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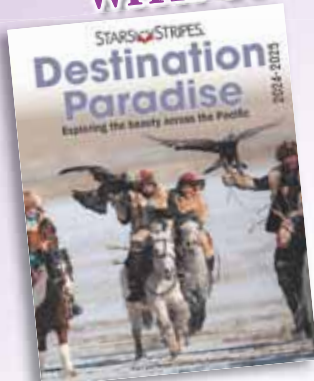
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Beachin' good fun on and off base

Pages 6-8



Island life: A spouse's take

BY KACI CURTIS,
STRIPE GUAM

In this military life, many of us have weathered the storm of at least ONE set of surprise PCS orders. The kind that knocked glasses askew when they blasted into our lives, and spun us in a whirlwind of confusion.

When my husband came home with the surprise choice between Bahrain or Guam, I suddenly doubted whether I'd ever studied a complete map of the world. For if I had, surely I would have been able to point to at least one of them on a map without googling it first. Neither of those options were Virginia, which was where we had been told we would be heading next. But I had to let that expectation go, and quickly. OCONUS (outside the continental United States) moves require a lot of preparation, and therefore, time. The choice turned out to be relatively easy: one was an accompanied tour, and the other was not. My family had endured enough of my husband's absence in recent years; I wouldn't choose a duty station where we weren't allowed to go with him.

■ Other side of the world

So here we are, two years later, living on an island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. One that doesn't even show up on the map, unless you zoom in. A lot! Compared to some OCONUS locations, Guam is a gentler transition, because it is a U.S. territory. It was invaded and occupied by the Japanese during World War II in 1941, and liberated by U.S. Marines in 1944. Most people speak English here, though there is a heavy Asian influence, and a ton of tourists from Japan and other Asian countries. Though connected to the U.S. in name, it's impossible to forget that we're on the other side of the world. There's no daylight savings time here. Only 931 miles from the equator, the sun is incredibly powerful. It's always hot, and from May to November, the wet season hurls tropical depressions and typhoons toward our little island with the accuracy of an MLB pitcher. Year round and without warning, we have earthquakes, averaging 170 of them per year.

See ISLAND on Page 4



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Don't mind education gap, but do understand it

The Meat and Potatoes of Life

Lisa Smith Molinari



the years, I tsked. How is a mil-spouse supposed to convince an employer that she is capable of a challenging job because managing an active duty military family IS her “work experience”?

Despite the bonbons-and-soap-operas stereotype for stay-at-home parents, any milspouse who has successfully managed a full household through stateside and overseas moves, lengthy deployments and various TDYs, broken hot water heaters, clogged gutters, HHG damage claims, Scout meetings, soccer tournaments, EFMP paperwork, orthodontist appointments and parent-teacher conferences -- is most definitely worthy of gainful employment.

I resisted the urge to add the cutesy moniker “Domestic Engineer” in hopes that potential employers would respect me for putting my own career aside to help my husband serve his country. Instead, under the heading “REMARKS,” I wrote, “Despite gaps in my job history, I have always exemplified hard work and dedication, whether as a lawyer, writer, volunteer, mother or military spouse,” pounding the period button with a self-righteous poke.

A few years later, I gave up my job search because each promising lead had ended in final-round rejections due to “lack of work experience.” Instead, I co-founded a military nonprofit, Orion Military Scholarships, and created my own dream job, helping military children find stable educational experiences.

Frankly, I’d grown tired of “mil-splaining” the impact that active duty Navy life had on my career to civilian employers who would never understand what I knew — that military life requires higher-level competence, determination, selflessness, work ethic and executive problem-solving skills.

Employers, when considering a military spouse, don’t mind the gap. Being frequently moved to new locations, managing complex circumstances and shepherding a family through constant unknowns gives mil-spouses the gritty “must-do/can-do/will-do” mentality that you’d do well to appreciate.

Read more of Lisa Smith Molinari’s columns at: themeatandpotatoesoflife.com and in Lisa’s book, *The Meat and Potatoes of Life: My True Lit Com*
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Hiking along the Priest Pools trail. Photo by Kaci Curtis



ISLAND: Lessons learned

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

There is plenty to miss about the mainland, if I allow myself to fall into the trap of comparison. Most recognizable American shopping: the big box stores, outdoor centers, bookstores, clothing outlets, or restaurants... won't be found here. Sometimes I dream of drifting through a Barnes N' Noble or browsing in Sam's Club. Don't even ask me how often I lament over the loss of Target or Whole Foods.

Logistical challenges

There are stocking issues in the stores that we do have. Everything takes a long time to get here, and so not only is our stock unreliable, but we can go weeks or even months without seeing our favorite products (or flavors) on the shelves. If we manage to get off-season produce, the price is three times what we were used to paying back in the States. And because of how long it takes to get it all here, it's neither very fresh, nor long-lasting. Living on the island has been an absolute eye-opener to just how much convenience and accessibility has embedded itself into the American lifestyle.

Until we left the mainland, my husband and I had no idea just how easy it had been for us to get whatever we wanted, whenever we wanted. It didn't matter if it was in season, or if there had been a bad storm. Now, it's the norm to wait 4 weeks or more just for an Amazon package to arrive (and that's if it manages not to get lost on the way here).

Ocean's wonders

Despite its logistical challenges, Guam has a lot to offer, especially if you step off the beaten track. The beaches are stunning; the crystal waters everything you'd expect from a tropical island. The sea life we encounter in one afternoon at our local beach could fill a BBC documentary. It's provided a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to immerse our kids into the ocean's wonders.

Guam has fostered a connection to the sea that I hope will last throughout our lives. We frequently see baby black tip sharks, trigger fish, eels, butterfly fish, sea cucumbers, puffer fish, urchins, blue sea stars, and crabs of all kinds. Going down to the beach at sunset has become one of our favorite things to do as a family; we search for coconut crabs, which emerge at night and can weigh up to 9 lbs. We also look for eels and other nocturnal hunters among the tide pools. There's also lots of hiking, affectionately called "Boonie Stomping," here on the island. Most hikes lead to the beach, or to waterfalls and swimming holes. Some treks climb summits, including Mount Lam Lam. Some consider it to be the tallest mountain in the world, since it originates from the floor of the Marianas Trench, the deepest oceanic trench on our planet.

Be flexible

We never expected to be here, but the shift that our island home has provided has been invaluable. It has reinforced the need to be flexible, and to look for the good in the unexpected. It has illuminated the places where we needed to grow in gratitude, and given us a personal stake in the protection of our oceans. It has offered us the time, albeit at a slower island pace, to take in the adventures and lessons that this tiny green dot on the map has to offer, amidst its expanse of blue.

(This story first appeared on missionmils spouse.org)
About the Author: Kaci Curtis is a Navy wife and mom. Her historical fiction novel, "Along the Trail," is forthcoming with The Wild Rose Press. Follow her on FB (@KCurtisWriter) and check out her blog (and many others!) with Mission:Milspouse for more inspiring stories.



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Tumon beach. File photo

Beachin' good fun on

STRIPES GUAM

Naval Base Guam's Gab Gab Beach

Gab Gab Beach, or Fab Gab as we like to call it, is truly a hidden gem and easily our family's regular go-to place for no-frills, low-cost weekend fun.

Great for picnics, birthday parties, unit gatherings, hail & farewells, snorkeling, swimming, diving, sand volleyball, SUP'ing and all sorts of water play. The beach umbrellas and grill grates can be rented for a meager amount, and camping is allowed by reservation with the Outdoor Recreation Center. There is something for everyone.

Gab Gab is located on Naval Base Guam, so you'll need base access to get to it, its also one of the most popular shore dives on Guam, and any given day of the week you're likely to find divers exiting or readying to enter the water via the easy stairs next to the "3-sided pool."

If you get there early enough, make a leisure surface swim due north out to the Atlantis Submarine Tender buoy, and drop down on the plateau reef at about 50', known as Gab Gab II, where baited buckets attract the fish for the viewing pleasure of the underwater tourists. You're almost guaranteed to get an up close view of the docile Nurse Sharks, large schooling fish, and possibly a moray eel in the artificial reef ball. Also look out for anemones teeming with clown fish at various locations on the reef.

Steer clear of the submarine while diving, but be sure and give a wave to all the tourists peering out the portholes.



Gather with friends at Gab Gab Beach. Photo courtesy of USS Emory S. Land

It's also a beginner snorkeler's paradise. Enter the water via the stairs and you're only yards from colorful coral, sloping reefs, an abundance of fish and there is always a greater than average chance of seeing a turtle along the reef edge. Note, no forms of fishing or collection of marine life (live or dead) is permitted at Gab Gab.

Bathrooms are provided, and outdoor showers are just steps away from the water stairs—convenient for divers and snorkelers exiting the water to rinse their gear and

themselves. During your surface interval, enjoy some beach volleyball, relaxing under the umbrellas, barbecuing in the poolside grills.

Enjoy fabulous Gab Gab, but be sure and clean up after yourselves when you leave.

Dadi Beach

Dadi Beach is also located on Naval Base Guam. It is quiet, away from the hustle and bustle, and is a great spot for laying out and soaking up some sun, swimming, picnics and watching sunrises. You can even catch glimpses of dolphins, turtles and manta rays.

San Luis Beach

San Luis Beach is another oasis on Naval Base Guam. It is known for being a great dive, standup paddle boarding and kayaking spot.

Fantasy Island

Fantasy Island is located off base at Polaris Point which is two miles from the front gate of Naval Base Guam in the beautiful village of Piti. It is most known for its camping grounds.

- Planning on heading out to the beaches this weekend but don't have the proper outdoor equipment? Don't let it ruin your plans! Drop into Rec-N-Crew and inquire about all your outdoor needs. Call (671) 564-1826.



Family fun at Tarague Beach. Photo courtesy of P. Guerrero

Andersen's Tarague Beach

Whether you're with a group of friends or looking for some personal time, Tarague Beach on Andersen Air Force Base is your answer to camping on Guam.

Make the most of the day at the beach enjoying activities



Gab Gab II is one of the most popular and most enjoyable dives on Guam. Photo courtesy of mdaguam.com



n base

uch as swimming, snorkeling, beach volleyball or bar-
eque. The beach also provides a playground for kids, a
ature trail for hiking and exploring the different historical
ighlights and agriculture in the area.

Tarague Beach offers 20 campsites along the sandy
each. Most of the campsites are shaded by beautiful pine
rees and the ocean breeze keeps you cool. Each campsite
ncludes a picnic table and grill. Bathrooms and showers
re centrally located so all patrons can use them conven-
iently.

Bamboo Willies beachfront res-
taurant is open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.,
Saturday and Sunday.

As the evening approaches,
catch a breathtaking sunset, roast
marshmallows or make smores.

Camping at Tarague is open all
year round. However, December
through February usually offers
the best weather conditions: slight-
ly cooler with a little less rain and
humidity. This makes for perfect
camping.

Sirena Beach

Sirena Beach has a pavilion
where you can spend the night
camping under the stars.

- If you don't own any camping
equipment, Outdoor Recreation
has all your supplies such as tents
and other camping equipment for
rent. Reservations for campsites as
well as supplies can be made on-
line at www.MilitaryMWRGuam.com.

om under Outdoor Recreation or by calling (671) 366-5204
r 5197.

- Fishing is allowed by permit only. Permits are \$12 at
Outdoor Recreation.

See BEACHIN'
on Page 8

Best public beaches

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
THE GUAM GUIDE

Guam is a beautiful island with some of the most
breathtaking beaches in the world. From the calm
waters of Tumon Bay to the rugged coastline of
Ritidian Point, there is a beach for everyone on Guam.
So come and explore the island's many beaches and ex-
perience the beauty of Guam for yourself!



with coconut trees to provide shade from the tropical
sun. In addition to the beach, there is a huge triang-
ular park which can be used by the public for just about
any activity.

Asan Beach Park

Asan Beach was one of
the two primary beaches
U.S. troops stormed when
trying to recapture Guam
from Japanese occupa-
tion during World War
II. There are a number
of memorials, relics, and
informational signs scat-
tered around the park for
visitors. The beach area of
Asan Beach Park is lined

Tanguisson

Covered picnic
tables and BBQ
pits are part of the
park amenities at
Tanguisson Beach.
Entrance to the mu-
nicipal power plant
property is near
Two Lover's Point.
Uncultivated beach
and rugged margin open up to a park setting with large
shade trees and manicured grass for games and gather-
ings. If you're looking for Guam's famous "mushroom
rocks," head to Hila'an Beach, which is a little further
down from Tanguisson.



THE GuamGuide
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Gun Beach

The namesake gun
of Gun Beach is lo-
cated in the far right
end of the small la-
goon created in part by
a massive cliff on the
north end. On the left
of the old gun is an en-
trance to another se-
cluded cove called Fai Fai Beach. Gun Beach features
good snorkeling, when safe conditions prevail, and a
dive site with steep reef sides and a cable trench lead-
ing into deep water.



Inarajan Pools

For rugged beauty and photo appeal, Inarajan Pools
has the most intriguing geology. Natural bathing spots
surround a public park
on the main road that
circumnavigates the
island. Coral outcrop-
pings resembling the
lava flows of volcanic
islands loom at 15 to
20 feet above the hori-
zon, blocking the view
of the reef beyond.



Tagachang

Set between jungle topped cliffs, Tagachang beach is
one of Guam's many beautiful beaches but unlike some,
this one is remote and
ungroomed. Unlike
Tumon Bay beaches,
Tagachang is quiet ,
but best enjoyed dur-
ing daylight hours for
safety. Like many of
the eastern beaches,
an outer reef breaks
the surf and makes
the beach calm and
safe for swimming.



Talofofo Beach

This rock beach lies adjacent to the Talofofo River
bridge. The low-lying outlet is lined with a protective
rock levy reminiscent of San Francisco Bay.



Ipan Beach

This southern beach is
popular with locals and
right next to Jeff's Pirate's
Cove. Kite surfers are often
seen from this rugged spot.

Ritidian

The northern-
most perimeter reef
of Guam is accessible
without security clear-
ance from Ritidian
Beach. The U.S. Fish
and Wildlife Preserve
is located near the re-
creation area. Strict obedience to posted warnings about
the rip currents and conditions will ensure a safe and
enjoyable visit to one of the most pristine beaches on
Guam.



BEACHIN': Don't be afraid to dive into fun

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Swimming pools

The Navy operates three swimming pools on the island. At Naval Base Guam, the swimming pool is located near South Tiplao Housing and the barracks area. Call the pool at (671) 564-1822.

At the Naval Communications Station, the pool is located on the main drive of the base, next to the laundromat. For more information, call (671) 355-5091/564-1822.

At the Naval Hospital, the pool is located near the housing area. To reach the Naval Hospital pool please call (671) 564-1822/344-9009.

The Andersen pool is located near housing, directly next to the Youth Center and Skate Park. They have an aquatics program for all ages and interests. Red Cross certified instructors teach swim lessons to all ages and all ability levels. They also have lap swim, open recreation swim, a wading pool for your little ones and a picnic area that is available on a first come, first serve basis. For inquiries, email andersenaquatics@gmail.com, or call (671) 366-3202.



Bamboo Willies at Tarague Beach.

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LOCATION: Bldg. 1980A Haputo Road
Located inside the Charles King Fitness Center.
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– Maulden

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



Chaweenie

This pint-sized princess is an 8-month-old terrier mix with a heart full of love and a coat as white as fresh snow—except for her signature tan ears, which add the perfect touch of charm. Fully grown at around 25(ish) pounds, Chaweenie may be small in stature, but she's big on personality! Sweet, spunky, and always up for a cuddle or a game of zoomies, she's the perfect companion for anyone looking for a loyal and lively sidekick. Don't let her size fool you—this little lady is full of spirit and ready to steal your heart.

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



Faha and priest pools

REMINDER! We no longer meet at Chamorro Village. We meet at the trailhead.

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 the trailhead on Saturdays at 8 AM. Directions to the trailhead will be posted on the Guam Boonie Stompers Inc Facebook page. The cost is \$5.00 for hikers over 13. 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/GuamBoonieStompers



Guam Boonie Stompers is a non-profit Guam corporation composed of volunteer leaders committed to leading hikes to and protecting the unique natural destinations on our island.

SCHEDULE 2025

Jun. 14 (Sat.)	Southwest Coast (Agat to Umatac) (Difficult)
Special Event! Jun. 21 (Sat.)	Jumullong Manglo' "Summer Solstice Sunrise Hike" (Medium)
Jun. 28 (Sat.)	Faha and Priest Pools (Easy)
Jul. 5 (Sat.)	Mt. Tenjo Sunset Hike (Medium) *Start time change to 5:30 pm
Jul. 12 (Sat.)	Liberation Hike-Asan Pt. (Easy) / Mt. Alifan (Medium to Difficult)
Jul. 19 (Sat.)	Libugon Radio Station to Fonte Dam / Swim Hole (Medium)
Jul. 26 (Sat.)	Korean Airline Memorial (Easy) / Hidden Bunker (Medium) / Charlie Corn / (Difficult)

FOR EVERYONE'S SAFETY:
No Pets Allowed
No Drones Allowed

NOTE: Schedule subject change, so please check Boonie Stomps Facebook in advance.

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Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

1 It may be slipped

5 Island greeting

10 Everett or Lowe

14 Hang ____ (keep)

15 Constrain

16 Latvia's capital

17 "It's ____ real!"

18 Like some milk

20 Fellow church-goers

22 Aristocratic bunch

23 "Baby Blue" singer George

24 Out-of-date

25 Loads, as software

28 Reuben's bread

31 Mere

34 Annulment of slavery

36 Away from the wind

37 Like Liberace

38 No walk in the park

39 Written account

41 Beds on base

42 Angsty music genre

43 Skilled boater

45 Puppeteer Lewis

47 Does an IRS job

51 Tariff target

53 CDC worry

55 Like some garden paths

57 Word after "cut" or "second"

58 Walk the floor

59 Verso's opposite

60 Alaska's first governor

61 Downhill racer

62 Web destinations

63 Bodywork target

2 Type of gas

3 Animal in a roundup

4 Tupperware product

5 Gives a heads-up

6 As it happens

7 Middle Eastern gulf

8 Cheer starter

9 Without much harmony

10 Shore dinner entree

11 Nazi-like

12 "The Morning Watch" writer James

13 A&W competitor

19 Mantegna's "Criminal Minds" role

21 Touch

24 One who works on snow days

26 South Pacific island

27 Overhead

29 Famed WWI sergeant

30 Concludes

31 All there

32 Happy as a ____

33 Lockheed Martin field

35 Roared deeply

37 First-string players

40 Oscar or Tony

41 Modern measure

44 Tropical fruits

46 Sharpened

48 Mirror ____

49 Nashville NFLer

50 Candle feature

51 Little devils

52 Dinner, eg.

53 Ancient Celt

54 Feed the kitty

56 Outdoor gear brand

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Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

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Stripes Sports Trivia

Who is the Liverpool forward that won the EPL Player of the Season Award in 2018?

Answer

Mohamed Salah

SUDOKU

Difficulty: Easy

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

Answer to Previous Sudoku:

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

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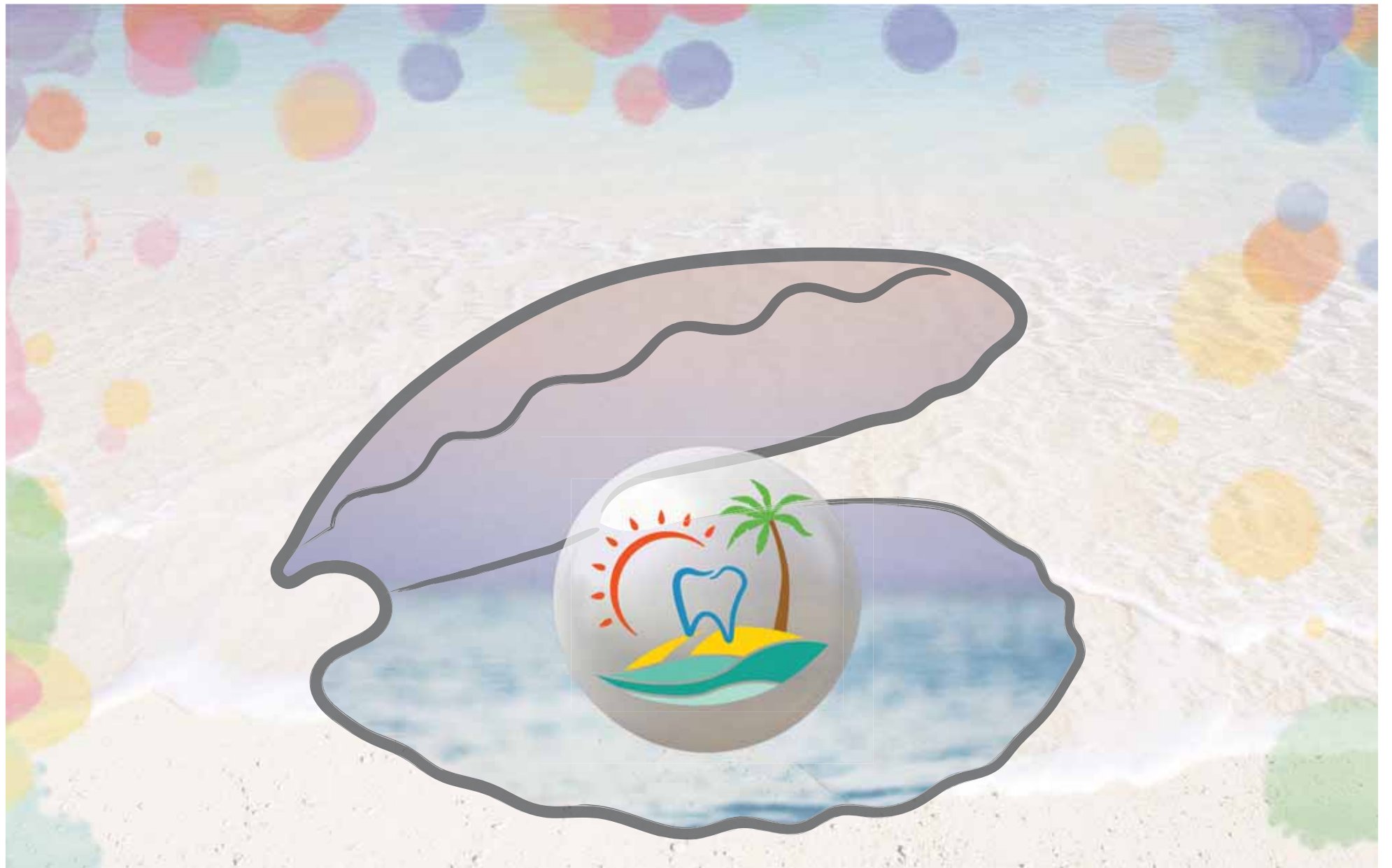
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New restaurants, cafés on Guam to try

THE GUAM GUIDE

NEW MONTH, NEW BITES & VIBES! Guam’s food scene is heating up with fresh flavors and cool new spots! From a dessert that’s a nostalgic dream come true to coffee shops with vibes as bold as their brews, we’re diving into the island’s latest must-tries. Let’s eat!



Twirly Swirly Twisted Creamery

Twirly Swirly Twisted Creamery combines our childhood favorites – ice cream and cereal! Conveniently located in the heart of our island’s capital, Hagatna, Twirly Swirly Twisted Creamery is ready to serve you ALL week (except Sundays). Cool down in the best way possible.



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LOCATION: Suite 166, Chamorro Village (Paseo Side), Hagatna
HOURS: Monday to Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Closed on Sunday
INSTAGRAM: @twirly.swirly.twisted.creamery



Coffee Club Guam

Start your day with quality coffee and end it with fine wine at Coffee Club Guam. Run by husband-and-wife duo Patty and Andrew Ellison, the café is inspired by their global travels in search of good coffee and good wine. Now, they’re bringing that passion to Guam. Don’t miss their famous savory pies—they sell out fast, so call ahead to reserve yours! And if you haven’t tried a New Zealand Roll, it’s time to change that. Stop by Coffee Club Guam today!



INSTAGRAM

LOCATION: Star Building, 888 N Marine Corps Dr Ste 124, Upper Tumon, 96913, Guam
HOURS: Monday to Saturday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.
INSTAGRAM: @coffeclubguam



Niki's Pastry Shop

From fluffy cupcakes and buttery croissants to decadent cakes and tropical-inspired treats, EVERYTHING is made fresh daily with love and island flavor at the new Niki’s Pastry Shop located at the Micronesia Mall center court. Niki’s is your new go-to for feel good indulgence – whether it’s a quick pick-me-up or a custom creation for your next celebration! Sweet moments start at Niki’s!



INSTAGRAM

LOCATION: Micronesia Mall
HOURS: Daily from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
INSTAGRAM: @niki_tea_cake



BreadBar by Okayama Kobo

BreadBar Guam brings the tradition of Okayama Kobo’s all-natural baking to the island, crafting fresh, additive-free bread daily. Using high-quality Hokkaido flour, they blend Japanese artistry with local flavors, redefining Guam’s bread scene—one warm, hand-shaped loaf at a time.



INSTAGRAM

LOCATION: Micronesia Mall
HOURS: Wednesday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to sold out
INSTAGRAM: @breadbarguam



Patisserie Parisco

Parisco’s new location at Dededo’s Macheche Plaza features a drive-thru offering French-style pastries, cakes, parfaits, macarons, and drinks like lattes and frappuccinos. Founded by Shizuka and Michael Louboutin in 2013, this family-run bakery blends French and Japanese pastry traditions, growing from a small home business to a beloved local favorite. Now, Guam can enjoy their high-quality, handcrafted treats with added convenience.



INSTAGRAM

LOCATION: 131 Macheche Avenue Suite 100, Macheche, 96912, Guam
HOURS: Open Daily from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
INSTAGRAM: @pariscoguam



Allegory Coffee and Stories

Love coffee, books, and that magical Ghibli-style vibe? Then you need to check out Allegory Coffee and Stories! This cozy little café feels like stepping into a fairytale, with its charming cottage-core aesthetic and warm, inviting atmosphere. It’s a dream come true for the Hecita family, and you can feel the love they put into every detail. Tucked away on Route 8 in Barrigada, it’s the perfect spot to sip, read, and escape into a story—whether from a book or just the cozy ambiance around you! Grand opening announcement will be happening soon, stay tuned for updates!



INSTAGRAM

LOCATION: 494 West Route 8, Barrigada Plaza, Barrigada, GU 96913
HOURS: (Temporary) Monday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Closed on Sunday
INSTAGRAM: @allegorycoffeeandstories

WORTH THE REVISIT...



Café at Rootz

Pop in to Café at Rootz, located inside the Guam Plaza Hotel lobby. This cozy little café, right next to Rootz Restaurant, is a perfect pit-stop to grab a refreshing drink — we’re loving the Green Glow smoothie — or treat yourself to something sweet like croffles, pastries and cakes. We stopped by for brekky and had the Breakfast Quesadilla and Smoked Salmon Benedict (hello, creamy hollandaise!). Their all-day menu has everything from curry rice to fluffy pancakes.

LOCATION: Guam Plaza Resort & Spa
HOURS: Open Daily from 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Subway – Oreo Footlong (Limited)

Okay, you HAVE to try this—Subway’s Oreo Footlong Cookie is insane! It’s a whole foot of soft, chocolatey, cookies-and-cream goodness, and trust me, one bite is not enough. It’s like your favorite Oreo got a major glow-up! Whether you’re sharing (or keeping it all for yourself—no judgment), this is the ultimate sweet treat. Go grab one before they’re gone!

Subway is available for dine-in, takeout and delivery.



WEBSITE



Chili’s – Fried Mozzarella (Limited)

You NEED to try this—Chili’s Fried Mozzarella is here on Guam, and they’re next-level cheesy perfection! Whether you go for the Original or turn up the heat with Honey Chipotle, every bite is crispy, gooey, and downright addictive. That cheese pull? Unreal. That flavor? Out of this world. Don’t wait—get your hands on these ASAP!



INSTAGRAM

LOCATION: Tumon Sands Plaza 1082 Pale San Vitores Rd Tumon, Guam 96913
HOURS: Open Daily from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.
INSTAGRAM: @chilis_guam

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RESTAURANT INFO



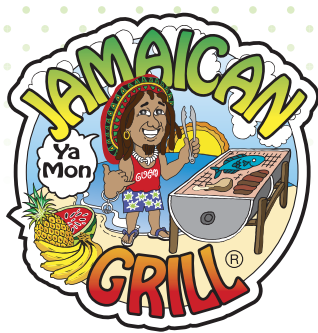
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GUAM EDITION

JUNE 9, 2025



Struggling to take off

Black Hawk's tiltrotor successor deals with political, military turbulence **Page 2**

The V-280 Valor — as the MV-75 was known while under development — performs a flight demonstration in Arlington, Texas, in 2020.

LUKE J. ALLEN/U.S. Army

COVER STORY

Black Hawk's tiltrotor successor struggles

Army's new MV-75 hits political and military turbulence

By GARY WARNER
Stars and Stripes

The Army has announced the future of air assault: the MV-75 tiltrotor.

The MV-75 is designed to sweep into battle at more than 320 mph, skimming over the treetops before seeming to stop mid-air as its rotors pivot to a vertical for landing.

Up to 14 soldiers could spill out into a firefight. Litters carrying wounded could be loaded for the return flight. In less than five minutes, the MV-75 could lift off, shift to horizontal flight, and race miles away from danger.

"This aircraft changes how we move forces — it changes the geometry of ground combat," Gen. James Mingus, the Army vice chief of staff, said recently.

But that future isn't here yet.

The Army chose the "Screaming Eagles" of the 101st Airborne Division as first in line to fly the new aircraft. But the 101st won't get the MV-75 tiltrotor until 2030 — though Army officials said they hope to shave a year or more off the timeline through acquisition reforms announced recently by Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth.

The MV-75 is part of the Army's Future Vertical Lift (FVL) program to replace all of its helicopters by mid-century.

While the MV-75 was given a boost by Mingus' announcement, the FVL program has already seen one project canceled at a cost of \$2 billion and others being questioned as outdated by the Army's recently announced "transformational rebalancing" of its air assets.

Hegseth announced in April that the Army would review its warfighting abilities with an eye toward downplaying manned helicopter use and instead focusing on the use of uncrewed drones.

"The Army must transform at an accelerated pace," Hegseth said.

The MV-75 aircraft is so new, it doesn't even have an official name.

The prototype from Bell and Lockheed Martin is called the V-280 Valor.

At the Army Aviation Association of America conference, Army officials said the new aircraft would carry the designation "MV" for "multi-mission vertical" takeoff and landing.

The numerical change from 280 to 75 is a salute to 1775, the year the Army was founded.



LUKE J. ALLEN/U.S. Army

Members of the 101st Airborne Division visit Bell Flight's Arlington, Texas facility in 2020. The division is the first in line to fly the new aircraft.

"This aircraft changes how we move forces — it changes the geometry of ground combat."

Gen. James Mingus
Army vice chief of staff

In the past the Army has named its helicopters after Indian tribes. Even the UH-1 Huey is officially named the "Iroquois" although the name didn't stick like Black Hawk and Apache.

Will the new tiltrotor follow or break the naming tradition?

"That is TBD — to be determined," said Col. Marty Meiners, a spokesman for the 101st Airborne Division.

The MV-75 is the first aircraft the Army announced in 2009 that it planned to field by mid-century under the Future Vertical Lift program.

The program was launched in 2009 to find replacements for U.S. military helicopters that the Pentagon said had aged more rapidly than anticipated due to the high tempo of deployments and operations in the wars against terror following the 9/11 attacks.

The pipeline for new designs had also become so extended

that the military primarily relied on updated versions — blocks — of existing designs, some of which were more than 50 years old.

"I don't want my grandchildren flying the AH-64 Apache Longbow Block 80," Army Maj. Gen. Anthony Crutchfield quipped at the Army Aviation Association of America conference in 2011.

The Army plan called for replacing its aging inventory of UH-60 Black Hawk, CH-47 Chinook, AH-64 Apache, and OH-58 Kiowa helicopters.

If the designs proved successful, the Pentagon said the aircraft could be adopted by other services, possibly replacing up to 25 helicopter and fixed-wing aircraft types across all branches.

Two programs were first up.

The Future Long-Range Assault Aircraft (FLRAA) competition to replace the UH-60 Black Hawk was decided in December 2022. The Army selected the V-280 tiltrotor from Bell and Lockheed Martin, beating out the SB>1 Defiant, a coaxial rotor helicopter submitted by Sikorsky and Boeing.

The win for the V-280 has the potential for \$72 billion in orders from the Army. Coming in second meant the SB>1 will be displayed at the Army Aviation Museum at Fort Novosel, Ala.

The Future Attack Reconnaissance Aircraft (FARA) competition to replace the OH-58 Kiowa

reached a key point in 2020 with the Bell 360 Invictus and Sikorsky Raider X chosen as finalists.

After spending \$2 billion on developing the FARA, the Pentagon pulled the plug on the program in February 2024.

Pentagon officials have said that lessons learned from combat between Russian and Ukrainian forces had shown battlefield tactics had changed, particularly in the use of cheap but deadly drones. Critics argued that crewed helicopters were vulnerable to drones and shoulder-launched missiles.

Until the future arrives, soldiers will go into battle, search for downed pilots, hoist stranded ship crews at sea and drop sonar on submarines much the way they have for the past half-century — with one of the 5,000 UH-60 Black Hawks and its variants built for the U.S. military.

For some, that's just fine. "The Black Hawk today is something like the Huey in the old Vietnam days — everybody has been in it, knows it, trusts it," said Chief Warrant Officer 5 Barry Sledd of the 7th Infantry Division at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

Sledd has been in the Army since 1989 and believes that modernization is a key to success on the battlefield. But so is familiarity and trust.

"I had 2000 combat hours in Iraq and Afghanistan," Sledd said. "There were several times we were shot at and came back

with bullet holes to prove it. The Black Hawk performed as advertised — it got us home."

Sledd recalled serving with Col. Derek A. Smith when he was commander of the 16th Combat Aviation Brigade, 7th Infantry Division.

At his July 2024 retirement ceremony, Smith called out his family's history with the Black Hawk.

"My dad was a UH-60 pilot, and he retired as a brigadier general," Smith told the audience.

The first Black Hawk flew on Oct. 17, 1974.

Black Hawk variants have flown in every U.S. military conflict since the Invasion of Grenada in October 1983. Another 36 nations have purchased the Black Hawk for their militaries, rescue or emergency services.

The UH-60 isn't going away.

Until — or unless — the MV-75 wins over congressional budget writers and troops in the field, the Black Hawk is available to step up — or even step in.

"The reliability of the aircraft, the affordability of the aircraft, having an aircraft that is proven, that has been fielded, is great to have," said Jay Macklin, business development director for Sikorsky, which manufactures the Black Hawk.

"Keeping the Black Hawk reduces risk for future vertical lift needs."

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MILITARY

‘Largest airstrike’ ever from carrier

Attacks by Truman on ISIS in Somalia hailed by top admiral

BY CAITLYN BURCHETT
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The USS Harry S. Truman and its strike group launched the “largest airstrike in the history of the world” from an aircraft carrier during recent operations near Somalia, the Navy’s top admiral said.

About 125,000 pounds of munitions were launched by the Harry S. Truman Carrier Strike Group into the African country, Adm. James Kilby, the acting chief of naval operations, said while speaking at the Council on Foreign Relations’ Robert B. McKeon Endowed Series on Military Strategy and Leadership. The annual event brings together U.S. military service chiefs to discuss the future of the American defense strategy, military readiness and emerging global challenges.

U.S. Africa Command, which oversees military operations in the region, is launching airstrikes in Somalia at a record-setting pace as the military seeks to counter an influx of Islamic State fighters, military figures show.

Since January, AFRICOM has conducted 25 strikes in Somalia,

many of which were directed at ISIS militants, according to command strike reports.

If the intensity of the bombing campaign continues, AFRICOM will exceed the 63 strikes it launched in Somalia in 2019, the highest tally for the country in the command’s history.

The ISIS cell in Somalia has grown from about 500 fighters to 1,500 over the past 18 months, with roughly 60% being foreign, a spokesperson said this month.

“ISIS-Somalia has proven both its will and capability to attack U.S. forces. [U.S. Africa Command], alongside the federal government of Somalia and Somali Armed Forces, continues to take action to degrade ISIS-Somalia’s ability to plan and conduct attacks that threaten the U.S. homeland, our forces and our citizens abroad,” the command said on May 3.

Meanwhile, the Truman strike group, Kilby added, has played a vital role in deterring Iran-backed Houthi militants in Yemen from attacking maritime shipping in the Red Sea. The Truman, he said, conducted 670 strikes and intercepted around 160 enemy drones and missiles



LOGAN MCGUIRE/U.S. Navy

An aviation boatswain's mate watches an F/A-18E Super Hornet launch from the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman during flight operations.

during the five months it spent in the Red Sea.

“[The Houthis] are not China, but they are a threat, and they are hunting our ships,” Kilby said. “Understanding that and not being dismissive about that and being prepared is what we are focused on now.”

Truman left its homeport in Norfolk, Va., on Sept. 23 for a routine deployment to the 6th Fleet. It entered the Middle East on Dec. 14 following the departure of the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln.

The aircraft carrier and its strike group were due to return to the U.S. in the spring, but its deployment was extended in May as part of a U.S. bid to cripple the Houthi by way of daily strikes.

Since March 15, U.S. forces have hit more than 1,000 Houthi targets in Yemen, killing group leaders and fighters and degrading the group’s capabilities, the Pentagon said.

In declaring a ceasefire on May 6, President Donald Trump said the Houthis didn’t want to

fight anymore and had agreed to stop attacking ships in the vital waterway.

As of May 19, the Truman, as well as the destroyer USS Jason Dunham and the cruiser USS Gettysburg, had left the Red Sea and were in the Mediterranean Sea to participate in a NATO military exercise.

The Navy has not said when the carrier strike group will return home.

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Joint Region Marianas welcomes new commander

BY ALEX WILSON
Stars and Stripes

A U.S. Navy flight officer has taken command of Guam’s three major military bases and regional installations, as the island wraps up a series of significant leadership changes across its military commands.

Rear Adm. Brett Mietus took command of Joint Region Marianas on May 29 from Rear Adm. Brent DeVore during a change-of-command ceremony at Guam High School, according to a livestream of the event on the region’s Facebook page.

Mietus was the third new senior leader to take the helm on Guam in May.

He joins Rear Adm. Joshua Lasky, who now leads Joint Task Force-Micronesia, and Col. Charles Cooley, the new commander of the 36th Wing.

DeVore, who took command in June 2024, is headed to San Diego to lead Expeditionary Strike Group 3. During the ceremony, he thanked his family, Guam officials and Joint Region staff for their

support during what he called a pivotal year.

“The staff that we have at Joint Region Marianas is small but mighty — supporting efforts throughout not only Guam and the

Northern Mariana Islands, but also all of Micronesia,” he said. “Our efforts tangibly demonstrate our strength to ensure peace.”

DeVore’s tenure, though brief, oversaw a major expansion in construction across Guam’s military footprint.

As of last month, the island has approximately 70 ongoing military building projects totaling around \$5 billion, Pacific Daily News reported.

An additional \$2 billion has been allocated for infrastructure repairs following Typhoon Marwar, the Category 4 storm that struck Guam in 2023, DeVore told the newspaper.

Vice Adm. Scott Gray, head of



CURTIS SPENCER/U.S. Navy

Rear Adm. Brett Mietus, shown speaking at Patrol Squadron 30’s headquarters in April, took command of Joint Region Marianas on May 29.

Navy Installations Command, praised DeVore’s work under challenging conditions.

“Going into this typhoon season, we can rest assured that the harbor and our assets here will re-

main vital and protected,” he said during the change of command ceremony.

Mietus most recently served as commander of the Navy’s Patrol and Reconnaissance Group based

in Norfolk, Va.

There, he oversaw more than 7,000 personnel on both coasts of the United States, including units at Naval Air Station Jacksonville in Florida and Naval Air Station Whidbey Island in Washington.

“My mission here — our mission here — is absolutely imperative,” he said during the ceremony. “That mission is to work with the people of Guam and the joint force, so that in times of peace we serve as an inspiring example of collaboration and teamwork.”

In times of conflict, he added, the mission is to defend the region and project U.S. power to uphold American and allied values.

Mietus graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1992 with a degree in economics and earned a master’s degree in national security and strategic studies from the Naval War College in 2003, according to his official Navy biography.

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MILITARY

Mold, corrosion plague Guam barracks

Major problems prompted Navy secretary to open new housing

By ALEX WILSON
Stars and Stripes

Major problems with Guam housing prompted the Navy secretary to open new barracks ahead of schedule and triggered a worldwide review of Navy housing conditions, according to a report released recently by a government watchdog.

Secretary of the Navy John Phelan visited Andersen Air Force Base's Palau Hall barracks during a May 1-2 trip to the U.S. territory.

He was left "appalled" and "very upset" by what he saw, including exposed electrical wires, corroded plumbing, deteriorating walls and mold that had been painted over, according to the Washington, D.C.-based Project on Government Oversight.

The barracks was housing sailors assigned to a helicopter squadron temporarily operating from Andersen, René Kladzyk, senior investigator on the report, said by email.

Phelan's visit prompted him to order new bachelor enlisted quarters on Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz to open about a month ahead of schedule, he told the nonprofit watchdog.

The 300-room facility, initially set to open in June, was directed to begin housing service members by May 16, Marine Corps Headquarters spokeswoman Capt. Brenda Leenders said in a May 20 email.

As of May 22, 25 Marines and 48 sailors had been relocated from Palau Hall, according to the report.

The poor conditions also led to a fleetwide directive to inspect all Navy unaccompanied housing, according to a May 5 email from Vice Adm. Scott Gray to Navy leadership, cited by the watchdog group. He described the living conditions as "clearly way outside any reasonable standard" and said they reflected a failure of leadership across multiple levels.

Gray, head of Navy Installations Command, wrote it was "baffling to discover Sailors living in these conditions," which he described as "clearly way outside any reasonable standard" and lacking "any sense of ownership or responsibility by the facility operators for the welfare of the tenants."

He ordered inspections of all



Photos by Project on Government Oversight

Problems at Palau Hall barracks on Guam include exposed wires, corroded plumbing, deteriorating walls and mold that had been painted over, according to the Project on Government Oversight.

"Andersen Sailors reside in no less than four different buildings — none of which are acceptable by today's living standards."

Vice Adm. Scott Gray

single-sailor housing to be completed by May 28. However, a spokesperson for Naval Installations Command told the watchdog that some regions may need more time to conduct thorough reviews.

Attached to Gray's email were photos showing issues inside Palau Hall. One image of exposed wiring, he noted, depicted a room that had been assigned just two weeks earlier.

"The scope of this disrepair includes, but is not limited to the Palau building," he wrote. "That



said, Andersen Sailors reside in no less than four different buildings — none of which are acceptable by today's living standards."

An Air Force spokesperson told the watchdog the service is committed to providing safe housing but cited Guam's harsh, corrosive environment as a contributing factor to infrastructure deterioration.

"Unfortunately, in Guam, we face several environmental ele-

ments, and the harsh conditions accelerate the rate at which materials deteriorate and reduce their overall lifespan," the spokesperson said, according to the report.

A Navy officer formerly stationed on Guam told the watchdog they were not surprised by the conditions, saying: "If you're living on base, you're going to be in crappy quarters."

The officer also expressed

concern that the housing inspections could amount to a box-checking exercise.

Phelan told the watchdog that years of deferred infrastructure spending had created serious maintenance backlogs. He said he is committed to ensuring Navy housing is "acceptable."

The findings align with a September 2023 report by the Government Accountability Office, which found some U.S. military barracks posed "serious health and safety risks," including sewage overflow, mold, mildew, and broken windows and locks.

The watchdog report also cited funding from President Donald Trump's "One, Big Beautiful Bill," which allocated \$1 billion for barracks maintenance and upgrades across all military branches, with an additional \$230 million earmarked for Marine barracks.

However, the watchdog questioned whether that funding would be sufficient. The Air Force alone, it said, faces a \$49.5 billion maintenance and repair backlog, citing service official Michael Saunders.

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MILITARY

DOD gets hypersonic missile defense radar

Radar can track objects moving over 5 times speed of sound

By LARA KORTE
Stars and Stripes

A radar system that can track missiles flying five times the speed of sound has been delivered to the U.S. military, marking a major upgrade to one of the its most essential missile defense systems.

The new version of the AN/TPY-2 radar comes with a complete gallium nitride-populated array, allowing it to track smaller objects at greater distances, manufacturer Raytheon said in a statement announcing the handover of the first system to the Missile Defense Agency.

It's the most advanced version of AN/TPY-2 that the company has built, said Sam Deneke, Raytheon's president of air and space defense systems.

The agency first awarded Raytheon a \$14.9 million contract in 2016 to incorporate gallium into the radar system. In 2020, the company received a \$2.3 billion contract for seven gallium nitride-based radars as part of a foreign military sale to Saudi Arabia.

The radar system has long been the primary tracking device for Terminal High Altitude Area Defense systems, or THAADs, which are deployed in several other countries, including Israel.

Both Russia and China have



Raytheon

Raytheon recently delivered a new radar to the Missile Defense Agency, the company said in a statement.

“Russia has developed and deployed a nuclear-armed hypersonic weapon that holds the U.S. mainland at risk from a highly survivable nuclear first strike.”

Michael E. White
Atlantic Council

highly advanced hypersonic missile arsenals, and Iran claims to have developed similar capabilities.

In March, a think tank report said the U.S. must make development of hardware to counter hypersonic missiles a national

priority to alleviate what it called an “unacceptable asymmetry.”

“Russia has developed and deployed a nuclear-armed hypersonic weapon that holds the U.S. mainland at risk from a highly survivable nuclear first strike,” Atlantic Council report

author Michael E. White said.

The same month the report was issued, the Missile Defense Agency and the Navy conducted a successful hypersonic missile defense test near Hawaii, tracking a simulated projectile from the USS Pinckney.

Protecting against hypersonic missiles has been a key point of discussion in President Donald Trump's initiative to install a defense system known as the “Golden Dome” over the continental U.S.

The missiles can fly at speeds of Mach 5 or faster and are harder to detect than traditional ballistic missiles because of their low flight paths and ability to maneuver.

In recent years, the defense

industry has turned to gallium-based semiconductors to develop advanced radar to track the high-speed projectiles.

The Missile Defense Agency has also been using gallium nitride as part of its effort to modernize radar capabilities in the Patriot defense system.

This is the 13th AN/TPY-2 radar the company has delivered, though it's unclear when the other 12 will receive upgrades.

The agency's 2025 budget called for an additional \$29 million to support replacement of the outdated radars with the gallium nitride versions.

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Unit threatens to fire soldiers after ‘extreme’ profanity

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

An Army unit at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., has barred its soldiers from cussing and threatened those that repeatedly break the new rule with involuntary separation from the service.

The initial entry training post's 43rd Adjutant General

Battalion installed the rare swearing ban for its soldiers last month after the completion of a climate and culture investigation initiated to probe complaints of “extreme use of profanity,” Tiffany Wood, a spokeswoman for Fort Leonard Wood, said May 20. The battalion is responsible for accepting new Army recruits

into the service and in-processing them before they begin basic training.

The policy bans the use of “profanity, vulgar language [and] rude gestures or remarks” for soldiers while they are on duty, according to an April 17 memorandum that was circulated online via social media. “Vul-

gar or offensive language” is also barred on clothing and personal items in the battalion's work areas.

“All soldiers, trainees and employees deserve to be treated with dignity and respect when performing their duties or operating in the 43rd AG Battalion (Reception),” the memo reads. “The most productive work environment is one where employees and soldiers treat each other as they would like to be treated.”

Wood said unit leadership consulted with Army lawyers and Army Training and Doctrine Command regulations before implementing the policy. However, she said the policy was under review by leadership at Fort Leonard Wood's Maneuver Support Center of Excellence, which oversees the battalion and other units that train recruits

and soldiers at the post.

The policy includes a “four strike” system, which applies punitive actions based on how many times a soldier is caught swearing. Soldiers face verbal counseling the first time, written counseling for a second offense and “removal of favorable actions” — things like pending promotions or awards — for a third violation. A fourth infraction could mean the end of a soldier's Army career, according to the policy, which states that strike four results in “separation for misconduct based on a pattern of behavior.”

Wood said that, so far, no soldiers have received official punishment or been kicked out of the Army for violating the no-expletives policy.

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