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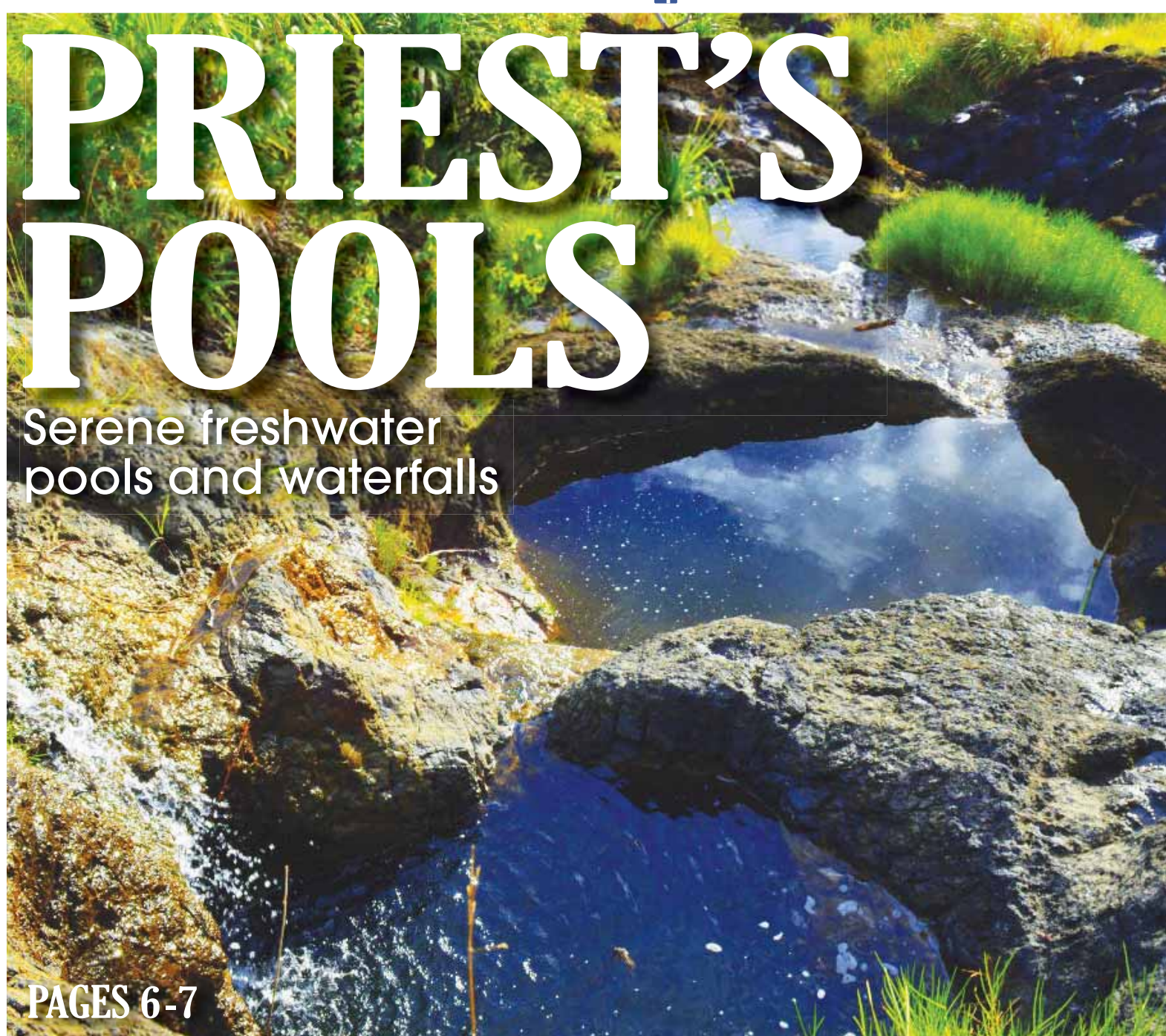
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PRIEST'S POOLS

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PAGES 6-7

ALS instructor guides next generation

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SENIOR AIRMAN AUBREE OWENS,
36TH WING

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE – “When I entered the military in 2007, I was young and was a bit of a slow learner,” he said. “I was one of those students who wasn’t exposed to anything in the military besides doing my job as a pharmacy technician, and it wasn’t until ALS that I experienced more that broadened my understanding of the Air Force.”

U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. William Meadows Marquez, an

instructor at Airman Leadership School, Andersen AFB, went through ALS at Travis AFB, California, in 2012 and became an instructor here in 2018. Although it had only been six years since he went from student to instructor, significant changes were made to the curriculum and overall mindset of the course.

“Something I took away as a student of ALS was that everyone was there to learn, communicate and validate one another

SEE INSTRUCTOR ON PAGE 2



U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. William Meadows Marquez teaches students during an ALS class at Andersen Air Force Base on Dec. 1.

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INSTRUCTOR: 'Okay not to be perfect'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for what's ahead," he said. "I didn't know what was ahead of me in my military career, but going through ALS gave me the 'I can do this' mentality; I don't know how good I'll be, but I know I can give it a shot."

The five week course is designed to be an entry level leadership enhancement course to prepare Senior Airmen for positions of greater responsibility by strengthening their ability to lead, follow, and manage while also broadening their understanding on their role within the Air Force. Professional development within the Air Force is constantly changing, as is the culture of the force as a whole.

Meadows Marquez has been an instructor here for the past three years, teaching and mentoring more than 200 Airmen directly through 18 different classes.

"With Tech. Sgt. Meadows as my instructor at ALS, there was a lot that I learned walking out of the class," said U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Niccolo' Pufall, an air traffic controller with the 36th Contingency Response Squadron. "Of everything he taught me, though, I think the biggest thing I took away is the ability to recognize that my history and my lifestyle is not the only way it's done. This was something that I

knew in the back of my mind, but had difficulty fully realizing it until Tech. Sgt. Meadows taught it in ALS and provided hands-on experience and examples for me to pull and learn from."

The course covers five main topics: leadership, culture, problem solving, mission and emerging issues. Within these lessons, the instructors touch on how to present information in a clear and concise manner, managing interpersonal relations between members and their subordinates, and accessing resources to assist Airmen in the best possible manner amongst many other important lessons.

The ALS curriculum has seen many changes throughout the past decades, or even more recently, in 2019 tests were removed and replaced with capstones without grades.

"The shift from tests to facilitated lectures was done to keep students from only remembering the information for a test and then dumping it. With facilitated conversation the information is remembered therefore, useable once the Airmen graduate and return to their units," said U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Bekki Swank, the commandant of ALS, Andersen AFB.

The curriculum shifts continuously in order to stay in alignment with the National Defense Strategy. Members from the ALS

instructing team continuously seek guidance and updates for their curriculum to ensure they are teaching the most updated material and lessons.

"It's hard to teach when you don't know where you want to go," Meadows Marquez said. "After learning the lesson and figuring out how I wanted to deliver it, my goal for each class was to be as human as possible, and to show each of my students that it's okay not to be perfect. I try to be patient, to be a good person and to show them that it's okay to be themselves."

As the Air Force continues to evolve and grow the leaders of the next generation, so does the curriculum for professional military education such as ALS.

"We strive to stay current as changes continue to come down to the curriculum," Swank said. "This allows us to keep producing ready Airmen for 2030 and beyond that are well-rounded and ready to take on a more strategic role."



Marquez is highlighted as an instructor.

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LINEBACKER OF THE WEEK

Airman 'steps up to any challenge'

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SENIOR AIRMAN AUBREE OWENS,
36TH WING

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE – U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Aakira Ard from the 36th Civil Engineer Squadron was recognized as the 36th Wing's second Team Andersen Linebacker of the Week!

The Team Andersen Linebacker of the Week recognizes outstanding enlisted, officer, civilian and total force personnel who have had an impact on achieving Team Andersen's Mission, Vision and Priorities.

Ard's main responsibilities as a customer service technician are validating scheduled work and in-house repairs for Andersen AFB, to include Northwest Field, which is a 1,700 acre airfield with parallel 11,000 foot long runways.

"I joined the Air Force a few years ago to honor a family tradition, since my grandmother served in the Air Force years back," said Ard. "I wanted to join the military because of the life experience I could gain by traveling, training and continuing my education."

Recognized by her supervisor, U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Kamilah

"I am excited to take my experiences from Kadena and implement them here to continue making procedures run smoothly."

– Senior Airman Aakira Ard



Dublin noncommissioned officer in charge of customer service with the 36 CES, Ard has been a part of Team Andersen since May 2021 and she hit the ground running by excelling in her primary duties as well as taking on the role of the base facility manager. This task requires coordinating with 60 facility managers for 900 buildings worth 1.6 billion dollars, and her team of five personnel are responsible for

tracking over 1,400 work tasks annually.

"Senior Airman Ard has taken initiative the moment she got here from Kadena Air Base," Dublin said. "Not only does she step up to any challenge, but she's also just very knowledgeable and is key to making this office run."

Her outstanding work ethic directly contributed to nine shops within the 36 CES Operations

Flight to achieve an overall 86 percent work-task completion rate for mission sustainment of 42 units, protecting two billion dollars in aircraft assets and enabling completion of 14 thousand sorties every year.

Ard is more than just a high-performer in her primary duties, she also participates in her squadron's booster club, resiliency training planning, Andersen's first four council, while

attending school and developing herself. Ard is a prime example of embodying the whole Airman concept in and out of uniform.

"The way this base operates is very different than my last base," Ard said. "I've enjoyed being at Andersen for the past six months, and I am excited to take my experiences from Kadena and implement them here to continue making procedures run smoothly."

The term Linebacker is rooted deep within Team Andersen's history. Operation Linebacker II took place on Dec. 18, 1972, and was the largest number of heavy bomber strikes launched by the U.S. Air Force since the end of World War II. During the operation, B-52s from Andersen flew round-the-clock bombing missions over North Vietnam to destroy major targets in Hanoi and Haiphong in an effort to bring the Democratic Republic of Vietnam back to negotiations.

The recipient will have the opportunity to sign a "Linebacker" football jersey that will be displayed in the Wing Headquarters building.

Great work, Airman Ard!

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Far left: Master Sgt. David Wagstaff takes 1st Lt. Mario Benavides on a tour of the 554th RED HORSE on Andersen Air Force Base on Nov. 18, 2021. Left: Photos showing the North West Field air field and the 554th RED HORSE compound before and after their construction. Photos by SSgt Nicholas Crisp, U.S. Air Force

Pilot returns to 554 Red Horse, recalls early years

BY AIRMAN BREANNA GOSSETT,
36TH WING

What started out to be nothing but red dirt and jungle in 2006 is

now the home of the 554th Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron.

U.S. Air Force 1st Lt. Mario Benavides, RQ-4 Pilot assigned

to the 348th Reconnaissance Squadron, was one of the first Airmen to break ground and begin construction at North West Field, Guam. He is now back almost 16 years later on temporary duty travel as a launch and recovery pilot with the 4th Reconnaissance Squadron.

Benavides joined the Air Force in January 2006 as an electrical power production journeyman where his job was to maintain the generators at NWF, which was important because at the time this was their only source of electrical power. He was later on tasked to work with structures to help prepare materials to assemble the first concrete wall. Along with working with structures, Benavides was also tasked with driving fuel trucks loaned out by Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, to refuel any heavy construction equipment needed to build NWF.

"The moment that stands out to me the most was when that first wall went up," said Benavides. "I remember there was an enormous crane that lifted the wall and many of us were there making sure it was placed where it needed to go."

Guam was Benavides first duty station and like many other Airmen at their first duty station, Benavides's focus was to learn his job and how it fit within the scope of Air Force civil engineering and more specifically the unique mission set of the 554 RHS.

"It was very different because most people when they get to their first base, they go to a squadron that's already established and they know the office they're gonna report to," said Benavides. "For us, we just showed up to a construction site and picked up our tools and worked all day."

The days were long and working at NWF felt like being deployed for Benavides, but the interpersonal relationships within the squadron were the best he had ever seen.

It has always been a thought of Benavides to come back to the 554 RHS to see what has become of the squadron over the years and being able to see what was once just dirt and a jungle, to now what has become a fully functioning squadron has left him speechless.

"NWF turned out way better than I imagined," said Benavides. "I knew that there would be some buildings here and there but what is out there now is beyond words. I felt that all of that work was more than worth it."

Since being stationed in Guam in 2006, Benavides has taken every career progression opportunity thrown his way such as deploying multiple times, retraining as a paralegal, recruiting for the Air Force and commissioning as a Remotely Piloted Aircraft pilot.

While stationed at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, with the 5th Civil Engineer Squadron, Benavides had been deploying every year.

"Although I like deploying, we had six month dwellings," said Benavides. "Six months home, six months gone."

He felt that he needed a change of pace and as a first term Airman there was a good opportunity for him to retrain into another career field as long as he was within the retraining window.

"Paralegal caught my eye because it was not necessarily just office work, but you're actually involved in administrative actions and discharges," said Benavides.

Although this opportunity was available for Benavides, it did not come with ease. Retraining into the paralegal career field came with a few extra steps compared to most other AFSCs. He had to complete a face-to-face interview with the base law office superintendent and create a package for their reviewing before submitting his request for retraining to the Air Force.

"What really interested me about the job was learning The

Uniform Code of Military Justice, military justice system and overall the administrative part of the Air Force," said Benavides.

During his deployment in Al Udeid, Benavides was chosen to be a recruiter in Provo, Utah for almost three years through the Developmental Special Duty program. Being a recruiter opened

a lot of doors for Benavides and gave him the time to complete his degree and submit a package for Officer Training School.

Benavides attended OTS in January 2019 at the age of 35 with 13 years of enlisted service under his belt. At first he thought he was a little behind due to his age but he knew that his enlisted experience wouldn't fail him.

"I felt that I was ready to take on any and all challenges and that my years as an enlisted Airman prepared me for whatever came next," said Benavides.

Throughout his career, Benavides had one motivating factor in mind to keep him going every day and help him look forward to contributing to the mission in new and innovative

ways.

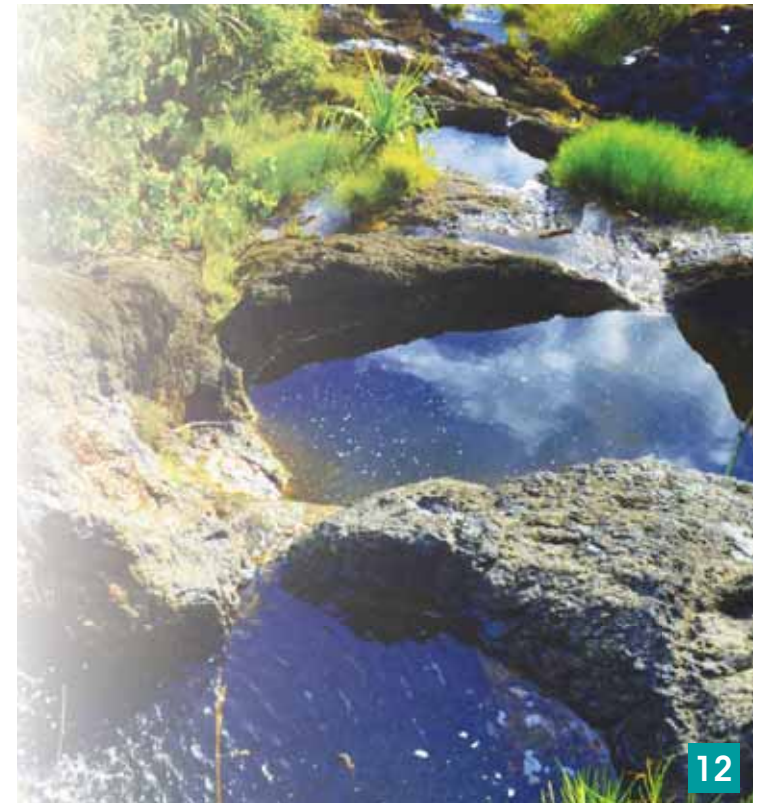
"Never settle for where you are now," said Benavides. "Focus on where you want to be."

With the amount of transformation Benavides has put into his career, his eagerness to strive for more is what keeps the Air Force mission alive.

"One thing I like to say is fear of the unknown is the cornerstone of faith," said Benavides. "Take it and run because you never know what other doors that opportunity is going to open for you."

"It was very different because most people when they get to their first base, they go to a squadron that's already established and they know the office they're gonna report to. For us, we just showed up to a construction site and picked up our tools and worked all day."

— 1st Lt. Mario Benavides,
RQ-4 pilot



→ THIS IS WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE WITH MORE WATER: 11

Be sure to jump straight down into the middle. If you jump too far forward, you could scrape your legs on the front rocks (especially to the left). Here is the pool during a dry spell. Please note that you cannot jump into all the pools, only the main and second pools. **12**

You may choose to hike down, on the right-

side of the falls, to experience all of the pools, although the first pool is the largest.

Be careful as the rock can be very slippery when wet. To hike out, go back the way you came.

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‘TRUST THE PROCESS’

Guam native and former sprint champ on track to become surgeon

BY SARAH MARSHALL,
UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY

Air Force 2nd Lt. Pollara Cobb held multinational Guam records in track and field. Today, she is training on a new track to become a doctor – and still setting records as the first military officer and surgeon in her family. She attributes much of her success to her family and her native Guam, which she represented in her beloved sport for many years on various regional and world stages.

Cobb is in her fourth year of medical school at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) and, after she graduates this spring, she'll go on to complete a residency in otorhinolaryngology (Ear, Nose and Throat/Head & Neck Surgery). And while she is known for being a sprinter – she broke a decade-old Guam National Record in the 100-meter dash in 2011 – the long and arduous course of medical school has been more like a marathon: endurance over speed, she says. However, in some ways, she compares track and field to her journey through medical school. Both require resilience, not to mention tactical distribution of energy.

“The joy I feel learning about



medicine and using my knowledge and skills to help others is similar to the joy I felt sprinting 100 meters down the track,” she adds. “The training is difficult and exhausting, but I show up nonetheless because I absolutely love what I do.”

When it comes to her life goals, Cobb is making her way to the finish line, but for her, she says, it's about liberating herself from a mental trap that there is a time to beat, a set distance to cover. It's also about embracing the journey, devoting herself to learning and challenging herself,

she says.

Before starting her most recent journey of becoming a doctor, she was a well-known track star in her native Guam at the age of 14 – representing the island as the youngest member of its national team at the time. One of her most fond memories of representing Guam though, she says, was in 2011 at the World Championships

in Daegu, Korea. Prior to that event, many people had told her that her track career was over. She had torn her meniscus and ACL playing rugby in 2008. After an extensive recovery, she returned and set the 100-meter national record for Guam, while up against the world's best athletes.

“That day, I learned a very important life lesson: never limit yourself to the beliefs of others,” Cobb says. Her coach, Carl Cruz, at that time also taught her to “trust the process.”

“I am a strong believer that diligence and resilience will prevail against any setback. I always try to keep these lessons in mind,” she adds.

Cobb went on to compete in the 2011 South Pacific Games in Noumea, New Caledonia (akin to the Pacific Olympics). After high school, she attended the University of Guam, then transferred in 2012 to Emory University in Atlanta where she graduated with a degree in chemistry

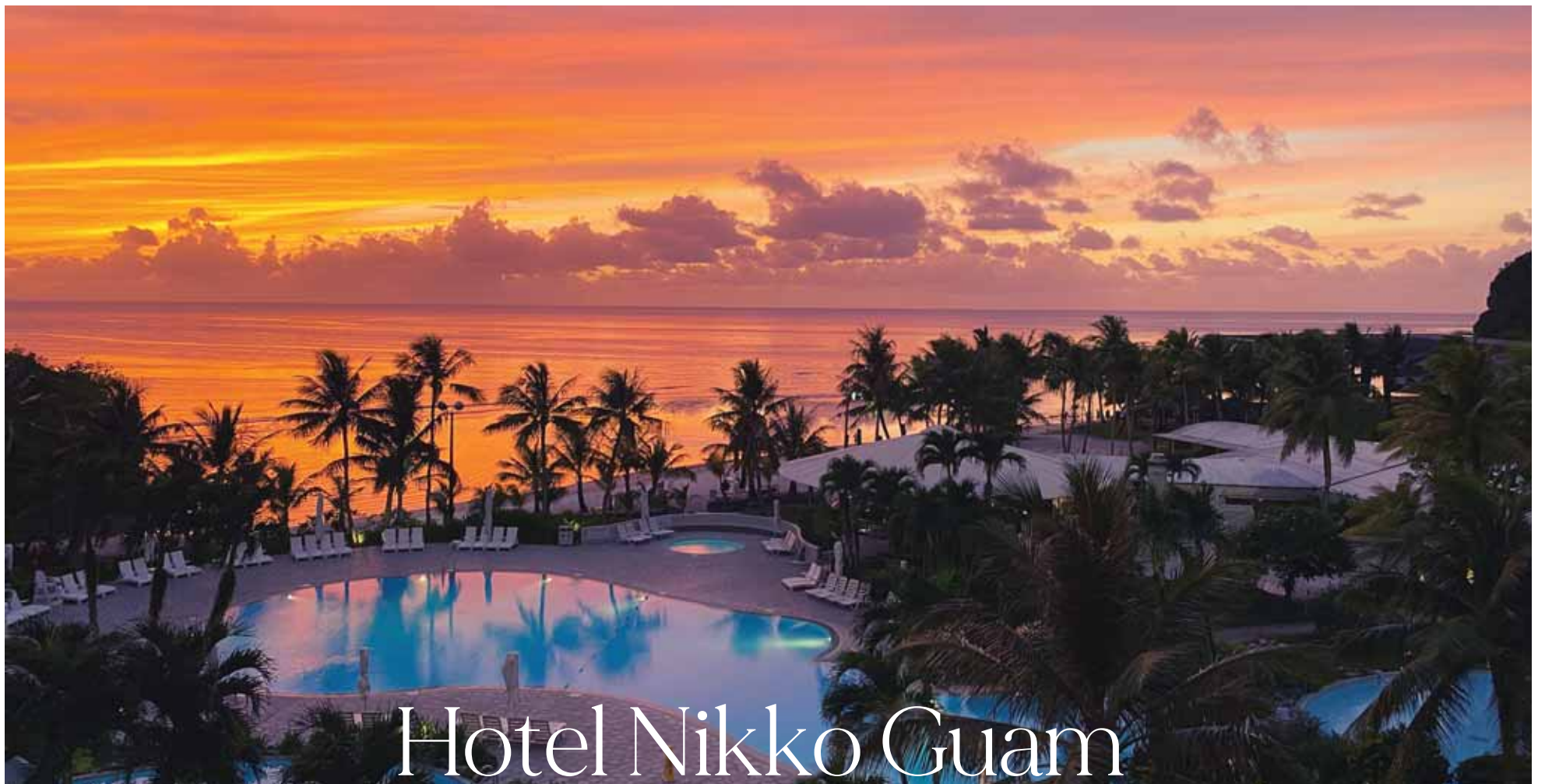
and a minor in math. In college, she continued to set records for Guam in the triple and long jumps. She went on to take three gap years, during which time she worked in a pathology lab, an urgent care center, and as a volunteer at a children's hospital. Then, she started medical school at USU in 2018. Recently, she was matched to her choice of residency in ENT/Head & Neck Surgery at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center – a huge accomplishment not only for her own life goals, but for her family, she says.

“I am the first college grad, first military officer, and now first doctor and surgeon of my family,” Cobb says. “I spoke to my mom after match day, and she said I would have never believed that my daughter would be a doctor ... it's not in our cards. This really touched me, and I am so happy to make my family and my island proud of my accomplishments ... My success is their success.”

Cobb also hopes to continue making both her family and island proud of her achievements. She also hopes to encourage others to pursue their dreams, despite any challenges they may face on the path.



Photo courtesy of
Air Force 2nd Lt. Pollara Cobb



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U.S. Marines from Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz unload gifts for a Toys for Tots toy transfer event to local charities on Dec. 17.



Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz senior leaders and members of the Third Marine Division Foundation are all smiles on Dec. 9.



Toys for Tots a success on Guam



BY STANLEY JAMES,
MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP BLAZ

DEDEDO – Marine Corps Base (MCB) Camp Blaz is proud to announce the conclusion of the 12th

annual Toys for Tots campaign on Guam. The program ran from Oct. 4 to Dec. 10, collecting 6,071 toys on Guam thanks to the generous donations and support

received from the local community, the Guam Chamber of Commerce, The Salvation Army, Catholic Social Service, Matson, governmental entities, and local businesses and organizations.

Over 80 local businesses and organizations supported this year's Toys for Tots campaign on Guam. Monetary donations and a wide range of gifts for children of all ages were received during the 10-week campaign. Bicycles, sporting goods, dolls and action figures, board games, and many more holiday favorites were collected and sorted by Marine Corps volunteers.

"Getting to see all the effort and unity that is required to successfully execute a Toys for Tots campaign is very touching," said Col. Christopher L. Bopp, the MCB Camp Blaz Commanding Officer. "The island of Guam unites as a community to participate in the Toys for Tots campaign and to help children and families that are less fortunate. The success of this year's campaign is a testament to the strength of the community we are all a part of."

"This year has been particularly challenging for a vast majority of our residents," said Catherine Castro, President of the Guam Chamber of Commerce. "In spite of the difficulties, the generous outpouring of support for the Toys for Tots program has surpassed our expectations. We are so thankful

for each thoughtful and kind gift contribution this year. Un Dangkulu Na Si Yu'os Ma'ase, Guam, for bringing hope to many children this Christmas!"

"Getting to witness the warmth, kindness and generosity of everyone on Guam has been truly heartwarming," said Gunner Sgt. Rubin Tan, the Toys for Tots Assistant Coordinator for Guam. "I've met many small business owners and kind citizens who truly just want to do what they can to make sure every child on Guam gets a Christmas present this year. Small acts of kindness can go a long way during the holiday season, and I'm honored to be a part of this program."

"We serve the least and the

last. We make sure families receive toys for their children and food for their tables," said Captain Kari Rudd, The Salvation Army Guam Commanding Officer and Micronesian Coordinator. "Just as the Marines never leave a comrade behind, they leave no child behind this year. Thank you for spreading Christmas cheer to those most in need on our island. Semper Fi."

"We at Catholic Social Service are always very honored to be a distribution point for Toys for Tots," said Lisa Bordallo, Marketing and Client Services Manager for Catholic Social Service Guam. "This is a wonderful program and collaboration for everyone to help our many families with children who are struggling. We're excited to begin distribution and see the joy and relief it brings to these families next week. We are grateful to our partners who help make Toys for Tots possible in Guam, as well as our generous donors, and wish them all a blessed holiday season."



U.S. Marines and employees of a local car dealership stand proud during Toys for Tots toy collection in Tamuning on Dec. 10.

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



Ginger

This adorable female puppy is estimated to be about 9 weeks old. Ginger is such a happy little pup. She is always running up to her kennel when someone passes by. If you and your family are in the market for a friendly little pup then Ginger is totally the pup for your family.

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



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Boonie Stomps Guam

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY
GUAM BOONIE STOMPERS

Jan 8
Sinisa/Lower Sigua Falls

Very Difficult
6 hours for 6.8 miles

We hike over the hills and through a gorge of southern Guam to World War II tanks and two waterfalls.
Bring: 4 liters water, hiking boots/clothes that can get wet, gloves, sun screen, sunglasses, insect repellent, lunch, and camera.
Special conditions: Rope climbing, steep slopes, slippery mud, and walking in water.

Jan 15
Inalajan Falls

Difficult
5 hours for 7 miles

We hike over the hills of southeastern Guam to the best waterfalls in the Western Pacific.
Bring: 3 liters water, hiking boots/clothes that can get wet, gloves, sun screen, sunglasses, insect repellent, lunch, and camera.
Special conditions: Long walking in sun through hilly terrain, climbing a steep slope with a rope (optional), mud.

Jan 22
Ghost Cave/Maemong Falls

Difficult
5 hours for 4 mile

We trek through one of Guam's central rivers to get to amazing rock formations that are rare to see.
Bring: 2 liters water, hiking boots/clothes that can get wet, sunglasses, sun screen, insect repellent, lunch, and camera.
Special conditions: River walking, moderate slopes, and some sword grass.

Sinisa Falls

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.

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Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

1 Support piece
6 Seafood choice
10 Surgery souvenir
14 Baseball's Hank
15 Place to wait
16 Drug bust qty.
17 Burn unit procedures
19 Look ____ (study)
20 Whiplash preventer
21 Two-seater
23 Klutz's cry
24 School note-books
25 Thinly spread
28 It's tossed after a wedding
29 Alley prowler
30 "It pains me to say...."
32 Unsavory
35 Voting "no"
37 ____ and true
39 Court action
40 Taqueria side
42 Elba of "The Suicide Squad"
44 Barrister's field
45 Get some air
47 Shock big-time
49 Investment choice
51 Train for a bout
52 Mourn
53 TV series "____ Horror Story"
57 Kind of mitt
58 Flashbulb effect, e.g.
60 Ranch worker
61 In the 50s or 60s, say
62 Emphatic refusal
63 Quartet member
64 Set aside
65 Miser's motivation

2 Yard tool
3 Opera feature
4 Vulture cousin
5 Captivate
6 Graduating group
7 Falling out
8 Crumb carrier
9 "Tribes" anagram; rouse
10 Superficial, as beauty
11 Fairy-tale ball attendee
12 Do a tailor's job
13 Hotelier's offerings
18 Echo
22 Kitchen pests
24 Aspirin brand
25 Wound remnant
26 Glacier's unit
27 Something achieved
28 Move smoothly
31 Sarcastically (var.)
33 Bargain

34 Small boat
36 Insinuation
38 Nursery need
41 Tibia locale
43 Not wasteful
46 Lash out at
48 Painter's prep
49 Kapolei greeting
50 Part of U.S.N.A.

51 Troutlike fish
53 Resting on
54 Bat's home
55 "The African Queen" screen-writer
56 Social misfit
59 Enemy

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

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Stripes Sports Trivia

As of late, the AFC has been dominated by a trio of future Hall of Fame quarterbacks. Tom Brady, Peyton Manning or Ben Roethlisberger have represented the AFC in the Super Bowl in 14 of the last 15 seasons. The one exception was the Joe Flacco year in 2012. Who is the last QB, outside of the 4 mentioned, to win the Super Bowl from the AFC?

Answer

Trent Diller (2002-03)

SUDOKU

Difficulty: Easy

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.

Answer to Previous Sudoku:

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

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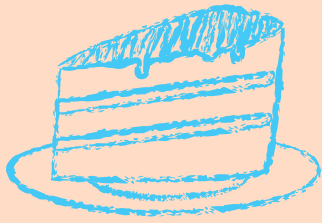


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DELIGHTFUL GUAM

STORY AND PHOTOS
BBOG

HOW ABOUT SOME FRIED BANANA (MADOYA)??



INGREDIENTS

Batter mix for madoya

- 1/2 cup all purpose flour
- 3/4 cup water
- 1/4-1/3 cup sugar
- Mix ingredients together until creamy similar to pancake batter.

DIRECTIONS

- Banana must be firm (when skin is just turning from green to yellow). And you should use the cooking bananas, like plantains. If you do not have these types of bananas at your local grocer, then you can use the sweet ones like "Chiquita" but make sure they are not ripe.
- Peel the banana.
- Slice the banana in half.
- Dip in batter and let the batter drip for a few seconds.
- Fry in oil at about 375° until golden brown.
- Lift banana out of oil and let it drip for a few seconds.
- Place in colander upright and allow to drain.
- Serve hot with butter.

Let me warn you, once you start spreading that butter on these nice and hot, freshly fried banana slices, its hard to stop eating them. You will find that they go down like potato chips. You actually have to force yourself to stop.

I hope you enjoy this little spice of life from Guam. And I would be remiss if I did not thank my lovely wife, Lupe, for sharing this recipe with you all. So Thank You my dear.



1
Slice the banana in half...very carefully!!!



2
Coat well with your batter mix.



3
Place the battered banana slices one at a time in the hot oil. Oil should be about 375 degrees F.



4
Fry them until they are golden brown.



5
Here you have the finished product. But before you start eating them, pat them dry with a paper towel.



6
spread your butter and start in.

PECAN TASSIES (TARTS)...THE PERFECT SNACK



INGREDIENTS

Recipe version by
Lupe (Dydasco) Olivas

For the dough:

- 1/2 cup butter
- 1 3-oz. pkg cream cheese
- 1 cup all-purpose flour

For the pecan filling:

- 1 egg
- 3/4 cup brown sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla
- Dash of salt
- 1 tbsp butter
- 1/2 cup coarsely chopped pecans

DIRECTIONS

- For pastry, in mixer bowl, mix together the 1/2 cup butter and the cream cheese.
- Add flour and mix well. Set aside.
- Mix into bowl the egg, brown sugar, the 1 tablespoon butter, the vanilla and salt, until smooth and set aside.
- Roll pastry dough into 1 inch round balls and place into an ungreased mini-muffin tray.
- Shape dough in each muffin cup to cover the bottom and sides.
- Spoon about 1 tsp of chopped pecans into each muffin cup.
- Fill each cup up with the egg/brown sugar mixture that you previously set aside.
- Pre-heat the oven to 325 F, and then bake for about 25 minutes or until filling has set somewhat firm. Individual ovens vary with their own specific temp and timing. You know how that goes.
- Remove and allow to cool.
- This should make about 24 tarts.
- You can adjust this recipe to your individual taste.

Dessert

Sometimes your sweet tooth kicks in and sometimes you just got to have some type of pasty. Well, I have the perfect solution for both. Pecan Tassies as they are known on Guam. Also known as Pecan Tarts.

These little jems have that fabulous pecan, butter, vanilla, and brown sugar filling in a fantastic, flaky pastry cup. Talk about tasty and the worst thing is that they are bite sized. A dozen is just not enough.....believe me!!

This was all that was left of 4 dozen. You know I had to flex my quality control wings... Do yourself a favor and try these out. And don't forget that ice cold glass of milk.

A-STYLE DESSERTS

BY RUEBEN OLIVAS,
GUAM



RED VELVET COOKIE SANDWICHES W/ CREAM CHEESE FILLING



Hey, with all the cooking and grilling that we do, a meal wouldn't be complete without a good dessert. My wife, Lupe, got this recipe for Red Velvet Cookie Sandwiches, while watching TV.

Recipe by Chefs Peter Duenas and Lorena Manibusan, Meskla Restaurant, Guam

Cookie batter:

- 1/2 cup softened butter
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup flour
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 tbsp cocoa powder
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 1/2 tsp red food coloring
- 1 tbsp milk

Cream cheese filling:

- 1/4 cup softened butter
- 8 oz. softened cream cheese
- 1/2 cup powdered sugar

DIRECTIONS

- Pre-heat oven to 375 F.
- Mix ingredients in the following order.
- Fold the butter with granulated sugar.
- Add in the vanilla.
- Add in the eggs.
- Fold in the flour, baking powder, and baking soda.
- Next fold in the powdered cocoa and 1 tsp salt.
- Now add the red food coloring and milk and mix everything together until you have a smooth batter.
- Next use a small ice cream scoop for portion control and drop the batter on a cookie sheet about 3 inches apart.
- Bake at 375 F for about 10 minutes.
- Take out of the oven and allow to cool for 15-20 minutes.

Directions for cream cheese filling:

- To make the cream cheese filling, take the softened butter and whip it until it is creamy in texture.
- Fold in the cream cheese and add the powdered sugar slowly until you have a creamy filling.

Putting it all together:

- Take one cookie and add filling, thickness depends on your personal taste. Cover with another cookie to create the sandwich.

You have got to try this. Super delicious.
For all you macho men out there, you can substitute the glass of milk for a pint of ice cold beer!!!!

Sometimes We
Just Have to Have
Dessert!!!!

PINEAPPLE CREAM PIE



Well since we have been posting desserts, let me post one of my all time favorites.... my mother's Pineapple Cream Pie.

Pineapple Cream Pie....
Mom's Recipe!!

INGREDIENTS

- 1 Pkg 9-inch Baked Pie Crust (Pillsbury Frozen Pie Crust or Betty Crocker) or make your own.
- 2 Cans 20oz. Crushed Pineapple w/heavy syrup, drained
- 2 Egg yolks ■ 2 Cups milk ■ 3/4 cup sugar ■ 1 Tsp. salt
- 5Tbsp corn starch ■ 2Tbsp butter ■ 1 Tsp. vanilla

DIRECTIONS

- Prepare pie crust according to directions & set aside, allow to cool.
- Over medium heat combine the 2 egg yolks, milk, sugar, salt, and cornstarch. Stir constantly and bring to boil. Mixture will thicken rapidly. When thickened, remove from heat.
- Stir in butter, drained crushed pineapple and vanilla.
- Pour into cooled pie crust and let pie cool.
- Refrigerate until firm.

PISTACHIO CAKE

Everyone loves dessert. A Guam island favorite is Pistachio cake. Here is a great tasting recipe from one of our friends. And it is so easy to make. Even I can make this...



Pistachio Cake...
Island Favorite!!

CAKE

Recipe supplied by Arlene

- 1 Box of Betty Crocker Super Moist Yellow Cake Mix
- For the water portion of the instructions, make it 1/2 water and 1/2 Rum.
- Add 1 box of Jello Pistachio pudding into the batter.
- Add green food coloring until it is the color that you like.
- Those are the only deviations from the instructions on the box.

GLAZE

Recipe supplied by Lani

- 1 cup confectioner's sugar ■ 3 tbsp milk
- 1tsp vanilla ■ butter for flavoring

That's all there is to it. Simple...right?



*"it's finger
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GUAM EDITION

JANUARY 7, 2022



ROBERT H. REID/Stars and Stripes

Supporters of then-President Donald Trump, including one waving a Confederate battle flag, watch rioters storm the U.S. Capitol in Washington on Jan. 6, 2021.

A look back

2021 images from Stars and Stripes photographers **Pages 2-3**

YEAR IN REVIEW

Looking back at 2021

Memorable images from Stars and Stripes photographers

The year had its shortcomings (and shortages, thanks again to COVID-19), but one thing 2021 did not lack was big news. We were mere days into the year when, on Jan. 6, rioters stormed the U.S. Capitol as Congress convened to certify Joe Biden's electoral victory over President Donald Trump. In August, the U.S. withdrew from Afghanistan after 20 years of war and watched the Taliban retake control of the country before the last flight left Kabul. And, although vaccines became widely available and many students returned to in-person school, the year is ending just as it began: with the global coronavirus pandemic dominating headlines.



JENNIFER H. SVAN/Stars and Stripes

Army Chief Warrant Officer 4 Matthew Keechi gives his daughter, Natalie, a hug before dropping her off at Ramstein Intermediate School in Germany, on the first day of school Aug. 23. Many students returned to in-person schooling.



ROBERT H. REID/Stars and Stripes

The U.S. Capitol is seen through a security fence on Jan. 12.



JOE GROMELSKI/Stars and Stripes

National Guard soldiers stand on Constitution Avenue in Washington, D.C., on March 3.



JOE GROMELSKI/Stars and Stripes

Backed by other family members and attorney Natalie Khawam, right, Spc. Vanessa Guillen's sister, Lupe, speaks at a news conference marking the first anniversary of the Fort Hood, Texas, soldier's killing on April 22 at the Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C.



AKIFUMI ISHIKAWA/Stars and Stripes

Navy spouse Aya Lizama receives the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine at Naval Air Facility Atsugi, Japan, on May 7.

YEAR IN REVIEW



PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN / Stars and Stripes

A helicopter carrying U.S. Embassy staff takes off from the embassy compound in Kabul, Afghanistan, in the early hours of Aug. 15. Later that day, reports came in of the Taliban advancing on Kabul. The U.S. spent the final days of August trying to evacuate remaining Americans and eligible Afghans from the country.



AKIFUMI ISHIKAWA / Stars and Stripes

Paralympian Luis Puertas, an Army veteran who lost both legs to a roadside bomb in Iraq, runs in a 200-meter event at National Stadium in Tokyo on Sept. 3. Tokyo hosted the Olympics and Paralympics.



ALEXANDER W. RIEDEL / Stars and Stripes

Air Force Master Sgt. Trevor Derr runs at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, on Dec. 7. Derr carries a flag during his frequent runs to honor his friend Tech. Sgt. Daniel Swaney, who died by suicide in 2015 while suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.



PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN / Stars and Stripes

Afghan children wait to be flown from Ramstein Air Base, Germany, to the United States on Aug. 30. Thousands of Afghan evacuees were housed at military bases on the road to resettlement.

MILITARY

Christian jewelry firm sues DOD for discrimination

By ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

A yearslong dispute over the use of licensed military logos on religious-themed replica dog tags has resulted in a federal lawsuit against the Defense Department. The decision to deny the use of licensed logos alongside Christian Bible verses is religious discrimination, according to the lawsuit.

Shields of Strength, a Christian jewelry company based in Beaumont, Texas, filed the lawsuit Dec. 15 in U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas in Tyler. Named defendants include the Defense Department and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, as well as the trademark offices and related leadership for the service branches.

The products in question are replica dog tags that feature faith-based, inspirational phrases or Christian Bible verses on one side and the logo of a military service branch on the other side. Shields of Strength owner Kenny Vaughan began making the tags in 1998 and received a trademark license in 2011 from the Army, Air Force and Marine Corps, which is when the military began

requiring them, according to the lawsuit. At that time, the Navy did not grant the license because of the religious nature of the products.

The company lost its agreements in 2019 after a group that advocates for the separation of religion from the military, the Military Religious Freedom Foundation, submitted complaints to Defense Department trademark offices, according to the lawsuit.

In the years since, the company has been trying to navigate a new agreement, but ultimately felt it had to file a lawsuit, said Mike Berry, general counsel for First Liberty Institute and attorney for Shields of Strength. The Plano, Texas-based, non-profit law firm focuses on cases regarding religious freedom.

The Defense Department denial of a trademark license is “purely because of the religious content,” Berry said.

“It’s a cruel insult to our service members to deny them a source of inspiration, hope and encouragement simply because it contains a religious message,” Berry said. “DOD officials caved to the empty threats of those who

make their living by being offended. There’s no legal reason for the military to discriminate against Shields of Strength.”

The lawsuit asks for the court to recognize the violation of constitutional rights under the first amendment, and for the Defense Department to allow the company to return to their previous agreement to use the licensed logos on its products. The lawsuit also calls for a financial reward related to damages, attorneys’ fees and expenses.

When contacted about the lawsuit, an official with the Defense Department said the department does not comment on ongoing litigation.

The replica dog tags became popular among Christian service members deployed during the wars following Sept. 11, 2001, and were even sold for several years in Army and Air Force Exchange stores.

The first soldier killed during the war in Iraq, Capt. Russell Rippetoe, wore a Shield of Strength which has since been placed in the Smithsonian Museum of American History along with his uniform, according to the lawsuit.

The company estimates that before 2011, it sold or donated about 3 million different dog tags that featured military-related words or insignia. It is often contacted by service members or chaplains to make customized products with specific unit logos to mark special occasions such as deployments or graduations, Berry said.

“At one point, [Shields of Strength] was sending 500 to 1,000 dog tags per month to the Pentagon Chaplain’s office for Pentagon leadership and military guests,” according to the lawsuit.

Even Austin, now the defense secretary and a defendant on the lawsuit, contacted Shields of Strength for unit-specific products while a commander within the 3rd Infantry Division and 10th Mountain Division, according to the lawsuit. The court document also included a photo of the tags provided to the 3rd Infantry Division for a deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Mikey Weinstein, a former Air Force JAG officer and current founder and president of the Military Religious Freedom Foundation, has said that to put

military logos onto religious-themed products is a violation of the licensing agreement. He said he initially sent a letter to the Defense Department about Shields of Strength because his organization received numerous complaints, including from many people who identified themselves as Christian.

While the company is allowed to continue to sell its products without the logos, Berry said most troops who contact Shields of Strength with a specific request ask for a military logo alongside a Bible verse. They now have to decline the orders, most of which Shields of Strength would have donated, Berry said. Products without the combination just aren’t as popular.

“It’s denying our service members and their loved ones something that they’re requesting. They’re asking for these,” Berry said. “It’s this weird conundrum where the military is asking, ‘Hey, will you provide this to us?’ And then a different office of the military is telling [Shields of Strength], ‘No, you can’t do that.’”

thayer.rose@stripes.com
Twitter: @Rose_Lori

Glumness of COVID inspires kids’ book by reservist

By ALEXANDER RIEDEL
Stars and Stripes

Pandemic exasperation became inspiration for an Air Force doctor from Ohio, who turned an unexpected moment of levity into a whimsical work of virological verse.

Col. Colleen Kelley, the 910th Medical Squadron commander, is the author of “COVID SCHMOVID: A Primer for Survival.” It is a 28-page poetic page-turner that mirthfully explains how children can safeguard themselves against coronavirus infection.



Kelley

“It is written in a light-hearted tone but actually has more impact on adults,” she told Stars and Stripes. “There is a lot of anger, stress and frustration for adults. This small

book gets beyond all of that. It looks like a children’s book, and it is. But what it does is make people smile. And when have you read joy and COVID in the same sentence?”

Through its stanzas, the book addresses mask wear, personal hygiene and social distancing, offering parents a way to open conversations with even the littlest youngsters.

The idea for the book came to Kelley during a moment so typical of the globally shared pandemic experience: a virtual meeting. The confab was an informal sounding board for medical professionals hosted by psychologists, and the mood was unmistakably bleak.

“We all just want to say, ‘COVID schmo-vi! Can’t we just be done with all of this?’”



JULIET LOUDEN/U.S. Air Force

U.S. Air Force Col. Colleen Kelley shows pages in her recently published book “COVID SCHMOVID: A Primer for Survival.” Kelley is the commander of a medical squadron at Youngstown Air Reserve Station in Ohio and an emergency room doctor in Vermont.

she spontaneously interjected.

Kelley didn’t expect a reaction, but her off-the-cuff comment broke through the darkness. “It was the first time during the meeting that anyone had smiled,” Kelley said.

While the meeting continued, Kelley used a crumpled napkin on her desk to bring her initial thoughts to paper. Twenty minutes later, she had her first draft.

One stanza apiece was dedicated to each of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s public health recommendations. Before the call ended, she read her work aloud to her peers.

Her teammates and later her family encouraged her to share her words more widely. Inspired by their confidence, Kelley self-published the poem as an illustrated children’s book.

Although she had published in academic publications and professional medical journals, “COVID SCHMOVID” was Kelley’s first piece of creative writing.

“The book talks about something that we can get our hands around and control: masks and the vaccine. They are the best thing we have to fight what cannot be seen,” she said. “But it does so without anyone being scolded, reprimanded and directed. It says ‘Hey, let’s do this!’”

At Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Kelley is the chief medical adviser to the commander for a base of more than 1,300 service members. In her civilian job as an emergency room physician at Southern Vermont Medical Center, however, she fights on the front line against the virus.

Struggling to keep her patients alive, she sees the toll the disease takes on their bod-

ies and the families fearing for their loved ones while unable to visit.

Her two jobs enable Kelley to serve others in and out of uniform, a labor of love that comes at a cost. Each month, she makes a 1,000-mile round-trip from Vermont to Ohio. With military telework days added in, Kelley has been on the job 25 to 28 days a month for the past five years.

“There were days that we used to think were busy days, and then there are days recently when we’ve seen double the amount of people than ever before,” Kelley said of emergency room operations in Vermont. “There are 18-hour days, 14-day stretches without a day off.”

According to federal data, the number of children hospitalized with COVID-19 is increasing, so protective measures will likely remain an important part of life for them in the coming year.

Although “COVID SCHMOVID” was written for children, Kelley hopes its message will encourage a collective commitment to togetherness and broad community action.

Kelley said all proceeds from the book will be donated to the Vermont Food Bank and Greater Bennington Interfaith Community Services.

She chose them because she believes they are the organizations in her community that have the biggest impact on people hit hardest by the pandemic.

“COVID SCHMOVID” is available for purchase at major online book retailers. It costs \$14.99.

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Twitter: @lexRiedel

MILITARY

Shortages cut into USAF uniform deliveries

By FRANK ANDREWS
Stars and Stripes

Shortages of fabric and labor mean the newest members of the Air Force and Space Force will leave boot camp next year with fewer uniform items.

Starting in November, the Air Force began issuing to graduates of basic military training two dress blue uniform shirts — one long sleeve and one short sleeve — and one pair of slacks or trousers, according to an Air Force news release.

Normally, new Air Force members are issued two of each shirt type along with three pairs of trousers for men and two pairs of slacks for women. The Air Force plans to put something extra in their paychecks so basic training graduates may purchase their missing uniform items from the Army and Air Force Exchange Service when they arrive at their next school or duty station, according to the release.

Reservists will be issued missing items, if available, after they arrive at their home units.

The Air Force said that the Defense Logistics Agency is working with the fabric supplier, Burlington Industries, to restore full production.

Burlington Industries is the sole supplier of worsted and poly-wool dress fabric used in all U.S. military dress uniforms, according to the Air Force. A representative of Burlington Industries, based in Greensboro, N.C., could not immediately be reached.

The company is a division of International Textile Group, based in Charlotte, N.C., a multinational corporation with 37 facilities across six continents, according to the Burlington website.

Economists point to the coronavirus pandemic as the primary cause of many shortages and backlogs in the global supply chain.

Closed plants, labor shortages, higher material costs and other factors causing shortages and backlogs in the chain are



THOMAS CONEY/U.S. Air Force

Graduates of basic military training will receive two dress blue uniform shirts and one pair of slacks or trousers.

linked by economists to the pandemic.

The Air Force said it expects increased costs and material shortages to have a greater impact on the availability of its dress uniforms in the third quarter of fiscal year 2022, or the three months ending in June.

All service members may feel the pinch, but graduates of basic military training will have first dibs on uniform items, according to the news release.

The Air Force and Space Force are not alone. The Coast Guard in spring 2020 faced a shortage of operational dress uni-

forms due to COVID-19 outbreaks at factories in Puerto Rico.

Those shortages were alleviated but the Coast Guard soon found itself short of its blue service jacket and pants, “making these uniform items very difficult to come by,” according to a June news release from the service.

The stock of dress jackets and pants was exhausted, and suppliers faced with pandemic-related labor shortages could not keep up with demand, according to Lt. Cmdr. Sonya Leibowitz, a spokeswoman for the Coast Guard Office of Logistics.

The Defense Logistics Agency, she wrote in the release, responded by temporarily converting Navy uniform contracts to meet Coast Guard demand.

The Coast Guard itself found new suppliers that promised September deliveries.

“Despite all efforts, over the next few months there will be a delay in fully outfitting some of the incoming recruits and cadets with Bravo jackets,” Leibowitz wrote.

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U.S. Navy

The Navy is conducting a pilot program between Jan. 2 and Sept. 30, 2026, that will provide authorized maternity uniforms to expectant sailors at no cost.

Navy to offer free maternity uniforms

By JUAN KING
Stars and Stripes

The Navy is looking for hundreds of pregnant sailors to help find the right fit for maternity uniforms.

The sea service is conducting a pilot program between Jan. 2 and Sept. 30, 2026, that will provide “a full array of authorized Navy maternity uniforms” to expectant sailors at no cost to them, according to an administrative message, NAVADMIN 284/21, which lays out the details.

The Navy is opening the program to 400 volunteers from enlisted and officer ranks in active and reserve units worldwide.

The maternity attire will include the working uniform Type III, service khaki for E-7 and

above and the service uniform for E-6 and below.

Robert Carroll, the head of Navy Uniform Matters, said pregnant sailors will be accepted into the program on a first-come, first-served basis, according to a Navy news release from Dec. 15.

“Uniforms will be provided to participants fully hemmed and with all required sewn-on accoutrements attached,” it stated.

Uniforms will also be shipped at no cost. If the pilot program succeeds, the number of eligible sailors will be increased.

Eligible sailors must be approved for the program by their commands and meet five criteria, including being pregnant when they apply, having 12 months of service remaining at the time of their request and not planning to receive a maternity

clothing allowance during their pregnancy.

Sailors accepted into the pilot program will be measured for uniforms by their local Navy Exchange uniform section, which in turn will contact them regarding their uniform issue.

Also, those sailors must return their maternity uniforms when their pregnancy is over.

Feedback from individuals on the program process and wear testing will also be required.

The Navy announced the program about six months after unveiling a prototype for an adjustable maternity flight suit.

A similar uniform was announced by the Marine Corps in April.

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MILITARY

USAF facility first to get salad-serving robot

BY CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

One chow hall worker doling out bacon bits and cherry tomatoes at an Air Force chow hall doesn't need a hair net or face mask.

Northern California's Travis Air Force Base is the first in the military to get a "hygienic robot arm" named Alfred at its Monarch dining facility, the 60th Air Mobility Wing said.

Alfred was developed by Boston-based startup Dexai Robotics to cut food waste, reduce risk of germ transmission and free up human hands for other activities, the wing said in a statement.

The base northeast of San Francisco is part of a Defense Logistics Agency proof-of-concept for the system, the statement said, quoting Maj. Hewko Tyler, 60th Force Support Squadron operations officer.

"Will Alfred be able to provide the reduction in food waste, improvements in sanitation and manning benefits as projected?" Hewko said. "We are excited to find out."

Photos show the robot filling bowls with ingredients from a salad bar in the facility's kitchen as various base leaders look on and record the event on their smartphones Dec. 9.

The robot's helping hand could let kitchen staff focus on other tasks, such as running grills or focusing on flight kitchen orders, dining facility manager Tech Sgt. Eddie Hurtado said.

"We get pulled in so many different directions that anywhere where we can free up some time is a benefit to us," Hurtado said.

Using a robot arm adapted to kitchen cleanliness standards, the system has specialized machine vision and other programming to recognize ingredients, pick and scoop items using separate utensils, and put portions into a container, says a contract award description on SBIR.gov, a site for government small business innovation research funding.

It takes eight seconds for each ingredient and "minutes" for a



CHUSTINE MINODA/U.S. Air Force

A food preparation robot, dubbed Alfred, prepares a salad at the Monarch Dining Facility on Travis Air Force Base, Calif., where officials are using and testing the system to see if it can increase productivity, reduce food waste and lower the risk of germ transmission. Alfred was developed by Boston-based startup Dexai Robotics.

"We get pulled in so many different directions that anywhere where we can free up some time is a benefit to us."

Tech Sgt. Eddie Hurtado
dining facility manager, Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

full order, Dexai's website says. Teams of robots could collaborate for faster preparation. The system tracks each order so it can provide a heads-up when inventory is running low or show what ingredients are most popular, the company says.

The Defense Logistics Agency

awarded more than \$99,000 to the 16-person Massachusetts firm for a first phase of work that would adapt it into a "touchless" system using voice and gesture input so service members could order from an automated salad bar or hot food line without using a touch screen, the

description says.

Phase one also included testing the system at an actual military cafeteria, says the description, which lists an initial contract end date of April 26. Phase two was expected to involve more research and testing in a real-world setting, says an earlier solicitation on SBIR.gov, while a third phase would focus on commercialization of the system.

In September, DLA awarded Dexai a two-year research contract worth about \$1.6 million, according to data on the website USAspending.gov, which appears to be funding for the second phase.

Alfred's designers were also expected to develop plans for the robot to take on other kitchen duties, such as operating grills, fryers and other equipment, or preparing raw ingredients, the

initial SBIR.gov contract announcement said. The robot can fry, saute, stir, stew, bake, grill, chop, slice, dice, blend, mix and more, it said.

Videos on Dexai's website say Alfred takes 15 minutes to set up and show it dishing out ice cream, grilling a steak and preparing a Greek salad.

"Whatever the DLA and the Air Force find to be the most appealing feature — maybe it's the speed, the safety or the sanitation — the Dexai team can focus on that as part of their product development," Travis Air Force Base said.

If the trial is successful there, Alfred may be installed elsewhere under a proposal to put systems at up to 10 different dining facilities, the base said.

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