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REAL IDs not required on Naval Base Guam until April 10

U.S. NAVAL BASE GUAM

SANTA RITA – U.S. Naval Base Guam will extend the REAL ID requirement grace period for base access until April 10, 2019.

NBG was recently made aware of the extension granted by U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The REAL ID extension had originally expired on Jan. 10, 2019. However, DHS recently authorized an additional extension through April 10, 2019. According to the Homeland Security letter, DHS has received and is reviewing Guam's certification that Guam has implemented a program that meets the standards of the REAL ID Act of 2005 and regulation. However, additional time is needed to complete the review, the letter stated.

This additional extension allows federal agencies to accept Guam issued driver's licenses

and identification cards for access to military installations for official purposes.

In response to the extension and keeping safety and security at the forefront, NBG will continue to accept the following authorized identification at the Visitor Control Center:

- All REAL ID driver's licenses and ID cards
- All Guam driver's licenses and Guam ID cards
- Valid U.S. passports

This requirement impacts individuals requesting access to NBG properties including: guests, contractors, vendors, service providers, and any other non-Department of Defense cardholders.

Passed by Congress in 2005, the REAL ID Act enacted the 9/11 Commission's



Photo by U.S. Navy

This requirement impacts individuals requesting access to NBG properties including: guests, contractors, vendors, service providers, and any other non-Department of Defense cardholders.

recommendation that the Federal Government "set standards for the issuance of sources of

identification, such as driver's licenses." The Act established minimum security standards

for state-issued driver's licenses and identification cards and prohibits federal agencies from accepting for official purposes licenses and identification cards from states that do not meet these standards. REAL IDs require applicants to submit more documents to prove their identity, including a proof of birth, citizenship, and residency.

For a full list of documents you can use to apply for a REAL ID go to <https://www.guamtax.com/help/realIDpolicy.html>.

The NBG VCC Guest Services hours of operation are Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The NBG VCC Contractor Services hours of operation are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Wednesday from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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Endangered tree on Guam to be transplanted for firing range



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Professor Thomas Marler, left, and Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas natural resources specialist James Cronin consider the logistics of removing a fadang tree from a construction site on Andersen Air Force Base during a survey in July 2012. Photo by Thomas Marler Via Pacific Daily News

HAGATNA — An endangered native tree on Guam will have to be transplanted to make way for a new military firing range.

The Pacific Daily News reports the fadang used to be the most abundant tree in the U.S. territory. But the University of Guam says damage from the Asian cycad scale and caterpillars depleted the tree's numbers.

Firing range construction

will require clearing 89 acres of native limestone forest and 110 acres of disturbed limestone at Andersen Air Force Base.

Work to clear the forest is not expected to start for several months. Roadwork has already started.

The military awarded Black Construction Corp. a \$78 million contract for the live-fire training range complex in 2017. The firing range will support U.S. Marines who are moving to Guam from Okinawa, Japan.

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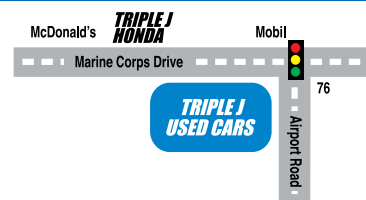


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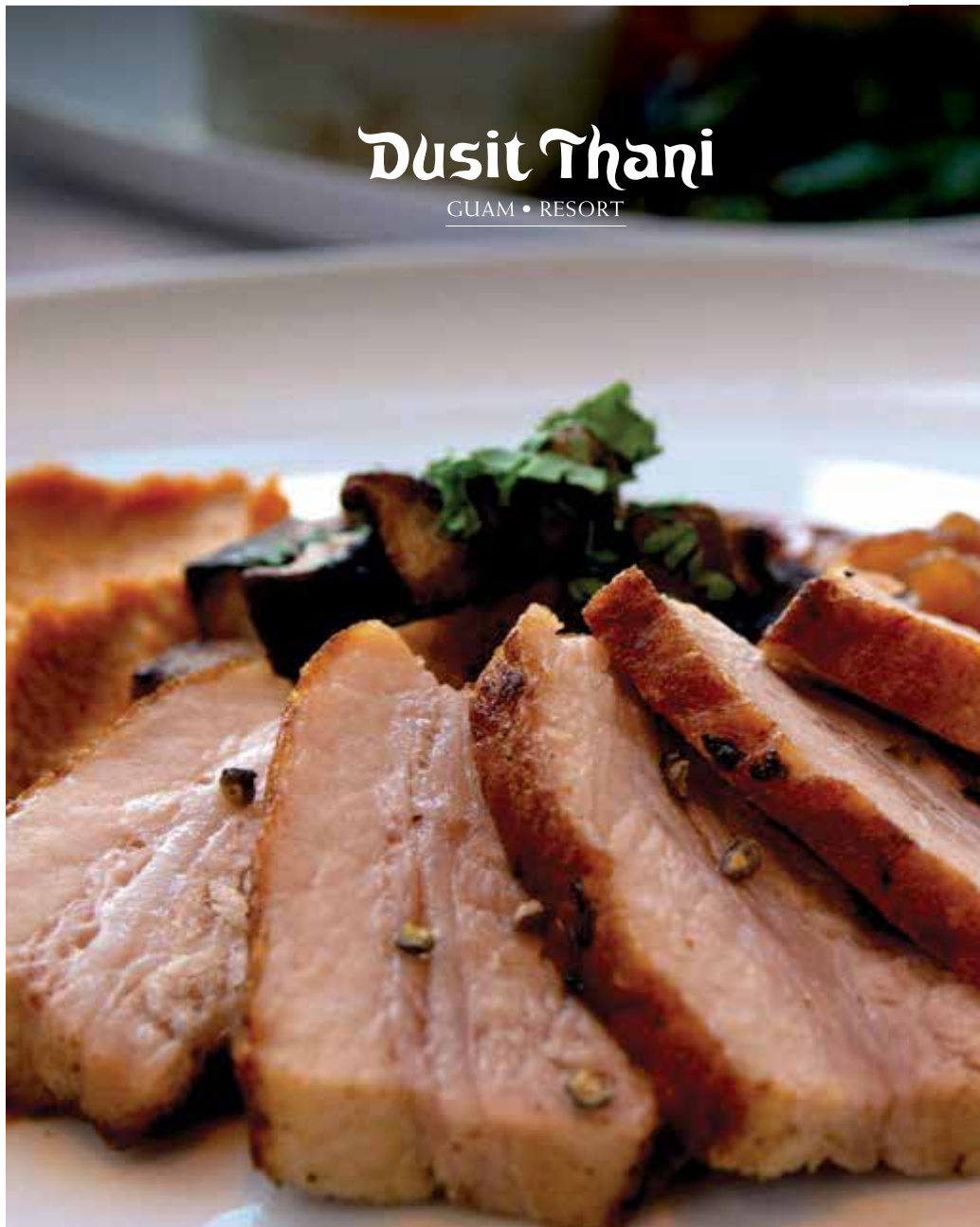
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U.S. Army Specialist Samuel Newhouse assigned the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command performs a system evaluation of a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense at Andersen Air Force Base, Feb. 5. Photos by Capt. Adan Cazarez, Army



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Yutu relief mission in Saipan, Marianas complete

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SGT. 1ST CLASS WYNN HOKE,
8TH THEATER SUSTAINMENT COMMAND

ASAN — Service members from Joint Task Force West officially concluded Super Typhoon Yutu relief and recovery efforts in Saipan and Tinian in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands on Feb. 6-7.

Joint Task Group Engineer, a contingent of Task Force West, arrived in Saipan, CNMI, in early January and immediately started working on providing temporary metal roofing to damaged homes. Rear Adm. Shoshana Chatfield, commander, Joint Region Marianas and commander, Joint Task Force West addressed the service members and thanked them for their service.

“You were the right unit at the right time, with the right skills, and the right leaders to do this mission,” she said. “I want to thank you for the time that you put in here, for the experience you have given these survivors of a category five typhoon. The work you have done has impacted lives and will be remembered through each family you have helped.”

The engineers are positioned to hand over the recovery efforts to the Federal Emergency Management Agency to continue recovery and rebuilding in



Above: Rear Adm. Shoshana Chatfield presents a gift to Saipan Mayor David Apatang during the Feb. 6. closing ceremony for Joint Task Group Engineer in Saipan. Below: Joint Task Group Engineer and Saipan first responders.

Saipan and Tinian. CNMI Gov. Ralph Torres, thanked the Department of Defense for their efforts.

“This is a bitter sweet day for me...saying goodbye to servicemen, our Soldiers, our Airmen,

for all the things you have done for this island,” he said. “Rebuilding homes is not just for safety or to prevent water from coming in, but to build that home to build that dream, all of us no matter what you do, you

go home to rest and to check your families where there is comfort. That is what you have brought to this island; comfort, rebuilding back our homes, our dreams for our children.”

Engineers from the Army,

Navy and Air Force completed more than 560 temporary metal roofing on homes in Saipan and Tinian, CNMI, while working more than 65,000 hours. During the little more than a month-long recovery mission, engineers staged, distributed and used more than 7,600 pieces of lumber and more than 230,000 square feet of tin used in the roofing efforts.

Since Oct. 25, military service members from the DoD have accomplished numerous FEMA-assigned immediate response and recovery mission assignment. The current focus for Task Group Engineers was the installation of temporary roofs. Military service members from Joint Region Marianas and from locations throughout the Indo-Pacific Command are proud of their efforts to work with the CNMI's civil and local officials and assist FEMA in the efforts to recover from the devastating impacts of the typhoon.



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5 tips for active-duty moms returning to work

BY SARAH ROGERS AND SIMONE SCARLETT, ACTIVE DUTY MOMS IN OKINAWA

Returning to work after a baby can be an overwhelming process. From finding a good care provider to pumping. We reached out to a couple of our active duty moms for insight on their experience and tips for returning to work.

1. Daycare

Whether you are choosing a CDC (Child Development Center), nanny, on base in home day care or a family member for childcare; towards the end of your maternity leave do a few test runs with your daycare or nanny. That way you and your child can both ease into the new situation a few hours at a time rather than going cold turkey. This will give your little one an opportunity to adjust to the new people and surroundings.

2. Breastfeeding

If this is the route you are choosing to go, prepare yourself. Sarah, an active duty Air Force mom, recommends talking to a lactation consultant ahead of time about when to begin pumping to “build up your stash” and how often you should be pumping at work. You don’t want to create an oversupply or wait

too long and struggle to have enough milk for your first week. Research and think through how you are going to pump throughout the day given your work center logistics. Bring multiple sets of flanges, sink to clean them in after each use and a personal refrigerator to store them in until next use.

Sarah also says, “Some women find it helpful to go at lunchtime and nurse their baby. If this is possible, instead of viewing it as a full day away from your baby, view it as four hours away from them, and then four more hours away.”

When introducing a bottle, talk to the lactation consultant or pediatrician about when and how to introduce one, as this can be a learning curve for your baby.

Simone, an active duty Army mother says “The support is subjective. I am luckily in a position that breastfeeding does not interfere with my job. And I am also lucky to have leadership that understands my wishes and respects them; not everyone is. I plan my day around my pumping sessions to minimize schedule issues and also have a stockpile as a back up to alleviate stress. I built the stockpile while in maternity leave. Once you get to work and your supply levels out, it is difficult to increase your supply without messing up your schedule.



3. Conceal and carry

Get a military regulation bag to carry your pumping supplies so that it doesn’t look so obvious. They make backpack and laptop-style bags that fit breast pumps in a concealed area of the bag. Put snacks and extra water in here, too. Keep an extra set of flanges AND extra milk storage bags in your office or car. There will be a day that you forget these things and it will be the day that you are slammed and can’t run home to grab them.

4. Plan for a larger uniform (Uniform can be tight and uncomfortable when breastfeeding)

Simone says she only needed one but planned for being a lot bigger when she bought it. The maternity uniform lacks a lot of the versatility of the original working uniform; the pockets are removed for the maternity gear. The maternity gear is paid for, and all active duty women are authorized to get the extra pay; just contact first shift for form.

5. Know your rights

The service branches have slightly different regulations, but they each

should have a policy on pumping time/space, TDY/deployment postpartum deferrals, and physical fitness test postpartum deferrals. Learn your Tricare benefits. Did you know Tricare covers breast pumps and provides milk storage bags for 36 months!

Food for thought

Think about when you want to go back to work. Can you take regular leave after your maternity leave ends? Some women find it easier to go back to work for a day and then take leave the next day. If your maternity leave ends so that you begin on a Monday, could you take leave Tuesday and Thursday of that week? If that is something you are interested in doing, talk to your command about it. The worse that they can say is no.

For more information, search “Breastfeeding in Combat Boots” on Facebook.

If you think you are struggling with PPD or PPA reach out to get help. If you think you are physically not recovering, go to your PCM.



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Military life couldn't stop these from becoming their own bosses

STRIPES GUAM

Every year, thousands of military spouses follow their partners to new duty stations across the United States or overseas. They move their life with them, but often that does not include their careers.

Deployments, moves every two-to-three years, difficulties finding childcare and employers hesitant to hire a military spouse, are all among a long list of difficulties military spouses have that prevent them from getting work.

According to a 2017 survey of around 1,200 military spouses, nearly 70 percent have more formal education than what is needed for their current positions. The survey by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation for their Hiring Our Heroes program, also found that 31 percent of that group held a college degree. Despite the rates of higher education among them, military spouses also have higher rates of unemployment.

Military life demands many things from spouses, but they are resilient and from lemons they have learned to make lemonade. Here are four military spouses on Guam who took matters into their own hands and started their own businesses. Businesses that allow them to continue to support their partner's mission while continuing their careers.



ROXANNE AUGUSTA

Photographer

AGE: 32
YEARS AS A MILITARY SPOUSE: 6 years
SERVICE: Coast Guard

What type of business do you own? How long? I started a photography business four years ago that specializes in portrait sessions for couples and individuals as well as nature photography.

Is Guam where you started your business? If not, where did you start it and was it an easy business to transition to your spouse's new duty station? My business started in California but the first year was really spent experimenting and figuring out what made my heart sing. Thankfully, the transition to Guam was smooth. Prior to the move, I reached out to other business owners, so I knew exactly what I needed to get started here... Networking can be the foundation for your success and help with the transition between places.

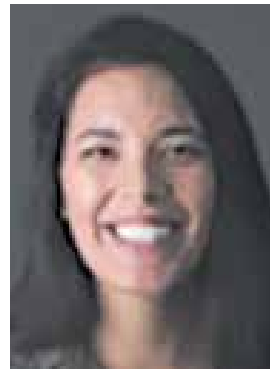
What was your occupation before starting your own business? I worked as a server/bartender, nanny, and office aide while in college and when my husband first joined the Coast Guard. I graduated with a bachelor's degree in history. My dream job was to do research at a museum (nerd alert!) but I quickly realized it wouldn't be an easy career field to transition every few years.

Why did you decide to open your own business and why, specifically, did you choose this particular type of business? I knew that I would never be satisfied if I didn't have a career path of my own. It was important to find something that I didn't have to start from scratch every time we moved but I never really thought I was going to own a business. I had a passion for photography, loved meeting new people and wanted to create meaningful images. Once I realized that my portfolio could move with me, I decided to really focus and put more energy into developing my photography.

Explain some of the difficulties military spouses have in finding a job and/or starting a business that civilians may not know about. There are many challenges when you live a life of fluidity based off your significant other's career. It is really hard picking up your life, much less your business, every few years... Everyone knows the challenges of moving but I think it is important to also focus on the advantages. First, you can pull inspiration from new places, people and experiences. Second, you get to expand your client base every few years. Not many people have that opportunity to reach new people and locations.

What are some of challenges you've encountered in going out on your own and starting a business? Some of the challenges that I have had to overcome is valuing one's self and craft. It is very easy to succumb to self-doubt, especially in a field where there are so many talented people. That self-doubt and competition can lead to poor business practices, like not pricing yourself for profit and over working yourself, which eventually causes really talented people to give up their love. The biggest challenge that I have had to overcome was to learn what it takes to run a successful business. Knowing all the boring stuff like expenses, taxes, business licenses, but most importantly learning to price yourself to make a livable wage. I defiantly thought I would be focusing more on photography, but I quickly learned that in order to pursue photography as a career, I first had to learn how to run a business.

What advice would you give other military spouses looking to start their own businesses? My advice is to make sure you are passionate about whatever it is you want to do. It is very easy to give up motivation and call it quits, especially during the transition periods. If you love it without a doubt, you will not be working but pursuing your passion. Also take a business/marketing course or two so you set yourself up for success. Just remember that you can do it!



her friends and family to paint to

How long have you owned your business? March of 2018.

Is Guam where you started your business? We were stationed in Yokosuka, Japan. I wanted to offer something like a craft fair, an affordable, creative outlet within the community. It was a version of a sewing bee. Here, my friends and I were creating something beautiful to

Explain some of the difficulties you've encountered in going out on your own and starting a business. My biggest challenge was your career with you and start over. When we moved on tour, we were stationed in Yokosuka, Japan. I wanted to offer something like a craft fair, an affordable, creative outlet within the community. It was a version of a sewing bee. Here, my friends and I were creating something beautiful to



se spouses S



STEPHANIE CARUTHERS KRAFTiBEE

AGE: 35
YEARS AS A MILITARY SPOUSE: 10
SERVICE: Navy

What type of business do you own? KRAFTiBEE is a custom wood sign company that creates one-of-a-kind personalized wood signs. Signs can be purchased as special orders or created during one of our private parties at social events hosted by a customer whom invites together.

How long have you owned your business? I started my business in

Why did you decide to open your own business? I started in Guam previously and once we came back, I knew my crafting business on the island. There is a need for an our community and I created KRAFTiBEE to be a modern my customers can get together, be social, meet new friends while hang on the walls of their home for many years to come.

What are some of the difficulties military spouses have in finding a job and/or starting a business? As a spouse, it can sometimes be difficult to take over every three years. Prior to moving back to Guam for a second Okinawa, Japan, where I worked as an English teacher. I taught Japanese language for the three years we were stationed there. As a military spouse, it is difficult to establish myself in the workforce every time we moved. Some military spouses due to the knowledge of frequent moves that occur, however, military spouses have a unique ability to handle changes roles within the workplace. Starting your own business can be a challenge outside U.S. soil, or on a U.S. Territory such as Guam. Knowing the laws and making sure you abide by them can be an obstacle if you are living outside of your home state of record.

What are some of the challenges you've encountered in going out on your own and starting a business? One of my biggest challenges was learning to balance responsibilities at home as a stay-at-home mom and KRAFTiBEE. Finding this balance for myself has been learned through trial and error and a lot of late nights. Another challenge I have faced, is navigating the local business requirements for Guam. I am grateful I have access to the Business College at the University of Guam for guidance on where to start and how to find the requirements and laws.

What advice would you give other military spouses looking to start their own businesses? Some of the best advice I would give a fellow spouse on starting their own business is to be fearless. You have to push yourself to move out of your comfort zone in order to truly be fearless and achieve your goals... Also, evaluate the need for your business within your community. Without a need for the service or product you provide your business will never get off the ground.



SARAH BOUCHER Shining Shores Sea Glass

AGE: 35
YEARS AS A MILITARY SPOUSE: 11
SERVICE: Navy
TYPE OF BUSINESS: I own Shining Shores Sea Glass. I make jewelry and art out of locally found sea glass.

How long have you owned your business? I started my business in 2016, shortly after we moved [to Guam] from Connecticut.

What was your previous occupation? I was previously an Applied Behavior Analyst therapist for 11 years.

Why did you decide to open your own business? When we arrived in Guam in September of 2015, I found out that there were no Autism services on the island. I was devastated that I could no longer continue my career.

Heading to the beach and picking up sea glass became a favorite pastime. And I quickly accumulated jars and bins full of sea glass. Needing to figure out what to do with all that sea glass, I used some rogue wire I had lying around from a different project and wire-wrapped a piece and put it on a necklace chain. I showed my friends via Facebook and they all wanted one.

My husband had the idea to sell the jewelry at the night market in Chamorro Village ... and after a year of doing night markets and other fairs, I was able to open my own store there ... I still catch myself in awe of what I was able to do and still so humbled by the success of this.

What are some of the difficulties military spouses face finding a job or starting a business? I think military spouses do have a more difficult task of finding a job. Our resumes are long due to the frequent duty station changes, yet, we may feel the "why bother" mentality when trying to job hunt. I know I felt very discouraged when I couldn't do what I loved and went to college for.

What are some of the challenges you've encountered in going out on your own and starting a business? Not knowing where to start is probably the biggest one, finding the "right" people to tell you what you need to do – the second and after that it should be smooth sailing.

Once I had my grip on things and became comfortable as a business owner, I felt great and have since helped three other spouses start their own businesses.

What advice would you give other military spouses looking to start their own businesses? My advice to other spouses is that I know the constant moving is scary, stressful, and daunting, but make the best of it. Don't get stuck in the "I can't" -mode. Sometimes we must just stop making excuses not to do something. Make nothing into something. Be happy, be you, and that is where you will find your success.



SEE BUSINESS ON PAGE 14



BUSINESS:

A place of their own

KATHERINE HOVEY

Micronesian Macramé

AGE: 21

YEARS AS A MILITARY SPOUSE: 4 years

SERVICE: Navy

TYPE OF BUSINESS: I make and sell macramé wall hangings, plant holders, clutch/purses, bags, dog accessories and jewelry. I also offer workshops and classes for those who like to be hands-on or love to get creative on a night out!



How long have you owned your business? I started my business in March of 2017 and became official with my business license in August! It began as a hobby I did nightly to relax until I turned a "What if" into a "Let's do this."

Is Guam where you started your business? Yes! I've been living on Guam since 2016 and began my business on the island in 2017.

What was your previous occupation? Prior to living on Guam, I worked two jobs as a pharmacy technician and at a bakery in Massachusetts. I was pregnant when I moved here and spent a lot of time in and out of the hospital due to complications with the pregnancy. Since I couldn't work, my illness was the beginning of my drive to try and find a job I could do from home.

Why did you decide to open your own business? Macramé became something I did in my free time to relieve stress... It wasn't until my friends started requesting pieces from me that I realized I could do what I loved AND make a living from it! Starting my business was one of the greatest decisions I've ever made. Macramé plays such a large part in my well-being that I never imagined it would also provide for my family as well.

What are some of the difficulties military spouses face finding a job or starting a business? As a military spouse I've learned and seen fellow spouses struggle with finding employment. I've seen a number of friends turned down for positions they were more than qualified for once the employer found out their rotation date or simply learned they were a military spouse. It's a little frustrating to see military spouses' resumes go out the window no matter how qualified they may be... Moving also affects owning a business as well. I haven't yet had to uproot my business, but I will say I am nervous to experience that process! I am very lucky because my art can be made from anywhere... Picking up and moving is a daunting task for families in itself but adding in the risk for business failure just intensifies any stress that's present.

What are some of the challenges you've encountered in going out on your own and starting a business? Personally, I haven't encountered any challenges yet specific to being a military spouse when launching my business rather I think PCS'ing gives business owners the chance to branch out across the country and the globe to build local support groups with every new duty station. For most business owners, outreach is a challenging task, however, if you're willing to immerse yourself wherever the military takes you then transitioning and growing is within reach!

What advice would you give other military spouses looking to start their own businesses? My biggest piece of advice would not to rush it. Take your time finding your passion and mastering your craft. Reach out to fellow business owners in your local community and gauge their experiences. It takes a lot of time and energy to run a business on your own and it takes self-discipline, all of which is impossible if you try to start a business centered around something you're not in love with. ... Making money and being your own boss are two very enticing things however it's easy to get caught up in the fantasy of it all, but behind the scenes are countless late nights... Don't let the hectic craze of military life hold you back from chasing your dreams, the beauty of this lifestyle is that we're all in this together and the support of fellow spouses/families is relentless. Make small goals and dream big, be realistic, but think outside the box and you will go far!





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GET TO KNOW GUAM



A VILLAGE PROFILE COURTESY OF GUAMPEDIA

Editor's note: The U.S. territory of Guam is comprised of 19 villages, many with their own distinct character, history and points of interest. Stripes Guam and Guampedia have joined forces to present this weekly feature on each of them in the hopes that it will help our readers get out – and get to know – our gracious hosts. To learn more about Guam's people, history, culture and places, visit: guampedia.com

Talofofu (Talo'fo'fo) God's Country



This historic photo shows Talofofu Bay where Carolinians landed during a 1788 voyage to trade for iron. This was the first such trade mission to Guam since the Chamorro-Spanish Wars, a century earlier. Photo by Balthazar Aguon, courtesy of Guampedia



On April 8, the submarine USS Seahorse torpedoed the 6,780-ton Japanese converted submarine tender Aratama Maru near the eastern coast of Guam, and the burning ship made it into Talofofu Bay, sinking three days later.

From August 1944 to September 1945, after the Americans recaptured Guam from the Japanese, the military government built the new community of Talofofu in the hills where it now stands.

In the northern part of Ipan, a Flight Personnel Rehabilitation Camp was built in 1945, with a beer garden, softball diamonds, volleyball courts, and horseshoe pitching pits. Later, a salt-water swimming pool was built. After providing for nearly 10,000 officers and soldiers, the camp was devastated in 1949 by Typhoon Allen.

In 1951, the San Miguel Church was constructed in the main village. While Talofofu had previously been a part of the municipality of Inarajan under the municipalities established in 1920 by the pre-war U.S. government, Talofofu soon became a municipality of its own after the war.

In 1972, two hunters from Talofofu, Jesus M. Duenas and Manuel Degracia, discovered and captured a Japanese soldier named Sgt. Shoichi Yokoi who had been living in the jungles of Guam for twenty-eight years. Yokoi's incredible story quickly spread around the world. Instead of allowing himself to be captured by American forces in 1944, Yokoi and ten others hid in the hills of Talofofu.

Yokoi was the only survivor, making clothing from the fibers of wild hibiscus plants and surviving on a diet of coconuts, breadfruit, papayas, snails, eels, and rats. He lived in a tunnel-like, ↗

BY LEO BABAUTA,
GUAMPEDIA

The village probably derives its name from the phrase "entalo' i fe'fo'," which means between the cliffs. It's possible that the name is derived from another word, "fo'fo'," which means a bubbling spring. As the Talofofu River and the Talofofu Falls are located in the village, the name could mean "between the bubbling springs."

Village history

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

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

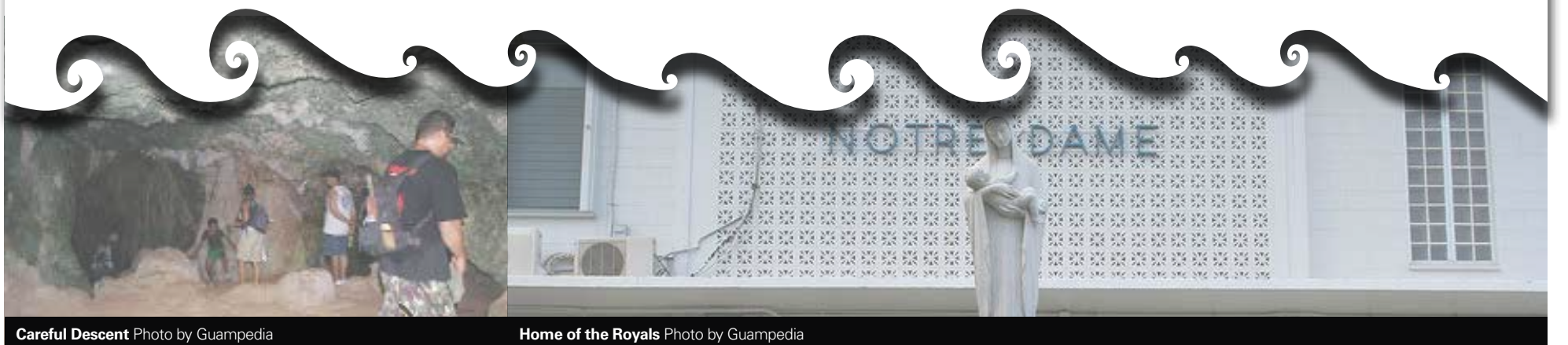
The settlement never grew very large in size or prominence, although Talofofu Bay was the site of a

few notable landings. One such landing was in 1788 of a large group of islanders from Lamotrek in the Caroline Islands, who arrived in canoes on a trading mission to obtain iron. It was the first such expedition since inter-island trade had come to a halt due to the Spanish-Chamorro Wars one hundred years before. The Spanish-Chamorro Wars were a series of rebellions by some of the Chamorros against Catholic indoctrination many years before.

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

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

In April and May of 1944, the American forces first started preparing for the invasion of the Marianas, including bombing raids over Guam and Saipan.



Careful Descent Photo by Guampedia

Home of the Royals Photo by Guampedia



underground cave in a bamboo grove not far from Talofofo Falls. After he was discovered, Yokoi became a celebrity, after nearly three decades of seclusion. He died in 1997 at the age of eighty-two.

Points of interest

Institutions

Notre Dame High School
Nestled in the hillside of Talofofo village, Notre Dame High School established on Guam in 1968 by the School Sisters of Notre Dame, is one of three Catholic high schools on Guam, but the only co-educational facility.

Talofofo Elementary School
Constructed in 1965, Talofoto Elementary School, remains the only public school servicing the elementary-aged children of this close-knit southern village.

Historical

Talofofo Caves
This series of caves on the side of the cliffs of the main village of Talofoto are famous for artifacts and pictographs of the ancient Chamorros.

Recreational

First Beach
Island residents and visitors frequent this area that has about three large coral holes forming submerged natural pools in the waters of a beach located in Ipan just before the entrance to the main Talofoto village.

Ipan Beach Park
This shaded beach area features several pavilions and barbecue pits, along with trees that keep beachgoers cool even on hot days.

Ipan Beach Resort
Located along Route 4, just past Ipan Beach Park, this privately owned resort offers residents a camping experience. There are several wooden bungalows for rent on the beachfront, a huge pool and restrooms with changing areas. Several local companies and organizations have reserved the space for private parties on the beach.

Jeff's Pirates Cove
Now a landmark on Guam, this popular establishment features a bar and grill with local food, a gift shop, a small museum, and recreational grounds that has been owned by Jeff Pleadwell since 1979. Numerous concerts have been held there, along with a semi-annual arts and crafts fair, weddings, and other parties. A previous owner was said to have found evidence of Malay pirates having stayed in the area, inspiring the



Local hikers enter one of the Talofoto Caves to explore and study artifacts such as lusongs, stone mortars, and pictographs, left by ancient Chamorros. Photo by Nathalie Pereda, courtesy of Guampedia

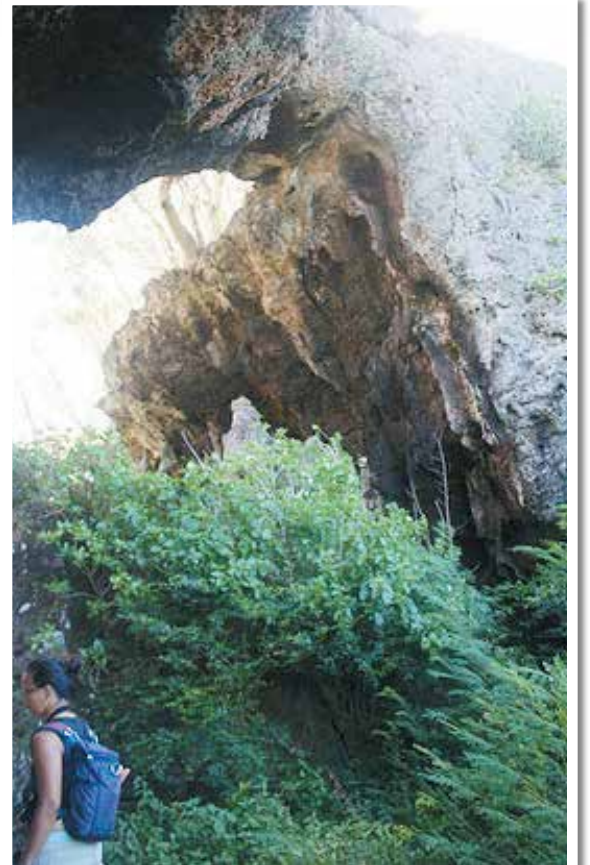
Cove's name, but in 1962 Typhoon Karen wiped out all traces of the Malay village, including a pirate ship scuba divers discovered in 1953.

Jungle Riverboat Cruise
Scenic boat tours of Talofoto and Ugum Rivers goes to the ancient Talofoto Village, the site of a Chamorro hut and latte stones. Visitors to the site are treated to Chamorro cultural activities and demonstrations.

Onward Talofoto Golf Club
Designed by nine U.S. professional golfers, this course offers spectacular views. It features a relatively flat front nine, with fairways lined by tropical trees, flowers, and water hazards. Hole 6 is designed as a replica of Talofoto Falls and is good for scenic photo opportunities. The back nine is more difficult but overlooks Guam's tropical jungle and mountains.

Talofoto Falls
Located along the Ugum River, on the boundary between Talofoto and Inarajan, the Talofoto Falls are accessed by a road in Malojloj, Inarajan. At the bottom of the two-tier falls are swimming holes popular among visitors. The falls have been turned into a tourist destination, with a paved road, visitor facilities, and an entrance fee. A replica of Sgt. Yokoi's cave is nearby, as the original cave collapsed.

SEE GUAM ON PAGE 18



This natural rock formation is called "Kissing Rock" by locals and offers hikers a spectacular view of the eastern coast of Guam, after ascending from Talofoto caves. Photo by Nathalie Pereda, courtesy of Guampedia



Jeff's Pirates Cove is a landmark on Guam, this popular establishment features a bar and grill with local food, a gift shop, a small museum, and recreational grounds that has been owned by Jeff Pleadwell since 1979. Photo by Jen Crisostomo, courtesy of Guampedia



Kids frolick in the water and shore of Ipan Beach, a popular weekend area for families and friends. Photo by Nathalie Pereda, courtesy of Guampedia

See more of what Guam has to offer at:
GUAM.STRIPES.COM



GUAM: Rich in history, culture

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

This village at a glance

- **Population:** As of the 2010 US Census, the population was 3,050.
- **Village officials:** Vicente S. Taitague, Mayor, 2009-present; Pedro D. Paulino, Mayor, 2005-2009; Anthony C. Leon Guerrero, Mayor, 2001-2005; Vicente S. Taitague, Mayor, 1997-2001; Tito A. Mantanona, Commissioner/Mayor, 1981-1997; Roman L.G. Quinata, Commissioner, 1969-1981; Juan C. Tenorio, Commissioner, 1961-1969; Jose P. Cruz, Commissioner, 1952-1961; Vicente Cepeda, Castro Commissioner, 1941-1944; Cayetano Aguon Quinata, Acting Commissioner, 1928-1929; Vicente Cepeda Castro, Commissioner, 1920-1928; Castro Aguon Deputy Commissioner/Acting Commissioner, 1939-1941; Vicente Cepeda Castro Deputy Commissioner, 1917-1920. (Courtesy of Konsehelon Mahot Guãhan/the Mayor's Council of Guam). Note: Before World War II, the commissioners of Talofofo were appointed by the Naval governor. Starting in 1952, the commissioners and mayors were elected.
- **Village description:** Former Mayor Tito Mantanona coined the name "God's Country" for Talofofo, a nickname affectionately used by many residents and seen on signs throughout the village. At the heart of Talofofo is a four-way intersection recognized as the crossroads of this small village.

Anyone giving directions to a location in this village inevitably starts with this intersection, which is also at the heart of economic activity in Talofofo, with three corner stores doing business near the four-way intersec-



Governer Camacho and Sgt. Shoichi Yokoi Photo by Guampedia

tion. North from the intersection is the village's Catholic church, San Miguel Church, as well as the mayor's office and houses, most of them similar to homes in suburban communities.

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

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

South of the intersection is the Seventh-

day Adventist Church and Notre Dame High School, and as the road heads downhill toward the Talofofo subcommunity of Ipan and Talofofo Bay, it passes the ancient Talofofo Caves.

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

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

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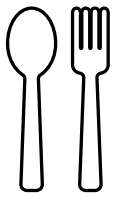


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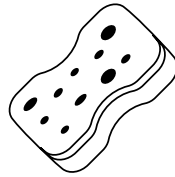


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10 MUST-HAVES FOR THRIFTY TRAVELERS



BY KAREN BRADBURY,
STRIPES GUAM

Seasoned weekend trippers know the value of traveling light. But even those winging it on a budget airline flight know there are some things it pays to have along in a travel kit. Here are ten things you might find handy to have along on your next weekend getaway:

SAFETY PINS: when buttons fall off, there's not always time to sew them back on, so it's essential to be able to perform a little wardrobe first aid when necessary. Pinning a bag closed can make its contents slightly less susceptible to theft, as can linking the two zippers on the compartment of a backpack together. Pinning keys to the inside of a pocket is a good idea when visiting an amusement park with lots of twisting and turning rides. Other uses for safety pins include holding together first-aid bandages, retrieving lost drawstrings in hoods and sweatpants, or as a stand-in for clothespins or fish hooks.

DENTAL FLOSS: Not only essential for removal of kebab from between the teeth, but dental floss also makes a fine makeshift clothesline, thread for emergency sewing jobs, or a shoelace. Use it as fishing line, or as a quick fix should the

screw affixing an arm to a pair of eyeglasses go missing.

SPOON AND FORK: the cheapest place for a meal on the go is often the supermarket. With cutlery in tow, you can always enjoy yogurt or a pre-made salad on a bench in the closest park. (A plastic knife is also handy and won't be taken away at the airport security check like a metal one would be.)

PLASTIC ZIP BAGGIES: these are essential for putting your liquids in when passing through airport security. They're also great for taking away the leftovers of a great meal, eking another day's use out of a nice-smelling bar of soap, or storing the beach glass or pretty rocks you collected on the beach. They can also double as a drain stopper for the sink or protect a mobile phone on a boat trip. If there's access to a freezer, fill up a couple baggies the night before and you'll have ice packs the next day.

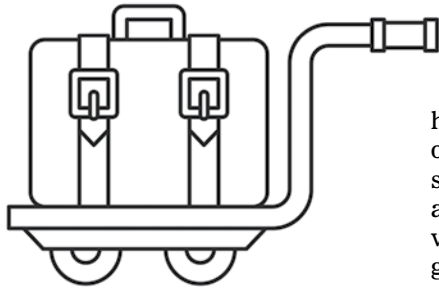
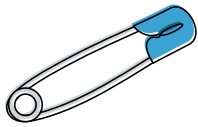
ELASTIC BANDS: these are handy for emergency repairs to bicycles or sports equipment, or as part of a

first-aid kit. They can serve as wrist straps or hands-free holders for telephones or flashlights or can be used to bundle clothing into tiny wads, keep books closed and their pages neat, or organize essential travel docs.

SMALL THIN TOWEL: a towel bigger than a washcloth but smaller than a hand towel won't take up much space but can prove invaluable as something to dry off with after a swim or to sit on at the beach. It's great for wicking sweat off the face, and with a wet corner, it becomes a facecloth. A dry one, in a pinch, can work as a scarf to ward off a fierce wind. A linen dish towel in a waffle weave might just become your best travel companion instantly.

KITCHEN DISH SPONGE: the uses of a dish sponge are many, from washing stains off of clothing to whisking the raindrops off a picnic table. Shoe rubbing in the wrong place? Borrow a pair of scissors, cut off a chunk and place the makeshift pad where it's chafing. Anyone who's ever tried to get clean just by rubbing shower gel over his or her body in the shower might wish to pack an extra one to use as a shower scrub.

DUCT TAPE: not only handy at home, wrap a wad around a pen or pencil to have an emergency store of this wonder material allowing you to patch or attach virtually anything while on the go.



Boonie Stomps Guam

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY
GUAM BOONIE STOMPERS



Ija to Schroeder

Every Saturday, Guam Boonie Stompers offers public hikes to a variety of destinations such as beaches, snorkeling sites, waterfalls, mountains, caves, latte sites, and World War II sites. We meet at 9:00 AM in the Center Court of Chamorro Village in Hagatna. The cost is \$2.00 for hikers over 12. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Hikers should provide their own transportation. Guam's trails are not developed. Weather conditions can make the hikes more difficult than described. No reservations required.

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

February 16 *Medium*
Sella Bay *3 hours for 2 miles*

We explore the Spanish bridge, Spanish oven, and ancient Chamorro latte stones at Sella Bay, with time for snorkeling, swimming, or hanging out beneath the shade of the palms. The hike back to our cars includes the optional waterfall route.

Bring: 2 quarts water, hiking shoes, swim suit, snorkel gear, gloves, insect repellent, sun screen, lunch, and camera.
Special conditions: A long hike in the sun over, clay, sand, rocks, and mud.

February 23 *Very Difficult*
Ija to Mt. Schroeder *5 hours for 5 miles*

We, go to hell and beyond. We make the long steep hike to the summit of Mt. Sasalagan with its outstanding views, traverse to Atete, climb steeply down into the oven, then reach the summit of Mt. Schroeder.

Bring: 4 quarts water, good hiking shoes, gloves, sun screen, lunch and snacks, and camera.
Special conditions: Sword grass, steep slopes, long uphill climbs, sword grass, little shade, a long hike.

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

- Stomp Tip:**
- 1) Alcohol and hiking do not mix.
 - 2) Do not bring beverages with caffeine on hikes.
 - 3) Bring plenty of water with you on hikes.
 - 4) Do not hike alone and let someone know where you are going and your return time.
 - 5) Always carry a well stocked personal first aid kit.
 - 6) When hiking, lots of little snacks are better than one big meal

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

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Discovering hawker food in Singapore, a culture worth preserving — and devouring

BY DAVID PIERSON,
LOS ANGELES TIMES

SINGAPORE — There's little that can prepare an outsider for the onslaught of food in Singapore.

Every stroll through this city shrouded in tropical heat is interrupted by open-air food centers, coffee shops and restaurants vying for your stomach's attention.

Seek sanctuary inside an air-conditioned mall and you'll be greeted by sprawling subterranean food halls that seem to span the distance between

subway stops.

Dining out is a way of life in Singapore. One in four residents say they eat out daily, a recent Nielsen survey found. Many choose food centers, which aren't your hot dog on a stick-variety mall food courts, but keepers of a proud local cuisine and tradition cobbled by generations of the city's Chinese, Indian and Malay inhabitants.

The abundance and convenience of food in Singapore can be a shock to the

system -- particularly for someone like me who has lived in a community of tract homes in Santa Clarita, Calif., where dining out meant choosing between two equidistant McDonald's.

I admit I have a weakness for Big Macs, but it's no contest when outside my hotel on a stretch of Killiney Road I can choose between world-class satay, chicken rice, curry laksa, prawn noodles, fish ball soup, dim

sum, Indian prata, chicken biryani, beef rendang or Cantonese barbecue - all for about the same price as a six-piece Chicken McNugget meal.

Straying from my neighborhood has been even more rewarding.

There were the piquant chili crab and salted egg yolk prawns at the East Coast Seafood Center that looks out onto the Singapore Strait, where at night, the tankers and cargo ships are anchored so close together they look like a neighboring city.

There was the crunchy fried Hainan chicken wing vendor at the Toa Payoh Lorong Food Center, who commands such a loyal following that customers line up long before opening to beat the crowds.

At Golden Mile Food Center, I took my first bites of Peranakan food, a centuries-old cuisine born out of the intermarrying of Chinese and Malays. The cuisine, which requires meticulous preparation, is slowly fading from fashion along with the few remaining chefs

Reporter David Pierson eats fried chicken wings with his daughter, Ella, at Toa Payoh Lorong Food Center in Singapore.

Photo by
Tessa Pierson,
Los Angeles
Times/TNS





“You see any restaurant food in ‘Crazy Rich Asians’? Nada. It’s all chili crab and satay. Hawker food is a national icon.”

– K.F. Seetoh, founder of *Makanasutra* food guide

The takeout spread from Fook Kin on Killiney Road in Singapore. The Cantonese-style barbecue restaurant makes a cha siu roast pork (center right) with an unusually generous ratio of char and fat to meat. Photo by Tessa Pierson, Los Angeles Times, TNS

who know the recipes by heart.

“You’ve only scratched the surface,” I was told by K.F. Seetoh, an evangelist of Singaporean food culture, founder of the *Makanasutra* food guide and the subject of profiles by R.W. Apple Jr. and Calvin Trillin.

Over a plate of beet red mee goreng, a local Indian take on stir-fried Chinese noodles, Seetoh spoke about a looming crisis. The storied ranks of Singapore’s food vendors, known here as hawkers, are aging faster than they can be replaced.

Their children, equipped with elite educations and living in one of the most affluent countries in the world, have little interest in working 12-hour shifts in 10-by-10-foot hawker stands in unrelenting heat.

“Thousands of old heritage hawkers - proud, loud, humble, authentic - are marching toward a cliff,” said Seetoh, who has been keeping a running tab on his Facebook page of the latest dining destinations to close. “They’re going to go down and into the sunset. Behind them are perhaps 10 new hawkers to replace them.”

Without them, Singapore wouldn’t have its frenetic dining scene where unpretentious food reigns and the instinct to eat elbow-to-elbow with strangers forms the basis of community.

Hawkers typically specialize in one thing, like a Hainanese chicken rice or bak kut teh, a pork rib soup, and rarely charge more than \$4 a portion. Their artisan’s way of cooking set standards high, making it hard to find a bad meal in this island nation.

“We have professors coming from the U.S. and they go to our canteen here and they say, ‘This is restaurant-type food and you pay two U.S. dollars. You guys are spoiled,’” said Malone-Lee Lai Choo, an expert on urban development at the National University of Singapore.

Hawkers are the descendants of itinerant street food vendors who predate Singapore’s founding in 1965. After nationhood, they were licensed and housed in pavilions located in or near public housing, where 80 percent of Singaporeans live today.

That gave the masses access to cheap, clean and abundant food that helped power Singapore’s productivity. By taking away the chore of cooking, it enabled both spouses to work. Government statistics show about 65 percent of Singaporean households with children include two working parents. That’s a rate slightly higher than in the U.S., according to the U.S. Department of Labor. Buying groceries can also cost more than dining out, providing another reason to eschew the kitchen.

The Singaporean government has long played a heavy hand in the way its citizens eat. It has

to, it says, for the sake of food security in a country of merely 278 square miles and no room for farms. More than 90 percent of everything Singaporeans consume is imported from countries such as Malaysia, Indonesia, China and Brazil.

After perhaps underselling its appeal, the Singaporean government has jumped on the hawker bandwagon in recent years. It established a hawker incubation program that allowed applicants to lease a stall at half-price for six months to encourage a new generation. And it launched a campaign to include hawker culture into UNESCO’s List of Intangible Cultural Heritage alongside things such as France’s gastronomic dining and Italy’s Neapolitan pizza. Singapore’s submission is due in March.

“You see any restaurant food in ‘Crazy Rich Asians?’” said Seetoh, a proponent of the

UNESCO bid. “Nada. It’s all chili crab and satay. Hawker food is a national icon.”

It remains to be seen whether Singapore can retain its hawkers’ artisan roots. It’s easier today to buy staples such as fish balls wholesale than it is to make them from scratch. More food service companies are operating air-conditioned facsimiles of the hawker centers and supplying the vendors there with semi-prepared meals from a central commissary.

There are 114 hawker centers in Singapore, each housing 100 to 200 stalls outfitted with sinks and a few burners. One of the older locations, Golden Mile Food Center on Beach Road, was built in 1975 under public housing that sits on former waterfront property long obscured by reclaimed land.

On a recent weekday, the center’s two-story dining area hummed with the sound of

undulating electric fans. Hundreds of diners, mostly workers from nearby office buildings, tucked into orders of clay pot rice, braised duck and lor mee, a popular dish of egg noodles submerged in a thick dark gravy.

To one side of the floor, in stall B1-30, stood Charlie Tan, chef and owner of Charlie’s Peranakan Food. Tan returned to cooking in 2017 after an eight-year hiatus triggered by poor health.

“I was burnt out,” said Tan, 62, whose perpetually furrowed brow is befitting of a man who works from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. seven days a week. “This isn’t ordinary food. It’s very complex. It takes proper planning.”

Consider one of Tan’s most popular dishes, ayam buah keluak. The recipe relies on buah keluak, a walnut-size seed found in mangrove swamps that has to be soaked for days to remove poisonous toxins.

“Otherwise you get the runs,” Seetoh said.

Tan painstakingly empties the flesh of each seed, blending it with minced pork and shrimp before returning it into its casing. It’s then simmered in a sauce with chicken and served with rice and a Popsicle stick to scoop out the contents of the buah keluak. Sour, inky and earthy, it is like eating a mixture of Mexican mole and Filipino adobo.

Tan is one of only a few cooks with Peranakan bloodlines still preparing this kind of food in Singapore. He’s even more of an anomaly because he has a son who wants to take over the business.

Joshua Chen, 20, recently finished his two-year compulsory national military service. Now he stands at his father’s side, hoping to absorb the elder’s exacting techniques, one dish at a time.

“The passion is there,” Tan said of his son, “but I don’t see the flair yet.”



Charlie Tan, left, is one of only a handful of hawkers in Singapore cooking Peranakan food, a meticulous cuisine influenced by centuries of Chinese and Malay intermarriage. K.F. Seetoh, right, a street food guide publisher, has championed hawker culture. Photo by David Pierson, Los Angeles Times/TNS

United Airlines introduces upgraded app

UNITED AIRLINES WORLDWIDE
MEDIA RELATIONS

TAMUNING – United Airlines is introducing a reimagined mobile app to customers around the world. Already the top downloaded airline app for Apple and Android phones, the refreshed app now features a more dynamic

experience that updates customers at each step of their travel journey, making it the perfect travel companion. The app includes features customers know and love from the previous version, while adding enhancements that make managing travel easier from booking to landing. “Every day we are using

technology to improve our customers’ experience and making more information available to our customers at the swipe of a finger,” said Linda Jojo, executive vice president of technology and chief digital officer at United Airlines. “With this updated app, we set out to bring improvements that are meaningful to all our customers, whether they travel every week or only once a year.”

Customers’ favorite features, such as bag tracking, will continue to be available in the updated app, and new highlights include:

- A navigation bar that gives customers quick access to some of the most popular tools such as flight status, and some new handy features like My Trips.
- A My Trips tab in the navigation bar that allows customers to easily access information

about their upcoming trip and stores boarding passes when customers are checked in for their flights.


- An inbox that stores important push notifications United sends customers about their flight, such as if a flight status changes, gate changes and alerts about when boarding for a flight has begun.
- Dynamic boarding times will be updated throughout the app in the event that departure times change to give customers the latest information even when they are not at the gate. This builds on the airline’s recent addition of boarding notifications, which were added when United rolled out its Better Boarding process.

One of the biggest updates to the app comes during the travel

period, when the home screen updates to give customers the most helpful information for each step of their travel journey. The home screen will begin to update starting 48 hours before a flight, and will continue updating throughout various phases all the way through arrival at the final destination with the most useful information. For instance, customers connecting will find a screen that allows them to easily access airport maps so they can easily navigate to the next gate. Bringing the most useful information to the forefront will make the entire journey less stressful and more intuitive.

The app also includes an updated design with more engaging content. When a customer does not have an upcoming trip, the app will open to a


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Rockie (cat)

I'm long, lanky, and a master of cuddles at the ripe age of 6 months. Pretty handsome guy huh? I get along with other kitties and hope to be a part of your family soon!

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beautiful destination image to provide travel inspiration. Content on the home screen is also more personalized to each user; for example, customers who recently passed loyalty milestones will be recognized on the home screen, and the app will also celebrate customers on their birthday.

United's in-house digital team spent over a year designing and creating this updated app, including eight months during which customers and more than 18,000 employees provided feedback to create the final version that rolls out worldwide this month. United issued seven releases during the beta test, making numerous changes based on user feedback. There were more than 13,000 check-ins during the beta test period. The airline will continue soliciting feedback on the app

and expects to roll out additional features later this year to further improve and ease travel for our customers.

As a technology leader, United was the first carrier to offer mobile boarding passes and became the first to introduce boarding passes and flight information in its app for partner airlines. Customers can access boarding passes and flight information for flights on United's Star Alliance partner airlines when flights are booked with connecting travel on United on the same itinerary. The airline also made it easier for customers to search for fare classes available in the app with Expert Mode, a popular feature from united.com.

Last year, United updated its digital platforms including the united.com homepage and entire mobile website to make them

more dynamic and personalized.

For more information about updates to the app, visit the United Hub.



COMICS CORNER



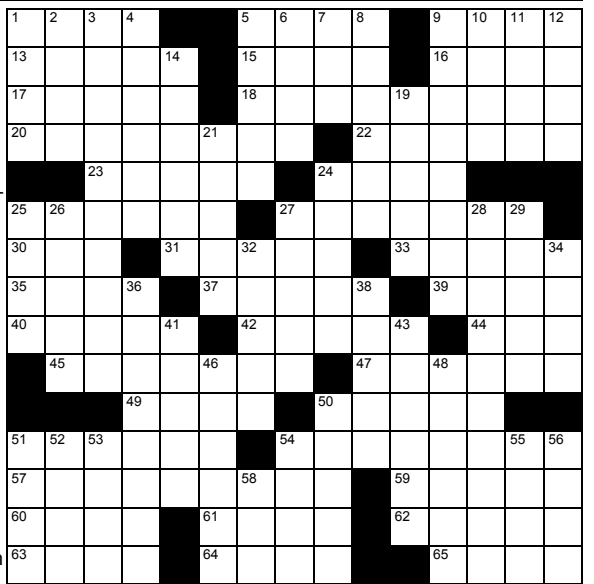
Do you have an idea for comics? Email it to Guam@stripes.com

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Handel contemporary
- 5 Long, long time
- 9 Bomb
- 13 Autumn color
- 15 Bearded beast
- 16 Ancient Germanic letter
- 17 "Rocky" actress Talia
- 18 Restraint
- 20 Academic term
- 22 Elite soldier
- 23 Cubby hole
- 24 In the raw
- 25 Park or Pennsylvania
- 27 Lab tube
- 30 Scout leader?
- 31 Obliterate
- 33 Out of gas
- 35 They're sealed in a Go-Go's song
- 37 Put into effect
- 39 Give a hoot
- 40 Secretly run off together
- 42 Gather bit by bit
- 44 Routing word
- 45 Biological reversion
- 47 Lustrous fabric
- 49 Dime division
- 50 Part of a flower
- 51 _____-minded
- 54 Harbor blaze fighter
- 57 Okay to eat
- 59 Nissan model since 2008
- 60 Tight
- 61 Mountaineer's challenge
- 62 Letter sign-off
- 63 Nose (out)
- 64 Carryall bag
- 65 Airplane assignment



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DOWN

- 1 Big cheese
- 2 Advil target

- 3 Feature seen on old-house roofs
- 4 Legalese word
- 5 Come to terms
- 6 Active one
- 7 Absorb, as a cost
- 8 Provoke
- 9 Uncontrolled
- 10 Air bag?
- 11 "___ bitten, twice shy"
- 12 Take a look
- 14 Coast Guard operation
- 19 Citadel student
- 21 Limerick starter
- 24 Eleanor, to Teddy
- 25 Willing follower?
- 26 Magician's cry
- 27 Song of David
- 28 Bourdain's "Parts Unknown", e.g.
- 29 Chill-inducing
- 32 Uneasy state
- 34 College bigwig
- 36 It started with Sputnik
- 38 Shocking weapon
- 41 Datebook entry
- 43 Table linen
- 46 All together
- 48 No-nos
- 50 Attack
- 51 Church section
- 52 Queen, e.g.
- 53 Round bullet
- 54 Fizzless
- 55 Surrounding glow
- 56 Midterm, e.g.
- 58 "Dude!"

Answers to Last Week's Crossword:

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

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Stripes Sports Trivia

The stories and highlights of Bo Jackson are hard to top. Baseball, football, track – he did it all. And did it all at a high level. The once-in-a-generation athlete seemed super-human at times. Unfortunately, though, Bo was human, and injuries cut his NFL career short. He played in only 38 games to be exact. He played in more games (45) at what university?

Answer Auburn University

SUDOKU

Difficulty: Medium

Edited by Margie E. Burke

HOW TO SOLVE:

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

Answers to Last Week's Sudoku:

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

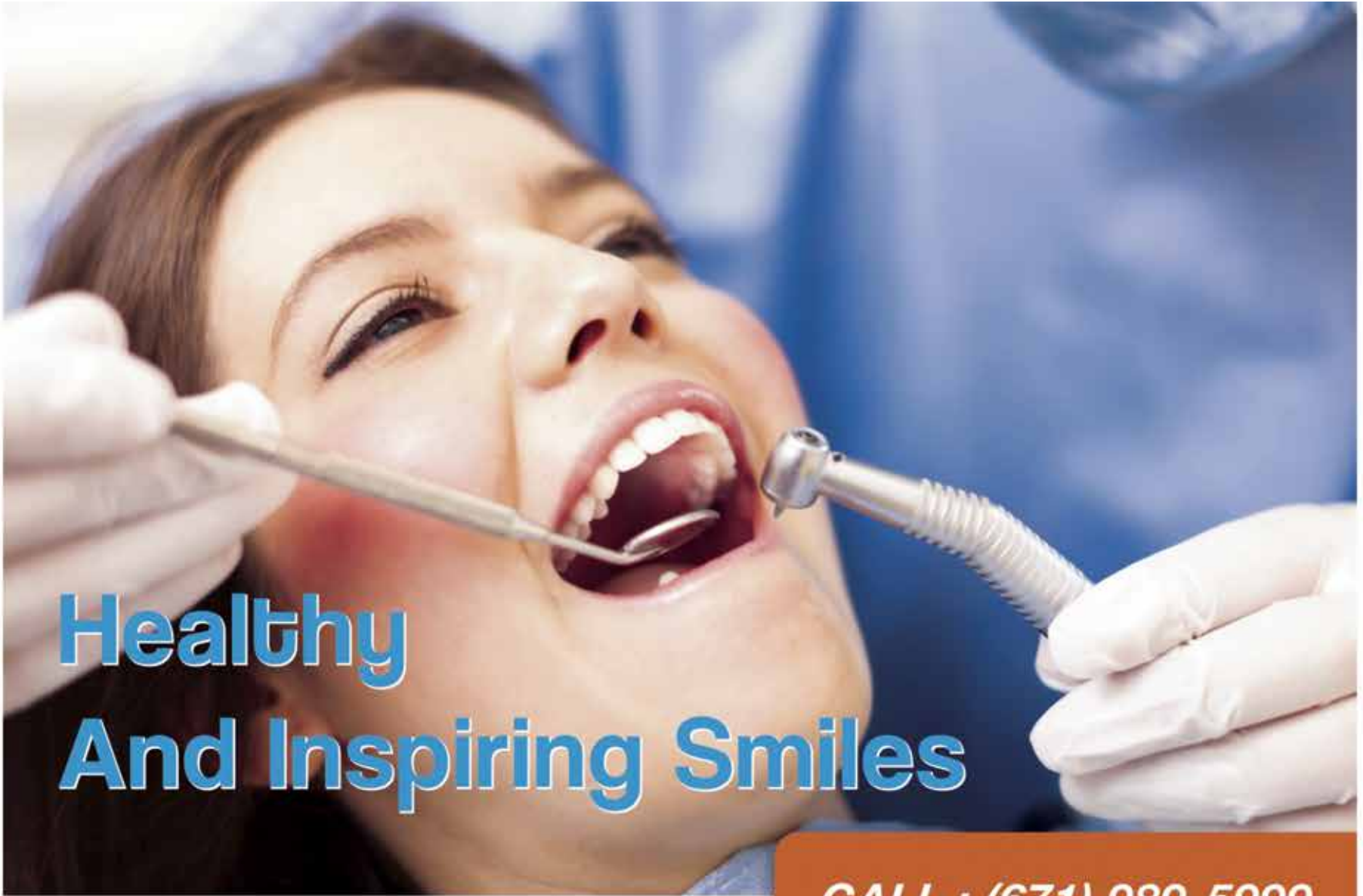
			9					1
2	7							
5			4			6		
9	8				2			6
		4						
3	6			5				
				7	3			
	4		8	1		9		
8								7

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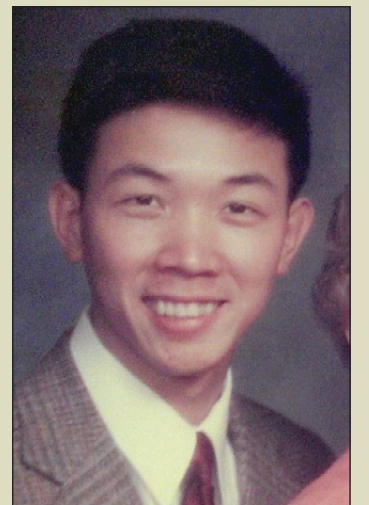
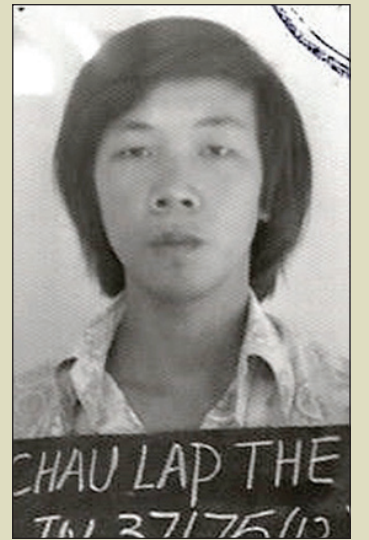
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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2019



Brig. Gen. Lapthe Flora fled Vietnam in 1979. He's thought to be the only Vietnamese "boat person" to become a general officer in the U.S. Army.

NANCY MONTGOMERY
Stars and Stripes



Dream come true

Former Vietnamese 'boat person' now brigadier general Page 2

COVER STORY

'The American dream is real'

US Army general was once a desperate refugee

BY NANCY MONTGOMERY
Stars and Stripes

VICENZA, Italy — He was a penniless, traumatized Vietnamese teenager with a fifth-grade education when he arrived in the U.S. in 1980. He knew how to survive in the jungle, to evade checkpoints and to control the terror he often felt.

But he couldn't speak more than a few words of English and had little practice in how to live a regular life.

Yet within seven years after his American arrival, Lap The Chau had a new name, a degree from the Virginia Military Institute and a career as "an officer in the greatest Army on Earth," as he put it.

Brig. Gen. Lapthe C. Flora, as he's now known, is deputy commander of U.S. Army Africa and assistant adjutant general of the Virginia National Guard.

He is thought to be the only Vietnamese "boat person" to become a general officer in the U.S. military.

"After what I went through, practically death, and then somebody gives you that opportunity to live again, I can only say from my own perspective that I'm very grateful for what this country has done for me," Flora said in an interview with Stars and Stripes.

Flora, who in civilian life is an engineer holding several patents on night-vision goggles, has recounted his unlikely story many times.

"The possibility in this great nation is boundless; the American Dream is real, only if you dare to pursue it with laser-focused hard work and perseverance," Flora said in a speech when he was promoted to brigadier general more than two years ago.

He has also showed appreciation for those who helped upon his arrival in America.

"There's no one who can get to where they are on their own. You need help," he said in a 2017 talk at Raleigh Court United Methodist Church in Roanoke, Va.

The church had sponsored him and several family members in 1980.

"We had a house for them. They came with nothing," said Sharon Alexi, a former kindergarten teacher active in the church who helped settle the 11-member Chau family. She helped teach Flora and his brother English and how to drive.

"They caught on very quickly," she said. "It was fun. It was a joy."

A couple in the congregation were so taken with Flora that they adopted him when they were in their 60s and he was either 21 or 23; his birthdate is uncertain.

Postwar exodus

Flora is among 800,000 people who fled Vietnam by sea starting in 1975 in an international humanitarian crisis that took years to resolve. The exodus reached its height in 1978, when some 5,800 refugees a month were landing in Asian countries increasingly unwilling to accept them, and an untold number were dying at sea.

President Jimmy Carter responded by ordering U.S. ships to the rescue, then doubled the number of refugees accepted



COTTON PURYEAR/Virginia National Guard

Lapthe C. Flora is promoted to brigadier general at the National D-Day Memorial on June 6, 2016, in Bedford, Va.

into the U.S., from 7,000 to 14,000 a month despite polls showing a majority of Americans disapproved.

"I benefited greatly from the U.S.' decision to accept me into this country," Flora said. "I'm extremely grateful for the circumstances that led to my citizenship."

Flora declined to imagine what might have become of him had the Carter administration decided not to accept Vietnamese refugees.

In the end, nearly all of his family arrived in the U.S., including his future wife, his mother and a long-lost sister who'd been given up for adoption in Vietnam.

"I don't like to think about hypothetical paths my life could've taken," Flora said. "Instead, I focus on the future and my ability to give back whenever possible and sharing my story to inspire others."

That story includes many early hardships and eventual triumphs. When he was 2, his merchant marine father was killed in a mortar attack, Flora said. The death plunged the ethnic Chinese family into poverty so severe that his mother gave her infant daughter to another couple.

Flight to freedom

At 11, as the Vietnam War raged

'He had so much credibility with the Serbs and the Albanians (on a 2007 deployment to Kosovo) because they knew he had lived their lives. He had been through the same hell they had been through.'

Retired Col. Eric Barr

throughout the countryside, Flora worked as a live-in servant at a factory. That ended on April 30, 1975, when the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong captured Saigon, South Vietnam's capital, ending the war and turning all of Vietnam into a socialist, one-party state.

The new communist government instituted "re-education camps" and other repressive measures against political opponents and those who had collaborated with the Americans.

Flora and two brothers fled the fallen capital, renamed Ho Chi Minh City, where they were at risk for military conscription. Hiding in the countryside for three years, he said, they survived on crops they planted and animals they hunted, including lizards and porcupines.

The brothers were sometimes frightened and often hungry, but they were also free.

"We sang in the middle of the night," Flora said. "It was kind of fun."

His escape came after a sister and brother-in-law in 1979 secured 11 spots for the family on a cramped, fetid fishing boat. The terrifying voyage lasted five horrible days and nights, he said, with little food or water, and they were vulnerable to storms, shipwreck and pirates. A toddler on board died before they landed

in Indonesia.

"We knew there was less than a 50 percent chance of survival," Flora said. "Desperation, destitution will drive people to do anything."

Much of his family settled in California, which, along with Texas, accepted the most Vietnamese refugees. But he preferred Roanoke and life with his adoptive family, Jack and Audrey Flora.

He graduated from high school in three years while working part time bagging groceries, and he was accepted to VMI.

He took to the spartan school, his adoptive father's alma mater, saying it reminded him of his early schooling in Vietnam.

He's encountered little discrimination since coming to the U.S., he said, and any slights are easily ignored. "You feel sorry for their narrow-mindedness," Flora said.

From the start of his military career, Lapthe Flora made an impression. As a young lieutenant with the 116th Infantry Regiment in 1991, when Capt. Eric Barr met him, it was clear it wasn't just his backstory that made him unique.

"It just jumped out at me that Lapthe was one of the most professional, squared-away officers," Barr said. "It was just obvious he knew his business."

On a 2007 deployment to Kosovo, "whenever something really tough came up, Lapthe was known as the go-to person," said Barr, now a retired colonel.

"Where it really stood out, he had so much credibility with the Serbs and the Albanians because they knew he had lived their lives," Barr said. "He had been through the same hell they had been through."

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PACIFIC

Icebreakers

For Misawa sailors, Sapporo Snow Festival offers 'gold standard' of community relations

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

SAPPORO, Japan — A team of 11 sailors from Naval Air Facility Misawa in five days transformed a big block of compacted snow into a frosty monument to the Navy for the 2019 Sapporo Snow Festival this week.

"When you show up and it's a 6-foot by 6-foot cube, it's kind of hard to get people to envision what you're putting on a napkin in a drawing in Misawa," said Chief Petty Officer Frank Ring, a Seabee chief builder.

It was the 36th year the Navy sent a team to the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido to participate in the event.

Chief Petty Officer Chris Norris, a chief construction mechanic, said the festival offers a chance to make a grand gesture of goodwill to people from across the world.

"I would say as a community relations project, this is the gold standard for us in Japan," he said. "This is the largest one we do, and I think it probably has one of the largest impacts too — and not just in Japan, because we're interacting with (people from) Taiwan, Australia, Hong Kong, Thailand, New Zealand, the Philippines, Israel and also people coming from stateside."

This year marked the 70th snow festival, which draws more than 2 million visitors annually, according to organizers. The event — held Jan. 31 through Feb. 11 — offered food vendors, music performances and winter activities, such as sledding.

'It's definitely something I'm going to hold dear to me forever. It's a good memory.'

Petty Officer 3rd Class Sean Ingraham

20-foot-tall Cup Noodles container with a built-in ice slide.

The Navy's creation, complete with an eagle, anchor, American flag and "USN" block letters, was designed to be "easy to explain to the Japanese," Ring said.

"The eagle represents strength and power, and the anchor represents Navy stability," he said.

Ring's idea worked — thousands of festivalgoers stopped by to meet the sailors and admire their work throughout the week.

"I knew they were something related to America because of the eagle," said snow festival visitor Yoshiko Aoki. "I was here when they were building it last week and I came back to check the completion."

Aoki, of Chiba, Japan, said she was glad for the chance to practice her English and interact with the Americans. She asked to take a picture with the sailors, who gave her a Naval Air Facility Misawa pin featuring the U.S. and Japanese flags.

"They are my son's generation," Aoki said. "Now we are friends."

Petty Officer 3rd Class Sean Ingraham, an information systems technician, said the support visitors have shown his team has been overwhelming.

"Being out here shows our presence and

Visitors came to admire carvings by professional and amateur teams from around the world that are spread throughout a 13-block park in central Sapporo. This year's snow sculptures depicted everything from a 6-foot-tall SpongeBob SquarePants to a



PHOTOS BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS/Stars and Stripes

The Navy's 2019 Sapporo Snow Festival entry, shown Feb. 7, features an eagle, an anchor and an American flag.



Star Wars characters and spacecraft were among the many snow sculptures.

that we're trying to get involved with the community," he said. "It shows initiative — and, especially doing this for 36 years, it's also consistency."

The team members were nominated for the 11-day temporary duty trip by senior enlisted leaders in their commands for being exemplary sailors, Ring said. While three were Seabee builders, most did not have construction experience.

"The person who did a lot of the build-

ing was a master-at-arms," Norris said. "To see people come together and their creativity come out, it's really awesome."

The sailors returned to Misawa on Feb. 8, but say they plan to return one day as visitors to the festival.

"It's definitely something I'm going to hold dear to me forever," Ingraham said. "It's a good memory."

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Builder 3rd Class Kyle Antrobus, left, and Information Systems Technician 3rd Class Sean Ingraham greet visitors at the Navy team's sculpture Feb. 7.



Sculptures at the festival also included a 6-foot snow carving of SpongeBob SquarePants.

MILITARY

Thai drills new twist for Army's Pacific Pathways

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

Roughly 800 U.S. Army personnel were wrapping up 11 days of side-by-side training with Royal Thai Army soldiers just north of Bangkok during the Hanuman Guardian exercise.

This week, about 300 miles to the north, those same U.S. soldiers will again train beside their Thai counterparts for two weeks during Cobra Gold.

They'll then head to a pair of back-to-back drills with troops in the Philippines before returning home in early May.

This mode of consecutive stretches of training in a single country is the latest twist for Pacific Pathways, a concept launched in 2014. Pathways strings together already established Army exercises with allies and partner nations throughout the Pacific as a way of keeping U.S.-based troops and equipment deployed beyond the International Date Line for extended periods.

This year, soldiers will deploy to fewer countries but stay longer in each, according to U.S. Army Pacific. Two more iterations of Pathways are scheduled this year.

"One of the goals with Pathways is to build longer duration relationships with our partners here in the Pacific," said Lt. Col. Scott Siegfried, commander of 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment, speaking Feb. 5 from Thailand during a conference call with Stars and Stripes that included two other officers at Hanuman Guardian.

"By keeping one unit here for a little bit longer to do multiple exercises, I think we're able to build a little bit better relationship with the Royal Thai Army — and with multiple units within the Royal Thai Army," he said.

The extended duration "lets us get deeper into the planning process and really understand each other's procedures and how we operate," he said.

The battalion had brought 120 personnel and a dozen attack helicopters to Thailand, said Maj. John Bolton, executive officer of the Hawaii-based 2nd Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment.

The Thai army had been especially eager for advice from U.S. experts on maintenance of Black Hawk helicopters, he said.

"They are very interested in the backbone support, not just the aircraft itself," Bolton said.

The U.S. approved the sale of four more Black Hawks to Thailand in 2017, giving it a fleet of 16. The U.S. suspended arms sales to Thailand for several years after a 2014 military coup, which overthrew the elected leadership. The junta in control since then has scheduled elections for this year.

Hanuman Guardian is in its ninth year, a much younger and smaller affair than Cobra Gold, first held in 1982.

"It's a great opportunity for us to build our own individual readiness and additionally to work



ALVIN REEVES/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Above: American and Thai soldiers swap lunches during the Hanuman Guardian exercise last month in Sa Kaeo province, Thailand. Right: A U.S. soldier explains the capabilities of a Stryker vehicle to Royal Thai Army soldiers during an exchange Feb. 2 at Camp Nimman Kolayut, Thailand.

‘The opportunity to exercise some of our deployment readiness in moving by sea and air from the United States into Thailand was a huge experience for our entire task force.’

Lt. Col. Scott Siegfried
commander of 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment

with our Royal Thai Army counterparts to build capacity and forge strong relationships with them," said Col. Leo Wyszynski, commander of 1-2 Stryker Brigade Combat Team, whose members are based at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

About 900 Thai personnel participated in the exercise, with some rotating through only for specific drills, he said. They came from all over Thailand, from aviation, field artillery and infantry units, as well as an explosive ordnance disposal team.

U.S. soldiers trained with their counterparts for nine days on countering improvised explosive devices. The training focused on identifying and assessing IEDs in a jungle setting.

Thai counter-IED instructors shared knowledge gained from regular rotations to southern Thailand, where insurgents routinely plant IEDs.

Conversely, soldiers with the Hawaii-based 303rd Ordnance Battalion shared tactics and lessons learned about IEDs from their deployments to Iraq and

Afghanistan.

As in past Pacific Pathways, the logistics of moving from exercise to exercise affords as much learning as the drills themselves.

"The opportunity to exercise some of our deployment readiness in moving by sea and air from the United States into Thailand was a huge experience for our entire task force," Siegfried said.

Wyszynski agreed. "We've had to deploy with our command post, our sustainment equipment, field-feeding equipment," he said. "Really, our soldiers and formations are learning how to live in an expeditionary environment and how to sustain themselves with less higher level support in an austere environment."

"This an added benefit to the readiness training we're doing in our own path, but I think a benefit that will pay large dividends with our soldiers in the future," he said.

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SAMUEL NORTHRUP/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

MILITARY



The U.S. 7th Fleet flagship USS Blue Ridge arrives Friday for a port visit in Otaru, Japan.

ETHAN CARTER/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

USS Blue Ridge makes port visit after long refit

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

ABOARD THE USS BLUE RIDGE in Otaru, Japan — Quarter-sized snowflakes pummeled the USS Blue Ridge as the Navy's oldest operational ship pulled into this city for the first time in nearly five years.

Snow piled on the shoulders of the ship's leadership during a morning ceremony. The hulking, gray flagship of the U.S. 7th Fleet behind them stuck out against the blizzard-white sky and snow-packed pier.

Hokkaido businessman Yoshiro Ito, of the Japan Defense Cooperative Association, welcomed 7th Fleet commander Vice Adm. Phil Sawyer and his staff to Otaru during an outdoor welcoming ceremony on the snowy pier Feb. 8. A crowd of about 75 shivering onlookers gathered to hear his short speech.

"It is very unusual to have the 7th Fleet admiral visit Hokkaido," Ito said. "I'm so happy to show you winter."

The Navy regularly sends sailors to Hokkaido, the northernmost of the four main islands of Japan, to participate in winter festivals.

On Feb. 10, the USS Antietam stopped in nearby Ishikari for the 70th annual Sapporo Snow Festival, according to a Navy statement. A team of 11 sailors from Misawa Naval Air Facility recently created a snow carving in Sapporo for the festival.

The Blue Ridge, a nearly 19,000-ton warship, was commissioned in 1970 as a central planning vessel for fleet leaders, according to the Navy. The 6th Fleet uses the Blue Ridge's sister ship, the USS Mount Whitney, in a similar fashion.

The command ship in October returned to sea for short trips after two years of maintenance, upgrades and repairs costing more than \$60 million. Its commanding officer, Capt. Eric Anduze, said major changes included upgrades to communications equipment, command and control networks and satellite systems.

"Our biggest upgrade is what's called CANES — the Consolidated Afloat Network Enterprise," Anduze said. "It's a com-



PHOTOS BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS/Stars and Stripes

Above: Vice Adm. Phil Sawyer, left, commander of the U.S. 7th Fleet, holds flowers from citizens of Otaru during a welcoming ceremony. Below: USS Blue Ridge sailors stand watch on board the Navy's oldest operational ship.



puter system that provides the commander with a much more modern electronic communications suite and computer suite."

Anduze said some mechanical upgrades were also made, noting that "it's a 1970

ship ... a lot of things needed to be updated and reworked."

The Blue Ridge still runs on steam power, and Anduze said the crew takes great pride in mixing old technology with

new.

"We have boiler technicians and we have network operators all still on the same ship fulfilling one mission, which is supporting 7th Fleet staff and the commander in doing his job," Anduze said. "So, it's the old and the new all working together to make sure that we provide the capabilities necessary."

The port visit gives the crew of about 1,000 a chance to relax, interact with the local community and attend several events taking place in the region, including the Sapporo Snow Festival and Otaru Snow Light Path Festival.

"We've been looking forward to coming up here for several months now, and it didn't disappoint," Anduze said. "Snowboarding, the festivals, the food — everybody's very excited about this area in the northern part of Japan."

At the welcoming ceremony, Sawyer told an audience of Japanese leaders, Japan Self-Defense Forces servicemembers and media that the stop in Otaru was special for the Blue Ridge and 7th Fleet staffs.

"While we call Yokosuka home and work with the [Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force] throughout the year, opportunities to visit this part of Japan are rare, and we truly appreciate Otaru's hospitality," Sawyer said.

Not everyone in Otaru was welcoming. Anduze said he heard some Hokkaido residents protesting the Blue Ridge's arrival. A Japanese journalist told Anduze during an onboard press conference that some citizens were concerned the Blue Ridge was carrying nuclear weapons, to which Anduze replied that the ship is not.

During their remaining time in Otaru, Blue Ridge sailors will participate in several community engagement events, playing basketball with Otaru high school students and volunteering at the snow light path festival, according to a Navy statement.

The Navy said in its statement that such events "build on the long-standing friendship between American and Japanese citizens." It is unclear how long the ship will remain in Otaru, as the Navy does not discuss future movements.

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MILITARY

'Higher, further and faster than anyone else'

Air Force names first female fighter pilot to command F-16 Viper Demonstration Team

BY CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

The Air Force has named its first female commander of a single-aircraft demonstration team, as the service looks to leverage the anticipated popularity of an upcoming superhero movie featuring a female fighter pilot to spur recruitment.

Capt. Zoe "SiS" Kotnik was named pilot and commander of the Air Combat Command's F-16 Viper Demonstration Team on Jan. 29 after completing a series of certification flights. The team showcases the F-16V Viper, the latest variant of the Fighting Falcon, at dozens of air shows each year.

In announcing Kotnik's selection on Twitter, the team posted a video and photos framed and lettered like a comic panel.

"In that instant ... she knew she could fly her F-16 higher, further and faster than anyone else," reads text that appears in the images.

The line is a clear nod to the "Captain Marvel" film, which premieres on March 8 and features Brie Larson in the role of the titular superhero whose alter ego, Carol Danvers, is an F-16 pilot in the Air Force. Air Force pilots, including Brig. Gen. Jeannie Leavitt, the service's first female fighter pilot, assisted in the production.

A new trailer, which aired during the Super Bowl on Feb. 3, showed Larson's character on the flight line walking beside fellow pilot Maria Rambeau, played by Lashana Lynch.

"About to show these boys how we do it," Lynch says. "You ready?"

Larson's reply, which is partly echoed throughout the 30-second spot: "Higher, further, faster, baby."

In another nod to the movie, the Air Force Recruiting Service included the hashtag #higherfurtherfaster in a post on Feb. 1 announcing that Leavitt, who heads the recruiting service, hosted dozens of female pilots for an event at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. Kotnik was among them.

'Origin story'

"Every hero has an origin story," said



PHOTOS BY KATHRYN R.C. REAVES/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

U.S. Air Force Capt. Zoe "SiS" Kotnik, F-16 Viper Demonstration Team commander and pilot, smiles after a certification flight at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va., on Jan. 29. Kotnik performed more than 30 practice missions before the certification.

the post, which included a photo of the women on a foggy tarmac in front of a formation of aircraft. "We asked over 80 female pilots to share theirs."

Kotnik's origin story started in Poynette, Wis., where she was born into a family of aviators. Her uncle was skydiver and air show hall of fame pilot Charlie Hillard, who in 1972 became the first American to win the World Aerobatic Championships. Her mother was a private pilot.

But Kotnik's path to becoming a fighter pilot really began when she saw a NASA T-38 Talon supersonic jet trainer pull up at an air show, she told Live Airshow TV last fall in a video interview. The pilot shut down the engines, popped the canopy and pulled off the flight helmet, revealing a female fighter pilot.

"It was at that moment that I realized, 'Oh, my god, that's exactly what I can do,'" Kotnik said.

After graduating from the Air Force Academy in 2011, Kotnik earned her wings in 2013 and learned to fly the F-16C. She's since flown with the 35th

Fighter Squadron at Kunsan Air Force Base, South Korea, and the 55th Fighter Squadron at Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., according to her official biography.

Most recently, at Shaw, she flew missions supporting Operation Noble Eagle — the air defense mission to prevent another 9/11 — and served as an instructor pilot training new F-16 wingmen.

Certification

She's clocked more than 1,000 flying hours, but before cinching her spot as pilot and commander of the demonstration team for the next two years, she completed off-station training and more than 30 practice missions, then had to prove her skills in four certification flights.

Gen. Mike Holmes, commander of Air Combat Command, certified her on Jan. 29.

Now, Kotnik will lead a team of 17 airmen assigned to Shaw's 20th Operations Group as they travel to more than 20 air shows showcasing the F-16's maneuverability to an estimated 10 million spectators each year, the Air Force said.

The Viper team, one of four single-aircraft performance teams in the Air Combat Command, is a key part of the service's recruiting efforts. The command also oversees an A-10 Thunderbolt II team and an F-22 Raptor team. Newly added for the 2019 season is an F-35 Lightning II demonstration team. The F-35 previously flew only in the command's heritage formation alongside fighters from previous eras.

Kotnik's team is in preseason training and is slated to perform their first show in Key West, Fla., March 30-31.

Kotnik said she's looking forward to having the effect on younger generations the NASA T-38 pilot had on her.

"I know firsthand how impactful air shows can be and what a difference it makes to young people to see just one example of what they, too, can do," she said. "I hope to be a source of inspiration and motivation they can draw from."

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New Army Greens to begin phased rollout this year

BY JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — The Army could begin issuing the first batch of its retro-style service uniforms this month in a push to get recruiters onto the streets of "hometown America" in the new duds, the Army's top enlisted soldier said recently.

The plan is for an initial production of 200 uniforms for recruiters beginning as early as this month, Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey said in a podcast hosted by the Association of the U.S. Army.

The Army is still fine-tuning how best to pin decorations and

awards on the new World War II-style Army Service Uniform, Dailey said. The present plan is to wear the uniform in the same manner as the current ASU, minus the name tag. But that could be streamlined going forward.

"If we look at what they wore during that period, it was much less than what we wear today ... and I think what you are going to see in the future is a change," he said.

Last year, the Army officially adopted the iconic WWII-period outfit as its new service uniform after about two years of debating the merits of the plan. Referred to

in the past as "pinks and greens," the service today simply calls the uniform Army Greens.

By 2020, the uniform will be issued to new soldiers after they finish basic training. It will be required servicewide by 2028. Dailey, the Army's biggest booster of changing over to the retro look, has made a point of wearing the outfit at high-profile venues such as the Army-Navy Game and AUSA's annual meeting in Washington.

Soldiers will continue to wear their blue dress uniform for formal occasions, but the Greens will offer a more casual alternative that fits into an office setting.

With the U.S. at war for the past 17 years, camouflage has been the uniform of choice for soldiers even when working in offices. But before 2001, it was commonplace to see soldiers wear their service uniforms, which is something Dailey said he would like to see the Army get back to with the new Greens.

"I do want to put our soldiers back in a professional uniform," Dailey said.

The new uniform, which includes pinkish-brown trousers and dark olive jackets, harkens to the time when Gen. George Marshall was the Army's chief of staff.

The Army's effort to draw on its

past also is something of a nod to the Marine Corps, whose Marines have been wearing the same classic dress and service uniforms for generations.

"(The Marines) didn't get away from that uniform and that period. It's iconic when you see a Marine," Dailey said, adding that Greens, though retired long ago, also hold a place in the popular imagination.

"Even though we got away from (the Army Greens) the American people still clearly identify this uniform with the greatest generation," he said.

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MILITARY

POW's son building memorial on Bataan

BY SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

The son of a former American prisoner of war is building a memorial on the site of a hospital that treated U.S. and Filipino troops during World War II in the Philippines.

Bob Hudson's late father, Richard Hudson, was among tens of thousands forced to march nearly 70 miles to Japanese prisoner-of-war camps after the Bataan Peninsula fell on April 9, 1942. The younger Hudson has been maintaining concrete

‘There were thousands being treated and they ran out of medicine.’

Bob Hudson
son of WWII veteran

markers along the Bataan Death March trail with his wife, Rosalie, since 2012.

In 2014, searchers identified the site, on a road to Mariveles, of the Army hospital

where troops were treated during the Battle of Bataan.

They made the identification after talking to locals and comparing surviving foundations with wartime sketches showing the layout of the facility, Hudson said.

“During the siege of the peninsula its defenders ran low on food, ammunition and medicine, and many were struck down with dysentery and malaria,” he said. “There were thousands being treated and they ran out of medicine.”

A search of the old hospital site with a metal detector turned up a dog tag belonging to Pvt. Edward McCain, who reportedly died there in June 1942 after the fall of Bataan, he said.

Japanese troops kicked over and scattered crosses in a graveyard beside the hospital after they captured it, but there must have been a clue to McCain's identity because his name is inscribed on a marble cross in Manila American Cemetery, he said.

“Most of those who were buried at the hospital were exhumed and reburied as unknowns in Manila,” Hudson said.

Work on the hospital memorial, which needs final approval from local authori-



Courtesy of Bob Hudson

Since 2012, Bob Hudson and his wife, Rosalie, have spent many weekends along the Death March trail pulling weeds, cleaning and repainting markers.

ties, could begin as soon as next week.

The memorial is being paid for with a grant of \$7,600 in proceeds from an annual march by thousands of Filipino civilians, troops and American veterans' families, Hudson said.

The memorial will be more than 6 feet tall and 3 feet wide and inscribed in honor

of the doctors, nurses and medics who worked at the hospital and the troops who they cared for, he said.

It's hoped that it will be ready in time for this year's march, which is scheduled for March 2-3 ahead of the commemoration of Philippine Veterans Week, accord-

ing to the event's official website.

This year's march will include a “Ride for Valor” on bicycles along the trail on March 10 and a bus tour March 1-3, the website states.

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Air Force ends promotion tests for senior NCOs

BY BRIAN FERGUSON
Stars and Stripes

Airmen eligible for promotion to master sergeant, senior master sergeant or chief master sergeant will no longer be required to pass tests to earn those

ranks.

Promotion to the highest three Air Force enlisted ranks will now only include a promotion board score that looks at the last five years worth of evaluations and takes all awards and

decorations under consideration, according to an Air Force statement released Feb. 4. The changes are scheduled to take effect this September.

“We found that removing the testing portion will eliminate

any possibility that Airmen without the strongest leadership potential might test into promotion, while also ensuring that our strongest performers continue to earn the promotion they deserve,” Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright said in a statement.

Every year, airmen spend hundreds of hours studying promotion material. Some questions include military history and other facts that, if ever necessary to learn, could be found through internet searches.

“As an added benefit, we will give SNCOs more control over their time,” Wright stated. “This is time that our enlisted leaders can use to focus on getting after the mission, leading their teams, caring for their families and building self and team

resilience.”

In the past year or so, the Air Force has seen policy changes come from the Pentagon every few months, and Wright has been the catalyst for many of the changes.

Those changes include the new Operational Camouflage Pattern uniform, fewer Air Force regulations, reduced training and additional duties and the elimination of enlisted performance reports for airmen first class.

Air Force officials also have discussed re-evaluating indefinite re-enlistments, joint custody assignments, nonchargeable bereavement leave and the service's fitness uniform.

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