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VOLUME 17 NO. 8

NOVEMBER 14 – NOVEMBER 27, 2022

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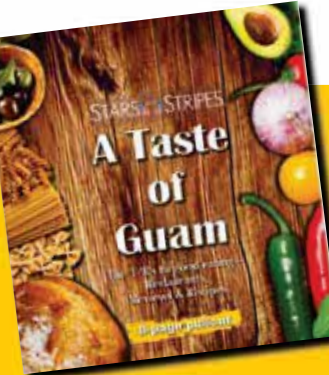
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## JAPAN FALL FEST RETURNS NOV. 19 Pages 8 – 9



*Priest's Pools*

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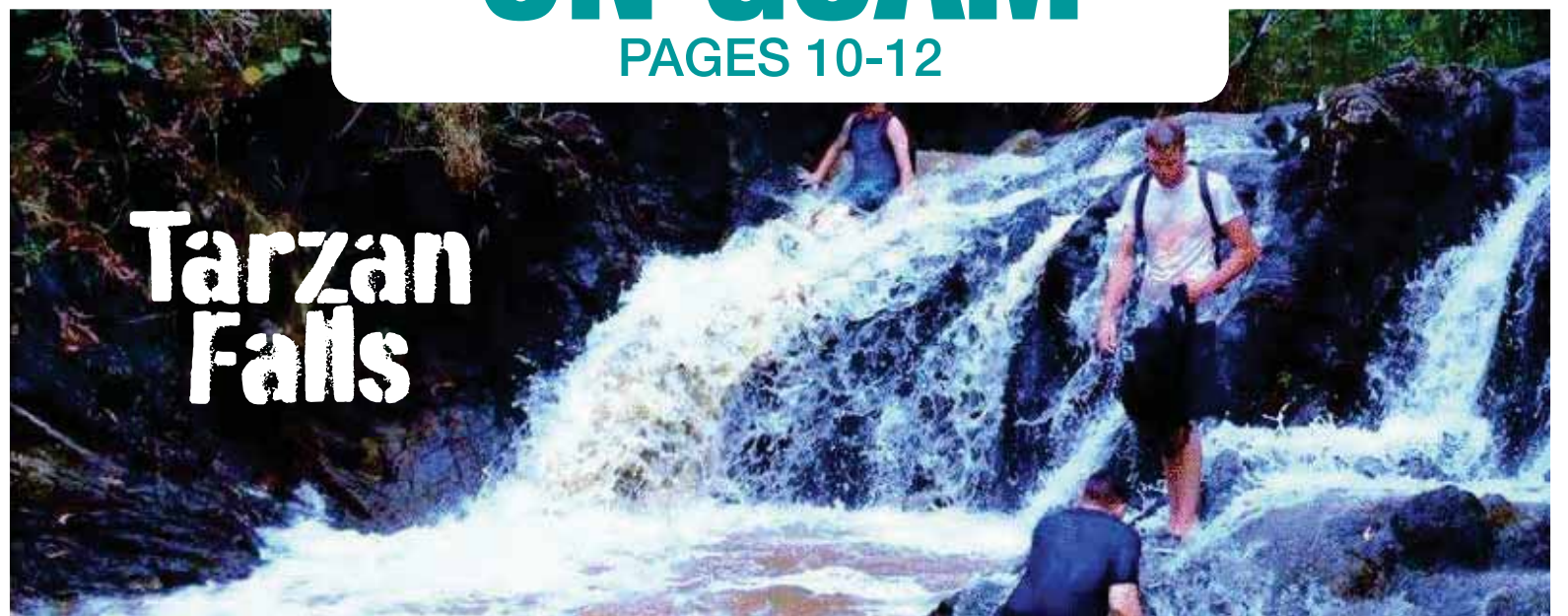
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# To the friend I ignore: It's not you, it's moving

Dear [insert friend's name here],

I can see it in your eyes. You're not happy. You think I've been ignoring you. You think I'm an awful friend.

Not long ago, we were close. We talked on the phone. We had lunch. We met at the gym. We exchanged texts. I showed interest in your life.

But recently, I've been aloof. I haven't called. I stopped meeting you for coffee. I didn't "Like" that photo of your kids on Instagram.

To be quite honest, I haven't given you a second thought.

But before you jump to conclusions, let me assure you: I'm not tired of you. I'm not hanging out with other friends. And I most certainly haven't forgotten about you. The fact is, I haven't been thinking much about you, or anyone else for that matter, because our family is moving again.

Including [insert transitional housing, e.g.: those months we lived in that creepy, shag carpeted townhouse before we closed on our first house, and the half year we rented that funky beach shack in Florida while waiting for base housing], our military family has moved [insert number, e.g., 11] times since my spouse and I married [insert number e.g., 29] years ago.

I'm not bellyaching. Many military families have moved a lot more than we have, others less. Besides, I've enjoyed every place we've lived. Well, except for [insert worst housing, e.g., that townhouse. We had to clap twice before entering the kitchen to scare off roaches, and it smelled like pickled mothballs].

Frankly, it doesn't really matter how many times a military family moves. What matters is that every move - whether it's overseas or across town - is a big ordeal. The kind of thing that destroys daily routines, challenges the strongest coping skills and turns grown adults into moody little brats.

It happens every time my [husband/wife] receives orders. My behavior doesn't change at first, but as our move dates get closer and closer, I slowly withdraw into my own chaotic, stressed, little world. My normal everyday thoughts about [insert thoughts, e.g., dog hair, power walks, coffee, defrosting chicken, Friday night fire pits] - are slowly replaced,

## The Meat and Potatoes of Life

Lisa Smith Molinari



one by one, with frantic ramblings and strange inner voices, until I become a military spouse precariously perched on the threshold of moving insanity.

"How did we accumulate all this crap? We need more plastic storage bins! What if I forget to call about turning off the cable? We have to spackle that hole in the wall before the housing inspection! What if we go over the weight limit again?"

Why haven't I taken the stickers off the furniture from our last move?!"

Be forewarned. In the days before the packers arrive, I'll become so self-absorbed, I'll be incapable of normal social interaction. In a subconscious attempt to repel other humans and thereby minimize distractions, I'll stop showering, brushing my hair and applying deodorant. I'll become so hell-bent on using up our food, I'll concoct strange casseroles with things like pork chops, oyster crackers, canned green beans, raisins and tater tots. I'll walk around the house armed with Sharpie markers and a clipboard, muttering something about ziplock baggies and duct tape, my left eye twitching.

It's not a pretty sight. But at this point, I really don't care about my rat's nest hairdo, the drool on my chin, the neighborhood potluck, the next episode of "Survivor," or you. Because all I can think about is one thing: Our Next Move.

As I write this, I have exactly [insert number] days until the moving company arrives to pack up every coffee cup, photo album, extension cord, lounge chair, lampshade, screwdriver, textbook, holiday ornament, bicycle, pencil and picture frame we own.

The reason I like you is because you understand. Until our household goods arrive at their new destination, until we find the towels and sheets and dishes and TV remote and coffee maker, and until I flop down on the couch in our new home and take a deep breath - I won't realize how much I really miss you.

Thanks, my friend, for always forgiving me.

Read more of Lisa Smith Molinari's columns at: [themeatandpotatoesoflife.com](http://themeatandpotatoesoflife.com) and in Lisa's book, *The Meat and Potatoes of Life: My True Lit Com*  
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# LINEBACKERS OF THE WEEK

**SSgt Jordan Tschoepe**

## ‘Showing Airmen that doing hard work will pay off’



Staff Sgt. Jordan Tschoepe works at her computer.

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
AIRMAN 1ST CLASS BREANNA CHRISTOPHER VOLKMAR,  
U.S. AIR FORCE

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE – U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Jordan Tschoepe, the unit deployment manager assigned to the 736th Security Forces Squadron, was recognized as the 36th Wing’s Team Andersen Linebacker of the Week, at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, Oct. 20, 2022.

As the unit deployment manager, Tschoepe acts as a liaison for the unit commander ensuring all personnel and cargo meet deployment readiness preparation for international requirements. She composes Defense Readiness Reporting System-Strategic (DRRS)/American Expeditionary Forces reporting tool data for the 736 SFS, 36 WG and Pacific Air Forces. Tschoepe recently oversaw a 30-day joint nation training exercise and coordinated the DRRS, mission essential task listings and individual medical readiness updates for 21 members tasked in Australia. She exemplified the 36 WG’s mission to project airpower, expand combat capability and strengthen partnerships from the Forward Edge of the Indo-Pacific.

Additionally, Tschoepe manages PACAF’s highest operations tempo for the Indo-Pacific region, mobilizing 173 temporary duties and supporting 65 missions utilizing five unit type codes annually for the Indo-Pacific region.

“When I came to Andersen, it definitely changed my point of view on security forces,” said Tschoepe. “It’s not just the law enforcement now, but with the CRG, it shows me a different aspect of what security forces has as a whole.”

Finally, Tschoepe proved vital to the mission by instructing pre-deployment training courses for PACAF’s security forces regional training center, which trains up to 800 students annually and supports the regions subject matter exchange exercises. Her hard work provides an essential platform for the 36 WG commander’s priorities of designing and developing multi-capable Airmen, operationalizing the base, cultivating regional and local partnerships and advancing quality of life and quality of service.

“I think it’s important for NCO’s to lead by example,” said Tschoepe. “Being an NCO, you have Airmen underneath you, so you want to make sure you’re showing them that doing hard work will pay off.”

**Staff Sgt. Nicholas Greene**

## Airman setting good example for others

STORY AND PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS EMILY SAXTON,  
U.S. AIR FORCE

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE – U.S. Air Force, Staff Sgt. Nicholas Greene, the noncommissioned officer in charge of administration assigned to the 36th Contingency Response Squadron, was recognized as the 36th Wing’s Team Andersen Linebacker of the Week, at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, Oct. 20, 2022.

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.

After arriving at Andersen AFB in January 2022, Greene has been the sole member responsible for liaising with Military Personnel Flight for the 36 CRS. He manages commanders’ programs including evaluations, decorations, leave and sponsorship for 67 members. Greene directly supports the commander and director of operations, coordinating and scheduling calendar activities and events.

He has processed over 200 Military Personnel Data System

duty titles, ratee changes and conducted 12 final out processing’s. Additionally, Greene is the records management custodian responsible for physical and legal custody of all records within the unit. He built the units electronic records management from the ground up.

“My favorite part about my current job is that I get to work with multiple people through various air force specialty codes,” said Greene.

Greene recently led personnel support for contingency operations for the operational readiness exercise, usually conducted by a personnelist, which proves the multi-capable Airman concept. He accomplished 12 accountability checks for 107 members across five squadrons, while assisting the command and control mission planning team. Greene has dedicated time to mentoring others, leading resiliency events for 15 personnel. His efforts led to him getting coined by the group commander.

“If I’m putting out a good example of how to conduct myself or how to work, then maybe it’ll be contagious and everyone can follow that same model,” said Greene.



Staff Sgt. Nicholas Greene sits at the front desk of the CRS.

**Staff Sgt. Barry East**

## ‘It’s equal parts exciting and terrifying’



Staff Sgt. Barry East works on a server at Andersen Air Force Base.

STORY AND PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS EMILY SAXTON,  
U.S. AIR FORCE

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE – U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Barry East, the noncommissioned officer in charge of health information systems assigned to the 36th Healthcare Operations Squadron, was recognized as the 36th Wing’s Team Andersen Linebacker of the Week, at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, Oct. 5, 2022.

Since arriving at Andersen AFB in 2019, East has served as the NCOIC of health information systems, overseeing three contractors, supporting 13 clinics and 36,000 annual appointments. As an information technology and asset manager, East reduces network vulnerabilities, and repairs hardware and software issues. He recently guided the group through a major server upgrade, improving the care of 5,700 beneficiaries. East has also identified a vulnerability due to the implementation of new software and developed a resolution, resetting the equipment and reestablishing connectivity. Due to his initiative, East mitigated a complete network

outage with no interruption to patient care.

Additionally, East instructs the Air Force Patient Safety course and conducts monthly training for 192 medical staff members. He serves as the program manager for two contingency support vehicles, in support of 24/7 emergency response, two operation plans and human disaster relief patient transport.

“If the network goes down, that’s something I have to figure out, and if I don’t figure it out were not doing patient care,” said East. “It’s equal parts exciting and terrifying.”

Furthermore, East has been the sole information technology support for two months due to a staff turnover and led the 36th Medical Group through the Office 365 migration. He assisted users through the transition, as half of the staff experienced complications. Lastly, East serves as the group’s soccer coach, leading joint members across four units. He has supported multiple morale and resiliency events by organizing and cooking food for 81 unit members.

“Everything is like a puzzle that I have to figure out,” said East. “Every day is something a little new.”





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# 4 RS Crows return from deployment

BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS EMILY SAXTON,  
36TH WING

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE  
— After spending over four months deployed to Yokota Air Base, Japan, the 4th Reconnaissance Squadron “Crows” and their RQ-4 Global Hawks have returned to home station at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam.

The 4 RS deploys annually from Guam to Japan in order to avoid the seasonal typhoon weather commonly found in Guam during the summer season. This year, the Crows were able to fly 46 effective combat reconnaissance missions, with each sortie often exceeding 24 hours in duration.

“The Crows continue to astound me with their exceptional performance,” said Lt. Col. John C. Wright, 4 RS commander. “The quiet professionalism of these folks means they don’t brag or boast about what they do; they simply come together and get the mission done.”

Each year, the 4 RS deploys its own equipment, personnel and aircraft from Andersen AFB forward to Yokota.

The 374th Airlift Wing at Yokota hosts the 4 RS each year and provides critical additional support in the form of space, equipment, personnel and administrative support.

“The 374th Airlift Wing folks



Family and friends greet members of the 4th Reconnaissance Squadron returning from deployment at Andersen Air Force Base. Courtesy photo

are simply the best there is,” said Wright. “We really couldn’t do what we do without them, and our relationship we’ve built over the years acts as a force multiplier out here in America’s most consequential area of responsibility.”

The 4 RS has deployed to Japan nearly every year since 2014 and have navigated difficult COVID-19 mitigation measures throughout the years. This year, Japan has slowly dialed back the severe countermeasures and the

squadron successfully deployed over 80 personnel from May to October.

“After another deployment in the books, the Crows did not disappoint,” said Lt. Col. Cory Turner, 4 RS director of operations.

**“The Crows are always happy when we get to migrate south and rejoin our loved ones.”**

— Lt. Col. Cory Turner

“This year we really stepped up our moving target indicator along with our synthetic aperture radar imagery collection of our adversaries in the region. Basically, no one makes a move without us looking over their shoulder. The amount of quality ISR data we provide to the combatant command is unmatched and our annual deployment plays a huge part of making our mission so successful. That being said, the Crows are always happy when we get to migrate south and rejoin our loved ones.”

The RQ-4 Global Hawk is a high-altitude intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance remotely piloted aircraft capable of flying missions over 28 hours in duration at altitudes over 50,000 feet. The RQ-4 has been stationed at Andersen since 2010.

## IS FOR VETERAN

When we’re thanked for our service  
we reflect on how we served.

The way we had to break in boots.  
The times we gathered up our nerve.

The nicknames that made us laugh.  
The smell of chili mac MREs.

The pride we felt with that first oath.  
The friendships that came to be.

So, at the game, when we’re asked to stand,  
it’s not applause that’s in my sight.

I’m looking around for you, my friend,  
to see who’s on my left and right.



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Photos courtesy of Japan Club of Guam

BY TAKAHIRO TAKIGUCHI,  
STRIPES GUAM

With the cheerful beat of taiko drums, lyrical tunes of traditional Japanese music and carnival foods from the Land of the Rising Sun, Nihon-jin Akimatsuri is back Nov. 19 on Guam following a 2-year absence! Akimatsuri is a Japanese traditional festival to welcome the arrival of autumn. On the island, The Japan Club of Guam, a local group of Japanese companies and individuals, has hosted the celebration every year since 1979 at Ypao Beach Park on the third or fourth Saturday of November. The festival offers a rare glimpse of Japanese culture by

condensing a variety of seasonal activities such as bon odori dancing and mikoshi-carrying into a single event tailored to Guam. During the event, attendees can expect plenty of food and game booths, as well as a lot of entertainment on the main stage. The festival originally started as a small Japanese community event to give children a taste culture from the Land of the Rising Sun. It has grown year after year, and today it is considered the island’s largest annual festival - enjoyed not only by Japanese but also a lot of locals and tourists. The event draws more than 30,000



people every year, according to organizers. The festivities were canceled in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID-19.

After its 2-year absence, the festival will be held from 4:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Nov. 9 at Governor Joseph Flores Beach Park, aka

Ypao Beach Park. With the theme of “Guam, Reboot!! 2022,” it also marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of The Japan Club of Guam. “With the pandemic, we couldn’t host Akimatsuri for the past 2 years, although we had planned and prepared for the event,” said Kimi Passauer, spokesman for JCG. “So, we all are very excited to host it again to show the Japanese festival culture and traditions to the people on Guam.” Traditional “bon odori” dancing is at the core of the festival – literally. Colorful lanterns will adorn the site as taiko drummers and



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→ well-trained dancers in summer kimonos perform on a central stage. People will start dancing around the stage – and you should join in. Even if you don't know how to dance, dancers on stage and around you will show you how to perform the traditional moves.

There will also be various performances, including Japanese folk dancing, Hula dancing, wa-daiko drum performance, as well as a tuna filleting event. For this year's event, a couple of Japanese groups from Japan will demonstrate their dojosukui (scooping loaches) and hula dances, while a team from Saipan will perform its Saipan Awa Odori dancing.

Another main event is the festive parading of "mikoshi," or portable shrines, throughout the festival. There will be three local groups carrying mikoshi - one made up of children from the Japanese School of Guam, another



with all women and the last one all men. You'll enjoy watching the groups carry the mikoshi from one end of the festival grounds to the other gleefully cheering "wasshoi! wasshoi!"

Plenty of food and game booths will also be on hand around the main stage. Stir-fried "yakisoba" noodles, skewered chicken "yakitori," cold beer and soft drinks are some of the traditional Japanese festival foods that will be offered. These foods will be prepared by local Japanese restaurants and food shops, while drinks have

been donated by Japanese and local companies.

The Japanese Chefs Association will demonstrate filleting a whole maguro (tuna) and 1,000 packs of maguro sashimi (raw fish) will be given to visitors free of charge during the festival.

For the kids (old and young), there are game booths to enjoy, from scooping up goldfish, rubber balls and small dolls, to ring tossing, putting golf balls and shooting hoops.



Since food and game booths will not accept cash, you'll need to buy tickets at the entrance to the event. Tickets will be sold in groups of 10 for \$10 each.

**Get your tickets in advance to avoid a long line at the ticket booth. You can buy tickets at the Japan Club of Guam or Pier Marine [1st floor] (Mon – Tue and Thu – Fri, 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., till Nov. 18.) and Tokyo Mart in Tamuning (10 a.m. – 8 p.m., till Nov. 18) or Japanese School in Guam (8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., till Nov. 16.)**



**AUTUMN FEST WEBSITE**

"A nice uchiwa fan with illustrations by students from Japanese School of Guam will be distributed to those who buy the tickets on a first come first served bases," Passauer said.

Parking is available at the lot



across from Payless OKA supermarket, and a free shuttle service will ferry festival goers to and from the event every 10 minutes from 4 p.m. - 10:15 p.m. (\*You are encouraged to use this shuttle service as a road near Ypao Beach Park is partially closed due to construction.)

According to Passauer, there are no plastic bags available at the festival site, so attendees are encouraged to bring an ECO bag to carry their food and goods.

For more information about Aki-matsuri, visit <https://guamjpc.org/#taguchi.takahiro@stripes.com>



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## Priest's Pools

Seven freshwater pools with  
waterfalls in the South of Guam



### Quick Stats

**Location:** Merizo  
**Region:** Southwest  
**Difficulty:** Easy  
**Length:** 10-15 minutes to the pools, 25 minutes to the bottom  
**Height:** 120 feet up & down (if you climb ALL the way down), 40 feet staying within the first 5 pools  
**Sight:** Waterfalls, freshwater  
**TIPS:** These waterfalls and pools are much fuller after a nice big rain – explore them then!

### Directions

#### FROM THE NORTH:

Take Marine Corps Drive South and turn left at the Big Navy Base light. Go straight for 25 minutes, passing Agat, rolling hills on your left, Umatac, and entering Merizo.

After you see the “Welcome To Malesso” sailboat sign you will pass houses, the Merizo Pier on your right, C&J Burgers on your left, and then will see a beautiful white catholic church (San Dimas).

Turn left up the hill just after the church.

As you reach the top of the hill you will pass one street and playground on your left. Take the left directly after the playground. Drive to the end of the street (do not drive up the private driveway) and park to the left, facing the beetle nut trees & shrubs.

Begin your very short hike walking along the driveway, then going straight into the grass as the driveway veers to the right. **1**

You may see this sign to your right as you begin the trail. **2**

Follow the trail.

Take a look at the beautiful plants in the meadows of this hike. On this particular hike the grasses were tall and bright green, but sometimes its a meadow full of orchids and wildflowers. Sometimes it's brown and barren after a wildfire. **3**

Go straight ahead once you get into the clearing. The area to your left is cleared to protect the homes from grass fires.

Meadows. **4**

There are a few ways to get there. All the trails should start towards the right then veer to the left, down around the little hill, into a little valley. **5**

#### ONE WAY TO GO:

Hike up this eroded hill and keep going along the trail. **6**

When you begin to enter the valley, listen quietly for the sounds of a river flowing. **7**

After a few minutes you will discover a nice large natural pool.

You may jump into this pool as long as you identify the submerged rocks to your left and jump over them, into the middle of the pool. Climb in and swim around first to verify that you'll be safe. **8**

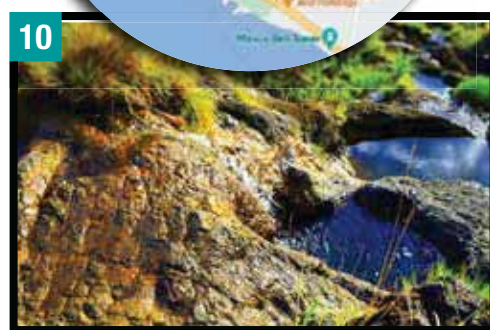
Here is the first waterfall that feeds into the large, main pool as it is in the dry season. During the wet season after a large rain this waterfall is much more active. **9**

Here is the second full pool (there is a short waterway between this one and the main one). It is pretty small but believe it or not, one can actually jump into it from the rock on the left side of the picture. **10**

#### 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,

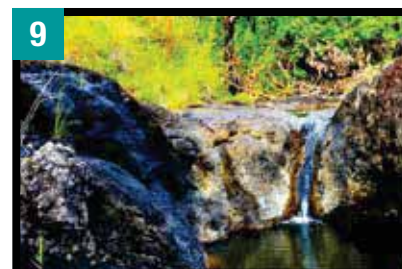


although the first pool is the largest.

Be careful as the rock can be very slippery when wet.

To hike out, go back the way you came.

These beautiful fresh water pools are named after the Spanish colonial priests who used to bathe here in the late 1600's.





↘

Tarzan Falls

Quick Stats

**Location:** Santa Rita

**Region:** Central

**Difficulty:** Easy – Medium in sunny weather & staying on trail, Difficult when raining, or after heavy rains & climbing down falls via rope

**Length:** 3 Hours

**Height:** 300 feet up & down

**Sight:** Waterfalls, Fresh Water

**COOL STUFF:** Rock climbing, secret water slide

Directions

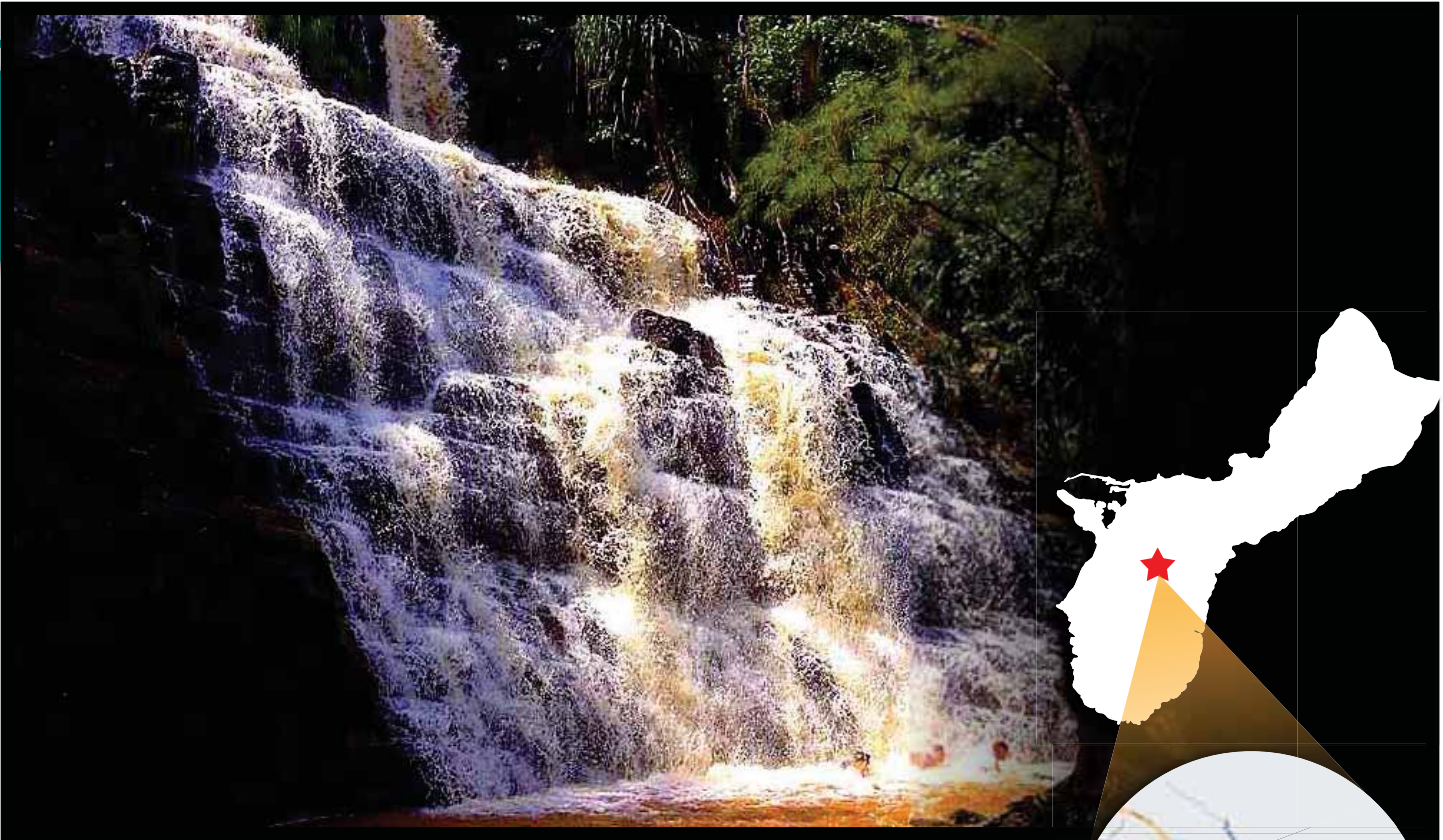
**FROM THE NORTH:**

Drive all the way to the Southern end of Marine Corps Drive. At the Big Navy Base, turn left. You will pass Pizza Hut on your left. At the light and at the Mobil Gas Station (on your left), turn left. Follow the road until you see a poster-sign that says “Santa Rita” on it, and turn left there. Take this road for a good 20 minutes. After the twists and turns and uphill driving you will get to a level straight away with grass on the sides of the road (no longer homes). There will be red dirt for parking and a large trail opening where the Tarzan Falls trail begins.

Hike summary

This walk offers beautiful views of the river, many waterfalls, and Guam’s tropical foliage and offers some lovely places to swim. It is a very muddy hike usually, extra-specially so after a good rain. Make sure to wear tennis shoes and clothes you don’t mind getting very dirty. There are a few fairly steep hills to walk down and back up again, so keep that in mind if you have any joint issues.

This hike shows you one incredible waterfall and other medium-to-small falls farther down the river (one of which can be used as a water slide!). You can take a trail all the way down and along the river (for about an hour to an hour and a half) until you reach a final waterfall, that is quite complicated (and not worth it!) to climb down.



**TO BEGIN:**

Walk along the red dirt trail. After a rainy day the path will be extremely muddy and flooded with water. **1**

The left side has less flooding, while some spots on the right side can be so flooded that you have to walk through waist-deep water!

Walk down the many hills (choose any path, they all go to the same place) until you reach a river that runs over large, flat stone. The right-side trails seem to be the least steep. A couple of the center trails (the middle of three directions) have large tire marks that can be fun for sliding down, if conditions are wet enough. **2**

When you reach the river, this is what you see when you look to the right: **3**

**EASY OPTION:**

Go straight over the river to find the easy trail. Find the markers among the trees and follow them down.


**HARD OPTION:**

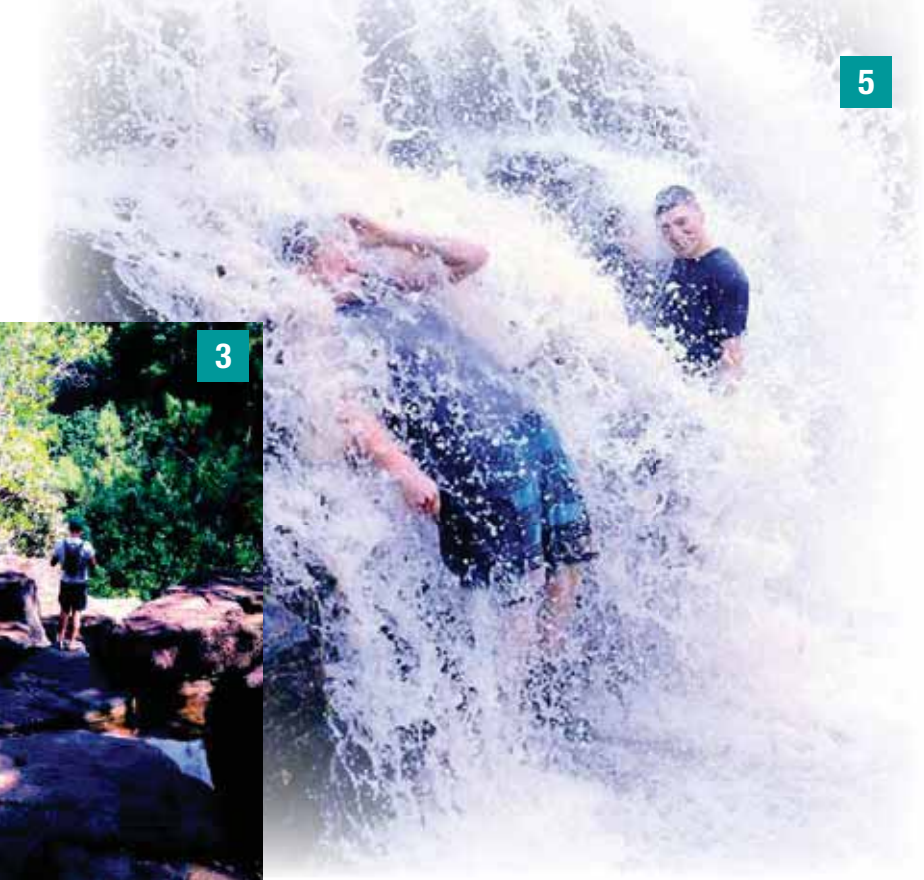
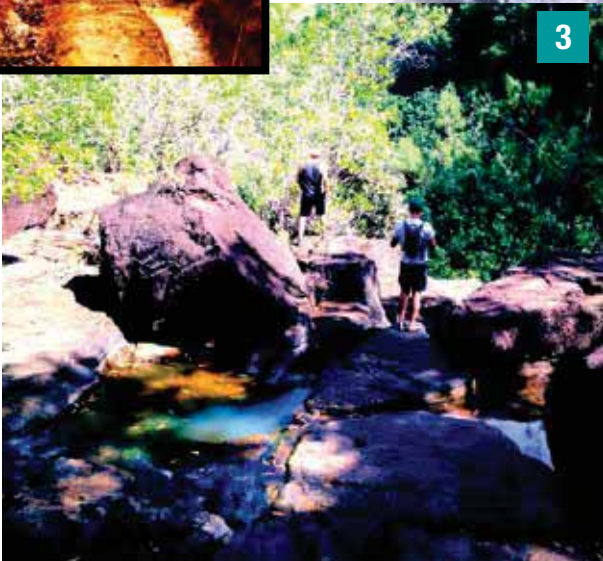
Climb down the waterfall to your right, following the river down (where the above hikers are) for the difficult climb down.

First you will climb down to a ledge where you can rest before the rope climb down. **4**

Have fun carefully standing close to the wall to feel the water fall heavy around you. **5**

**SEE FALLS ON PAGE 12**









## FALLS: Beauty in the jungle

### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

You will find a rope to climb down the steep falls. **6**

Do not jump down at the bottom of the waterfall, the water is not deep enough!

Climb down to your right where the rock creates a long, curved shelf. **7**

After you walk (via the trail) or climb down, enjoy the large pool at the base of this magnificent waterfall. If there's been rain and the waterfall is heavy, pop your head up into the little air pocket where the water falls away from the rock.

Keep walking downstream either on the trail on the left (facing downstream) or through the water.

Finally, you will reach a second, medium-sized waterfall. Here you can find a secret

water slide! At this second water fall (shown in the photo below), walk across very carefully to the far right of the river (facing downstream). Be careful not to step in a deep hole near where the water starts falling down the rocks. Sit down in the spot that seems like a perfect cubby-seat and scoot your way forward until the water takes you away! It should be obvious if there is enough water flow for this to work!

To keep walking downstream from here without walking through the water, you can walk to the left side, but be careful of extremely the slippery rocks right off this waterfall.

Keep walking downstream and find another little waterfall.

Climb down very carefully. This one can be tricky because after some rain the left side is very slippery and the waterfall is overflowing with water.

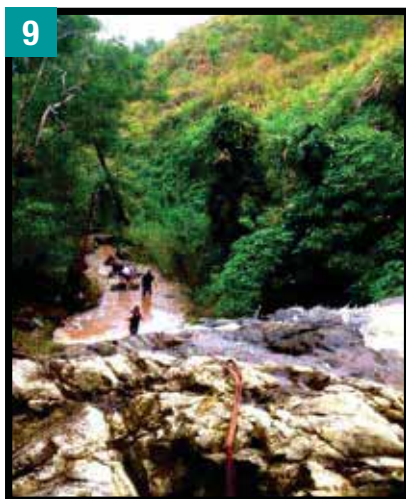
In the dry season, tall people (shown below) can climb the dry section of this waterfall. **8**

You will then be at the top of another very tall waterfall. We suggest you end your hike here and sit down to enjoy a snack as you gaze out over the trees and river. This waterfall is dangerous to climb down and, although it's possible to do, you don't see much else once you're down there. **9**

When you are ready to return, walk all the way back until the first main waterfall is just in view again. Get onto the river path on the right side of the river (facing upstream) and walk up the hill, following the markers as you go.

Cross back over the river, over the stone, and start your trek back up those hills. Choose any path since they all go to the same place. It seems the left-side trails (facing uphill) are usually less steep than the others. Enjoy!

This waterfall in wet conditions.





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# 'That's not in my spending plan'

BY JESSICA BENDA,  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Hey, remember that Palm Springs trip your friends always talk about taking but never put on the calendar? It's actually happening. And while that upscale hotel sounded divine over 1 a.m. nachos, some people are worried for their wallets now that trip planning has truly begun.

Varying expectations kill week-end trips. Different income levels, spontaneous add-on activities and not budgeting add stress to what's supposed to be a fun getaway. Yet we tend to avoid financial conversations with friends because they're uncomfortable, even

though they'd make everyone more comfortable in the long run.

"We really can't talk about money without talking about the emotions of money," says Becky White, founder and chief executive of Los Angeles-based Root to Rise Therapy. "A lot of people aren't used to being upfront about where they're at and what they can budget for, and the fact that we're all in really different places."

While you don't need to pass around your paychecks, it's helpful to gauge how much each person on the trip is willing to spend. White recommends changing the language we use to discuss money: Instead of saying, "I can't afford that," try, "That's



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STARS AND STRIPES





→ not in my spending plan.” This switch shifts the focus to what you’re willing to spend rather than what you can spend.

Keep in mind that finances are just the tip of the iceberg, says Gita Bhatia, who has a doctorate of psychology and practices in Los Angeles. The discomfort wrapped up in talking about money isn’t often about money itself — it’s about the power struggles that come with it.

“It’s the other stuff: How people have grown up, what their family’s attitude towards money is. All of those things are not apparent to most of us,” Bhatia says. “Even within relationships, one person has more ease of spending money, another person may have a lot of fear attached to money. So there’s deeper things that sometimes get touched on without people being aware.”

A vacation with friends is a lifelong memory at best and severs relationships at worst. To keep your time together as stress-free as

possible, try these financial tips:

#### PLAN AHEAD

Are you staying at a high-end bungalow or cramming into the cheapest Motel 6 you can find? What activities are you doing? How much are you willing to spend on dinner? Some may be able to pull off spur-of-the-moment Vegas trips, but don’t assume everyone can. Talk about these factors in advance.

While we often want to be spontaneous, planning ahead gives friends time to budget, says Flynnanced founder Cinneah El-Amin, who teaches working women how to build wealth and save for travel. El-Amin notes that not everyone has disposable income to spend on an Airbnb or flights right away, so time is essential.

The biggest challenge often is getting on the same page about expectations and finding ways to merge the desires of luxury and budget travelers.

“If you don’t set those expectations early on in the planning

process, it can lead to people feeling like they’re spending more than they want to, they are spending more than they can afford to, or just not being able to attend altogether, which is not the best feeling,” El-Amin says.

In some cases, a friend might offer to cover another’s cost. This can provide a sense of relief but also shift the power dynamic, Bhatia says. “There are times that things will be easier for you, and sometimes it might not be as easy for me. So this time, it’s my turn to pitch in, and next time, maybe you can pitch in.”

If you offer to help a friend pay for a trip and they accept, swiftly follow up with the payment. It’s uncomfortable for a friend to have to ask for the money afterward, White notes.

#### DECIDE WHO’S BOOKING EVERYTHING — AND MAKE SURE THEY’RE PAID BACK

Someone has to risk putting down their credit card for the hotel. If that’s you, El-Amin suggests

waiting until you receive deposits from everyone else.

Once you agree on dates and pick lodging, give the group a deadline for payments. Once everyone has paid, then go ahead and book on your card. That way, you’re not left in a financially dire situation if friends bail — and people are more likely to commit to something they paid for. “If you’re going to put down this deposit, that really means that you’re serious about this trip,” El-Amin says.

Beyond lodging, other costs can snowball throughout the trip. Activities and meals often are put on one person’s card, which can become hard to keep track of, especially if different people pay for each event (then there’s the hassle of saving receipts). El-Amin and White both recommend apps like Splitwise, which helps log and divide payments between the whole group or specific members.

“That has been a huge lifesaver, especially amongst friend-group trips, because then there’s so much transparency around what people

owe,” El-Amin says. “And there’s not that awkward conversation after a trip being like, ‘Hey, girl, you still owe me for this.’” Integrate settling up into your departure day so that loose ends are tied up before everyone heads home.

#### DON’T BE AFRAID TO SPLIT UP

White remembers splitting the bill at a pricier-than-expected dinner and the sadness she felt about how her budget had been blown. While your friends are on a trip together, it’s OK to break into smaller groups to better fit one another’s budgets.

White advises being clear about your own boundaries. If the group decides to switch plans and splurge on fancy dining, especially while splitting the bill, others can try a cheaper restaurant. Don’t be afraid to do your own thing.

Mix in group activities or meals that everyone is comfortable with, White says.

“It’s so important to honor what it is you want to get out of your vacation and then have a lot of flexibility and patience for what other people’s needs might be,” she says.

#### STICK TO YOUR BUDGET

In her early 20s, El-Amin, now 28, used to travel spontaneously without knowing how she’d pay for it, but it led her into debt. Then she created a separate bank account where she’d deposit a bit of each paycheck to build up travel funds.

“Whether or not I have a trip that I’m actively planning, I’m still making sure that a portion of my paycheck is going towards saving for travel. I can take advantage when friends reach out to me or I see flight deals at a really cool place, I already know that I have the money,” El-Amin says.

Designating travel funds creates opportunity and sets financial boundaries. Going over budget on this vacation might mean sacrificing another trip later.

El-Amin also recommends investing in travel insurance on group trips. Say half the group gets COVID-19 and excursions are nonrefundable, then travel insurance could protect you.

#### WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS, STAY LEVEL-HEADED

It’s important to keep communicating every step of the way. Rising tensions may be due to issues building up over more than just money (like who got which room in the Airbnb or didn’t clean up after breakfast).

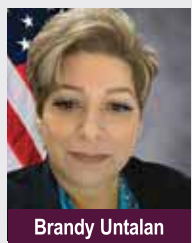
“Oftentimes, if there is an emotional reaction to something, it’s not just about one thing,” Bhatia says. “It could be about relationship issues that have come up before and may be a displaced reaction. They may be upset about something else, but that will be the one thing that they might focus on and the reason they got angry or upset.”

Bhatia recommends building in time for rest as well as active communication. “Talking things through makes for a better outing.”

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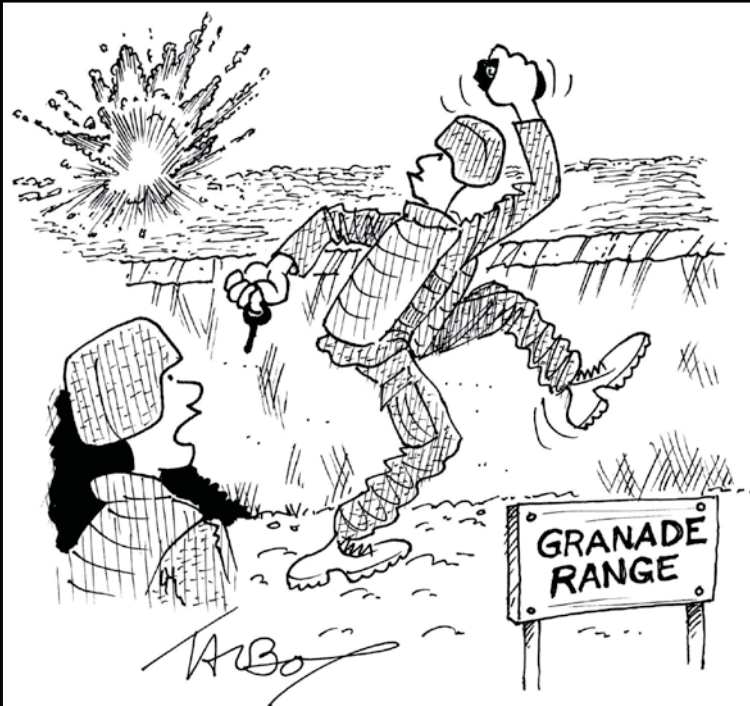


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– Daryl Talbot

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### GIZMO (short cream puppy)

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## Fouha

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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.

**November 19**  
**Fouha**

**Medium**  
**1.5 miles**

Explore an area that has a significant part in one of Guam's most enduring legends. We will head down a trail that will pop us right out onto the beach. From there we will journey to this legendary Fouha Rock. If the tide is right, we will continue to the pools to do some swimming. Very Kid friendly!

**Bring:** quarts water, hiking shoes, gloves, sun screen, snacks, and camera (Snorkel and/or kids floaters to swim if tide is right)

**Special Conditions:** Possible mud, walking through water, and steep slope up and down.

**Parking Location:** Google Maps or Apple Maps: 13.301649, 144.658951 (side of the road)

**November 26**  
**Togcha River**

**Difficult**  
**3 miles**

We travel through the river and vegetation to find caves & waterfalls. We will head up the Togcha River, going over and under vines, roots, and through mud. Along the way we will explore a few caves and then some waterfalls.

**Special Conditions:** Crawling through mud, steep slopes up and down, river walking, cave exploring, and Fire Ants. Bring: 3 liters water, sturdy shoes that can get wet, sun screen, insect repellent, lunch, headlamp, and camera. Long sleeves with hood and pants recommended for fire ants.

**Special conditions:** Sword grass, river crossing, rope climb, and a muddy swamp.

**Parking Location:** Google Maps or Apple Maps: 13.369352, 144.752569 (side of the road)



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by Margie E. Burke

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1 Pesters  
5 Bathroom item  
10 Left on board?  
14 Fairytale villain  
15 Biscuit topper  
16 Caesar's 57  
17 Change direction  
18 Braid, as a rug  
20 Not budging  
22 Drove round & round  
23 Lonely place?  
24 Fix, as leftovers  
26 Movie double, often  
29 Educator, briefly  
32 Barley bristle  
33 Confident  
37 Like some desserts  
39 Absconded with  
40 Drone, for one  
41 Incompatible  
44 AAA service  
45 Former "Tonight Show" host  
46 Formal ritual  
48 Driller's dream  
51 The Regal Beagle, e.g.  
52 Heart of the matter  
55 Zilch  
59 Dry white wine  
61 Superfruit berry  
62 Angelic feature  
63 Done to death  
64 Anagram for "nail"  
65 Black cat, to some  
66 Varieties  
67 Cutlass, e.g.

4 Sunday delivery  
5 Tibia locale  
6 Lowest female voice  
7 Crumb carrier  
8 Bloodsucker  
9 Lofty nest (var.)  
10 Guitar pick  
11 Cameo shape  
12 Tear to pieces  
13 In a dead heat  
19 Finishes filming  
21 Places for rent, briefly  
25 Uphold, as the law  
26 Wrapped garment  
27 Ribbed fabric  
28 State of disorder  
30 Like a long speech  
31 Record holder?  
34 Substitute delegate  
35 Oracle

36 Like morning grass  
38 Parasitic person  
42 Speaker output  
43 It's outstanding  
47 Hawaiian "thank you"  
49 Rag composer Joplin  
50 One of the Fondas  
52 Say again  
53 Pillow covering  
54 Red-tag event  
56 Court cry: Var.  
57 Freshwater worm  
58 Martini liquors  
60 Bite

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**Answers to Previous Crossword:**

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



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**Answer**

American Pharoah

## SUDOKU

Difficulty: Easy

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

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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:

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

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A detailed background collage featuring various food items arranged on a rustic wooden surface. In the top left, a small wooden bowl contains green and black olives. Below it, there are stacks of fusilli and farfalle pasta. To the right, a halved avocado, a red bell pepper, a purple onion, and a yellow cherry tomato are visible. A long green chili pepper runs vertically along the right side. In the bottom left, there is a large, golden-brown baked item, possibly a flatbread or pizza. At the bottom, several fresh fish and a crab are displayed.

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**4-page pullout**





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RESTAURANT INFO



BY RUEBEN OLIVAS,  
BBQGUAM

## Thanksgiving Dinner!

### Roasted Turkey...the Guam Firehouse Way!!

We love roasted turkey. And we don't wait for the holidays in order to enjoy it either. Sometimes we will BBQ the turkey low and slow, especially on a Kettle grill which seems to work out perfect for this. So we wanted to share with everyone our recipe for cooking a delicious, moist and crispy turkey.

First things first...

It is very important to defrost the turkey in refrigerator until completely thawed. This may take 2 days or more.

Soak turkey in brine overnight in the refrigerator. Use a container large enough for the turkey and brine.

#### Recipe for Brine

##### INGREDIENTS

- 1 gallon water
- 1-1/2 cups of kosher salt
- 2 cups of brown sugar
- Stir until seasoning is dissolved

##### DIRECTIONS

1. Adjust the brine to your individual taste. More salt, more brown sugar??
2. The brine ensures a very moist turkey as well as getting the seasoning to soak thoroughly into the meat, thus enhancing the flavor.
3. Next day take turkey out of the brine and allow to drain for about 1/2 hour in the refrigerator. The refrigerator will



dry out the skin and will give the roasted turkey a crispier skin.

4. Rub bird down, inside and out, with olive oil or canola oil.
5. Apply a medium amount of Santa Maria rub. Make sure that you rub under the skin of the turkey in the breast area.

#### Recipe for Rub

##### INGREDIENTS

- 1 tablespoon sea salt
- 1 tablespoons granulated garlic powder
- 1 tablespoon of Kosher Salt
- 1 tablespoon of granulated onion powder
- 1/2 teaspoon dried parsley, fine grind
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper, medium grind
- 1/4 teaspoon Accent (MSG) - optional

##### DIRECTIONS

1. Chop the parsley or crush it between your fingers to make it small enough to mix well with the other ingredients. Combine all ingredients and mix thoroughly. If you need larger amounts, just double or triple the ingredient amounts.
2. Set turkey on a roasting rack inside the roasting pan (must have cover).
3. Use two packages of Lipton's Onion Soup/Dip mix. Sprinkle one over the turkey. The other mix into 4 cups of water, minimum, and pour into the bottom of the roasting pan. You may need to add more water during

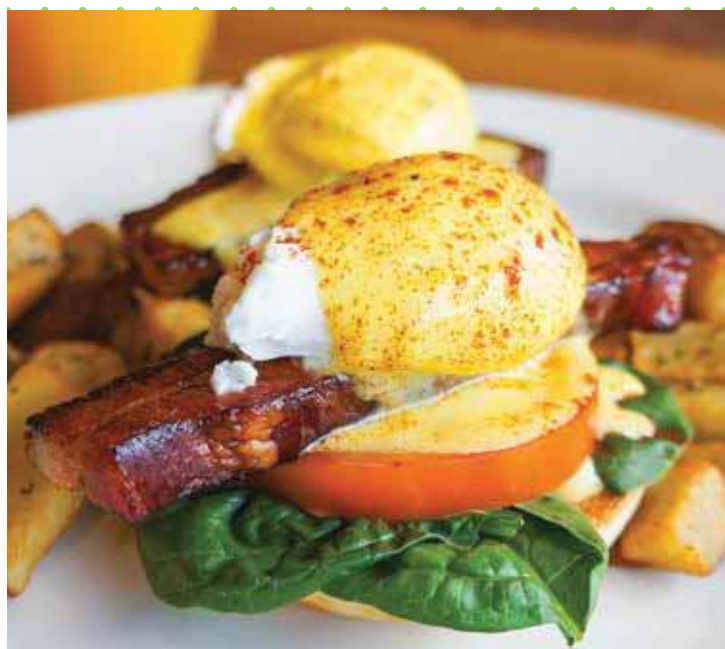
cooking. Do not allow the water to completely evaporate while roasting.

4. Place one stick of butter into the cavity of the turkey.
5. Place one stick of butter, 1/2 stick to each side, into the water of the roasting pan.
6. Preheat oven to 325 F.
7. Follow the cooking times for the turkey on the package.
8. Cook covered for half the recommended time and uncovered for the rest of the time. This will ensure a thoroughly cooked turkey that is also well browned.
9. Baste the turkey from time to time, while roasting, to get that shiny glaze on the skin. The butter in the water also helps crisp the skin.
10. Use a meat thermometer.
11. For a turkey with stuffing, insert meat thermometer into the center of the stuffing in the turkey cavity. The reading should be no less than 165 F.
12. For a turkey without stuffing, insert meat thermometer into the thickest part of the thigh, not on the bone. The reading should be no less than 185 F.
13. Once you reach these temperatures, take the turkey out of the oven and let it rest for about 1/2 hour.
14. If the wing tips and drumstick tips or any other part of the turkey start to get too dark while roasting, cover those parts with tin foil to avoid burning.
15. Use the turkey drippings in the roasting pan for your gravy.

I hope you enjoy my roast turkey recipe.

– [bbqguam.blogspot.jp](http://bbqguam.blogspot.jp)

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Volume 9 Edition 20 ©SS 2022

**GUAM EDITION**

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NOVEMBER 14, 2022



COURTNEY SEBASTIANELLI/U.S. Air Force

A row of A-10C Thunderbolt IIs sits at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, on Oct. 23. The Warthogs were sent to Guam in an effort to foster unpredictability in overseas deployments.

## Warthogs arrive on Guam

A-10's deploy to Andersen Air Force Base with aim  
of keeping adversaries guessing **Page 2**



## COVER STORY

# A-10's deployment aims to promote unpredictability

By **WYATT OLSON**  
*Stars and Stripes*

U.S. Air Force A-10 Thunderbolts arrived on Guam last month for a dynamic force employment operation that aims to foster unpredictability in overseas deployments, the service said in a news release.

The attack planes, part of the 23rd Air Expeditionary Wing, flew from Moody Air Force Base, Ga., to Andersen Air Force Base.

"The United States is committed to being ready to execute missions quickly in unpredictable ways and rapidly respond to adversary moves within and across theaters of operation," the release said.

The Air Force did not disclose the exact number of A-10s deployed to Guam. A photo posted on Andersen's Facebook page showed four of the aircraft — complete with their hallmark paintings of jagged teeth on their nose cones — lined up at the base.

Dynamic force employment "is designed as a way for Pacific Air Forces to exercise their ability to generate combat air power from dynamic force elements while continuing to move, maneuver and sustain these elements in geographically-separated and contested environments," the Facebook post stated.

The A-10, nicknamed "Warthog" for its aggressive maneuverability and those teeth, are designed for close air support of ground forces. It is highly effective against tanks and other armored vehicles and can operate at low speeds and altitude.



COURTNEY SEBASTIANELLI/U.S. Air Force

**An Air Force A-10 Thunderbolt II pilot calculates air time and determines status of aircraft upon arrival at Andersen Air Force Base in Guam, on Oct. 23.**

The aircraft arrived about a week after the Air Force deployed an undisclosed number of B-1B bombers from South Dakota to Guam for a bomber task force mission.

Bomber task force missions are intended to demonstrate the B-1B's "ability to rapidly deploy anywhere, anytime, and provide lethal precision global strike

options for combatant commanders," the Air Force said in an Oct. 21 news release.

The American territory of Guam is of growing importance to America's defense, according to the updated National Defense Strategy publicly released recently.

"Guam is home to key regional power projection platforms and

logistical nodes and is an essential operation base for U.S. efforts to maintain a free and open Indo-Pacific region," the document states. "Within the context of homeland defense, an attack on Guam or any other U.S. territory by any adversary will be considered a direct attack on the United States, and will be met with an appropriate response."

A \$1 billion effort to establish a comprehensive, integrated missile defense system for Guam is underway, an endeavor some lawmakers regard as urgent given North Korea's stepped-up missile testing and China's military ambitions in the region.

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## Army CID agents wrongly entered soldiers into criminal database

By **COREY DICKSTEIN**  
*Stars and Stripes*

Several hundred soldiers were wrongly entered into an FBI criminal database during a yearslong fraud investigation into a recruiting bonus program established at the height of the recent U.S. wars, Army officials said, citing initial findings of an ongoing review.

More than half of the 900-some cases reviewed to date by Army Criminal Investigations Division agents required some form of records correction after the soldiers were included in a 2012 to 2016 investigation of fraudulent payments made to troops participating in the recruiting program, CID Director Gregory Ford said. Those corrections include removing hundreds of names from the FBI's crime database known as the Interstate Identification Index, a tool used widely in the United States for job-related background checks, security clearance adjudication and during firearms purchases.

"It is clear we fell short in a large number of the investigations," said Ford, who in September 2021 became CID's first

civilian director. "We are dedicated to completing a review of our processes, policies and training to ensure that such errors do not ever occur again."

The CID director told reporters that he expected the vast majority of the agency's review of some 1,900 individual cases to be completed by the end of 2022.

Ford launched the new probe of the old investigation in June after learning some former soldiers had contacted CID under the belief their information was wrongly included in the FBI database. Former soldiers swept up in the probe have reported they had been held up from promotions in the military, rejected or fired from civilian jobs or denied concealed weapons permits after their information was discovered in the database, according to a 2020 review of the CID investigation published by St. Mary's University School of Law.

Ford encouraged anyone who believes their information was wrongly reported to the FBI database or included in other Pentagon databases to contact CID via its criminal records center website at [www.cid.army.mil/crc.html](http://www.cid.army.mil/crc.html).

While Ford admitted CID's wrongdoing in the cases, Army Lt. Gen. Douglas Stitt, the service's personnel chief, said his office would ensure the correction of military records.

However, the officials would not say whether the Army was prepared to financially compensate individuals wrongly listed in the FBI database.

Stitt said he was committed to helping those who were wronged. He said impacted individuals could perhaps file "a claim" for problems that they have faced while in uniform or after separating from the service.

"We're just trying to do the right thing," Brig. Gen. David Mendelson, a top Army lawyer, said. "This is about dignity and respect."

The problems stem from the massive CID investigation launched in 2012 into the Army National Guard's and Reserve's Recruiting Assistance Programs, which paid mostly part-time soldiers up to \$2,000 for providing recruiters information that led to people enlisting in the service.

The programs were launched in 2005, as the Army sought to drive up its Reserve

component recruitment efforts that had been hindered by deployments of National Guard and Reserve soldiers to the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The Army said about 109,000 National Guard members helped recruit more than 139,000 people into the service via the program. But CID was made aware in some cases individuals were collecting payment through the program for signing up new recruits with whom they'd never spoken.

Eventually, 137 troops were prosecuted for fraudulently receiving compensation via the program and 286 soldiers received nonjudicial punishments for their roles in the scam, Ford said.

What remains unclear is why hundreds of other soldiers who were cleared of wrongdoing during the investigation were never removed from the Pentagon's internal investigative database or from the FBI database. Ford said the ongoing review would not determine what led to those problems.

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## MILITARY

# Experts back US plan for basing B-52s in Australia

By SETH ROBSON  
Stars and Stripes

A plan to rotate U.S. B-52 bombers to Australia's Northern Territory shows the Pentagon has found a useful alternative to basing aircraft on Guam, according to security experts.

The plan for dry-season bomber rotations at Royal Australian Air Force Base Tindal south of Darwin was reported recently by Australian public broadcaster ABC.

Basing bombers in Australia would disperse U.S. forces across the Indo-Pacific region, said Ian Chong, an associate professor of political science at the National University of Singapore.

"That keeps a potential adversary guessing and perhaps discourages them from provocation," he told Stars and Stripes in an email. "Of course, with B-52s, there is the nuclear option as well."

The Pentagon in April budgeted \$14.4 million for the squadron's operations and maintenance facilities at Tindal, ABC reported.

New facilities, including a large parking apron able to accommodate B-52s, were under construction at the base in September. U.S.-funded airfield infrastructure at Tindal supports the rotational presence of a range of U.S. aircraft, Air Force Lt. Col. Martin Meiners, a Department of Defense spokesman, told Stars and Stripes by email.

"The [squadron operations] facility is required to support strategic operations and to run multiple 15-day training exercises during the Northern Territory

**"Important not to put all our eggs in Guam basket. Tindal provides alternative site and demonstrates Aussie commitment to alliance. Sends a strong message to China."**

Ralph Cossa  
president emeritus of the Pacific Forum think tank in Hawaii

dry season for deployed B-52 squadrons," said the ABC report, which cited unspecified American documents.

The Northern Territory's dry season spans the Southern Hemisphere's cooler months, from May to October.

U.S. bombers, including B-52s, have been visiting Australia since the early 1980s and training in Australia since 2005, the Australian Defence Department said in a statement emailed to Stars and Stripes.

Last year, both countries endorsed rotational deployments of U.S. aircraft of all types to Australia, according to the Australian statement. Future B-52 bomber rotations to the country would be consistent with both countries' longstanding objectives, it said.

That does not sit well with China, the rising power in the western Pacific and the "most



SETH ROBSON/Stars and Stripes

**A Royal Australian Air Force plane passes a worksite on RAAF Tindal, Australia, on Sept. 1. The space is being expanded to accommodate aircraft as large as U.S. Air Force B-52 bombers.**

consequential" challenger identified in the recently released U.S. National Defense Strategy.

"Such a move by the US and Australia escalates regional tensions, gravely undermines regional peace and stability, and may trigger an arms race in the region," China's Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told reporters, according to a transcript of his remarks on the ministry website.

The U.S. and Australia share concerns about Chinese aggression in the Taiwan Strait and South and East China Seas and efforts to build influence in the South Pacific.

Guam provides a mid-ocean platform for U.S. air power. Since 2004, Air Force bombers such as the B-1B Lancer, B-52 Stratofortress and B-2 Spirit have been frequent visitors to Guam. But China has the ability to strike U.S. forces on Guam and in the Far East with everything from ballistic missiles to maneuverable cruise and hypersonic missiles, then-Indo-Pacific Com-

mand chief Adm. Phil Davidson warned in September 2020.

Positioning B-52s in Australia gives U.S. airpower added survivability, Chong said.

"What this does, together with the basing of strategic bombers like the B-1 out of Guam, is to enhance the U.S. deterrence posture, since dispersal means that these aircraft and their bases are more difficult to take out at the start of a conflict and provide more alternative directions from which conventional stand-off strikes can occur," he said.

The range and versatility of B-52s, despite their age, means they have a potential role in a variety of scenarios — from the South China Sea and Taiwan through the East China Sea and Korean Peninsula, Chong said.

Bombers based at Tindal could also reach areas in the Indian Ocean, such as Pakistan, where China has been seeking to establish its forces, according to Paul Buchanan, a New Zealand-based U.S. security expert.

B-52s in Australia would re-

mind the Chinese that the U.S. can strike their mainland from there as well as from Guam, he said in an email.

"It seems that this is about adding another layer to the military ring-fencing of [China] in the Western Pacific," he said.

Tindal is beyond the reach of most Chinese conventional missiles and aircraft, according to Ross Babbage, a former Australian assistant defense secretary.

"It is not too distant to be far removed from potential areas of conflict," he said in an email.

Tindal is a good alternative to Andersen Air Force Base on Guam, according to Ralph Cossa, president emeritus of the Pacific Forum think tank in Hawaii.

"Important not to put all our eggs in Guam basket," he said in an email. "Tindal provides alternative site and demonstrates Aussie commitment to alliance. Sends a strong message to China."

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## AFN set to launch 'Now' streaming service after weeks of testing

By KELLY AGEE  
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — After nearly six weeks of testing by real users in the Pacific, the AFN Now streaming app is ready for its worldwide debut, executives with American Forces Network told Stars and Stripes.

The new app became available Oct. 7 and delivers AFN entertainment and news to viewers' smartphones and other mobile devices, network spokesman John Clearwater said in an email.

AFN was "working closely" with professional sports and hoped to obtain streaming rights for the app by the time it launched, he said, adding that the

network hopes to stream the Super Bowl on Feb. 12.

AFN Now offers a selection of the programming available on the AFN TV network, including popular programs such as "Jeopardy," "Entertainment Tonight," news programming like "60 Minutes," reality TV series, movies and documentaries.

"In just a few minutes users can be watching their favorite shows at the times and locations most convenient to their lifestyles," Clearwater said.

Users need only a mobile device, a network connection and to be verified in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System, or DEERS, to regis-

ter with the app.

AFN Now is free to download from Google Play and the App Store and is compatible with Apple and Android smartphones, tablets, some smart TVs and other in-home media devices, including AppleTV, Roku and Amazon Fire. The network also plans to offer the app through gaming consoles like the Xbox and PlayStation, Clearwater said.

AFN began testing the app with its Pacific audience Sept. 20 and is gaining about 250 to 300 viewers a week, Kimberly Antos, AFN chief of digital platforms, told Stars and Stripes by phone.

"We had a lot of feedback from the

audience, which is great," she said of the Pacific trial. "And they were able to help us identify a couple of issues that I think helped to smooth out the process."

For example, the AFN team monitoring the trial found the app was taking a significant amount of time to open and load content, an issue called latency, but audience feedback allowed AFN to remedy the problem within a day, Antos said.

The network established a help line, at (571) 559-1415, a U.S. number accessible to overseas callers.

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## MILITARY



PHOTOS BY JONATHAN SNYDER/Stars and Stripes

The Japanese team goes all in at tug of war on Sports Day at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan.

## US, Japanese troops take the field for Sports Day contests

By JONATHAN SNYDER  
*Stars and Stripes*

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI, Japan — U.S. Marines and sailors met Japanese sailors at this base south of Hiroshima for a friendly “Undokai” competition.

Undokai is Sports Day in Japan, traditionally a day for team-building events at elementary schools, according to savvytokyo.com. At Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, a group of enlisted sailors with the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force Kaiso-kai, a professional organization for noncommissioned officers, coordinated a sports competition with their U.S. Marine and Navy counterparts to strengthen the bonds between them, according to an Oct. 19 news release from MCAS Iwakuni.

The Maritime Self-Defense Force Fleet Air Wing 31 shares the air base with the Marines and Navy, which have squadrons of fighters and aerial refuelers stationed there.

U.S. Navy Deputy Chaplain (Lt. Cmdr.) Junsub Um helped coordinate the American participation. The event helped strengthen the friendly relationship between the Japanese sailors and U.S. Marines and sailors, not only at the operational level but at the personal and spiritual level, he said.

“It’s very important for us to understand the Japanese culture and it’s also very important to know how [the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force] work together in their unit,” Um told Stars and Stripes.

This is the first event of its



A Marine summons motivation on Sports Day at Iwakuni, Japan.

kind at Iwakuni that the Maritime Self-Defense Force, the naval branch of Japan’s national military, organized with the U.S. Marines and sailors, base spokeswoman Staff Sgt. Jessica Braden told Stars and Stripes by email.

The U.S. side fielded 23 Marines from Marine Aircraft Group 12 and 23 sailors from Carrier Air Wing 5. The Self-Defense Force sent 30 sailors to meet them on the air station athletic field. Each athlete competed for points for their service.

“It was very interesting, there were new games that I had never heard of, so it was kind of interesting to play through,” Lance Cpl. Seneca Sinkler, 20, of Manning, S.C., told Stars and Stripes.

Sports Day consisted of eight events: leapfrog race, guru-guru race, navigation in fog, weight-lifting challenge, centipede race,

tug of war, obstacle course and a 100-meter relay. The team that placed first in each event received a pottery cup as a prize and earned points for their team.

“There was a language barrier, but I would always give them a fist bump or high five when they did good or when we did good,” Sinkler said.

When the last lap was run the Self Defense Force had won the overall competition. The Marines took second place and the Navy third.

“It’s been incredibly beneficial because we are allies at the end of the day,” said Marine 2nd Lt. Daniel Kim, 29, of Los Angeles, “so it’s in both our best interest to get to know one another better.”

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## DIY checkouts coming soon to AAFES exchanges

By SETH ROBSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — The Army and Air Force Exchange Service is rolling out 500 self-checkout units at its military department stores worldwide over the next few months.

The DIY stations will be available at AAFES exchanges, convenience stores and specialty locations, according to AAFES spokesman Chris Ward.

“Self-checkout allows more customers to be served, improves in-store productivity and increases the availability of associates on the sales floor to assist customers with purchase decisions,” he said in an email to Stars and Stripes.

Ward declined to reveal how much the project cost, except to say the expense associated with self-checkout equipment is minimal relative to its efficiencies and the improved customer experience it provides. Self-checkout will have “no impact on staffing,” he said.

Employees who staffed checkout lanes will instead focus on answering customer questions or providing specialized service, according to Ward.

The exchange at Yokota, home

of U.S. Forces

Japan in western Tokyo, put four self-checkout machines into service Oct. 19, store manager Andrew Defelice said as he watched customers scan their purchases.

“It’s more expeditious,” he said.

Defelice said store employees stand by to assist employees when their items fail to properly scan.

A store employee must approve sales of alcohol and over-the-counter medicines that have age restrictions, he said.

Employees who once manned the registers will spend more time taking inventory or working on store displays, Defelice said.

People might take a while to get used to the new machines, said Air Force Staff Sgt. Brent Cook, 32, of Wheeling, W.Va., as he checked out at the Yokota exchange.

Air Force veteran Jerry Deyoe, 61, a contractor visiting Yokota from Washington state, said he’ll still sometimes visit cashiers.

“I’ll wait in line to have some human interaction,” he said.

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SETH ROBSON/Stars and Stripes

An airman uses a new self-checkout station inside the exchange at Yokota Air Base, Japan.



PACIFIC

# USAF: Rotational units to replace F-15s on Okinawa

By SETH ROBSON  
AND HANA KUSUMOTO  
*Stars and Stripes*

TOKYO — The Air Force will withdraw its two squadrons of F-15 fighters on Okinawa over two years and replace them with rotational squadrons of more advanced fighters, an Air Force spokeswoman said.

The Department of Defense “will commence a phased withdrawal” of F-15 C/D Strike Eagles deployed to Kadena Air Base, spokeswoman Ann Stefanek said in an emailed statement provided by Kadena to Stars and Stripes.

Published reports last week said the rotational aircraft will come initially from F-22 squadrons in Alaska.

The decision affects about half the fleet of the aging U.S. fighters stationed in Japan and comes as the U.S. grapples with a rapid military buildup by China. Some questioned the move as sending the wrong signal about U.S. military commitment in the region at a critical time.

“The message to China is the U.S. is not serious about reversing the decline in its military forces,” David Deptula, former vice commander of Pacific Air Forces and a retired F-15 pilot, told the Financial Times newspaper for a report. “This will encourage the Chinese to take more dramatic action.”

The Air Force is retiring its aging F-15 C/D fleet of aircraft that has been in service more than 30 years, Stefanek said.

“The transition to more capable aircraft at Kadena exemplifies our continued commitment to enhancing our posture and building on the strong foundation of our Alliance with Japan,” she said.

DOD will maintain a steady presence at Kadena by rotating units of newer and more advanced fourth- and fifth-generation aircraft to backfill the F-15s as they retire, she said. Her statement did not address where the rotational aircraft would come from.

“While we have not made a decision on the long-term solu-



SEBASTIAN ROMAW/U.S. Air Force

Senior Airman Allyssa Helman prepares to marshal an F-15D Eagle onto the flightline at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, in April. The Air Force plans to replace two squadrons of F-15 fighters on Okinawa with rotational squadrons of more advanced fighters.

## “You can’t leave the F-15s there forever. This rotational approach as a short-term solution is about the best there is as an option.”

James Brown

international affairs expert at Temple University's Japan campus

tion, all of the proposals under consideration include advanced capabilities that are superior to the F-15C/D,” Stefanek said. “Until that decision is made, DoD will continue to use the Global Force Management process to provide backfill solutions that maintain regional deterrence and bolster our ability to uphold our Treaty obligations to Japan.”

The U.S. plan calls for as many F-22s as there are F-15s currently at Kadena to deploy there for about six months starting in early November, a spokesman for the

Japanese Ministry of Defense told Stars and Stripes by phone. A greater number of F-22s may be deployed temporarily, the ministry spokesman said.

“The plan by the U.S. side does not weaken deterrence but is being conducted to maintain and to strengthen deterrence and response capability of the Japan-U.S. alliance as the security environment is becoming increasingly severe,” the spokesman told Stars and Stripes by phone. “And we believe it is necessary for the Japan-U.S. alliance.”

Government spokespeople in Japan customarily speak to the media on condition of anonymity as a requirement of their position.

The Financial Times first reported the story, followed by Defense News. Both reports relied on multiple, anonymous sources.

Kadena Air Base on Okinawa is home to 48 F-15C/Ds of the 18th Wing’s 44th Fighter Squadron “Vampires” and the 67th Fighter Squadron “Fighting Cocks.” The Air Force also has F-16 Fighting Falcons at Misawa Air Base in northeastern Honshu, the largest of Japan’s four main islands.

The F-15, built by McDonnell Douglas, has an unmatched record of 104 kills and zero losses since it entered service in 1976. The Strike Eagle can travel 1,875 mph, more than twice the speed of sound, according to the Air Force’s official website.

Initial Air Force plans call for replacing the two Okinawa squadrons with rotating units of F-22 fifth-generation stealth fighters based in Alaska, according to the Financial Times report.

It’s too early to know if the rotational presence will be temporary or simply an interim measure until a new generation of fighters is positioned permanently on Okinawa, Ralph Cossa, president emeritus of the Pacific Forum think tank in Hawaii, said in an email.

The Air Force may save money by rotating squadrons through Kadena rather than supporting the families of permanently stationed forces, but unaccompanied tours often mean morale problems, he said.

“Tokyo might also see this as a reduction in U.S. commitment even as Okinawans may see it as less burden,” he said.

The idea of withdrawing a permanent force “doesn’t sound very good,” according to James Brown, an international affairs expert at Temple University’s Japan campus.

The move may push forward the argument that Japan needs to do more to defend itself and supplement the alliance with the U.S., he said.

It could, however, be seen as modernizing U.S. air assets in Japan, he said. The first F-15s arrived at Kadena in the 1970s.

“You can’t leave the F-15s there forever,” he said. “This rotational approach as a short-term solution is about the best there is as an option.”

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This publication is a compilation of stories from Stars and Stripes, the editorially independent newspaper authorized by the Department of Defense for members of the military community.

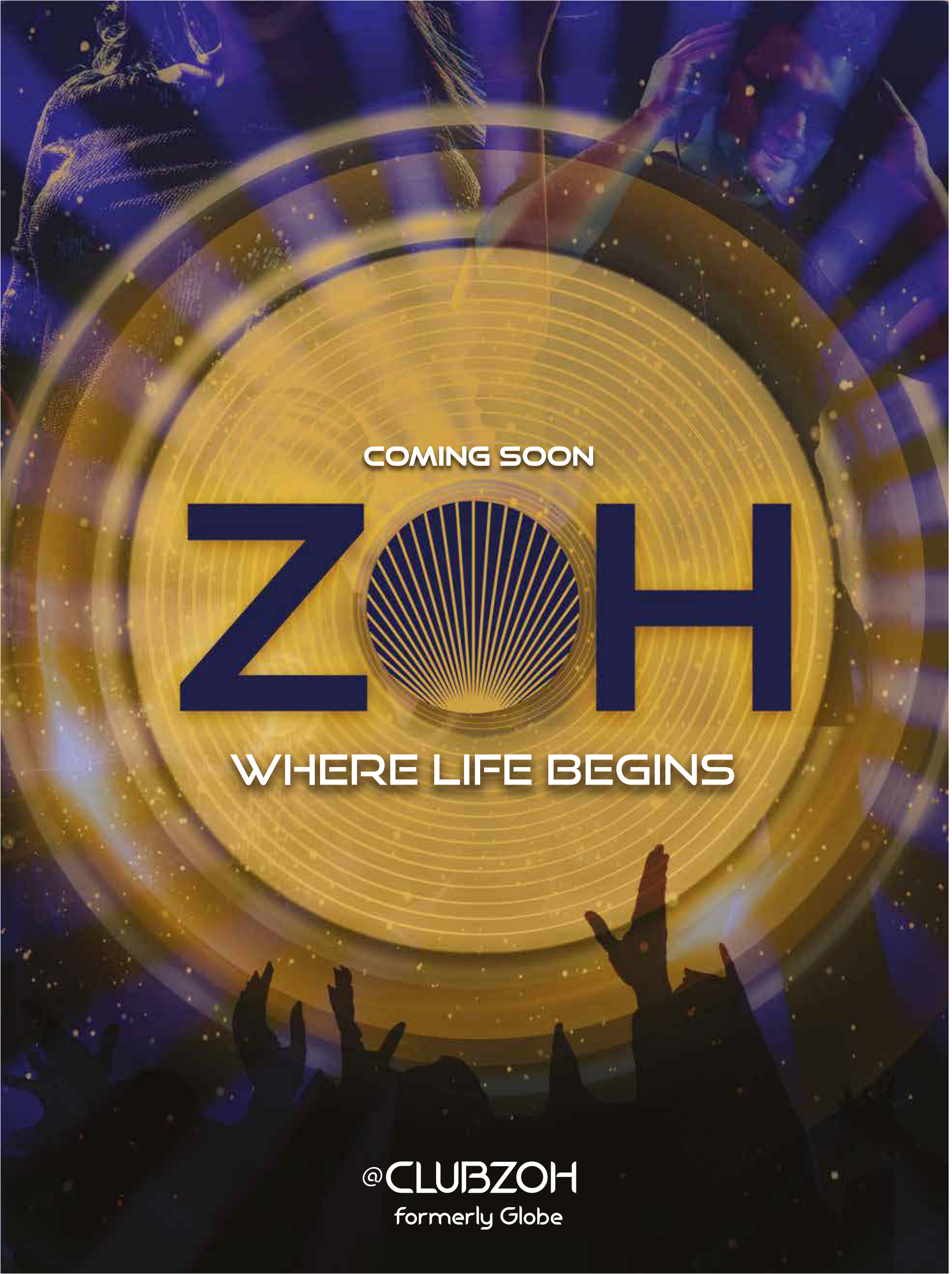
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