T	S	T	A	R		
A	R	I	S	E	O	B	O	E	P	A	R	A		
C	O	M	B	U	S	T	I	O	N	O	P	E	N	
K	N	E	E	C	O	S	T	A	R	R	I	N	G	
				S	C	A	R	B	E	T	R	A	Y	
P	A	S	T	E	L	S	P	L	A	Y				
A	C	C	O	M	P	A	N	I	E	S	G	A	S	
R	E	U	S	E	G	O	T	S	H	A	K	E		
E	D	D	T	H	E	R	A	P	E	U	T	I	C	
				C	E	A	S	E	A	S	C	E	N	T
T	H	E	O	R	Y	D	I	S	K					
H	E	A	V	Y	L	A	D	E	N	S	T	A	G	
R	A	V	E	O	N	E	A	T	A	T	I	M	E	
O	V	E	R	F	E	L	L	S	E	V	E	R		
B	E	S	T	T	W	I	T	P	R	O	N	E		

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## Stripes Sports Trivia

The last 5 NFL teams to lose one game or less in the regular season have all failed to win the Super Bowl. Most notably, of course, is the 2007 Patriots - the 2nd team to ever finish the regular season undefeated. Can you name the most recent team to finish with one loss that failed to win the Big Game?

Answer

Carolina Panthers (2015)

## SUDOKU

Difficulty: Easy

Edited by Margie E. Burke

		6	7		2			
5		8			3	1		
			1		5	4		
5	2		8		6			
8			4					2
4		3			8			
		5	7			6		
7	3							5

#### HOW TO SOLVE:

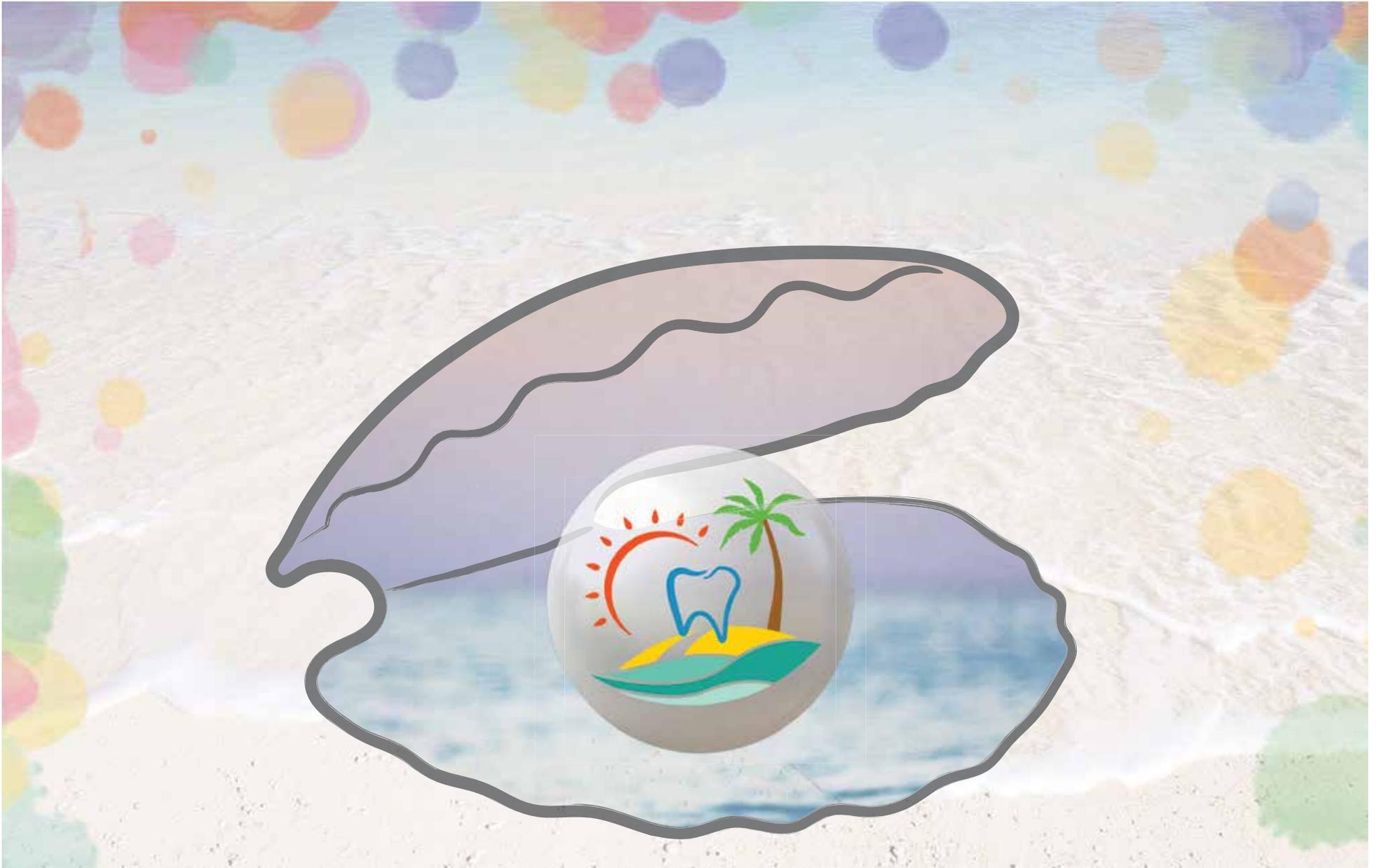
Each row must contain the numbers 1 to 9; each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9; and each set of 3 by 3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 to 9.

#### Answers to Last Week's Sudoku:

3	9	4	2	7	1	8	5	6
1	8	7	6	5	3	4	2	9
5	2	6	4	9	8	3	1	7
6	1	5	9	3	2	7	8	4
2	7	3	8	6	4	1	9	5
8	4	9	7	1	5	2	6	3
4	6	1	3	8	9	5	7	2
9	3	8	5	2	7	6	4	1
7	5	2	1	4	6	9	3	8

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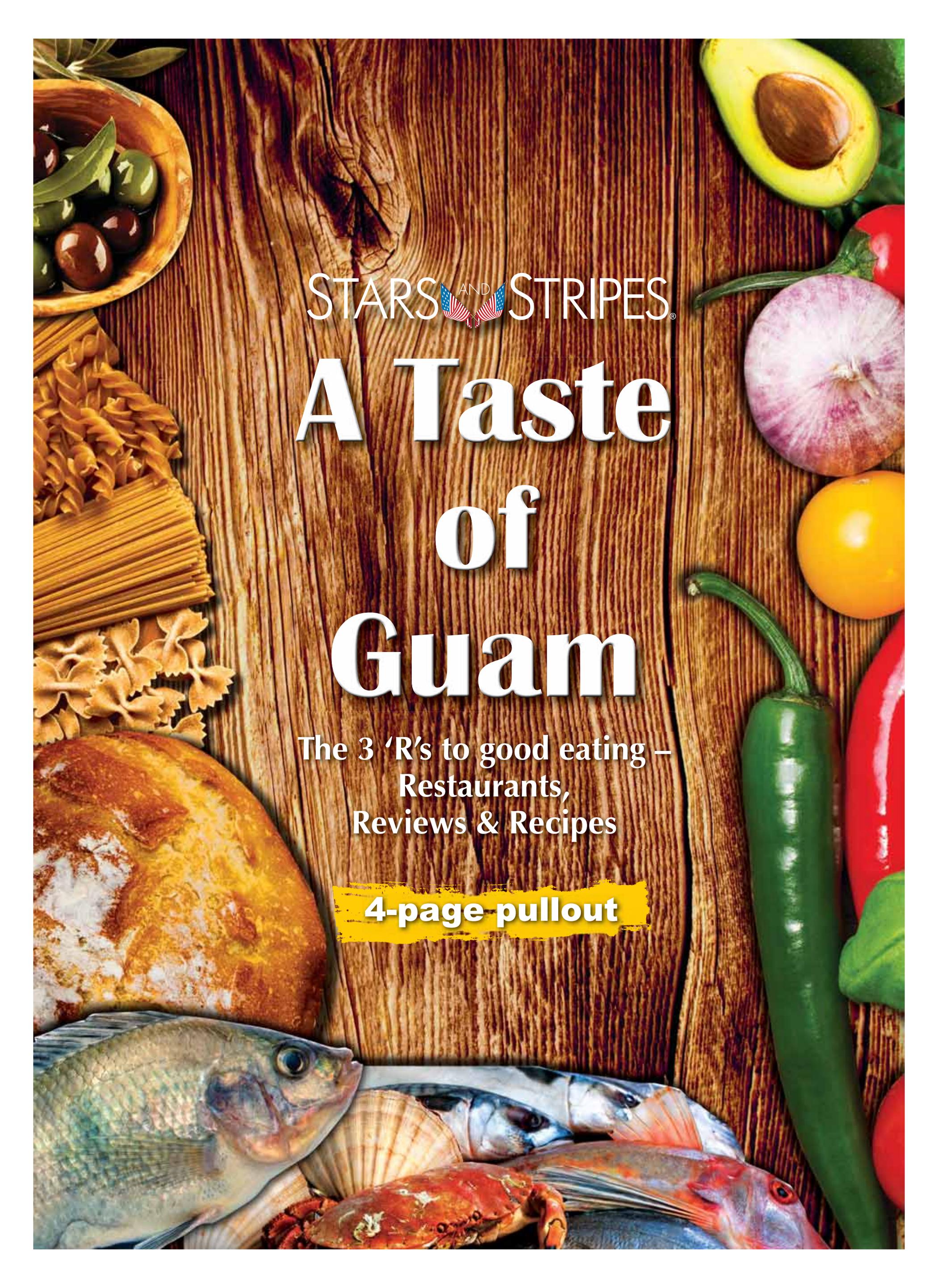
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# A Taste of Guam

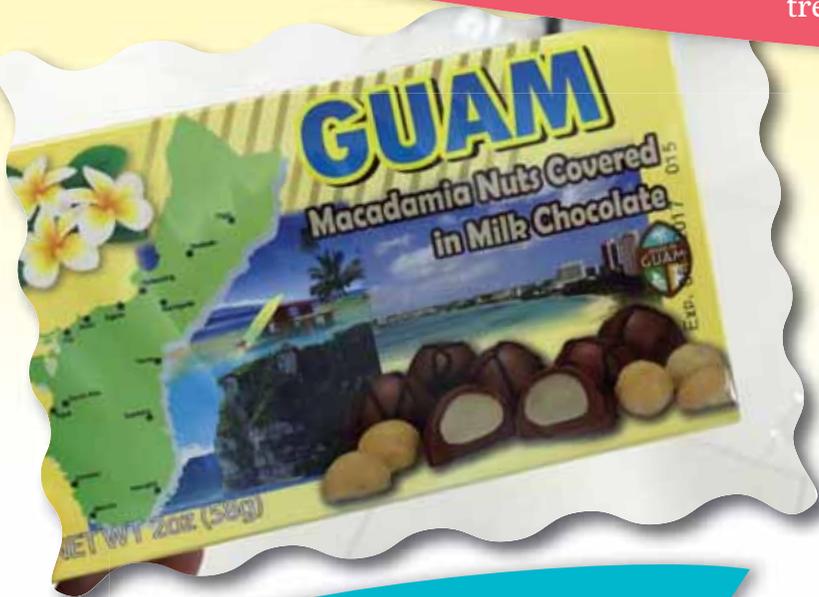
The 3 'R's to good eating –  
Restaurants,  
Reviews & Recipes

**4-page pullout**

# Only on Guam sweets and treats

GUAM VISITORS BUREAU

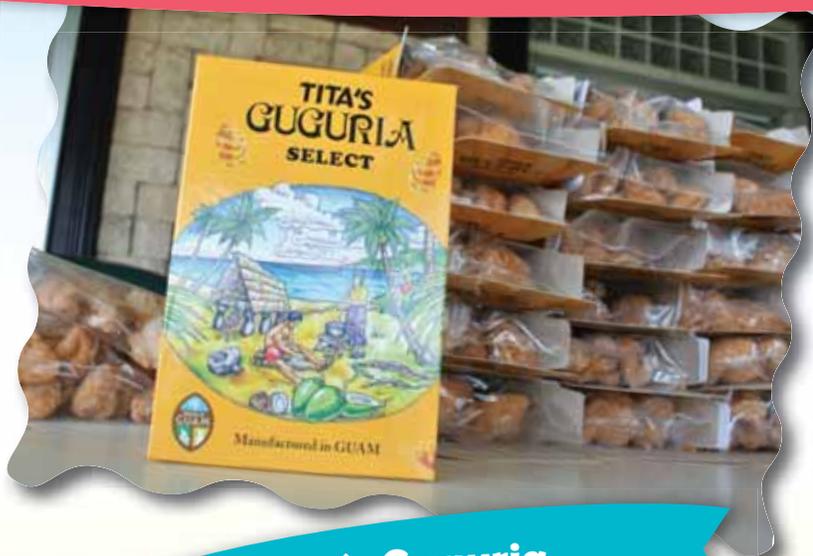
Little things can make a big difference, especially when it comes to satisfying a sweet tooth. The smallest bites of these Made on Guam treats can turn a good day into the sweetest one.



## Guam Premium Chocolate

The Guam Premium Chocolate Factory is the island's one and only producer of fine chocolates. A variety of chocolate products are manufactured in a state-of-the-art facility that is outfitted with top-quality machinery designed and built by engineers in the U.S., U.K., Germany and Switzerland—the same equipment used by Hershey's, Nestle, Ferrero and Godiva.

The Guam Premium Chocolate Factory produces 108,000 premium chocolate-covered macadamia nuts every day and also makes chocolate-covered shortbread and asparagus biscuits. Guam Premium Chocolates are available at retail stores around the island including Pay-Less Supermarkets and K-Mart.



## Tita's Guguria

Guguria is a much-loved local treat that is sometimes called "the Chamorro jawbreaker." These small, hard, deep-fried and sugarcoated cookies are made with just three ingredients: flour, sugar and coconut milk. Since 1965, Mariquita "Tita" Leon Guerrero has been making guguria using a family recipe that was passed down from her grandmother.

Tita's Guguria is one of the most recognizable and best-selling Made on Guam products. It is a popular gift item among both tourists and locals and can be found in convenience stores and supermarkets such as Pay-Less and upscale shopping houses such as T-Galleria Guam.



## Hafaloha

Weaving Chamorro and Hawaiian culture together, Hafaloha is an Only on Guam brand that takes shave ice to a whole new level. Hafaloha serves up soft, snowy Hawaiian-style shave ice, sweetened by flavored syrups and piled high over a creamy scoop of vanilla ice cream. With more than 40 syrup flavors to choose from, you can create your own masterpiece or try one of their bestselling flavors such as latiya (a Chamorro vanilla custard cake dessert), orange dreamsicle and strawberry shortcake.

Visit the Hafaloha shop at the Flame Tree Plaza across from Pacific Islands Club in Tumon.



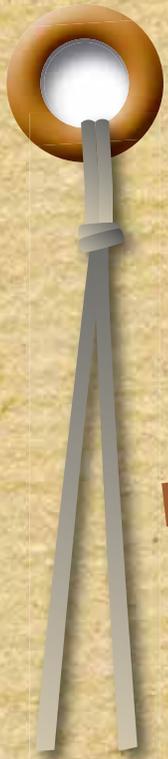
## Månnge' Pops

For a unique experience, visitors are welcome to tour the chocolate factory on weekdays. Call ahead to make arrangements for a personal tour. (671) 633-6646

Stay cool in the island heat in the most delicious way with a Made on Guam Månnge' Pop. Månnge' is the Chamorro word for delicious, and these gourmet popsicles that are with natural ingredients including sweet local fruit are just plain delicious. Månnge' Pops are handcrafted in small batches and feature classic and seasonal flavors such as lychee, pineapple star apple and soursop.

Månnge' Pops are sold at Foody's, select Pay-Less Supermarkets, Fizz and Co. in Hagåtña, and the Hotel Nikko Guam in Tumon.

For more food stories, go to: [GUAM.STRIPES.COM](http://GUAM.STRIPES.COM)



# COOK LIKE A CHAMORU

## Latiya

GUAM VISITORS BUREAU

It's time for another Cook like a CHamoru recipe! If you want to learn how to make Latiya, a local favorite dessert, follow the recipe below!

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 can condensed milk
- 1 can evaporated milk
- 1/2 cup coconut milk
- 4 - 6 egg yolks
- 1 pound cake (store bought or homemade)
- Cinnamon
- Vanilla extract

#### Pound Cake recipe:

- 1 cups salted butter, room temperature
- 1 cups granulated sugar
- 4 large eggs
- 2 1/2 cups all purpose flour
- 1 tsp baking powder

### DIRECTIONS

**1.** Heat a medium sized pot over medium heat. Add all three milks and stir to combine. Bring to a low boil.

**2.** Separate egg yolks into a large bowl. Whisk together. Temper the eggs by slowly adding half of the milk mixture and continue to stir. Once combined, add all of the milk mixture to the bowl. Mix for 3 minutes.

**3.** Pour mixture back into the pot and set heat to low. Stir 3 minutes on heat and 1 minute off the heat to ensure the eggs don't scramble. Continue to stir until custard starts to thicken. Should take about 5-10 min.

**4.** Set aside to prepare cake. If using a store bought cake, cut in thick slices and place down in a serving dish. Pour custard over cake evenly. Place in the fridge to cool for at least 2 hours. Finish with cinnamon.

#### Check it out



**5.** If making the cake, preheat the oven to 375F.

a. Beat the butter until smooth with a hand mixer. Add the sugar and mix until smooth. Then add eggs one at a time.

b. Add the dry ingredients to a bowl. Slowly add the dry ingredients to the wet and mix on

low until fully incorporated. Pour batter into a loaf pan or cake pan. Place in the oven and bake for 35-40 minutes or until the center comes out clean when poked with a skewer.



# A Taste of Guam

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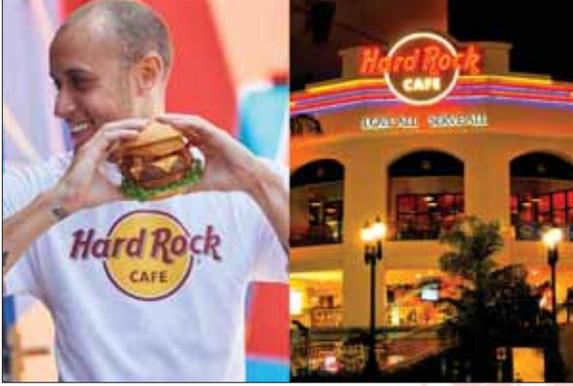
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GUAM EDITION

FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2020



## Call for cooperation

Air Force orders Tokyo personnel to stay close to home; governor says city is in 'critical phase' **Page 2**

**Staff Sgt. Clayton Wright, of Montrose, Colo., screens people entering the hospital at Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo to help prevent the spread of coronavirus.**

Theron Godbold/Stars and Stripes

## VIRUS OUTBREAK

# Air Force restricts Tokyo personnel movement

BY SETH ROBSON  
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — The Air Force has ordered American personnel at the home of U.S. Forces Japan in western Tokyo to stay on or close to base following a call by the city's governor for residents to stay home to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

In a video posted March 27, 374th Airlift Wing commander Col. Otis Jones ordered U.S. personnel attached to the wing — troops, civilian employees and dependents — not to leave the area surrounding the base, other than on official business, effective immediately. Master labor contract and local national employees were strongly recommended to follow the measures.

"All mission partners/tenant units are highly encouraged to adopt this guidance in order to protect our installation personnel," he wrote in a memo about the restrictions.

Yokota's local area includes the towns of Ome, Iruma, Tachikawa, Fuchu, Tama and Hachioji, Jones said.

"Areas in downtown metropolitan Tokyo such as Shibuya, Shinjuku and Roppongi are NOT considered part of the local area," he wrote.

The measures will remain in place for 30 days, according to the order. "We will also be doing periodic assessments within the 30-day period to determine required adjustments," he wrote.

On March 26, a sailor at Yokosuka Naval Base tested positive for the virus, becoming the first U.S. service member in Japan confirmed to have the illness.

The Army installation at Hardy Barracks in central Tokyo, home to Stars and Stripes' Tokyo headquarters, has also restricted operations. Guests at Hardy Barracks lodging will be restricted to the post, if they choose to stay. The Navy Ex-



Theron Godbold/Stars and Stripes

**Maj. Stephanie Degen, director of internal medicine for the 374th Medical Group at Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo, discusses measures underway to prevent the coronavirus from spreading on base. Behind her is Lt. Col. Kenji Takano, chief of aerospace medicine.**

change operation there will be curtailed, and no contractors will be allowed access.

Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike had asked city residents to stay home over last weekend following a surge of newly reported coronavirus cases.

"We are at a critical phase," which could determine whether the city can prevent an explosive increase in infections or not, she said during a press conference.

The Tokyo governor asked residents to work from home if they can and to stay home at night. Koike said people should refrain from having gatherings that involve eating and drinking, even in small groups.

"Cooperation by Tokyo residents is most important in preventing explosive increase in infections," she said.

Yokota personnel are authorized to travel to and from essential services within the local area, Jones said.

People who live outside the local area may travel near their home for essential services such as local dining facilities, grocery stores, shopping, schooling and medical facilities, he said.

"All DOD uniformed members must remain in the above defined local area whether on duty, on leave, in liberty status, or on pass," Jones said in his memo.

Mission-essential travel outside the area is authorized. This includes medical appointments, duty at another installation and visiting the U.S. Embassy. Private or government transport is highly encouraged, he said.

"Fight the urge to focus on the minute details of where the local area is on the map and why," Jones said in the video posted Friday. "The intent is not to play gotcha with this."

He also ordered members of the wing to avoid gatherings with more than 20 people.

"This includes larger public establishments such as sit-down restaurants, night clubs, movie theaters and Pachinko halls," he said.

Members can still enjoy outdoor activities such as hiking, running, biking, park activities and walking a pet, he said.

"The ability to sign visitors onto base is being removed for the duration of this order," he said.

Lt. Col. Kenji Takano, 42, chief of aero-

space medicine at Yokota and the base's disease containment incident commander, said March 26 no one at Yokota, which has a population of about 11,500, had tested positive for coronavirus.

However, more than 100 people there have been quarantined or isolated due to travel or contact with infected people outside of the base community, either in Japan or overseas, according to 374th Airlift Wing spokeswoman Kaori Matsukasa.

"We test people with symptoms associated with COVID-19 such as fever, cough and shortness of breath," Takano said. "If someone has a known exposure to a confirmed case, they are down for 14 days."

The base has set aside two empty apartment towers to quarantine and isolate people whose homes aren't suitable for the purpose, he said.

People can isolate at home if they have accommodation where they have access to a separate bathroom and aren't near high risk individuals, he said.

Maj. Stephanie Degen, 31, of Warrensburg, Mo., director of internal medicine for the 374th Medical Group, said anyone who contracted the virus and showed severe symptoms would be sent to a Japanese hospital for care. This might include being given oxygen and fluids and watching for other infections.

Takano helped treat measles among local nationals in Afghanistan and cared for passengers from diverted passenger planes that landed at Yokota following a massive earthquake that struck Japan in March 2011, he said.

"We have a very finely tuned emergency management process on the base," he said. "Our focus is on social distancing and handwashing, personal hygiene and staying at home if you have symptoms."

Stars and Stripes reporter Hana Kusumoto contributed to this report.  
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## US, Philippines cancel Balikatan drills over virus concerns

BY SETH ROBSON  
Stars and Stripes

The U.S. military has canceled a major exercise in the Philippines because of the coronavirus.

"Due to concerns for the health and safety of the participating exercise forces and local populations near the planned exercise areas, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command has canceled Exercise Balikatan 2020 scheduled for May 4-15 in the Republic of the Philippines," an INDOPACOM official said in a statement Friday.

Balikatan is an annual exercise between the United States and the Philippines with participation by Australia.

Canceling the exercise follows restrictions on international travel implemented by the U.S. Department of Defense and the Philippines in response to the coronavirus pandemic, the command said.

"In light of the extraordinary circumstances surrounding COVID-19 pandemic and in the best interest of the health and safety of both countries' forces, it is prudent to cancel Balikatan 2020," Adm. Phil Davidson,

INDOPACOM commander, said in the statement. "We remain deeply committed to our long-standing Alliance and friendship."

Last year, the Navy sent the amphibious assault ship USS Wasp and F-35B Lightning II stealth fighters to the Philippines for the first time as part of the drills.

This year's exercise was expected to proceed despite a rift between the allies. In February, the Philippines notified the United States of its intention to terminate the Visiting Forces Agreement, which permits U.S. troops to deploy in the country.

Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte ordered the termination after Washington reportedly canceled a U.S. visa for Sen. Ronald Dela Rosa, a stalwart ally and former Philippines National Police chief.

Dela Rosa has been cited for human rights violations related to Duterte's bloody drug war that began when he was elected president in 2016.

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BENJAMIN DAVELLA III/U.S. Navy

The amphibious assault ship USS Wasp arrives in Subic Bay, Philippines, for Balikatan drills in March 2019. This year's drills have been canceled due to the coronavirus outbreak.

## VIRUS OUTBREAK

# Rapidly deployed paratroopers unsure of return

BY CHAD GARLAND  
Stars and Stripes

Stay up to date on the military and the coronavirus, at: [stripes.com/coronavirus](https://www.stripes.com/coronavirus)

Some 2,500 Army paratroopers who were rushed to the Middle East just days after Christmas remain separated from their friends and families indefinitely as the rapidly spreading coronavirus prevents them from returning home.

Soldiers of the 82nd Airborne Division's 1st Brigade Combat Team had just days to say goodbye to loved ones before they were sent to bolster security in U.S. Central Command after a rocket attack killed an American contractor in Iraq and retaliatory U.S. strikes led a militia to storm the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad.

Though about 800 of the troops returned to Fort Bragg, N.C., in February, before the coronavirus pandemic forced widespread restrictions on civilian and military movement around the world, the rest remain in Kuwait without clear answers on when they'll be sent home or why they're still deployed.

"We have to wait until next week to learn what CENTCOM wants to do with us," said one of the soldiers, who was not authorized to discuss the matter and asked not to be named. "My wife is trying to take care of our [infant] during the quarantine by herself when we were originally told we would only be gone two months."

A 60-day halt Defense Secretary Mark Esper ordered in March on overseas travel, including deployments and redeployments, would not apply to them, the soldier was told March 26.

But because of the COVID-19 restrictions, division officials "simply do not know when they will begin their redeployment," commanding general Maj. Gen. James J. Mingus said in a post on the "All American Division" Facebook page, referring to the 1st Brigade and other elements of the division in CENTCOM.

Meanwhile, quality of life has shifted dramatically for the soldiers and others at posts in the region, with base gyms and some dining facilities closed, and other services limited to try to slow the coronavirus' spread.

"Deployments are always hard for paratroopers and their families," said Lt. Col. Mike Burns, the division's spokesman. "And especially hard with the ongoing coronavirus pandemic."

The unit's 3rd Brigade Combat Team has begun redeploying to the U.S., where soldiers have been quarantined on their return, after a regular 9-month rotation in Afghanistan. Their travel won't be affected by Esper's order, Burns said in an email.

But the 1st Brigade's deployment, the "most significant no-notice deployment of combat forces in more than 30 years," was "open-ended" and subject to CENTCOM's needs, he said.

Tensions in the region remain high, following rocket attacks in Iraq last month, including one on Camp Taji, north of Baghdad, that killed two American service



HUBERT DELANY III/U.S. Army

**A soldier assigned to 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division waits to board an aircraft bound for the Middle East, from Fort Bragg, N.C., on January 5. Some 2,500 soldiers rapidly deployed days after Christmas and are now separated from their families indefinitely as the military works to fight the spread of the coronavirus.**

**‘While it’s completely understandable for many 1BCT Soldiers and Families to feel ‘in limbo,’ rest assured they are most definitely not.’**

Defense official

members and a British soldier, and wounded more than a dozen others. The U.S. responded by striking sites in Iraq the Pentagon said were used by Iran-backed Shiite militia Kataeb Hezbollah.

On March 26, the State Department ordered some U.S. diplomatic personnel to leave Iraq and announced new sanctions on organizations and people it said were funneling money out of that country to the Iranian military, which used it to sponsor militias

like Kataeb Hezbollah.

Similar events in December led Esper to order the 1st Brigade's rapid deployment in the first place.

The brigade continues to play a "vital role in the defensive posture in the region," and officials frequently assess its continued presence there, said a defense official who asked not to be named in order to discuss the matter. CENTCOM leaders are also grappling with the question of whether to "backfill" the soldiers

when they are sent home, the official said by email.

"Those that remain in theatre may understandably feel 'stuck' in a deployment that they and their families did not have the luxury of planning for," the official said. "While it's completely understandable for many 1BCT Soldiers and Families to feel 'in limbo,' rest assured they are most definitely not."

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## Retiring, separating sailors may extend service up to a year



NICHOLAS HUYNH/U.S. Navy

**Sailors man the rails aboard the USS Bunker Hill on March 5. Sailors scheduled to leave the Navy before April 2, 2021, may apply to extend their service.**

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS  
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — An order to stop all personnel movement to curb the coronavirus' spread has prompted the Navy to offer a deal to sailors leaving the service in the coming year.

Sailors scheduled to exit the Navy or retire before April 2, 2021, may apply to extend their service by six months to a year, according to a Navy memorandum issued March 20.

The Navy on March 21 announced a 60-day halt on all travel, including personnel moving to new assignments. The order will expire on May 11 but leaves open the possibility that some critical job vacancies during that period will go unfilled.

The decision to offer extensions was made to mitigate the effects of coronavi-

rus on the Navy "and maintain operational, sailor and family readiness," according to the memo.

Not all sailors who apply for the extension will be approved. Priority will be given to those in "sea duty and critical billets," according to the memo. Requests will be considered until July 1.

Also, sailors facing mandatory separation or retirement, officers who are not selected for promotion twice and those separating because of disability or misconduct will not be considered for the extension.

Additionally, the Navy in its memo invited sailors who recently left the service but are interested in returning to contact their local recruiters for opportunities to return to active duty.

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## MILITARY

# Remembering Iwo Jima

## Carnage remains seared into veterans' memories 75 years after hellacious battle

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE  
*Stars and Stripes*

Roy Earle chuckles as he recalls his "memorable" 21st birthday laying communication lines on Iwo Jima 75 years ago. It isn't long before the laugh turns to melancholy as the darkness of the hellacious battle fought there catches up with the 96-year-old Maine resident.

Then a private first class with the 4th Marine Division's 1st Joint Assault Signal Company, Earle landed at Yellow Beach 1 on Iwo Jima in the fourth wave on Feb. 19, 1945. The short and agile field telephone and switchboard operator scooted up walls of black volcanic sand and ash under fire to find a large shell hole where he set up his switchboard that would link the beach with Marines on the front line.

The next day, he was ordered back down to the beach to find 2nd Battalion, 23rd Marines, which hadn't established communications.

"We couldn't get in touch with our right flank," he said earlier in March in a phone interview with Stars and Stripes, his voice growing quiet. "I walked over and, oh my God, what a mess."

Just as the Marines had run off their landing craft, a shell landed at their feet, killing most of them.

"A kid I served mess duty with before we left ... there he was," Earle said. "Oh God, that I remember for a long time. What a thing. Oh God, it was awful."

Earle found the dead men's switchboard and carried the 75-pound device back to the shell hole. He sent word for their surviving rifle companies to get in touch so he could get them hooked up.

"By the third day we were really getting slaughtered up there," he said. "We lost 55% of our division on Iwo."

The island was finally declared secure March 26, 1945. The Reunion of Honor, an annual memorial service that was scheduled for March 28, brings together American and Japanese veterans of the battle. It was called off because of coronavirus concerns. However, remembering the sacrifices and stories of those who fought and died on Iwo Jima is still important to many.

"Iwo Jima is a testament to what America was willing to endure to defend freedom and our way of life," said Marine Corps History Division director Edward Nevglowski. "The 75th anniversary of Iwo Jima is about

celebrating the selfless and courageous acts of thousands of American boys sent overseas ... who would ask for nothing in return. When I think of Iwo Jima, I always ask, where do we get such men?"

The Battle of Iwo Jima began with an amphibious assault by Marines on Feb. 19, 1945, following months of aerial and naval bombardment. The Japanese had dug deep into the volcanic rock of the island, connected by a labyrinth of tunnels.

Seventy-thousand Marines took part in the 36-day battle, with more than 6,800 killed and 19,000 wounded. On the Japanese side, about 18,000 were killed. Only 216 Japanese were captured alive.

The battle marked a turning point in World War II; it was the first time the U.S. had fought the Japanese on native Japanese soil. It was also the first time that American casualties outnumbered those of the enemy.

The flag-raising atop Mount Suribachi on Feb. 23, captured by The Associated Press' Joe Rosenthal in his iconic photograph, helped rally support for the war effort back home and became an indelible symbol of American sacrifice and courage. At the same time, it became clear that the Japanese were prepared to fight to the last man.

### Same enemy, new tactics

Iwo Jima, which means "Sulfur Island," presented a strategic problem for the allies as they neared mainland Japan at the tail end of their island-hopping campaign in 1944, said Iwo Jima Association of America historian Charles Neimeyer.

Military planners believed the key to Japan's defeat would be sustained B-29 Superfortress bomber raids on the Japanese homeland. "Unfortunately for the bombers, it was a 14-hour roundtrip flight for them," Neimeyer said. "And of course, halfway there, they were being attacked by Japanese fighters."

Located halfway between recently taken American airfields in the Marianas and Japan were the Volcano and Bonin islands, which included Iwo Jima.

**'I spent a lot of time moving around behind the line ... You'd see casualties. It was bad business. But that's what war is.'**

Jack Colby

4th Marine Division at Iwo Jima



Photos from National Archive

This undated photo depicts the Marine Corps' 27th Regiment, 2nd Battalion landing on Iwo Jima in 1945.



"Butch," a Doberman pinscher Marine War Dog, stands guard as his partner, Pvt. Rez Hester of Liberty, N.C., catches some sleep in a foxhole on Iwo Jima in 1945.

Radar on Iwo Jima tipped off the home islands of an imminent attack, Neimeyer said.

If taken, Iwo Jima would not only improve the lethality of American bombing raids but could also host fighter escorts, serve as an emergency airfield for damaged aircraft coming back from the raids and help facilitate air and sea blockades, according to Naval History and Heritage Command.

Orders came down in October 1944 to occupy Iwo Jima, according to a National Park Service history. Naval surface ships began their bombardment the following month. On Dec. 8, 74 straight days of aerial bombing commenced.

American assault troops would find the same determined enemy when they hit the beaches of Iwo Jima a few months later, with

one key difference from previous battles.

In mid-1944, Iwo Jima got a new Japanese garrison commander, Gen. Tadamichi Kuribayashi.

He immediately ordered a shakeup in Japanese tactics, Neimeyer said. In addition to ordering 11 miles of tunnels dug around the island, he also ordered his men to hold their fortified fighting positions until their deaths, to take 10 Marines with each one of them before they were allowed to die and to stop to the wasteful practice of banzai suicide charges.

Kuribayashi suffered with his men and served as an inspiration.

He "loved his family very much and sent many letters to them until the U.S. landed on Iwo Jima," his grandson, Japanese

House of Representatives member Yoshitaka Shindo, told Stars and Stripes last year.

Kuribayashi started one letter home saying he was concerned since he would not be coming home alive that his wife and kids would catch a cold due to a hole in the kitchen wall. He had been unable to fix it prior to his departure.

"I understand that sacrificing his life for the country was to protect his loved ones and to fulfill his responsibility," Shindo said. "He never gave up no matter how difficult the situation was, and his attitude became my model in life."

Kuribayashi's body was never recovered from Iwo Jima.

Shindo helped facilitate the first joint Reunion of Honor ceremony on the island with American veterans of the battle in 1985.

"Protecting their loved ones back home was the last and only wish on the minds of the fallen at Iwo Jima, and that extends to the U.S. soldiers that died on the island as well," he said. "By telling the stories about how hard and difficult the battle was ... and how bravely they all fought, it will remind us to stay in peace. Keeping the peace is the only way we can compensate the fallen souls."

### 'Bad business'

The V Amphibious Corps landing force departed the Marianas for Iwo Jima on Feb. 15 and 16 according to the park service history. At the same time, the Navy launched air strikes against the Japanese island of Honshu to distract the Japanese from Iwo Jima. The 4th and 5th Marine Divisions landed Feb. 19 on Iwo Jima's black sand beaches. The landing areas on the southeastern coast had been designated Green, Red, Yellow and Blue beaches.

Initially the Marines met little resistance as they piled up on the beaches, the Navy history said.

About 40 minutes into the landing, Kuribayashi opened up with everything he had, Neimeyer said. The Marines soon discovered they had walked into

SEE PAGE 5

## MILITARY

# Guam base to get \$260M in upgrades

By SETH ROBSON  
Stars and Stripes

**ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam** — The Air Force is building more than \$260 million worth of new facilities on Guam to support its largest aircraft, including transports, tankers and B-52 bombers, according to military officials.

Work is already underway at construction sites next to Andersen's runway, where the hulking steel frames of several massive half-built hangars, whose contracts were awarded between December 2014 and February 2015, rise above the base.

One of the new facilities is a \$132.6 million "Tanker General Purpose Maintenance Hangar," 36th Wing spokesman Master Sgt. Richard Ebensberger said in an email.

"This is a hardened facility, sized and configured to sustain critical missions," he said.

The hangar, due for completion by July 2021, is designed to accommodate large planes such as the C-17 Globemaster III transport, the KC-46A Pegasus tanker and the B-52 Stratofortress bomber, as well as various types of jet fighters, he said.

"The hangar bay will support aircraft maintenance, repair and regularly scheduled inspections that require complete protection from the elements, to include



SETH ROBSON/Stars and Stripes

**The Air Force is building more than \$260 million in new facilities on Guam to support its largest aircraft, including transports, tankers and B-52 bombers.**

routine maintenance and air-frame repairs," he said.

It will include space for command and administration, flight planning, aircrew briefing and debriefing, training and other activities that are necessary to keep a squadron mission capable during a contingency, Ebensberger said.

Nearby, workers are building a \$128 million cast-in-place reinforced concrete fuel systems

maintenance hangar with support space.

"The support space will provide heating, plumbing, ventilation, compressed air and fire detection and suppression," Ebensberger said.

The facility, due for completion in June 2021, includes space to store spare parts, tools and hazardous materials, as well as administration areas.

"This hangar will provide a

single aircraft parking bay and support personnel space," he said.

It will support missions such as rotational bombers, fighters, tankers and RQ-4 Global Hawk drones, he said.

The work is in addition to \$8.7 billion worth of Navy construction on Guam to support the relocation of 5,000 Marines from the Japanese island of Okinawa.

The Guam construction is

likely in response to increased vulnerability of more forward locations, according to Jan van Tol, a senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments in Washington.

"The erratic behavior of the [Rodrigo] Duterte government in the Philippines concerning U.S. access to Philippine locations is also a likely contributing factor," van Tol said in an email.

Experts have noted the rapid buildup of Chinese missile forces and their ability to strike U.S. bases in Japan, for example.

"The [Chinese military] also has capabilities to strike Guam at distance, particularly with ballistic missiles, but of course the longer the range, the costlier the strike weapon and the fewer of those they have, thus the greater the potential for active as well as passive defensive systems to be able to adequately protect Guam," he said.

The prospect of a Chinese attack on Guam means that planners should develop additional dispersed and perhaps rudimentary bases on nearby islands such as Saipan, Tinian and Palau, he said.

"Bottom line: U.S. buildup in Guam signals U.S. commitment to remain an active player in the [western Pacific]," he said.

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## FROM PAGE 4

a shooting gallery. The Japanese had the beaches dialed in with artillery and interlocking fields of machine gun fire from fortified concrete blockhouses and other concealed positions.

"It was like shooting ducks in a barrel," Neimeyer said. "The majority of the Marine Corps KIAs and casualties are going to take place at a high rate on this first two days of battle than any other time after that."

Towering hills of coarse, black volcanic sand hampered the men's exit from the kill zone, Earle recalled.

"You don't run on Iwo," he said. "That sand and ash and stuff was murder there, so I 'hurried' as they say."

Once ashore, the volcanic rock that covers the island caused deep cuts and lacerations on the Marines when they sought cover from enemy fire.

"The Japanese were covered and concealed in hundreds of cave openings," Nevglowski said. "The Japanese had been preparing defenses on Iwo for more than 20 years and had their weapons zeroed and fields of fire mapped out precisely. The Marines would have to fight a 360-degree battle as the Japanese often popped up from cover once the Marines passed by."

The 4th Marine Division pushed forward and took the enemy strong point known as "the Quarry" on the first day, despite heavy opposition, the Navy history said. Marines from the 5th Marine Division's 28th Marines isolated Mount Suribachi.

Jack Colby, now 95 and living in Alexandria, Va., hit the beach with the 4th Marine Division. A man of few words, he struggled to describe the horrors he witnessed as a young private first class.

"It was a mess, a pure mess, that's about the size of it; guys getting knocked down right and left," he told Stars and Stripes in March. "The [Japanese] had a pretty good position where they were looking down on a lot of our troops. But anyway, that's the way it goes."

Asked what he remembered most about the battle, Colby answered with one word: "Casualties."

"I spent a lot of time moving around behind the line, with a line of casualties," he said. "You'd see casualties. It was bad business. But that's what war is."

Colby was at Airfield No. 1 when the two flag-raising occurred atop Suribachi. A battle was still raging, so he paid them little mind.

Hershel "Woody" Williams, the last living Medal of Honor recipient from the battle, told Stars and Stripes at Iwo Jima in 2015 that the flags energized the men whose morale was dragging.

"If we had never put Old Glory on Mount Suribachi, it would have been just another campaign," he said, looking up at Suribachi. "But the fact that we put it up on enemy territory, the flag is what energized everything that took place. Our morale was dragging, we had lost so many guys."

The men still had 31 days of the toughest fighting ahead of them as they moved to take the northern end of the island. The 3rd Marine Division joined the fighting on the fifth day to help take the center sector of the island, a Navy history said. Kuribayashi had prepared successive lines of Japanese positions across the heart of the island to greet them.

## Step toward victory

As they moved north, the Marines

fought through places with names like "Meat Grinder;" Hill 382; the "Turkey Knob," which had a reinforced concrete communications center; and the "Amphitheater," a southeastern extension of Hill 382, the Navy history said.

The 3rd Marine Division encountered the most heavily fortified position on the island in its move to take Airfield No. 2. All those positions "had interlocking fields of fire, that hills covered other hills and cliffs covered other cliffs, so that if you moved up to take one out, the other would open up on you," Neimeyer said.

Marine infantry was forced to get up close and personal to engage their concealed enemy, blasting them out of caves with satchel charges and burning them out with flamethrowers. Marines fought all day, lost men and gained only a couple of hundred yards.

The 5th Marine Division moved up the west coast of the island, Neimeyer said. The 3rd moved up the center and the 4th moved up the east coast.

The 4th survived a "mini banzai" attack from the final 700 Japanese navy holdouts and linked up with the other divisions on March 10, six days after the first B-29 made an emergency landing on Iwo Jima, the Navy history said.

The island was first declared secure on March 16, though fighting continued. The U.S. Army's 147th Infantry regiment took control of the island on April 4.

Twenty-seven Medals of Honor were awarded for actions during the battle, more than any other battle in U.S. history, a Navy history said.

Neimeyer said the victory at Iwo Jima was significant because the public viewed it as the first step toward final victory.

"They had gone on this long march across all these island chains and they had

lost all these folks," Neimeyer said. "They fought hard on each one of these island campaigns and now it looks like we're closing in on the final chapter of the war and there's an end to it, so it was a very positive thing, although they knew that the possibility of even greater casualties were going to come if they had to invade. It was also a wake-up call for how violent the invasion the home islands was likely to become."

The war would be over five months later with the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

"Iwo Jima is near the top, if not at the top, of Marine Corps battles," Nevglowski said. "The ferociousness of the Japanese defenders, the brutal terrain on which the Marines and Japanese fought, the casualties, and what was a stake makes Iwo a landmark battle."

For the men who fought it, the battle looms over them 75 years on, as Suribachi did over the beach on D-Day.

"It's a shame we had to lose so many of those poor guys," said Bob Persichitti, a Navy radioman second class who watched the battle from just offshore aboard the command ship USS Eldorado.

He recalled some of the grievous injuries he saw on Marines brought aboard his ship.

"I don't know why we have to have wars," he said with a deep sigh.

Earle said: "We were glad we could do it, but we hated what it cost us. I'm glad I'm still here, but I just can't believe I went through all of that."

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## MILITARY

# Marines to reduce force, get rid of tanks

By CAITLIN M. KENNEY  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The Marine Corps has decided it must eliminate its tank battalions and reduce its infantry and artillery units in 10 years as it converts its force to one more aligned with taking on potential adversaries such as China, the service announced in March.

Gen. David Berger, the Marine commandant, said in October that the Marine Corps is “not optimized for great competition. It is not optimized to support a naval campaign.” The reality of the world has forced them to “throw out old assumptions and start fresh,” he said at the time.

Since summer, the Marine Corps has undergone a review of its personnel, units and equipment to determine what type of forces the service will need to fight future battles.

The Pentagon’s 2018 National Defense Strategy puts China and Russia as the major world powers that the United States must be prepared to challenge as America’s military advantages decline. The economic policies of China and its militarization of the South China Sea and Russia’s efforts to undermine NATO and its nuclear arsenal are major concerns for the U.S. military, according to the National Defense Strategy.

“The Marine Corps is redesigning the 2030 force for naval expeditionary warfare in actively contested spaces, fully aligning the service with the direction of the [National Defense Strategy],” the service Combat Development Command said in a statement, adding it will continue to evaluate and adjust the force design.

The Marine unit categories that will see reductions in 10 years are:

- Infantry battalions will go down to 21 from 24;
- Artillery batteries will go to five down from 21;
- Amphibious vehicle companies will go down to four from six;
- F-35B and F-35C Lightning II fighter squadrons will have less aircraft per unit, from 16 aircraft down to 10.

Tilt-rotor, attack and heavy-lift squadrons will also have reductions and deacti-



SCOTT JENKINS/U.S. Marine Corps

**Marines with 2nd Tank Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, get fuel from Finnish soldiers with 2nd Logistics Regiment, Logistics Command, during exercise Arrow 2019 at Niinisalo Garrison, Finland, in May 2019. The Marine Corps announced it plans to reduce its force by 12,000, decrease artillery units and get rid of tanks in 10 years.**

ations. The Marine Corps will eliminate its law enforcement battalions, units that build bridges and reduce the service personnel by 12,000 in 10 years, a less than 7% reduction in the service’s total force, according to the statement.

The reduction in units, equipment, and personnel is geared toward the Marine Corps’ refocused efforts to work more closely with the Navy, especially in the Pacific region to compete against China.

The III Marine Expeditionary Force,

based out of Camp Courtney in Okinawa, Japan, is the main focus of Marine efforts in the region, according to the statement. The III MEF will be modernized to have three Marine littoral regiments that are trained and equipped to operate within contested maritime areas, according to the statement.

The region will also have three Marine expeditionary units that are globally deployable. The other two Marine expeditionary force units will provide forces

to the III MEF, according to the Marine Corps.

The Marine Corps is also planning to increase its long-range rocket artillery abilities by 300%, reduce the size of infantry battalions to allow for a more distributed force, and invest in unmanned air and ground systems, according to the statement.

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## Army says some promotions to be allowed online

By COREY DICKSTEIN  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The Army will allow commanders to conduct some promotion boards by video conference and has suspended temporarily some requirements for enlisted soldiers to be promoted as it responds to the deepening coronavirus pandemic that has forced military posts to close to nonessential personnel.

The adjustments balance the need for the Army to advance soldiers to ensure combat readiness while taking measures to protect the force from the virus, which has sickened at least 44 active-duty soldiers, Army officials said.

“We are trying to get ahead and be proactive and creative,” said Sgt. Maj. Mark A. Clark with the Army’s directorate of military personnel management

office. “We want commanders and soldiers to understand that we’re thinking about what’s best for them and what’s best for the Army all at the same time.”

The announcement came March 25, just one day after the Army advanced its health protection condition at its installations worldwide to HPCON Charlie, the second-highest threat level. That condition restricts post access to essential personnel and forces installations to close many of their access points in an effort to keep much of its workforce at home.

Most of the temporary policy changes for promotion boards will begin in May and are expected to continue through fiscal year 2020, which ends Sept. 30. They could be extended further or halted sooner, depending on the impact of the coronavirus, Army officials said in a statement. The

policies apply to active-duty and Reserve soldiers and exemptions for National Guard soldiers will be announced in the future, they said.

The Army will allow commanders to conduct so called semi-centralized promotion boards for staff sergeants and sergeants first class via internet video communications, Clark said. The temporary change allows commanders to observe social distancing practices as public health officials have encouraged in an effort to slow the spread of the virus.

Clark said the service has provided commanders leeway to determine precisely how to conduct the virtual promotion boards, such as through popular video teleconferencing software programs such as Skype or WebEx.

The service has also elected

not to require professional military education courses typically needed by staff sergeants and sergeants first class to be selected for promotion. It will also allow soldiers to use their most recent fitness test and weapons qualifications scores for their promotion boards, Clark said.

The temporary exemption to the professional military education course requirements — the Advanced Leader Course for staff sergeants and the Senior Leader Course for sergeants first class — does not mean soldiers will not attend those courses. They will be required to complete those classes in the future, Clark said.

The Army Physical Fitness Test will remain a requirement for soldiers to be promoted, but because many units are not able to conduct such tests during the coronavirus pandemic, soldiers

will be able to submit their most recent score for the board, Clark said.

The temporary policy change also means soldiers whose last APFT score is expired — fitness test scores are valid for one year — will not be deemed ineligible for promotion as long as the outbreak continues, he said.

The service is making a similar policy exemption to allow soldiers to submit their most recent weapons qualifications scores for their promotion boards regardless of when those scores were recorded, Clark said.

The service, Clark added, will continue to review its promotions boards policies every 30 days throughout the coronavirus outbreak and provide the force further guidance as warranted.

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## MILITARY



THERON GODBOLD/Stars and Stripes

Home decor items and furniture pieces can be found on the Yokota Spouses Club bazaar website and all proceeds got to their philanthropies.

## Bazaar fundraiser to be held online

By THERON GODBOLD  
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — The Yokota Spouses' Club will not allow the global coronavirus pandemic to stifle a 40-year tradition.

The club's annual Asian Bazaar, which raises money for scholarships and other causes, has moved online as a virtual marketplace, the club president said. Normally the fundraiser is held in a hangar on base or at the Taiyo Community Center, allowing buyers to peruse the merchandise.

"We really wanted to do the bazaar in person, but with corona, we knew we had to try a different avenue," club president Erin Laskey said by phone. "Instead of postponing we put our thinking caps on and figured a

way to continue with the bazaar and ran with it."

Items for sale are posted on the spouses' club bazaar website, where eligible buyers with Defense Department ID cards — including service members, Defense Department civilian workers and their families — may make a purchase, Laskey said.

Furniture, home decor and other items with Asian themes are available from vendors throughout Japan. The online bazaar concludes April 12.

A percentage of the profits from the sold merchandise goes toward the club's philanthropies, such as a scholarship fund designed to help dependents and spouses further their education. In the past three years the Yokota Spouses' Club has given away \$84,500 in scholarships;

last year alone the club doled out 13 scholarships of \$2,500 each, Laskey said.

Laskey said interested buyers from area bases — Camp Zama, Yokosuka Naval Base, Naval Air Facility Atsugi and Camp Fuji — are also welcome to shop the bazaar website. The club created a website for the bazaar apart from the club website.

"Any local area bases can shop online, set a pickup time, show their ID and pick up their items," she said. "There is a delivery option online but there is an added fee for the delivery."

For more information about the Yokota Spouses' Club scholarships, visit [www.yokotaspousesclub.com/scholarships.html](http://www.yokotaspousesclub.com/scholarships.html).

To see what the bazaar has to offer, go to [www.yscbazaar.com](http://www.yscbazaar.com).

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# US military issues furlough notices to S. Korean workers

By KIM GAMEL  
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — The U.S. military will put nearly half its South Korean workforce on unpaid leave starting this month after the two countries failed to reach a new defense cost-sharing deal, the local union said March 25 as final furlough notices went out.

The allies met in Los Angeles last month but remained deadlocked over U.S. demands for a sharp increase in South Korea's contribution to offset the costs of stationing some 28,500 American troops on the divided peninsula.

South Korea's Foreign Ministry said plans for future meetings were on hold because of restricted travel due to the coronavirus pandemic, but negotiators would continue talks via phone calls and video conference calls.

The South has helped support U.S. troops under the so-called Special Measure Agreement since 1991, with most of the funds used for more than 9,000 South Korean employees, logistical support and construction projects.

The previous contract expired at the end of 2019, but the United States had been paying the salaries with programmed funds that will run out at the end of this month.

U.S. Forces Korea said it has completed its analysis to determine which local employees can be retained with additional Pentagon funds for critical operations related to "life, health, safety and readiness services."

"USFK began issuing furlough notification letters to (Korean National) employees who are subject to the furlough today. Unfortunately, due to the continued absence of an agreed upon SMA, USFK will be furloughing a portion of our KN employees next week," the public affairs office said in a statement.

It didn't provide numbers, but a representative of the USFK Korean Employees' Union Son Gio and another union official said about 4,000 members had received furlough notices.

The issue doesn't affect non-appropriated fund organizations such as on-base restaurants and exchange stores.

Military officials also have said the hospital on Camp Humphreys, other medical facilities, law enforcement, schools, commissaries and post office services will see little to no effect thanks to mitigating measures.

The union called for the rules to be revised as part of the negotiations to better guarantee their labor rights.

"The South Korean government should no longer allow the situation that laborers are held hostage whenever the South Korean-U.S. SMA negotiations are held," it said during a news conference in Seoul.

USFK officials have said the furloughed employees won't receive back pay and won't be allowed to work on a volunteer basis.

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## Commission says women should be eligible for the draft

By NIKKI WENTLING  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A congressionally mandated commission recommended that women should be eligible for the draft and required to sign up at age 18.

Congress created the National Commission on Military, National

and Public Service in 2017 to develop recommendations about the need for a military draft and how to foster an interest in all types of national service among young Americans. In their final report, which was shared with the Pentagon, White House and Congress in March, commissioners recommend extending selective service

registration to women.

"Women are as likely as men to be qualified for military service," said Debra Wada, vice chair of the commission and the former assistant secretary of the Army. "Ensuring they are part of the registration pool will only make sure we're more prepared. It signals that all Americans may

be expected to serve in a national emergency."

Conscription into the military hasn't been used in more than 45 years, but men are still required by law to sign up for selective service at 18. The commission proposed Congress introduce legislation to amend the Military Selective Service Act to eliminate male-only registration. The change would expand eligibility to all Americans ages 18 to 26.

Over nearly three years, commissioners held meetings and hearings, spoke to people in 42 cities, consulted more than 530 organizations and collected 4,300 public comments. The topic of extending the draft to women "evoked a range of passionate and heartfelt views," the commissioners wrote.

In the end, they decided the male-only military draft excludes women from a fundamental civic obligation, reinforces gender ste-

reotypes about women's roles and omits a skilled population from being called into military service during emergencies.

The commission found that 29% of men and slightly more women, at 29.3%, are qualified to meet the initial physical and educational standards to serve in the U.S. military, Wada said.

"Ultimately it comes down to making sure that at a time of critical need, we have access to highly qualified individuals," she said.

More than 224,000 women serve in the U.S. military. Former Secretary of Defense Ash Carter ordered the opening of all combat roles to women five years ago, and at least 30 women have successfully completed Army Ranger School, according to the report.

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