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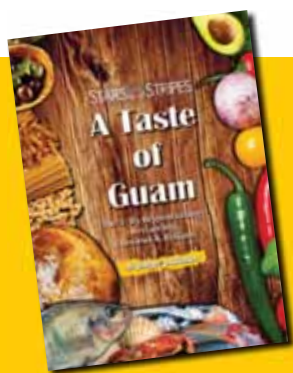
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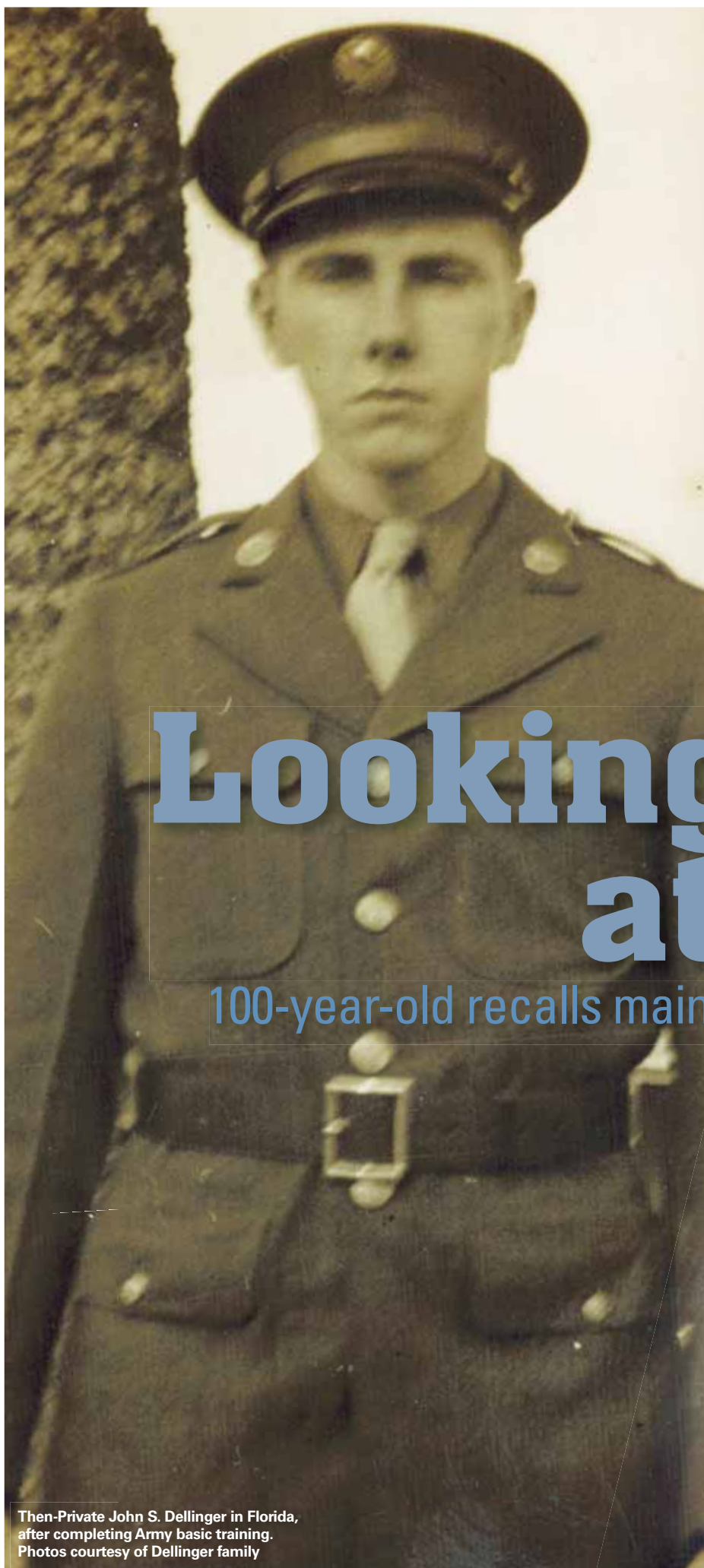


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Then-Private John S. Dellinger in Florida,  
after completing Army basic training.  
Photos courtesy of Dellinger family



John in 2019 in front of his Army Air Forces patches and medals.

# Looking back at WWII

## 100-year-old recalls maintaining B-29s on Guam

BY DR. JEREMY PRICHARD,  
20TH AIR FORCE HISTORIAN

F. E. WARREN AIR FORCE BASE, Wyo. – When Sergeant John Dellinger watched the 3d Marine Division — his assigned B-29 aircraft, not the military ground force—take-off for Mission No. 330 on the afternoon of August 14, 1945, he was unaware it would be the last Allied combat run of the Second World War.

The next day, the Japanese government agreed to a cessation of hostilities. For the 20th Air Force veteran and many of his teammates back in Guam, however, Dellinger recalled not knowing “that the war was over until all our aircraft ... returned from Japan. And that’s how I found it out.”

Mr. Dellinger turned 100 on July 31, 2020. He still recalls much of his time in the U.S. Army Air Forces during World War II, often with genuine joy in his voice.

SEE WWII ON PAGE 4

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# Appreciating the art of baloney

Throughout the coronavirus pandemic, people have sought information to quell fear. Over the past five months, the advice given by “experts” has fluctuated wildly, despite having been given with seemingly well-informed confidence.

By now, I think we realize that it’s all baloney, bunk, BS. No one really knows, “Is it safe for kids to go back to school?” “Can people contract COVID-19 twice?” “Will a vaccine be ready by the end of the year?” “Will this pandemic ever end?” But when the public demands answers, experts must deliver.

In the military community, baloney is not generally tolerated. We respect clear communication, pinpoint accuracy and straight talk. However, months of widespread pontificating about the pandemic has shown that BSing actually requires skill and chutzpah.

Anyone who has been to a golf course has undoubtedly been in the midst of a talented BSer. Or two. Or 27.

Ex: “Now, unless you want to chili dip that thing into the frog hair and risk army-putting another triple bogey, you oughta milk the grip and let the big dog eat,” Chaz quips between swigs of Bloody Mary, leaning heavily on his Cobra driver after duffing two balls into the pond.

The Golf BSer may not be good at the sport, but his commitment to the craft of baloney-slinging is undeniable. Imagine the hours spent perusing Golf Digest in the proctologist’s waiting room to memorize golf terminology. The thousands spent on trendy golf equipment and over-priced, insignia-embroidered, moisture-wicking golf apparel

## The Meat and Potatoes of Life

Lisa Smith Molinari



stroll through any campus quad across this nation, and you will see them with their longish hair, graded term papers in hand, leaning against ivy-covered walls, arguing over whether or not the international relations theory of holistic constructivism is a useful tool in analyzing the efficacy of postwar U.S. foreign policy.

And all those people in Starbucks deserve some recognition here, too, from the employee with the nose piercing who steams the non-fat milk for your double espresso macchiato, to the metrosexual with the European scarf who ordered a chai tea, to the yoga-pant-wearing mom in her SUV yelling into the drive-thru window. Essentially, anyone who has uttered the word “Vente” or referred to something with 20 grams of sugar as “skinny” is a card-carrying BSer, whether she likes it or not.

Even parents are masterful BSers. Think about it — what does Dad say when his 6-year-old daughter looks adoringly into his eyes and asks, “Daddy, where do babies come from?” And what baloney must Mom come up with to explain what happened to Gus the Guppy who was last seen napping on the bottom of the tank?

Let’s face it — we are a nation of baloney-slingers, and it’s about time we wake up and smell the Grande iced latte. Let’s finally give BSing the respect it deserves!

And if you believed that, I’ve got some really nice swampland in Florida to sell you.

Read more of Lisa Smith Molinari’s columns at: [themeatandpotatoesoflife.com](http://themeatandpotatoesoflife.com)  
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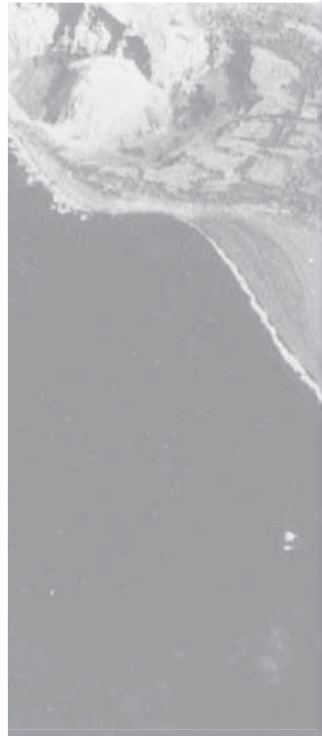


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1945 view of Iwo Jima  
Marine Corps Archives

The first B-29 assigned to Dellinger's unit, Tail Number 42-63573, flies in formation. Photos courtesy of Dellinger family

# WWII: 'I loved putting the aircraft back in air'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

## "Always liked airplanes"

John Samuel Dellinger traces his fascination with airplanes to his youth. He wasn't especially interested in flying them, however. He wanted to tinker with them.

He attempted to enlist in the Army Air Corps upon graduating high school — a few years before the attacks on Pearl Harbor brought the U.S. into the war. He demurred when informed that the service was only accepting "foot soldiers."

He would soon find himself in an olive-drab uniform after all, drafted into the Army in 1942. Despite performing well on sections of the entrance exams that tested one's knowledge on mechanics, Dellinger received assignment to a non-aviation unit in Florida after completing Army basic training.

Dellinger speculates that someone took a fresh look at his testing records because, not long afterward, the Army transitioned Dellinger to Amarillo Army Air Field in Texas. He began training as an AT-6 aircraft mechanic before converting to the B-29 Superfortress. In October 1943, then-Private First Class Dellinger graduated the Army Air Forces' Airplane Mechanics course.

## "Walked into the Twentieth Air Force"

Dellinger crisscrossed the country for advanced B-29 instruction at Chanute Field, Illinois, and the Boeing Aircraft facility in Seattle, Washington. When he reached Great Bend, Kansas, "That is when I walked into 20th Air Force," he gleefully reminisces. "And I was a happy camper."

His time in Kansas—and in the Caribbean, when the harsh Midwestern winter of 1944 disrupted training—was consuming. He repaired B-29 engines after returning from lengthy training flights as aircrews prepared for extended trips across the Pacific. The challenging workload and environment notwithstanding, Dellinger always felt rewarded when his B-29 once more took to the skies. "I loved doing that, put[ting] that aircraft right back in the air again."



Ceremony in which Dellinger's unit made Maj. Gen. Graves B. Erskine, commander of the 3d Marine Division, an "Honorary Plane Commander" of the 3d Marine Division B-29 aircraft at Guam, July 1945. Sergeant Dellinger stands far right, underneath wing.

## Guam, 1945

His stateside training complete, Dellinger received assignment to the 30th Bombardment Squadron, a subordinate unit to the 19th Bombardment Group. He and his fellow Airmen traveled to Guam, where they remained for the duration of the war.

Dellinger maintained a log of the bombing operations that the aircrews assigned to his unit's B-29 performed while stationed in Guam, to include the date, the pilot's surname, the targeted objective, and the duration of the mission. On the second page, he documented that the last bombing mission occurred in the early hours of August 15, 1945—though the aircrew departed on the afternoon of August 14—over Isezaki, Japan. Later that day, the Japanese government requested an end to wartime hostilities. Afterward, Dellinger's unit performed prisoner of war relief and observational flights before Dellinger returned stateside in late 1945.

Guam was not a particularly hospitable environment. The island's makeshift runway was still under construction upon Dellinger's arrival, creating a rather unpleasant landing in February 1945. In addition to recurring typhoons and limited clean water, Dellinger recalled, "We had to put our tents back in the jungle, a mile away from the aircraft because, you see, Japan was bombing us, too."

Dellinger was ultimately responsible for the engines on two B-29 aircraft while stationed at Guam. His unit lost the first bomber, Tail Number a, to combat damage in May 1945. They received a new B-29 a few weeks later, christening this latter one the 3d Marine Division, in honor of the ground forces that helped secure Iwo Jima for the Allies in March 1945. They later named Major General Graves B. Erskine, commander of the 3d Marine Division, "Honorary Plane Commander" at a ceremony held on the island.

Three quarters of a century later, Dellinger is most proud that neither aircraft he maintained were lost due to mechanical failures. He also "really, really liked working with the aircraft, and I liked working with the personnel. I sure did." He likewise credits the Army soldiers and Marines stationed on Guam who provided him protection while performing his aircraft repair responsibilities.

## "I owe a lot to the military"

Dellinger returned to North Carolina after his military discharge in late 1945. He resumed his pre-war employment as a mechanic on assorted machinery, but with more knowledge and awareness after three years as an aircraft mechanic in the AAF. "Very thankful for what the military taught me. I've got to thank the military for helping me afterwards."

Seventy-five years after the fighting ended, 20th Air Force is ever thankful for Sergeant Dellinger's wartime contributions and service to his nation.

19-45-45-1	
72-63572.	
2-26-45 - CRANDALL - Tokyo - 15:20	
2-6-45 - " - Shizuka - 17:00	
3-9-45 - " - Tokyo - 16:15	
3-11-45 - Hall - OSAKA - 15:50	
3-12-45 - CRANDALL - Nagoya - 14:50	
3-16-45 - Hall - Kobe - 15:35	
3-18-45 - CRANDALL - Nagoya - 14:50	
3-24-45 - SCOTFIELD - " - 14:55	
3-27-45 - " - OSAKA - 16:10	
3-31-45 - CRANDALL - Nagoya - 16:20	
4-3-45 - SCOTFIELD - Shizuka - 14:40	
4-7-45 - CRANDALL - Nagoya - 16:50	
4-12-45 - " - Koriyama - 15:00	
4-15-45 - " - Tokyo - 14:35	
4-18-45 - " - Kyushu - 17:20	
4-21-45 - " - " - 15:45	
4-22-45 - KNOX - " - 14:00	
4-26-45 - CRANDALL - " - 17:50	
4-3-45 - KELLER - " - 15:25	
5-5-45 - CRANDALL - " - 15:30	
5-10-45 - KELLER - HINAKI - 16:30	
19-45-45-2	
5-11-45 - GUNDEL - Kobe - 16:25	
5-14-45 - KNOX - Nagoya - 16:00	
5-17-45 - CRANDALL - " - 14:00	
4-21-45 - SCOTFIELD - OSAKA	
6-26-45 - TOLIN - Koriyama - 15:00	
6-29-45 - ESTES - Kyushu - 13:25	
7-2-45 - TOLIN - " - 14:40	
7-4-45 - " - Tokushima - 13:40	
7-7-45 - ESTES - Nagoya - 13:40	
7-10-45 - Murphy - " - 14:20	
7-13-45 - TOLIN - Kyushu - 14:10	
7-17-45 - BLANKS - " - 12:50	
7-20-45 - TOLIN - " - 13:30	
7-24-45 - " - " - 14:35	
7-27-45 - BLANKS - " - 16:05	
7-29-45 - TOLIN - " - 13:55	
8-2-45 - TOLIN - MIKI - 14:30	
8-6-45 - CRANDALL - Kobe - 12:05	
8-7-45 - TOLIN - Kyushu - 14:45	
8-12-45 - TOLIN - IZUMI - 14:2	
End of Combat	
8-21-45 - KNOX - PHILIPPINES - 16:50	
8-2-45 - TOLIN - Tokyo - 16:20	
8-25-45 - CRANDALL - Nagoya - 15:30	
8-30-45 - BLANKS - Koriyama - 17:10	





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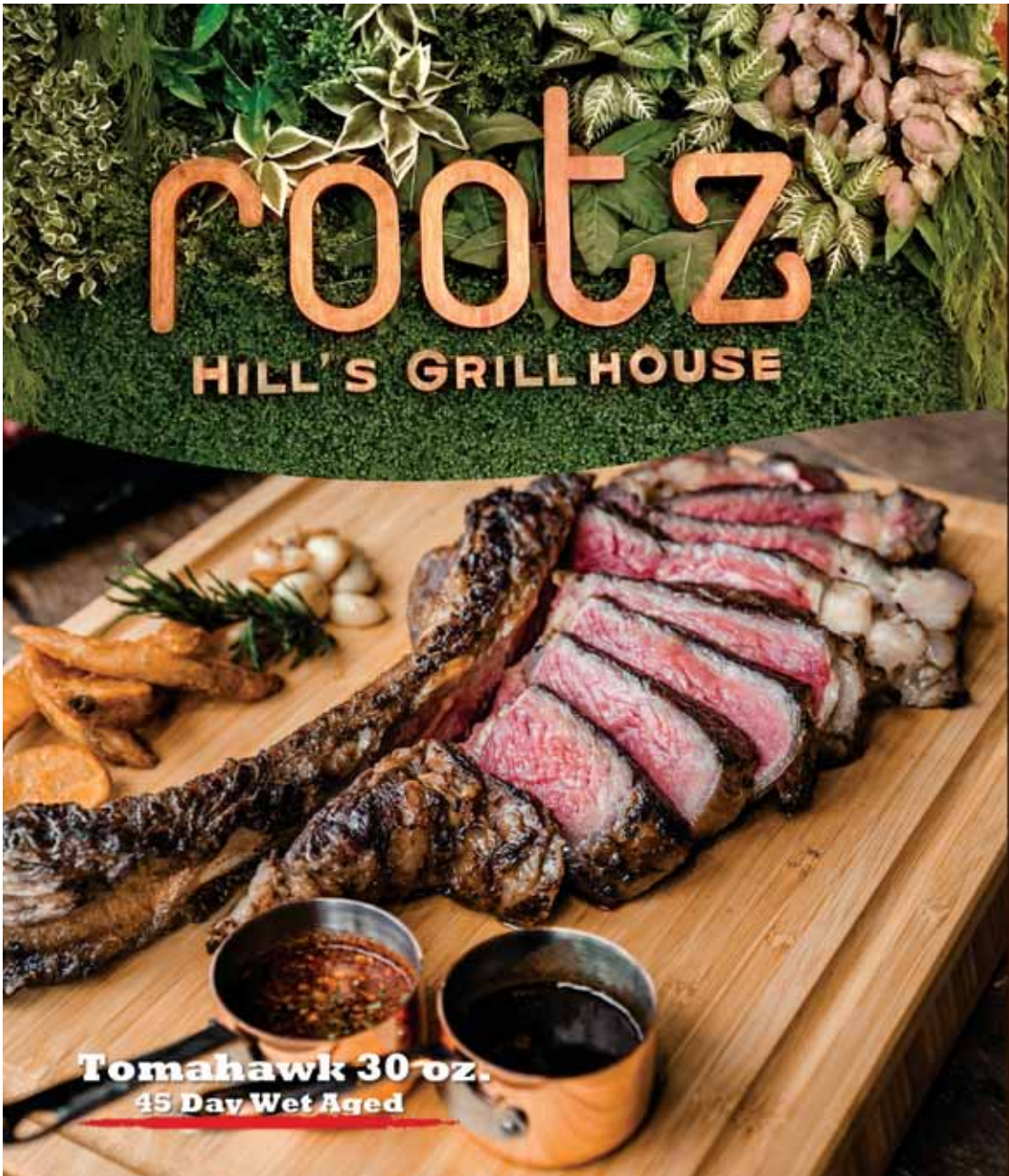
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Photo courtesy of Guampedia

# The roots of Chamorro music

BY MICHAEL R. CLEMENT, JR.,  
GUAMPEDIA

## Chamorro music a key element in modern day Guam

Contemporary Chamorro music is a ubiquitous part of life on Guam at the beginning of the 21st century and a key element of modern Chamorro culture. Chamorro music encompasses a wide variety of styles that reflect the wide variety of musical influences that have gained popularity through various historical eras.

The sounds of modern Chamorro music are diverse ranging from older style batsu, jitterbug and cha cha to country and western, disco, rock and roll and island-style reggae. Most recently, a new form of Chamorro music is being created to accompany the modern versions of ancient Chamorro dances that are gaining popularity on the island. In addition to its entertainment value, Chamorro music has become one of the primary vehicles for the perpetuation of Chamorro language in the now English-language dominated popular culture of Guam.

## Chamorro music today

Guam has two local radio stations which focus almost exclusively on Chamorro music and there is another in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). The genre has also developed a substantial market in the mainland United States wherever Chamorros from Guam and the Northern Marianas have settled.

An active community of musicians perpetuates the genre by continually producing new albums and playing live at Chamorro dance clubs and parties as well as such contemporary institutions as the twice weekly “Night Market” at The Chamorro Village complex in Hagåtña. It has also been adopted by hotels and many of Guam’s commercial outlets providing both locals and tourists an ambiance that reflects the island’s unique cultural identity.

Although most Chamorro music today is influenced by outside cultural influences that have come to Guam in the post-World War II era, contemporary Chamorro musicians perpetuate a cultural practice with a lineage that goes back to ancient times.

## Ancient Chamorro music

Music has been an important cultural element in the lives of the indigenous peoples of the Marianas since the islands were first settled about 4,500 years ago. While much of the information about these years has been lost, the first European visitors during the 16th and 17th centuries made note of the importance of music in various cultural practices on the island.

Various sources mention a call-and-response type of singing that took the form of poetic debate which has come to be known as Chamorrita or Kantan Chamorrita. This is a competitive form of singing in which one

chanter wins when the other can no longer come up with a response. The use of this art form ranged from playful teasing to the instigation of war. It is not clear today what these melodies sounded like but it is likely that the “Gumupu si Paluma” melody which is used in contemporary Kantan Chamorrita evolved from one of these ancient melodies.

There were also other forms of chants, and like most Pacific cultures, chants and songs were used both to tell stories and to preserve important knowledge.

## Music of Kustumbren Chamorro

Kustumbren Chamorro is the name for syncretic indigenous culture that developed in the Marianas through over 200 years of Spanish colonial rule. The Spanish era was a time when Chamorros converted to Roman Catholicism and incorporated its rituals into their daily lives. It was also a time when Chamorros were influenced by the Filipinos, Mexicans, Spanish and others who came to the island for various reasons and sometimes married into the local population.

All of these influences shaped the music of the islands. In addition to foreign rhythms and melodies introduced by missionaries, settlers and visitors, new musical instruments such as the guitars, pianos, violins and harmonicas undoubtedly changed the tonal values of Chamorro songs. During these years many of the earlier forms of music were lost or transformed, but new music introduced from outside influences was embraced and transformed by Chamorro musicians.

There were various forms of music on Guam during these years. Perhaps the most dominant in everyday life was music associated with the practice of Catholicism as found in the Catholic Mass, novenas, and rituals surrounding the Catholic sacraments of baptism, marriage and death. Many of these religious songs are still sung today by Chamorro speakers.

There were also many folk songs that told of daily life on Guam, of hardships, of love, and whatever else came to the minds of songwriters.

Others songs were simply adaptations of popular western songs. One of the most popular songs in pre-WW II Guam was “Hagu i Flores,” a Chamorro version of “You Are My Sunshine.”

Many such songs went hand-in-hand with dance and so conformed to the rhythms of the two most popular Spanish dance styles: the Spanish Waltz (batsu) and the polka (so’tis), dances that maintained their popularity into the early American period. The cha cha and the jitterbug would later become popular with the first post-WWII generation.

Although the culture of Guam changed considerably over the years, the ancient practice of Kantan Chamorrita continued to be perpetuated by skilled practitioners throughout the island’s Spanish Era (1668-1898) and Naval Era (1899-1941).

## Ethnomusicologist Kim Bailey defined Kantan Chamorrita as:

Ancient folk songs, arranged in quatrains of two

octosyllabic couplets, which, according to some writers, are composed on a single melody, the variations depending on the individual style of performance. The distinctive features are spontaneous improvisation and a dialogue performance between two or more people, depending on the occasion or function.

Kantan Chamorrita was used as a way to make monotonous labor enjoyable, but also played a role in festive occasions. For example, tuberos (a person who taps a coconut tree for the sap to make tuba, a coconut liqueur) would often “throw” Chamorritas as they passed their time up working in coconut trees. Another common setting for Chamorritas was roof thatching parties where two or even three-way Chamorritas could be heard. Kantan Chamorrita also played a role in wedding celebrations.

Another popular form of Chamorro music was the serenada (serenade). Men would sing these songs to their love interests as a form of courtship. Serenadas were also commonplace at family gatherings as they were the perfect settings for relatives to get together and sing. This custom can possibly be traced to Spanish times but soon died out after WWII.

## Music during World War II

Through almost three years of Japanese administration during WWII, many Chamorros were forced into a more “traditional” lifestyle as they moved to their ranches in hopes of limiting contact with Japanese soliders.

The Chamorro language, whether through song or simply spoken, served the people as a language of resistance since it could not be understood by the Japanese. Popular songs such as “Ramon San,” “Senindan” and the English language song “Sam, Sam, My Dear Old Uncle Sam” kept Chamorro spirits alive at this difficult time in history.

## Music after World War II

In the mid and late-1940s Chamorro lives were radically altered by resettlement in new villages as the island transformed into a massive military fortress as WWII raged on in Asia. The next three decades would see Chamorros reduced from over 90 percent of the island’s population to the brink of minority status. While the Chamorro language was still used in most Chamorro homes in the 1950s and 1960s, it became less likely to be heard in public places and many new settlers to Guam had no knowledge of the language.

For older Chamorro musicians less common use of the Chamorro language didn’t mean that they stopped playing the songs they already knew. However, for the younger generation that was coming of age in the post-war world, there was greater motivation to embrace the new cultural influences that were coming through the airwaves of Armed Forces Radio and later KGTF, Guam’s public broadcasting television station. Musicians during these years also had new opportunities for employment since military clubs

SEE MUSIC ON PAGE 8





STORY AND PHOTO BY JUDY FLORES,  
PHD

**K**antan Chamorita is the contemporary name given to traditional call-and-response, impromptu verse-making. Practitioners refer to the genre as ayotte’, meaning to throw (verses) back and forth. Early missionaries of the 17th century observed the practice of poetic debate that took place between clans who gathered to compete to see who could sing the most couplets. A visitor to Guam in 1683, Padre S.J. Garcia, described the singing as such:

They admire poetry and believe poets to be men who perform wonders... They sing in verse their histories and ancient things with measured time and harmony of three voices: soprano, contraltos, and falsettos, with the occasional tenor assistance of one of the principales who attend these feasts.

Anthropologist Laura Thompson wrote of the call-and-response, impromptu verse-making form she observed in 1938, which she said was called Chamorita. Elders who know the song form today call it “Chamorita singing”, or in Chamorro, Kantan Chamorita.

The verses are comprised of four lines, with the second and fourth lines rhyming. The fourth “punch line” challenges opponents to incorporate this line into the response. The first two lines are carried by a tenor, falsetto, or soprano voice while the last two lines are sung in chorus, or an individual may sing to another in falsetto. Kim Bailey, an ethnomusicologist who studied the Chamorita in the 1980s in Guam and Rota, gave a technical description of the art form. She described Chamoritas as:

...ancient folk songs, arranged in quatrains of two octosyllabic couplets, which, according to some writers, are composed on a single melody, the variations depending on the individual style of performance. The distinctive

CHAMORRO	ENGLISH
Ti gumadi yu’ put ti’ao	I’m not fishing for small fish
Na gumadi yu’ put hagu	I’m casting my net for you
An’ chumefla yu’ tres biahi	When I whistle three times
Yute’ gadi ya’un falagu	Throw your net and run

CHAMORRO	ENGLISH
Basta nana de tumanges	Stop crying, my mother
Saosao todú i lago’-mu	Wipe away your tears
Sa’ ti u apmam na tiempo	Because it won’t be long
Siempre u fatto i lahi-mu	Before your son will return

features are spontaneous improvisation and a dialogue performance between two or more people, depending on the occasion and function.

An important feature of Kantan Chamorita is the poetic artistry and layers of meaning contained in the verses. The Chamorita, when used as a socially acceptable courting or flirtation device, might present words of apparent innocence on the surface with a special hidden meaning for the intended receiver. Neighbors or relatives might use the song form to resolve misunderstandings through lyrics with metaphors which address the grievance in non-confrontational ways.

The most popular usage of the Kantan Chamorita has always been to tease and ridicule one another without causing shame or embarrassment to anyone. Sample texts with translations are provided by Laura Souder to point out common themes as well as to show how metaphors changed with the experiences of the people:

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# MUSIC: Artists create new Chamorro songs

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

needed bands, but opportunities in this case were for playing popular American music sung in English.

Still there were many Chamorro songs written during these years and like the folk songs of earlier eras, these songs reflected the interests and concerns of Chamorros of the time. For example, well known songwriter Roque Mantonona wrote his song “Bai Hanao Pa’i Gera” (I Am Going to the War) in Hawaii as he prepared to participate in the Korean War.

It was not, however, until the 1960s that Chamorro music began to once again gain a wide following on the island. Among the groups that began to gain popularity in the early 1960s were the Charfauros Brothers, the Delgado Brothers, amongst many others. Chamorro musicians began playing at fiestas, political rallies and on talent shows such as Alan Sekt’s “Talent on Parade” which aired on KUAM television.

Singing in Chamorro during these years took on the added purpose of cultural activism which is best represented in Jesus Charfauros’ “Munga Yo’ Ma’Fino Engles” (Don’t Speak to Me in English) which was performed by popular local recording artist Johnny Sablan.

It was not until 1968 when the Chamorro music recording industry really began with the release of Johnny Sablan’s Dalai Nene, the first Chamorro LP. Sablan’s early albums were many cases exercises in historical and cultural preservation since he made an effort to revive songs from pre-war Guam and put them on record.

Sablan also played an important role in promoting local talent with the production of the Kasamiento album in 1973. This album included the first recordings of future stars Flora Baza, The Charfauros Brothers, Mike Laguana, Terry Rojas and Frankie Sanchez.

During the early 1970s Jesus and Tommy Charfauros took over the “Chamorro Hour” show on KUAM 610

AM which would come to be known as “Programma Chamorrita.” A problem at the time was that there was not enough Chamorro music to fill the airwaves so they, along with younger brother, Ike, took it upon themselves to record local artists on reel-to-reel tape for their program. They would go on to open their own recording studio in 1977 and produce some of the most popular artists of the time including J.D. Crutch, Mike Laguana, Flora Baza, The Reyes Brothers and George Cruz. They also recorded the Saipanese group Tropicsette which had become popular on Guam playing at Joe and Flo’s in Asan, one of the first clubs on the Guam to feature Chamorro music.

Tropicsette was important because it was the beginning of renewed connections between Chamorros of the Marianas who had been isolated by the travel restrictions of the Trust Territory days. Members Candy Taman and Frank “Bokkongo” Pangelinan remain among the most well known Chamorro musicians today.

During the 1980s lowered production cost for cassette-tape recordings resulted in a dramatic increase in the production of Chamorro music. Stars of the 1980s included J.D. Crutch, Gus and Doll, Alexandro Sablan, The Guam Sirenas, Frank Magellan Santos and K.C. DeLeon Guerrero. Since that time many new artists have emerged.

Today, Chamorro musicians continue to perform and maintain a strong fan base. Some popular artists include K.C. DeLeon Guerrero’s brother Daniel DeLeon Guerrero, Ruby Aquiningoc Santos and Jesse Bais, among several others.



Daniel DeLeon Guerrero



Flora Baza



Johnny Sablan

There is, however, concern that the Chamorro music industry is threatened by the proliferation of digital formats which make piracy easier than ever. Nevertheless artists continue to produce new albums not so much to make money as to promote the indigenous culture of the island.

## Neo-traditional Chamorro music

During the 1980s a new type of Chamorro music emerged, this time to accompany the revival of traditional Chamorro dancing. This began with a production entitled “Guahu Taotao Tano” which was developed as an entry for the 1984 South Pacific Arts Festival in New Caledonia. The musical production was directed by the late Silas “Ed” Gould.

Although the production did not make it to New Caledonia, it made a big impression on those on Guam who experienced it and helped awaken awareness of the ancient Chamorro identity. It was eventually showcased in Tahiti in 1985.

“Guahu Taotao Tano” was then taken to the South Pacific Arts Festival in Townsville, Australia in 1988. Today there are several successful dance groups that perform to this new type of traditional music and compete in inter-island dance competitions.

Coltilde Castro Gould, an excellent storyteller, also composed many Chamorro songs during this time. Gould composed songs such as “Man Biha na Tiempo,” “Piknik,” “Si Rose” and “Inapinicara.” Most of these songs were recorded instrumentally by Jack De Mello

from Hawaii on the LP Legends of Guam.

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Left: It's worth the short trip on Andersen Air Force Base to check out the tail section of a B-52E Stratofortress that was blown into the jungle during a super typhoon in 1976. Above: A sign on Perimeter Road near Tarague Beach marks the resting place of the tail section of a B-52E Stratofortress.

# B-52 relic calls to aircraft buffs

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SETH ROBSON,  
STARS AND STRIPES  
Published: June 11, 2020

If you're stuck on base at the home of the 36th Wing on Guam, it's worth a short jaunt to check out the tail section of a B-52E Stratofortress

that was blown into the jungle during a super typhoon in 1976. It's only a short walk into the trees beside Perimeter Road near Tarague Beach to reach the relic, which looks a bit like a crashed flying saucer. When the relic was discovered in the jungle in 1997,

people initially thought it was part of a famous plane known as the "Old 100," which was displayed at the base's Arc Light Memorial from 1974 to 1983, the sign states. In fact, the tail is from a Grey Ghost, as aircraft with an aluminum and white anti-flash paint scheme were known on the island. This contrasted with the operational ARC LIGHT B-52Ds that were painted camouflage and black," an information panel next to the relic states. The Grey Ghosts were used as ground instruction training airframes and then for firefighting and rescue training. The tail, which had been cut off the aircraft after it was scrapped, was blown into the jungle by Super Typhoon Pamela when it struck Guam in 1976 with 150 mph winds. "Later the encroaching jungle concealed it until rediscovered in 1997 after Super Typhoon

**DIRECTIONS:** Drive toward Tarague Beach on Perimeter Road on Andersen Air Force Base, Guam. There's a small sign advertising the B-52 relic on the roadside.  
**TIMES:** Open at all hours  
**COSTS:** No entry fee

Operation Bullet Shot and Linebacker I and II. "With 153 B-52s on the ramp, Andersen AFB became the single largest source of combat airpower the world has ever seen," he wrote. Since 2004, Air Force bombers such as the B-1B Lancer, B-52 Stratofortress and B-2 Spirit have been frequent visitors to Guam. On July 21, 2008, six crewmembers of a B-52H, call sign Raider 21, died when their aircraft went down about 30 miles northwest of Guam, Meyer wrote. "Raider 21 is one of five B-52s lost from accidents in the waters around Guam over the aircraft's history here. Additionally, during the Vietnam War a dozen B-52s left Andersen AFB for ARC LIGHT missions and never came back," he wrote. robson.seth@stripes.com Twitter@ SethRobson1

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The remains of a B-52E bomber look like something out of a science-fiction movie.





# Boonie Stomps Guam

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY  
GUAM BOONIE STOMPERS



**Mt. Finansanta**

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 9:00 AM 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.

**Sept. 5**  
**Mt. Finansanta**

*Very, Very Difficult*  
*7 hours for 5 miles*

Our hardest hike, three difficult hikes strung together. We visit 2 mountains with fantastic views, a pristine jungle river, and a narrow gorge with swimming, jumping, and rock sliding spots.

**Bring:** 4 quarts water, strong shoes that can get wet, gloves, sun screen, insect repellent, lunch and snacks, and camera.

**Special conditions:** Sword grass, steep slopes, walking in water, slippery rocks, a very long hike, more sword grass.

**Sept. 12**  
**Alutom Falls w/ Upper Sigua Opt.**

*Medium/Difficult*  
*3 hours for 2 miles*

From the top of Mt. Alutom we hike down to a hidden cool green waterfall with jumping and swimming. The adventurous can continue on to the steep drop to Upper Sigua Falls for waterfall fun before climbing back out.

**Bring:** 2 liters water, hiking shoes, gloves, swimsuit, sun screen, insect repellent, lunch, and camera.

**Special conditions:** Steep slopes, rocky trail, mud, an uphill climb out.

**Stomp Tips:**

- 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) When hiking, lots of little snacks are better than one big meal.
- 5) Always carry a well stocked personal first aid kit.
- 6) Carry a couple of extra shoelaces in your first aid kit. They have many uses.
- 7) Always bring a small flashlight in case you get lost, or delayed. Save your phone battery for calls.
- 8) Do not hike alone and let someone know where you are going and your return time.

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Asan Beach Park

# GUAM NATURE SPOTS



The Plaza de España



GUAM VISITORS BUREAU

Summer's almost over so you need to take advantage of it! Or maybe you've spent the summer working hard and want a break for the weekend. Either way, everyone just needs a place to unwind sometimes and the best way to do that is by reconnecting with nature. Spend some time with the sun and the trees and you're sure to be feeling relaxed and ready to take on anything.

Here are some great spots on the island to sit and chill out with your friends or maybe even by yourself if you want some reflection time.

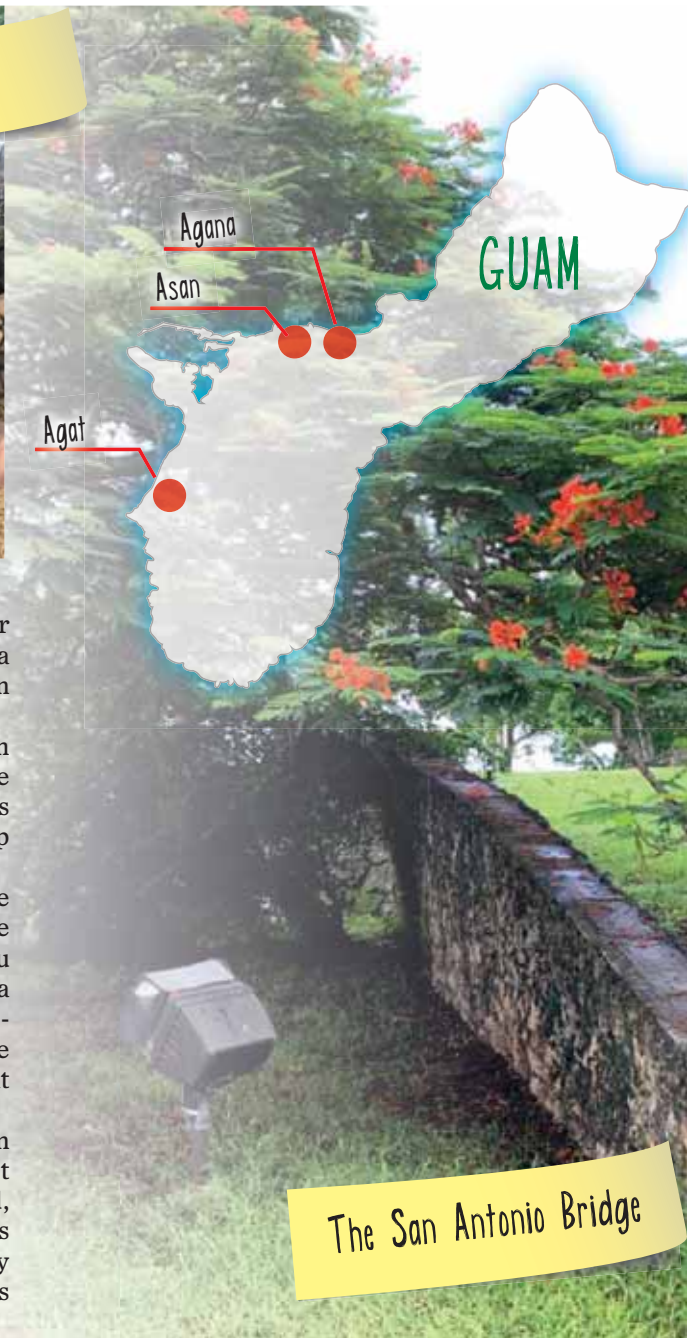

In Agana, the **Plaza de España** is a great spot for a picnic. Sit in the gazebo, on the benches, or under the trees. If you go on a Thursday, you can catch the Food Truck Frenzy just a little further down the road on the other side of the museum. You can also explore the different areas in the Plaza and learn a little bit about the history behind it.

The **San Antonio Bridge** is a less visited area so it's a good place for sitting and chatting. The bridge was originally built over a river, but now

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→ there is no water since the river was diverted. It's located in Agana across the boat basin and can be seen from Marine Drive.

The **Talaifak Bridge** in Agat has an amazing view. It's such a peaceful place to sit at and can be seen from the road as you drive down south. Make sure to stop by to learn the history behind it!

**Asan Beach Park** is so fun to explore with your friends. Fly kites in the huge field or exercise around it whether you walk, run, or bike. You can even take a walk through nature trails up the mountain and see a small cave. The nature trails are pretty easy to walk and great for a quick adventure.

These are just a few spots on Guam to check out, especially if you haven't already. If relaxing is what you need, Guam nature spots are the best places to do it. Grab your friends and family and see a little more of our island this weekend!



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# Stripes Sports Trivia

Who is this former LA Galaxy player who is also the all-time leading goal scorer in Major League Soccer (MLS) with 144 goals in 334 games played?

Answer

Landon Donovan



# SUDOKU

Difficulty: Easy

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

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Edited by Margie E. Burke

**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 Previous Sudoku:

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

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# Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

**ACROSS**

1 Furthermore  
5 Greeting at sea  
9 City of Light  
14 Put one over on  
15 Back of the neck  
16 Bigger than big  
17 Crude wooden cross  
18 Spanish three  
19 Australian "bear"  
20 Seller of frames  
22 Assistant  
23 \_\_\_ Royal Highness  
24 African adventure  
26 Pop-ups, e.g.  
28 With little effort  
30 Lose traction  
34 Dow dabbler  
36 Like sushi  
37 Fine-tune  
38 Allegiance  
40 Cuts in half  
42 Declare positively  
43 Charged item  
45 Vacation spot  
46 Withered  
47 Appropriate  
49 Dairy farm sound  
50 Scarcity  
52 Gloppy stuff  
54 Spelunker's spot  
57 Nerve ending  
61 Full of pep  
62 Starch source  
63 Carnival attraction  
64 Rap or rock  
65 On the peak of  
66 Cosmetics company founded in 1886  
67 Refine, as ore  
68 Say "No way!"  
69 Grazing group

2 Aerial maneuver  
3 Fortune teller  
4 "Golden" song  
5 Social starter  
6 Pester persistently  
7 Kind of market  
8 Triumphant cry  
9 Bluffer's game  
10 Makes illegal  
11 Anagram for "pear"  
12 Wight, for one  
13 Burn slightly  
21 Angler's basket  
22 Out of control  
25 Spare tire  
26 Rand's shrugger  
27 Took the wheel  
29 Glassblower, e.g.  
31 Train puller  
32 Opening words  
33 Basil-based sauce  
35 Evel Knievel, for one

39 1969 film, "Paint \_\_\_ Wagon"  
41 Grassy plant  
44 Fertilizer chemical  
48 "Bombshell" actress  
51 Straight and tall  
53 O founder

54 Machine parts  
55 Reunion attendee  
56 Workshop gripper  
58 Kind of cat?  
59 Emanation  
60 Tear up  
62 Little bit

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

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# HOT



## Guam's Finadenne' Denanche

### (Hot Pepper Paste)

## Demise of true 'donne'

There are two main types of hot "donne," or peppers, native to Guam: "Donne'sali" with small, bright red and very pungent fruit and "donne' ti'au" a long, red and pungent pepper, according to Mari Marutani, a professor at the University of Guam's College of Natural and Applied Sciences.

"They belong to different genera. Donne'sali has long been harvested from the wild, it is also called the bonnie pepper. And donne' ti'au is mainly grown in the backyard garden," said Marutani. The first has been labeled "Guam super hot," while the second is "Guam regular hot."

"Guam super hot is very pungent, having Scoville heat unit of 4000-4250, while 'Guam regular hot' was reported to have an average of 3450," said Marutani. "However, unfortunately original specimens of both Guam super hot' and Guam regular hot have been lost and we will not be able to examine these specimens any longer."

Purebred native peppers may be hard to come by, but the varieties sold in markets and by roadside vendors on Guam today are rich and varied – with a "pika" (hot) punch that's all their own. It's a good thing, because according to Marutani folks around here need their peppers.

"Pacific islanders consider Capsicum spp. (species of hot peppers) as a must ingredient to add pungency to island cuisine," she said. "While we have many diseases and pests, hot Capsicum spp. can be grown year-round."

– Stripes Guam

On Guam a BBQ isn't a BBQ without hot pepper. It is a must-have condiment. There are many different types of finadenne' and one of those is finadenne' denanche' (hot pepper paste).

Guam's finadenne' denanche' is a blend of freshly ground hot peppers and seasoning. Other optional ingredients such as garlic, vinegar, lemon, eggplant, and a whole array of other items can also be added. Everyone has their own special blend and the varieties of finadenne' denanche' blends are countless as their creators.

Here is how I make mine....

First go to your hot pepper trees and pick all the semi and ripe hot peppers.

One of my hot pepper trees. This plant will get a whole lot bigger. ①

Once you have picked the hot peppers, you need to remove all the stems.

It is a tedious process. ②

I use hot peppers, garlic, apple cider vinegar, sea salt and a little garlic powder just in case I want it a little more garlicky.

Here is what I use. ③

Blend up the hot peppers with the 2 bulbs of garlic diced and 3/4 cup of apple cider vinegar. ④

Remove when pepper and garlic is blended into a paste.

You may have to blend the mixture in stages in order to complete the blending process as the mixture can be a little too thick for the blender to blend everything at one time.

Once you have completed the blending process, you can season it with 3 to 4 teaspoons of sea salt.

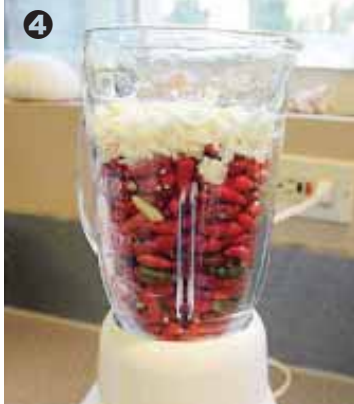
Taste the mixture to make sure the seasoning is suitable and adjust if needed. This is the fun part. Can you handle the taste test???

You should be left with about a quart of finadenne' denanche'.

You can use this to spice up just about anything. Even coat your favorite steak with it for a "real" peppered steak.

Hope you give this a try. I think you will get the hang of it and have this as an addition to your table fare. That is if it isn't too hot for you.

– bbqguam.blogspot.com





# TIPS



## Tabasco talk

How Guamanians like their hot sauce



### 'Pika' power!

When it comes to spiciness, Guam doesn't mess around

Guam has perfected "pika" – Chamorro for that spicy red-hot kick. So prevalent is the penchant for pika here that the word can be found everywhere from Pika's Café (famed for its Chamorro-fusion food) to Pika Magazine ("A guide to spice up your life") to myriad of local recipes like "monnok kadon pika," or spicy chicken stew.

This island delights in "donne," or peppers, so much that it boasts its own indigenous boonie pepper, has more local dishes that use them than you can shake a stick at, and hosts an annual festival in honor of the almighty pepper. What's more, Guam has been the pride and proving grounds of a couple of big-name pika peddlers. In short, when it comes to spice, Guam is hot.

The real proof, however, lies in the aftertaste test, and the common condiment for Guamanians comes with a kick. You can find hot sauces in every home, on every table, at every barbeque and in local restaurants, lunch boxes and even a purse or two. The island's signature dipping sauce – "finadene" (pronounced fin-ah-den-ee) – is a spicy homemade staple.

Just how much do Guamanians love hot spicy foods? Consider this: Guam placed No. 1 for per capita consumption of Tabasco hot sauce out of more than 165 countries at the 2013 Tabasco Brand Sales and Marketing Conference for the Asia-Pacific Region in Phuket, Thailand.

On average, Guamanians consume almost two 2-ounce bottles of Tabasco per person annually, according to Michelle Bengco, a sales director for Market Wholesale Distributors, Inc. which distributes the product on Guam. Mmainland America placed a distant second with a consumption per capita of just 0.75 ounces per person – five times less than Guam.

"If you ask anyone in Guam why they love tabasco the common answer is because it gives a kick on spice and flavor in any meal," said Bengco. "It is very common for Guamanians to carry along a small bottle of tabasco in their purses and have an emergency bottle in their cars.

"Chamorro's love hot and spicy flavors that are added on before eating, not during the process of cooking," he added. "Guam's fixation with Tabasco is believed to have started during Word War II when the Americans brought it over to Guam as a flavor kicker."

Guam's love of the world-renowned hot sauce may be rivalled only by its taste for Spam. It's something Tabasco and Spam took into account when they united to create a line of Hot & Spicy Spam products that bear the logos of both companies. Now sold worldwide, the product debuted right here, "where America's day begins" and came with a recipe for Spam fried rice from Guam-based Shirley's Coffee Shop, according to Bengco.



Market Wholesale Distributors, Inc. took a survey of some of the most popular ways on island to consume America's favorite hot sauce. Here's what they came up with:

- Tabasco fried rice – You can't make the perfect fried rice without the dynamic duo: Hot and Spicy Spam and Tabasco.
- As an ingredient in barbecue marinade – used to marinate everything including chicken, beef, fish, sausage, pork, oysters, and more. (The basic marinade is soy sauce and lemon or vinegar with tons of onions, garlic, and black pepper. From there, everyone adds their own special ingredients and tabasco tops the list.)
- As an ingredient in kelaguen - A popular dish at fiestas and elsewhere that consist of meat, fish or seafood cooked entirely or in part in lemon or other citric juice.
- Tabasco with (canned) corned beef and cabbage – a much-lived local dish of corned beef stir fried with cabbage and a dash of Tabasco. And why not ...



### TABASCO CHICKEN FRIED RICE

#### Ingredients

- Chicken breasts, cut into thin strips
- Soy sauce (or fish sauce)
- Olive oil
- Onion, chopped
- Garlic clove, finely chopped
- Egg, lightly beaten
- Sugar
- TABASCO® brand Garlic Pepper Sauce
- Rice, cooked
- Frozen green peas, thawed
- Scallions, chopped

#### Measure

- 3 ea.
- 2-3 Tbsp.
- 2 Tbsp.
- 1 ea.
- 2 ea.
- 1 ea.
- 1 Tbsp.
- 1 tsp.
- 3 cups
- 1 cup
- 4 ea.

#### Directions

1. Place chicken in a small bowl and toss with soy (or fish) sauce.
2. Heat a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add the oil and then the onions and cook 3 minutes. Add the garlic and cook another minute.
3. Add chicken, reserving the soy (or fish) sauce. Let the chicken cook until just starting to brown; then add the egg and cook for 30 seconds.
4. Add the reserved soy (or fish) sauce, sugar, TABASCO® Garlic Pepper Sauce and rice. Stir in the green peas and cook for 1 minute until the peas are heated through.
5. Stir in the scallions and serve with additional soy sauce.



- Tabasco Foodservice

- Stripes Guam



Rueben Olivas  
**BBQ GUAM**  
[bbqguam.blogspot.com](http://bbqguam.blogspot.com)

## Pico de Gallo Salsa ... the perfect BBQ compliment



**Just** about everyone loves to spice up their BBQ. This Pico de Gallo salsa will do just that for you. It has the excellent flavor and heat that will get your mouth watering and keep it there.

Here is the recipe for this utterly delicious salsa...

**Ingredient:**

- 4-5 Fresh red tomatoes (roma), diced (depends on size)
- 3 Fresh jalapenos, finely diced but not minced (burn the peppers first, brings out the flavor and heat)
- 1/2 bunch Fresh cilantro, coarsely chopped (approx 3 Tbsp)
- 1 small Onion (red) diced, 1/2

Medium onion

- 1-2 Tbsp Lemon juice or lime juice, freshly squeezed (I usually find the juice from 1/2 of a lime is sufficient)
- 3 cloves Garlic, minced
- Salt to taste

**Instructions:**

Combine all ingredients and marinate for at least one hour to allow juices and flavors to combine.

Taste and adjust any ingredient you like.

Chill before serving.

Garnish with a sprig or two of cilantro and a wedge of lime.

Here is how you "burn" the Jalapeno peppers....

❶ Rinsed and ready to burn.

❷ Keep turning to obtain an even burn.

❸ Finished product. At this point you can cut lengthwise and take out the membrane and seeds if you like. I leave the peppers whole.

❹ The peppers are finely diced but not quite minced. I find this size a little bit "friendlier" in that no one gets a larger piece of pepper that may be too hot. But again, this is up to you. Your finished salsa should look something like this. All that is left now is something to spread the salsa over. And that, my friends, is your department!!!!







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lickin' good"*

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RESTAURANT INFO





## Life and death at Fort Hood

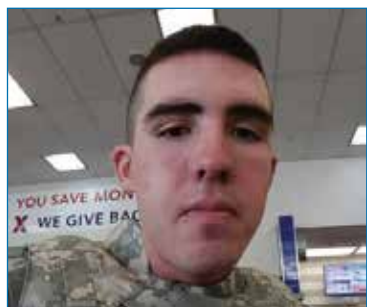
Rash of suspected homicides increases scrutiny of Army's crime-riddled Texas base **Page 2**

Activists held signs depicting Spc. Vanessa Guillen at a rally July 30 in Washington. Guillen's family said Vanessa, who was killed at Fort Hood in April, told them she was being sexually harassed but was too afraid to report it.

NIKKI WENTLING/Stars and Stripes



## COVER STORY



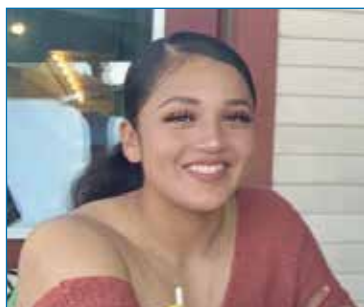
Pvt. Gregory Wedel-Morales



Spc. Freddy Delacruz



Spc. Shelby Tyler Jones



Pfc. Vanessa Guillen



Pfc. Brandon Rosecrans

# Fort Hood sees rash of suspected homicides

By ROSE L. THAYER

*Stars and Stripes*

AUSTIN, Texas — Latrece Johnson woke up gasping for air at exactly 2:43 a.m. March 14 in her home in Vidalia, Ga. She said it felt like a dream, but she knew instantly that something had happened to her son, Spc. Freddy Delacruz.

"I felt him take his last breath. I saw him call to me. I felt him being shot," Johnson said, recalling the pain she felt at the exact time her son was shot six times in an apartment in Killeen, Texas. "I literally gargled on the same blood."

Delacruz, 23, was shot and killed along with his pregnant girlfriend Asia Cline, 20, and Army veteran Shaquan Allred, 23. He was the second soldier murdered this year at Fort Hood but not the last.

Between March and June, the deaths of five soldiers have become suspected homicides, more than the past four years combined. At least two veterans who had separated from the Army at Fort Hood within the previous six months were slain. Additionally, two soldiers are alleged to have committed murder. In the previous four years, only two soldiers' deaths were considered homicides, according to data from the Fort Hood Public Affairs Office. Both died in 2017.

In addition to the increase in homicides at Fort Hood, the number of violent crimes committed by soldiers at the base this year — and since 2015 — is alarming. The two issues raise questions: Why this base? Why now?

"The numbers are high here. They are the highest in most cases for sexual assault, harassment, murders, for our entire formation in the U.S. Army," Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy said when he visited Fort Hood in early August.

The Army Public Affairs office last week released the numbers McCarthy cited that day, which compare Fort Hood's violent and nonviolent felony data from 2015 through 2019 to that of two bases of comparable size: Fort Bragg, N.C., and Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

Fort Hood averaged 129 violent felonies committed by soldiers per year. Fort Bragg had an average of 90, and Lewis-McChord had 109. Violent felonies include crimes such as homicide, violent sex crimes, kidnapping, robbery and aggravated assault.

Fort Hood officials did not respond to questions concerning crime at the base.

## A deadly 2020

All but two of this year's homicides occurred within the city of Killeen, the town just outside the gates of Fort Hood. One other occurred in Harker Heights, a small suburb of Killeen. Those deaths received more public scrutiny after the international coverage of the disappearance and death of Spc. Vanessa Guillen.

The 20-year-old Houston native was bludgeoned to death in an arms room by Spc. Aaron Robinson, who with his girlfriend buried her body in a secluded



BLAIR DUPRE/U.S. Army

**The family of Spc. Vanessa Guillen grieves in front of her Soldier's Cross during her unit memorial ceremony at Fort Hood, Texas, on July 17. Several hundred people — family, friends and fellow soldiers — attended the ceremony in the post's Spirit of Fort Hood Chapel.**

area about 20 miles from the base. He shot himself dead when confronted by local law enforcement after her body was discovered June 30.

On March 1, Spc. Shelby Jones, 20, was shot and killed outside a strip club in Killeen. Though a redacted copy of the police investigation shows that 15 people were either involved in the incident or witness to it, a Bell County grand jury declined to indict the suspect June 10. The case has been "exceptionally cleared," said Ofelia Miramontez, spokeswoman for the Killeen Police Department. This form of case clearance means elements beyond law enforcement's control have prevented the agency from arresting and formally charging the offender. The district attorney did not say why the case was declined.

Two weeks later, Delacruz, Cline and Allred were killed.

On March 26, Michael Wardrobe, who separated from the Army in January, was shot and killed. Spc. Jovino Jamel Roy arrested and charged with murder. A fight broke out between the 22-year-old men over an alleged love triangle involving Roy's wife, the Killeen Daily Herald reported.

Guillen was killed on base the next month. During the two-month search for her, a tip led investigators to a field in Killeen on June 19, where police found skeletal remains of 23-year-old Pvt. Gregory Wedel-Morales. Homicide detectives

are investigating that case, Miramontez said. Wedel-Morales went missing in August 2019, just days before he was set to begin out-processing from the Army. His unit labeled him a deserter, a status his mother had to fight to change so she could have her son returned home to Oklahoma and buried in a veterans' cemetery.

On May 18, Pfc. Brandon Rosecrans, 27, was shot and killed in Harker Heights, a wealthier, quieter suburb just His body was found on the side of a residential road, and his vehicle was found on fire a few miles away. A civilian, Brandon Olivares, 28, was arrested and charged with Rosecrans' murder in August. The two had a disagreement about the sale of a gun, and Olivares shot Rosecrans as he slept in his Jeep Renegade, according to court documents.

## Calls for reform

Guillen's death was horrific and shocking and has led to at least four separate ongoing Army investigations.

"We will do everything we can to protect her legacy by making enduring changes," McCarthy said.

But when added to the four other violent deaths, there have been calls for major reforms from veterans, lawmakers and the families who have lost loved ones.

"It breaks your heart that the institution itself, or these bases, is just not getting

a handle on this," said retired Col. Ann Wright. Known for her opposition to the Iraq War, Wright has spent considerable time researching and speaking out against violence in the military.

She sees the current level of homicide at Fort Hood as "pretty consistent."

"It takes some egregious thing that really comes to the public's attention, like Vanessa's murder, and then all of the sudden you start digging around a little bit more and find all these other things that have happened," said Wright, whose research and outreach in the early 2000s focused on female soldiers who died in noncombat incidents on deployment. "I give credit to Vanessa's family for really raising hell for long enough that they were able to get congressional attention on it, and then getting a firecracker lawyer. I've never seen anything happen quite like this. We were never able to get anything close to what Vanessa's family has been able to do."

The Guillen family spoke out about their disapproval of how the Army was handling search efforts. One month after Guillen's disappearance, they began holding weekly rallies outside the gate of Fort Hood to keep the case in the spotlight. On June 15, they hired Natalie Khawam, that "firecracker" attorney from Tampa, Fla., who helped elevate their cause to Congress.

**SEE PAGE 3**



COVER STORY

FROM PAGE 2

“I wanted to bring it to a national level because I knew we needed legislation,” Khawam said. “... It felt like it was more than Vanessa. It was not an isolated incident. It felt like it was widespread.”

Khawam, who said she represents hundreds of soldiers stationed around the world, said the Texas base gives her an uncomfortable feeling.

“It’s a ‘shut up and mind your own business’ mentality,” Khawam said of leadership at Fort Hood. “It’s very totalitarian.”

She said she believes the problems at Fort Hood stem from toxic leadership. When speaking to people who have experienced or witnessed sexual harassment and assault, Khawam said the common refrain is that soldiers are told: “Just act like you didn’t see it.”

“Who’s teaching these people that?” she asked. “These are learned behaviors.”

Before Guillen went missing, she told her family she faced sexual harassment on base but was afraid to report it. While the family has said Robinson was harassing Guillen, Army investigators maintained they have not found any evidence to support that allegation.

The allegations have led to internal Army reviews of how the base and Guillen’s unit implement the Army’s sexual harassment and assault program, as well as an independent committee formed by McCarthy.

Made up of four veterans and a former FBI investigator, the committee will look at Fort Hood and the surrounding community to determine whether the command climate and culture “reflect the Army’s commitment to safety, respect, inclusiveness, diversity and freedom from sexual harassment.”

Its final report is due Oct. 30.

Keeping track

In the last five years, 165 soldiers assigned to Fort Hood have died, according to the Fort Hood Public Affairs Office, which regularly released information on soldiers’ deaths until a 2018 decision to stop the practice. The base was an outlier in this level of transparency.

In those years, seven soldiers died by homicide, while six died in a combat zone. The deaths of 70 soldiers were ruled suicides, and on- and off-base accidents resulted in the deaths of 60 soldiers.

Army and Defense Department officials did not respond to requests for similar information on deaths throughout the Army or other bases.

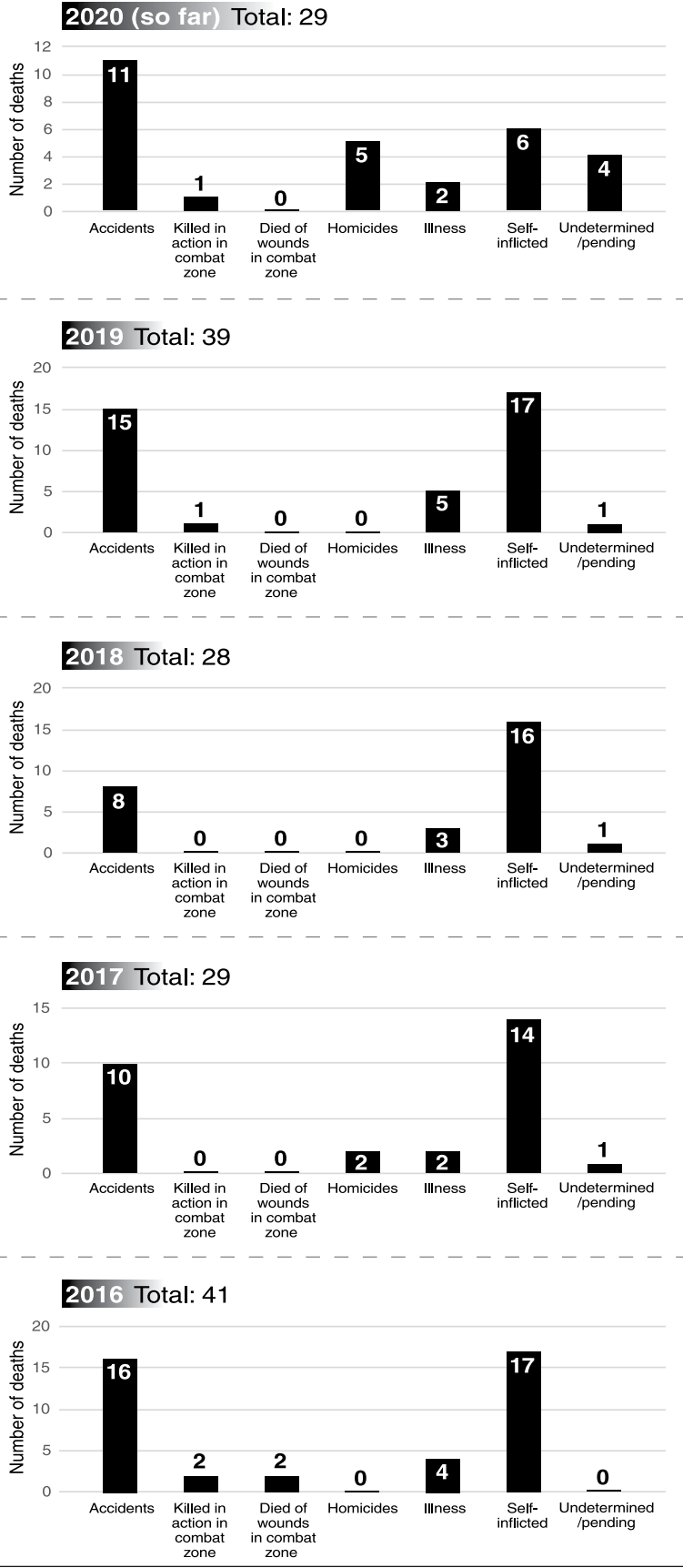
The annual Army Crime Report gives some insight into the level of criminal activity throughout the service. In fiscal year 2017 there were 56 homicide offenders and 72 homicide offenses. Of those offenses, 21 were charged as murder. In fiscal year 2018, 58 soldiers are listed as homicide offenders, and 17 of those soldiers were charged with murder.

The reports show that 5% of active-duty soldiers commit some form of crime. Of that,

Deaths at Fort Hood from 2016-2020

Of the 36,500 Fort Hood soldiers who live in the Killeen community of more than 500,000, there have been 29 deaths this year as of Aug. 14.

Accidents cover on- and off-post incidents, including training and private automobile incidents.



SOURCE: Fort Hood Press Center

NOGA AMI-RAW/Stars and Stripes

violent felonies make up only about 4% of all cases. Among the violent offenders, 90% of the soldiers come from ranks E1-E6. Those statistics were consistent in 2017 and 2018.

“We train people to be violent, but only, supposedly, on the orders of the government,” Wright said. “Tragically, the violent behavior flows into home life and sometimes to interactions with your own fellow service members.”

The base, the city

Fort Hood, with its 36,500 service members, and Killeen,

population approaching 150,000, share a symbiotic relationship.

The base generated \$29.8 billion for the Texas economy last year, according to the state comptroller. Fort Hood employs more than 12,000 civilians as Defense Department personnel, contractors and employees of its exchanges and commissaries.

Two of Fort Hood’s three gates that flow into Killeen deposit soldiers directly into an area of local businesses, barber shops and tattoo parlors. The third feeds onto a stretch of highway that recently expanded to a full-fledged interstate.

As Fort Hood has experienced

an increase in homicides, so has Killeen. This year, the city has had 21 homicide victims, surpassing the 16 cases investigated in 2019, Miramontez said. That number includes Jones, Delacruz and Wedel-Morales. Police have closed eight of this year’s cases.

The two also share horrific histories of violence.

In 1991, a man drove his pickup truck into a Luby’s Cafeteria in Killeen and opened fire, killing 23 people and wounding 27. Fort Hood suffered a similar fate 18 years later when Maj. Nidal Hasan shot and killed 13 people and wounded 30 at the base’s Soldier Readiness Processing Center on Nov. 5, 2009.

For better or worse, the civilian community leaders outside of Fort Hood wholeheartedly support the base. Jean Shine, a local real estate agent who serves as a civilian aide to the Secretary of the Army, said in the wake of Guillen’s death, “everyone wants to help.”

The community is filled with retirees and former service members, many who chose to return to the area.

Shine said she finds the negative coverage of Fort Hood disappointing and unrepresentative of the community. She’s watched this year as her soldier-neighbors deployed — to work in combat zones, to quell civil unrest and to support America’s fight against the coronavirus pandemic.

“We put a lot on our military,” she said.

McCarthy met with Shine and other members of the community, as well as soldiers, in early August to get a better understanding what exactly is happening at Fort Hood.

“We are sitting down with a group of investigators to understand the root causes associated with the violence, felonies, violent acts, but better understand why this is happening at this installation,” McCarthy told reporters during the visit.

Killeen Police Department Chief Charles F. Kimble also met with McCarthy and described the relationship his department has with Fort Hood and the Army as “strong.”

Because the populations are so intertwined, he said the two are more like one community.

“Collectively, we know criminals do not concern themselves with city borders, let alone military installation borders, so from time to time, crime spills over from both ways,” Kimble said in emailed responses. The base and the police work collaboratively on cases when they can, he said.

Much of the violent crime in the city is caused by people engaging in “at-risk” behavior such as drugs and prostitution, Kimble said.

Asking for a solution

Air Force veteran Jennifer Norris believes Fort Hood’s current situation has been years in the making.

For the past decade, Norris, a trained social worker with a master’s degree in public policy, has been tracking crimes committed by and against service members and advocating for reform. She posts her research

on her website, Military Justice for All.

She first focused her research on several large military bases, but after noticing a trend of Fort Hood deaths, Norris narrowed her efforts to the Texas base.

“I didn’t set up to go after Fort Hood at all. It’s a compilation of systematic issues,” she said.

At the end of 2017, Norris used her own money to travel from her home in Maine to Washington to meet with lawmakers. By the time she got home, Norris said she thought everyone had moved on without intending to address the problems.

“The other bases are nothing like Fort Hood is right now,” she said. “I think the anomaly with Fort Hood is that its isolated and that it’s such an economic powerhouse in the community that it’s in everybody’s best interest to protect it so they can protect themselves.”

Epilogue

Back in Georgia, Freddy Delacruz’s mother said she tries to remember the laughter and the joy he brought to her life. He was “her goofiness,” she said. The two spoke almost daily and there’s no denying the void that his death left in her days.

There’s also uncertainty because the case remains open. Johnson has business related to her son to deal with in Killeen, but with his killer still not arrested, she said she’s too afraid to travel there.

Delacruz’s family has been told that a suspect was identified, but it is now up to the Bell County District Attorney to determine whether charges will go forward. Killeen Police did not provide any updates to the case.

When asked about delays in arresting suspects, Kimble said, “To secure an arrest warrant for a murder suspect, we must confer with the Bell County District Attorney’s office, who issue the complaint.” Waiting for lab results and evidence processing can delay when police approach that office.

“My mom is trying to keep calm and wait for the detective and stuff to call her,” said Fredrick Delacruz, Freddy’s twin brother and a soldier at Fort Campbell, Ky. “I’m uneasy. It’s taking too long for me.”

Johnson had pushed her twins to join the Army. They were restless at home and wanted to travel. They also struggled to find work, Fredrick remembered.

“I was happy and sad at the same time,” Johnson said. “I am proud of their service. I have always been proud of them. Always.”

Now, she worries about Fredrick. Even though he’s states away from Fort Hood, Johnson said she questions the safety of living around any Army base.

“It most definitely gives me concern of why. Why is it happening or what is going on where they’re not paying attention to soldiers missing or getting murdered?” Johnson said. “When they’re in the Army, that’s [supposed to be] the safest place. Fort Hood just taught me otherwise.”



## MILITARY

# Abandoned bikes donated at Humphreys

BY MATTHEW KEELER  
Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — In a first-come, first-served community giveaway, about 300 people waited their turn to pick from nearly 250 abandoned bicycles that have littered bike racks for months at the home of U.S. Forces Korea, Eighth Army and the 2nd Infantry Division.

Many of the hopefuls were staff sergeants and below serving an unaccompanied tour. They are not authorized a personal vehicle and rely instead on buses, taxis and personal modes of transportation such as bicycles and scooters to get around the largest overseas U.S. military installation.

Staff Sgt. Nickolas Ham, traffic noncommissioned officer-in-charge for the Humphreys provost marshal's office, arrived in South Korea in December and set out immediately to resolve a growing case of neglect in his new community.

"We decided to go do a bike roundup," he said. "We hadn't done one in a while and it's obviously an issue on the installation. The main hot areas we search are places like the main gate, post exchange and barracks."

The 28-year-old native of Fayetteville, N.C., said military police look for the obvious signs



MATTHEW KEELER/Stars and Stripes

**About 300 people waited their turn Aug. 22 to pick from nearly 250 bicycles abandoned at Camp Humphreys, South Korea.**

of abandonment such as deflated tires, cobwebs and rusted chains before tagging them as a policy violation. At that point the

owner has five business days to register the bicycle before it is impounded.

"We came to a standstill

because we can only store so many bikes in our warehouse," Ham said. "It's hard to get rid of bicycles in Korea and, of course,

it costs money. That's why we decided to do a bike giveaway; we wanted to give back to the community."

Following a 45-day holding period, the bikes still unclaimed become property of the provost marshal and can be released, disposed of or, in this case, donated.

Hundreds of Humphreys residents lined up Aug. 22 for their chance of a free bike ranging from a child's first tricycle to the lightweight bikes preferred by cyclists.

All the bikes now have a new owner, Ham said.

Pfc. Kevin Dunnaway, a videographer for Armed Forces Network-Korea, said he was looking to replace his current bicycle, which is having trouble shifting through the gears.

"I've been here for a while and the bike that I have was kind of ratty to begin with," he said. "I'm probably going to save a lot of money repairing this one rather than repair my other bike."

Dunnaway and the other recipients were required to fill out a liability waiver and provide necessary contact information. Everyone had 10 business days to register their bikes with the Defense Biometrics Identification System, or DBIDS, on Humphreys.

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## Air Force offers \$100K for improved piddle pack for female pilots

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN  
Stars and Stripes

The Air Force is offering at least \$100,000 to whomever comes up with a way for female pilots to answer the call of nature while strapped into the cockpit of a jet.

"Let's develop an improved, reliable and effective system to enable female air crew to relieve themselves while flying sky high," said a document announcing the "Sky High Relief Challenge" last month.

The Air Force "needs an improved bladder relief system that allows female aviators to hydrate adequately and relieve themselves during flight without interfering with operations or compromising flight safety," the document said.

Solving the problem has become urgent, with flight times running up to 16 hours, it said.

Female air crew often deprive themselves of liquid to avoid having to urinate in flight, a practice called tactical dehydration, that can reduce physical and cognitive performance and impair a pilot's ability to withstand

G-forces, the document said.

Bladder relief during flight has long been a challenge for the services. Male pilots have also run into problems when they've really had to go.

For example, in 1992 an F-16 crashed in Turkey after the pilot undid his lap belt so that he could relieve himself in a "piddle pack" — which at the time consisted of a dehydrated sponge in a plastic container — only to send the aircraft into a spin when he wedged the belt's buckle between the seat and the stick that controls the plane.

The pilot ejected safely and no one was hurt on the ground, but the \$18 million jet was a write-off.

Piddle packs evolved over time, but never with female pilots in mind. Some women have reported stripping off clothes in the cockpit just to use one, Wired magazine reported in 2000.

Many pilots use the "old proven standby" of adult diapers to avoid having to resort to in-flight relief systems, the Wired article said.

Piddle packs are being replaced by the ominously named



MARLEAH ROBERTSON/U.S. Air Force

**Lt. Col. Christine Mau, 33rd Operations Group deputy commander, puts on her helmet before taking her first flight in the F-35A in 2015. The Air Force is offering at least \$100,000 in prize money to inventors who develop systems that allow female pilots to relieve themselves in flight.**

Advanced Mission Extender Device, a battery-operated device worn underneath the uniform and designed to collect urine.

For men, the urine is collected in a cup, and for women in a pad, before it's pumped into a collection bag strapped to the leg.

The maker of the device, Vermont-based Omni Medical Systems, reassuringly notes that it's made from fire-retardant materials. The female version "fits like a sanitary pad," Omni said.

The competition to find a

solution for female pilots seeking in-flight relief is being run by AFWERX, an Air Force program that promotes and invests in new technology and ideas to solve problems.

"Providing them with female-specific equipment that functions safely and reliably will lead to vast improvements in their physical and mental health and enable them to focus on their missions with minimal distraction," AFWERX said on its webpage.

An evaluation team will review submissions beginning Sept. 21. Prizes range from a minimum of \$100,000 for categories such as urine transfer and storage technology to at least \$250,000 for a complete pumpless bladder relief system.

"Your solution could potentially provide female aviators the relief needed to navigate the skies with the ease and comfort they deserve!" AFWERX said.

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## MILITARY

# Ranks plagued by alcohol abuse

Study: Soldiers had most hospital trips among services for problems related to drinking

By NANCY MONTGOMERY  
*Stars and Stripes*

More than 101,000 active-duty troops ended up in the hospital between 2009 and 2018 because of a problem related to excessive drinking, a new study has found.

About half of them had potentially deadly alcohol poisoning — caused by drinking too much in a short period of time — 35% sought care for alcohol dependence disorders, 17% for alcohol-related injuries and over 10% for alcohol-induced psychosis, according to the study in the Defense Health Agency's monthly publication.

Broken down by service, soldiers had the highest rate of alcohol-related trips to the hospital, followed by Marines and sailors. Airmen had the lowest rate — about half that of soldiers.

Soldiers also comprised more than half of those who went to the hospital more than once for a drinking-related problem, the study said.

The high rate among soldiers for repeat visits to the hospital is "likely related to the higher rate of alcohol-related encounters attributable to the Army in general," the study said.

"However, it may also sug-

gest higher tolerance of these episodes and stronger efforts to rehabilitate soldiers and salvage careers than in the other service branches."

Problems caused by excessive drinking that required hospital care were most common in combat-specific and motor transport occupations, with pilots and air crew the least likely to be affected, the study found.

While the incidence rate of alcohol-related medical encounters declined 14% over the 10-year period, there was an increase in 2011 and 2012 — a period that corresponded with a surge in troop levels in Afghanistan, the study said. Once the surge ended, the rate of alcohol-related encounters declined, it said.

Active duty service members are known to have a higher prevalence of alcohol use, heavy drinking and binge drinking than the general population, the study said.

That could be due in part because those who drink in high school are more likely to join the military, but also because "binge and heavy drinking are an accepted part of military culture," the study said.

Around 30% of service members who took part in the 2015



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY U.S. ARMY ACQUISITION SUPPORT CENTER, KATARZYNA BIALASIEWICZ/Getty Images

**A new Defense Health Agency study warns that excessive drinking "contributes to significant harms among military service members and substantial costs to the U.S. Armed Forces."**

**Soldiers had the highest rate of alcohol-related trips to the hospital, followed by Marines and sailors. Airmen had the lowest rate.**

Department of Defense Health Related Behaviors Survey said they had engaged in binge drinking the previous year, compared to 24.7% of U.S. adults over the age of 18. And a 2002 study comparing military drinking rates with that of civilians in the same age group found that around 32% of military men drank heavily, compared with 17.8% of civilian men, according to a paper for the National Institute on Alcohol

Abuse and Alcoholism.

Excessive drinking "contributes to significant harms among military service members and substantial costs to the U.S. Armed Forces," the study warned.

"A study of TRICARE expenditures noted alcohol-related medical care to cost around \$425 million a year in 2006, which would be over \$500 million in 2018 after adjusting for infla-

tion," it said.

Still, the rate of alcohol-related ER visits and hospitalizations among service members "is substantially lower than those reported in the civilian sector."

Service members' concerns about negative career impacts, along with alcohol and drug prevention programs, alcohol and drug screening programs, mandated buddy systems and base restrictions on the use of alcohol "may work to limit the number of individuals who reach the level of requiring emergency medical attention," the study said.

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## Coast Guard joined by shark while on swim call in Oceania

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS  
AND CHAD GARLAND  
*Stars and Stripes*

A Coast Guard swim call in the Pacific Ocean nearly turned into a scene from "Jaws" when a shark tried to join the party, according to harrowing video the service published recently.

The crew had finished their operations somewhere in Oceania on Aug. 21 and had not been off the ship for weeks when they decided to have the swim call, the U.S. Coast Guard cutter Kimball said in a Facebook post.

"There were no vessels around for miles, the weather was perfect and we were a zillion miles from land," the post said. "[We] were at that point where every day feels like 'Groundhog Day' and were looking for something to break up the monotony."

A shark appeared to be happy to spice up the day for the approximately 40 Kimball crew members swimming within 50 yards of the cutter, according to the post.

The uninvited guest was between 6 and 8 feet long, the Coast Guard said in the caption of a video of the encounter.

It was likely a blue shark or a silky shark, said biologist Gavin Naylor, director of the Florida Program for Shark Research. It might have been a more

dangerous, critically endangered oceanic whitetip, he said, but it didn't appear to show its characteristic white-tipped fins.

Blue and silky sharks can be dangerous, but the oceanic whitetip "should be treated with extreme caution," says the shark research program's site. The species shows little fear around divers and tends to circle persistently.

Often first on the scene of mid-ocean disasters, it was a "major concern" for torpedoed boats and downed planes during both World Wars, the site says, and is the main species implicated in attacking the survivors of the USS Indianapolis in 1945, "the 'worst shark attack in history.'"

Still, unprovoked attacks are relatively rare — there were 64 worldwide in 2019 — and result in an average of about four fatalities a year, according to Naylor's research program at the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville, which has maintained a database of over 6,500 incidents since the 1500s.

Curious sea life often like to check out anything floating on the surface in the sparsely populated open ocean, Naylor said in an email.

"It's not clear from the video whether the shark was posing a threat ... primarily because I cannot make out the (shark's) movements," he said.

The footage shows Petty Officer 1st

Class Samuel Cintron, a maritime enforcement specialist aboard the Kimball, shooting at the shark as it circled the cutter and approached the swimmers. The shark briefly turned away after each round of shots but kept circling back.

"Our goal was to keep [the shark] away from shipmates, not harm it, if possible. It was most likely curious and not looking for a meal," the Facebook post said. "We picked our location to try and avoid such an encounter, but it is their ocean after all."

It's common to post a gunner's mate armed with an M1 or M14 rifle as a "shark watch" aboard Navy vessels during search and rescue operations. Navy instructions state that the sailor should "fire to drive off a shark only as a last resort and when directed."

It's unclear how often they're called upon to actually do so or how effective it is — bullets don't typically travel very far after they strike water due to drag. Neither the Navy nor the Coast Guard responded to Stars and Stripes queries about such incidents.

"Shooting rounds into the water would not help increase the safety of the men in the water," Naylor said.

Between the sounds of gunfire in the video, reggae music played in the background as swimsuit-clad service members

aboard the cutter shouted orders and kept their eyes on the shark.

"Heading toward the bow! Heading toward the bow!" a crew member called out. "Port side, port side!"

Cautiously, the swimmers made their way to a small rescue boat as the shark swam nearby. Others climbed a rope ladder hanging off the side of the cutter.

Luckily, there were no casualties. All the swimmers safely made their way back onto the cutter, and "the shark appeared uninjured as it swam away," the video caption says. Even a unicorn-shaped pool floaty that was ditched in the hustle to get aboard the rescue vessel was saved.

The Kimball post called the shark encounter "one of the most amazing events many of us have ever experienced at sea."

"It wasn't the panic of the 4th of July scene from 'Jaws,' but once everyone realized what was happening, they moved with a purpose!" the post said.

That was an appropriate response, Naylor said.

"The Coast Guard did the right thing in getting the men out of the water," he said. Later, he added: "P.S. I really like the inflatable unicorn!"

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## MILITARY

# Branching out

## Space Force units are operating worldwide, and experts expect more to pop up soon

By SETH ROBSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

The Space Force may be the U.S. military's youngest service branch, but it already has 10 units based outside the continental United States, along with facilities in Greenland, the United Kingdom, Ascension Island, Diego Garcia, Alaska, Hawaii and Guam.

The service was established Dec. 20 with a force of 16,000 military and civilian personnel, as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020. The Pentagon's first Space Force budget proposal calls for \$15.4 billion in 2021.

It's still a work in progress, according to the official Space Force website. The number of active-duty troops wearing the Space Force uniform was 90 on Aug. 17, although personnel from other branches are assigned to the service, according to Space Force spokeswoman Lynn Kirby.

"Because of the military, security and economic importance of space operations, most large powers currently have global facility networks, and the U.S. is no different," military technology expert and Arizona State University engineering professor Braden Allenby said in an email.

Headquartered at the Pentagon, the Space Force mission is to organize, train and equip forces to protect U.S. and allied interests in space and to provide space capabilities to other branches of the military, according to its website.

The Space Force operates satellites and ranges used to launch military and commercial missions, provides satellite communications and navigation to the

military and monitors ballistic missile launches worldwide. Its motto, "Semper Supra," translates as "always above."

### At home and abroad

The only Space Force locations identified on its website are Buckley, Schriever and Peterson Air Force bases, all in Colorado; Los Angeles and Vandenberg Air Force bases in California; and Patrick Air Force Base, Fla.

However, a list of overseas Space Force units and facilities provided by the service Aug. 6 reveals a sizable presence.

The 12th Space Warning Squadron at Thule Air Base, Greenland, operates early warning radar that tracks missiles and objects in space. The Indian Ocean island of Diego Garcia is home to Detachment 2, Space Delta 2, which operates an electro-optical deep space surveillance telescope.

Ascension Island in the Atlantic Ocean is a base for Detachment 2, 45th Space Wing and a mechanical radar that does space surveillance. Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, is home to a satellite tracking station that's part of the Air Force Satellite Control Network and manned by Detachment 5, 22nd Space Operations Squadron.

"There are no immediate plans to expand the Space Force overseas presence beyond what exists today," Kirby said in an email.

There are, however, units involved in space operations attached to other service branches overseas. For example, at Misawa Air Base in northern Japan, the Joint Tactical Ground Station, Delta Detachment, is an element of the Army's 1st Space Battalion, 1st Space Brigade, according to

Misawa's official website.

"This battalion plans, integrates, synchronizes and executes global theater ballistic missile warning, space situational awareness, space and technical operations support, and assigned contingency activities in support of the Army, joint and combined forces, and civil authorities," the website states.

Ballistic missile tracking is an important task in a part of the world where North Korean missiles have flown overhead in recent years.

No information will be available on future overseas basing for Space Force units until formal agreements are reached between the U.S. and allied countries, Kirby said.

### Tracking stations

Most of the overseas Space Force facilities are likely tracking stations under U.S. control that were ready to switch over to the new service, according to Ralph Cossa, a former Air Force officer serving as president emeritus of the Hawaii-based Pacific Forum think tank.

"I would expect more to follow as the mission and assets are better identified," he said in an email, but added: "I'm not convinced we even needed a Space Force — we are just adding more stovepipes — but if we are going to have one, it needs worldwide assets."

Overseas military space facilities do everything from track satellites to monitor communication traffic, participate in intelligence activities and support missions that require the use of space-based assets or functions, Allenby said.



U.S. Air Force

**Workers in a crane inspect a satellite in the aftermath of Typhoon Mangkhut at the 21st Space Operations Squadron's Detachment 2, Guam Tracking Station, Guam, in September 2018.**

The increasing importance and ubiquity of space operations are among the primary reasons for the Space Force, he said.

"The Space Force is, however, in the early stages of being created, and the initial process involves shifting a number of [Air Force] specialties and existing units over to the new entity," he said. "The majority of the new Space Force is centered on domestic bases."

There are many existing units outside the continental U.S. being shifted over as well, Allenby said, reflecting the global infrastructure necessary to support a world-power space program.

"Because this is only the initial phase ... the global distribution of assets we see today is necessarily somewhat arbitrary and ad hoc," he said.

### Bases in outer space?

Will the Space Force eventually have off-world bases? It's not implausible since the service supports NASA, which aims to return Americans to the moon by 2024 and use what it learns there as a springboard for a manned trip to Mars.

"The way space science and technology is evolving, especially

given geopolitical tensions, suggests that it might not be long before not just the [Space Force], but our adversaries, are creating bases in near space, and perhaps the moon," Allenby said.

However, a treaty signed by the U.S. and in effect since 1967 mandates that the moon be used for only peaceful purposes, and specifically forbids the "establishment of military bases, installations and fortifications," along with weapons testing or military maneuvers.

Some trends suggest the future could look somewhat different.

For example, military operations and bases in space might require private/public/military organizations and staffing, he said.

"Given how poorly designed the human body is for space, one would not be surprised to see humans, directly wired into space technology, viewing their new operating environment through the eyes and senses of robots," he said.

"I'd expect a lot of space operations and even presence, such as bases, will involve a lot more robotics than people over time."

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## 'Star Trek' actor seeks debate on structure of new service branch

By CHAD GARLAND  
*Stars and Stripes*

The original Capt. James T. Kirk of the starship USS Enterprise would like a word with Space Force officials about the new service branch's rank structure, and some lawmakers appear to be on his side.



Shatner

"I'm just a nobody here but I was wondering; is it true that the commanding officer onboard a 'Space Force' ship is designated a Colonel & not a Captain?" William Shatner, the actor who played Kirk on "Star Trek," wrote on Twitter. "Is this up for debate? I think I'd like to debate the issue."

His post last month came days after the service, which falls under the Department

of the Air Force, touted the transfers into its ranks of two Air Force officers and their promotions to lieutenant general.

But Shatner may have characteristically beamed himself into an ongoing fray, as lawmakers have proposed requiring the service to use Navy ranks and grades.

The House last month approved its version of the 2021 National Defense Authorization Act with an amendment by Texas Republican and former Navy SEAL Dan Crenshaw that would force the service to call its O-1s "ensigns" and those with stars on their shoulders "admirals." That version has yet to be reconciled with the Senate's.

The service won't comment on pending legislation, Space Force spokesman Maj. Nicholas Mercurio said when asked about Shatner's query. Officials are still developing the service's uniforms and hope to soon unveil what the service's personnel will be called to help craft its "unique and identifiable culture," he said.

Two service branches having different rank structures within the same depart-

ment would not be unprecedented. The Marine Corps, which falls under the Department of the Navy, has a rank structure more like the Army.

But last month, retired Air Force three-star general David Deptula, now dean of the Air Force Association's Mitchell Institute of Aerospace Studies, blasted Crenshaw's proposal as misguided and a bad precedent in an op-ed published in The Hill.

"Rather than look backward on more than 1,000 years of naval ritual at sea — and a few decades of TV and movie fantasy — let's empower the Space Force to live out its Semper Supra motto and rise above such petty nonsense," he wrote.

Its troops, meanwhile, are "firmly rooted on the Earth" while remotely operating satellites in orbit, he wrote.

"Space may be the final frontier, but our Space Force will not be cruising alien planets like Captain Kirk," Deptula wrote.

But Deptula may be out of touch with the Space Force culture and doctrinal theo-

ries, Brent Ziarnick argued in a response published recently in The Hill. The assistant professor of national security studies at the Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., has previously advocated for Navy-inspired ranks as a way to help the space service chart its own course.

Talk of naval ranks is popular among younger service members, wrote Ziarnick, and theorists who have written about the similarities between the oceans and the heavens have been credited with influencing the service's newly published space-power doctrine.

It may not be rank structure that's really at issue, he wrote.

"Keeping the Space Force chained to their lead through their power monopoly over the Department of the Air Force is the only way the Air Force can limit the perceived damage the new service has caused them," Ziarnick wrote.

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## MILITARY

# Bomb-sniffing BUGS

## ‘Cyborg locusts’ advancing under Navy-funded research

By CHAD GARLAND  
*Stars and Stripes*

Navy-funded researchers have discovered that a locust’s sensitive “horns” can distinguish between the scents of TNT and other explosives — a development that could one day herald the deployment of bomb-sniffing, electronically augmented bug swarms.

The research by a team from Washington University in St. Louis, published this month in the science journal “Biosensors and Bioelectronics: X,” is the first proof-of-concept for a system that aims to tap into the antennae and brainpower of garden-variety bugs to create an advanced bomb detection sensor.

The work is funded by two Office of Naval Research grants totaling more than \$1.1 million, and biomedical engineering professor Barani Raman believes it has the potential to produce a bio-robotic sniffer that would be leaps ahead of entirely man-made “electronic noses.”

Locusts, which differ from ordinary grasshoppers in their tendency to swarm — sometimes in biblical proportions — have had about 250 million years to refine their sensory organs. A single antenna, or horn, has 50,000 neurons of some 50 different types, researchers say.

That makes for far more

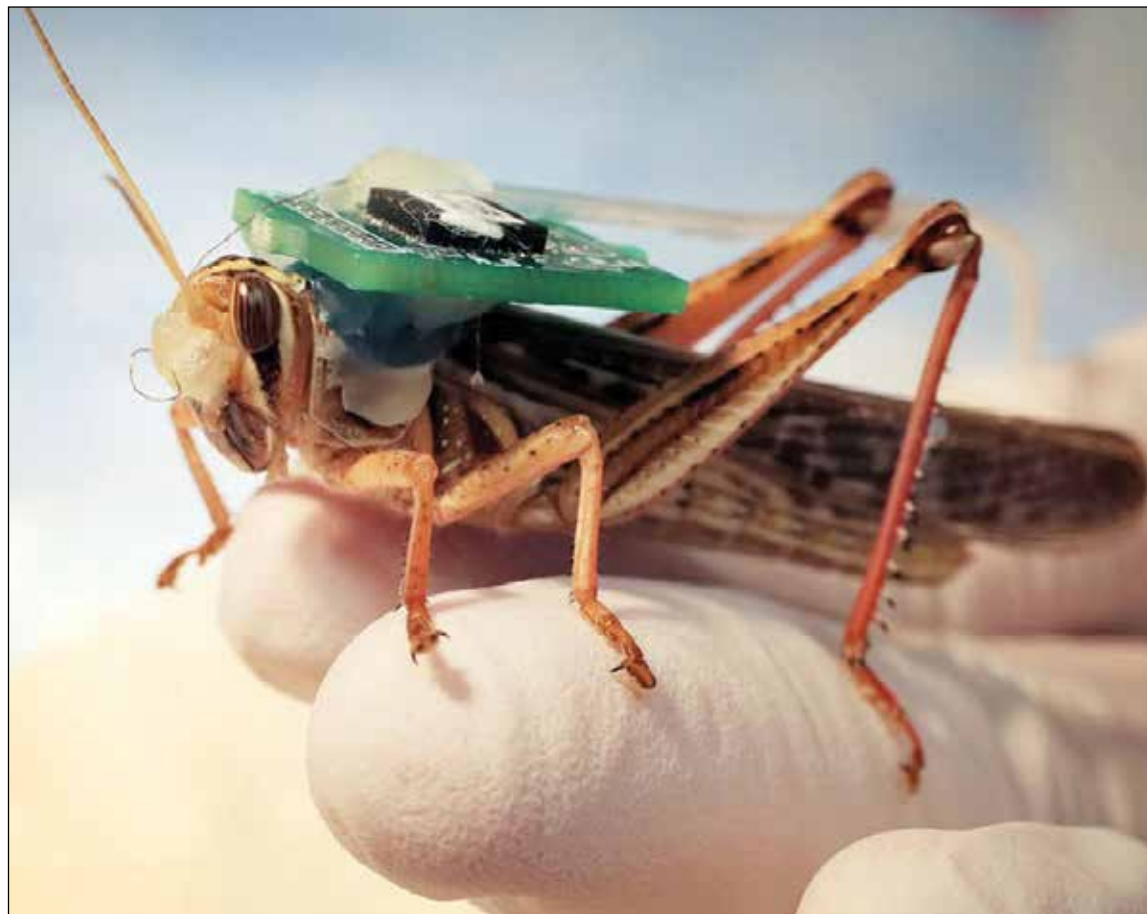
“perfected” and complex sensing organs than systems developed by engineers, said Raman, whose doctoral research focused on electronic noses. For the last four years, his lab has studied how those advanced biological sensors could be hijacked and coupled with modern computing power.

A critical question was whether the bugs could actually detect compounds that don’t typically play a role in their lives — unlike, for example, the chemicals that give green leaves their scent, Raman said.

“What we did not know was, again, something like a TNT and DNT, which has no meaning to the insects, you would not expect them to have sensors for that,” Raman said. “But it turns out ... the insects do have sensors for them and very exquisite sensors ... because they can pick up some of these odors at extremely low concentrations of parts per billion and below.”

The new peer-reviewed study found that the tiny herbivores can not only distinguish between the vapors from explosives chemicals like TNT, DNT, RDX, PETN and ammonium nitrate, they can do so within a fraction of a second and can sense where the scent is coming from.

The American locusts used in the study appear to work better as bomb-sniffers when in a swarm. Data from a group of



Raman Lab

**A ‘cyborg’ locust fitted with sensors to record its brain activity is seen at the Raman Lab at Washington University in St. Louis.**

seven bugs gave accurate results about 80% of the time, compared to about 60% on average for lone bugs, the researchers found.

The study relied on techniques the researchers had previously developed to tap into the bugs’ brains and decode neural reactions to various stimuli. Bug brains are relatively simple, allowing for implants that record their electrical activity and algorithms that can be trained to figure out what they’re smelling, Raman said.

While dogs’ noses remain the gold standard for bomb detection, locusts offer several advantages: they’re cheap, abundant and don’t require expensive behavioral conditioning. Reading their neural activity also means that

the bomb-detection capability isn’t dependent on things like a dog’s desire to please its handler, he said.

Another advantage locusts have is that they can carry relatively large loads. The research team is still developing other elements of the system, such as tiny “backpacks” to carry the electronics needed to record neural activity.

As part of the study, engineering professors Shantanu Chakrabartty and Srikanth Singamaneni helped improve the system for transmitting the locusts’ brain activity.

The team also developed a new surgical procedure to attach electrodes to the brains so that the locusts could move and feed,

while allowing sensory data to be recorded for up to a few days.

Those advancements mean the bugs can be transported once sealed up after surgery, Raman said.

They might one day be placed on a remote-controlled device and transported to collect readings.

The study was a “necessary step,” Raman said, but more work will need to be done, to include taking the locusts out of a lab to see how they fare in the real world, with shifting winds, temperatures and other factors.

“When the rubber hits the road, we need more rigorous testing,” he said.

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## Family members, civilians getting new IDs after 3 decades

By STEVE BEYNON  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department is replacing its 30-year-old identification cards for military families, retirees and civilians workers in an effort to upgrade the cards and avoid

security risks.

The Defense Department began issuing the new IDs in July and some are already in circulation. But Michael Sorrento, director of the Defense Manpower Data Center, said that cardholders don’t have to scramble for the new IDs. In the midst of

the coronavirus pandemic, he said he doesn’t want ID facilities jam-packed with people, so the old cards do not need to be replaced until they expire or the phase-out date in January 2026.

Only about 20 sites, however, now issue the new cards due to the equipment required to make

them. But all ID sites worldwide will likely have the new equipment by the end of the year, according to a Defense Department news release.

Sorrento said the change is needed because the old IDs have “virtually no security features” and the modern updates can help civilians be processed through security checkpoints more quickly. The new IDs are enhanced with security features to deter counterfeiting and fraud, and could eventually be used to order future replacement cards online and get them delivered through the mail, rather than going to an ID center in person.

This will be the first change to the IDs since 1993. Sorrento said they are “essentially the CAC [Common Access Card] card without the chip. CACs are the ID cards issued to service

members and some DoD civilian workers, and the card’s built-in chip allows them to access online resources through DoD computers.

People eligible for the next generation ID card are members of the ready Reserve, inactive National Guard, non-CAC eligible civilians, Medal of Honor recipients and 100% disabled veterans. Getting the new card is free of charge.

Sorrento said it’s possible in the future that physical cards might not be needed as much and the DoD may shift to digital IDs. He did not give details on what that would look like, but he said the underlining technology for the new cards supports that possibility.

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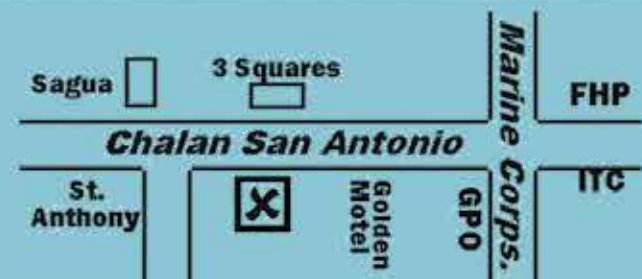
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