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Celebrating Month of the Military Child

Ups and downs

See more from McCool students on Pages 4-6

Have you ever wondered what being a military child is like? If you ever wondered what being a military child is like, ask me because I'm a military child that knows all about a military child's life.

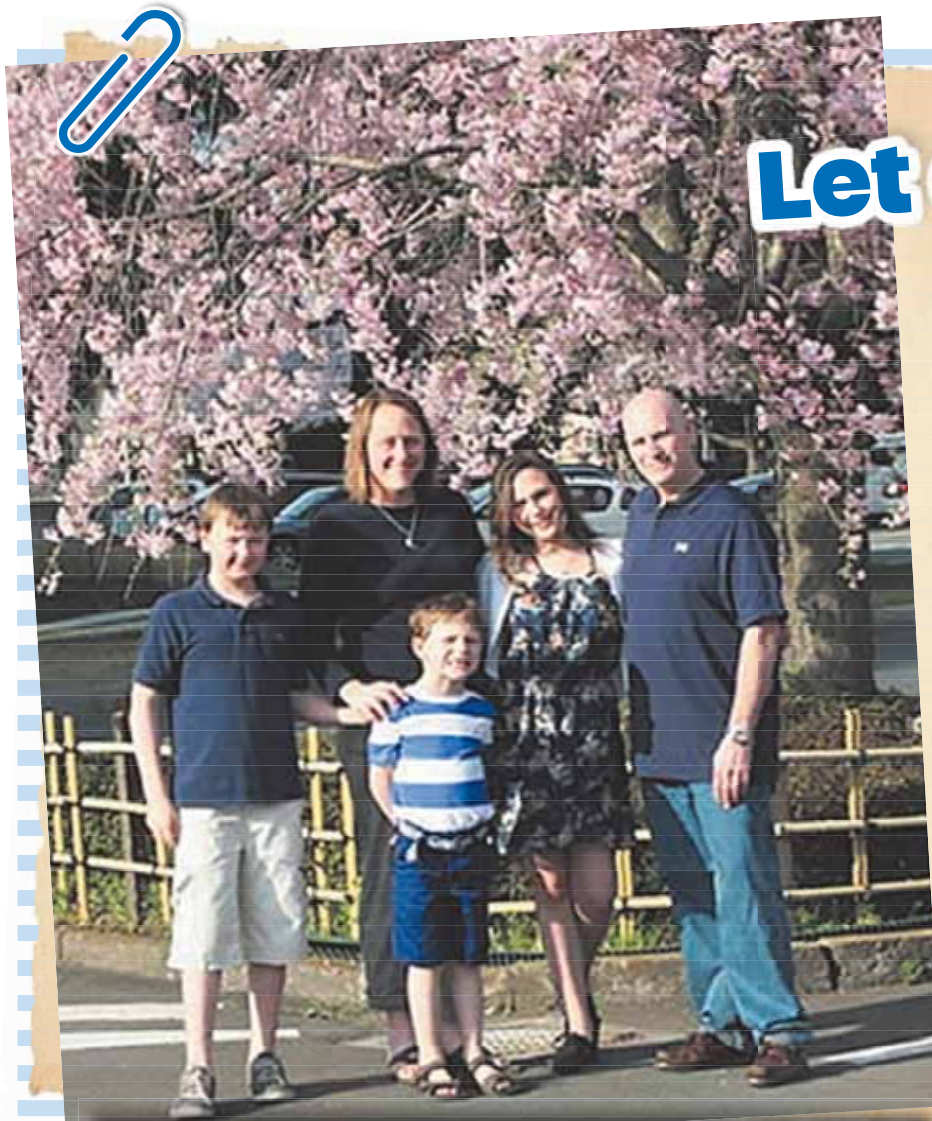
There are some ups & some downs. Let me tell you the ups first. First of all I get to fly on an airplane. That's always fun because I get to watch, sleep, and eat on the plane. When I PCS to a new place, I get to meet new friends and try new foods. The only reason I get to go to new places is because I am a military child. For example, I'm the only one who was born in as born in Japan out of 11 cousins and a lot



of grown-ups. Other places I have been to are San Diego and Guam. I have also been to other places I just can't remember them. Now my family is in Guam. There are so many friends I make along the way. These are some of my best friends Alice, Zoie, and Thisbe. I also have friends from San Diego like Cadence, Jada, and Abigail. I think it's finally time for the downs. I really miss my dad or mom when they're on deployment, or when we PCS. It's fun, but I have to leave my friends too. That's how I ended up in Guam.

As you can see there are some ups and some downs, but do you agree that my military life is the best? It is! Now you know what being a military child is like. How would you feel if you were a military child?

– Elizabeth Burkart,
CDR William C. McCool Elementary Middle School



Family photo during cherry blossom season in Japan. Photo courtesy of Clare Catherine Hartnett

Let experiences guide you

BY 2D LT. CLARE CATHERINE HARTNETT

The military child is faced with a unique experience full of challenge and opportunity. This experience is different for every child, and I am grateful for the one that I had. I was lucky to experience a childhood in the Pacific bouncing between Korea, Alaska, and Japan where I learned a lot about myself and the world around me. There was much expected and demanded of my brothers and me because of the regular moves. I remember there was a mixture of excitement and heartbreak every time I had to pack my life into a box and move away from everything I had worked to build. While not the easiest thing to do, it taught me that with an outward appearance of confidence and calm, an open mind and some understanding, I could walk into any situation knowing I could get through it. It also taught me that change can be good and as long as I was determined and worked hard, I could accomplish anything I set my mind to.

SEE EXPERIENCES ON PAGE 2

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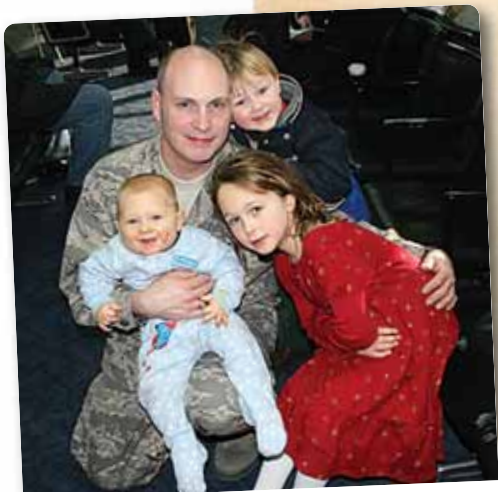
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EXPERIENCES: Strive for your dreams

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Trying on dad's hat in Korea.



At the airport in St. Louis before deployment.

Being surrounded by, and fascinated with, aviation my entire life, it wasn't a surprise to anyone when I decided I wanted to fly as a career. As I entered my teenage years, I was given the opportunity to begin flight training with incredible instructors who donated their time to teach interested youth. I was fortunate to have a line of military aviators as my instructors and that's when I knew that I didn't just want to fly - I wanted to fly for the Air Force. With the support of my family, friends, teachers and mentors, I pursued an appointment to the Air Force Academy. I was once again thrust into the unknown when I began my four-year college experience in Colorado Springs. I was challenged mentally and physically while there and had to dig deep and overcome obstacles thrown my way. A memorable challenge came freshman year when I had a roommate who, on the surface, could not have been more different than I was. Having to learn how to get along with people with different backgrounds and a wide range of personalities growing up proved incredibly valuable. We were able to work past our differences in personality and life experiences and developed an incredible bond that contributed to me successfully graduating from 'The Zoo'. She is still my best friend and someone I cannot imagine not having in my corner for the rest of my life. Together, we arrived at graduation with orders for flight training, and, once again, we'll jump into a new adventure.

Just like I looked forward to the challenges and opportunities a new home would bring as a child, I now look forward to the adventures I'll find in my own military career. I encourage all those children who grow up with a well-used backpack to hold onto their well-earned pride and strive for their dreams - their experiences as a military child will help see them through!



Flying with my brother in Alaska.



Liz and me post commissioning as second lieutenants.



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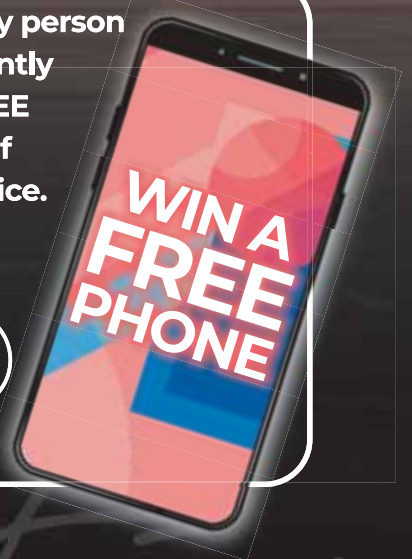
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Celebrating Month of the Military Child

McCool Elementary Middle School

2nd grade Mrs. Orozco



Being a Military Child
By Margot Smith

I am a military child. Being a military child is sometimes fun because when my dad is not here, I don't get really get in trouble, but I would still miss him. Sometimes when I get in trouble with my mom, I miss being with my dad. But then my mom checks on me and I'm okay after that. I love when my dad comes back, he brings me a present and gives me a big hug. I love being a military child! It is awesome, but my story is not done yet. Oh yeah, I do make new friends, like Zoie and Thisbe. The part I hate is when my dad is on deployment. I always miss him. But when he comes back, I am really happy. I love being a military child. It's the best life I could ever have!

Margot Smith



Proud to be a Military Child
By Thisbe Mayo

I love being a military child and I'm proud of it! I love it because I can eat good food like miso soup, sushi, and ramen! Another thing I love being a military child is living in new places like Japan and Guam. Third, I like making new friends! I have a lot of friends, but I felt so sad when I had to leave my friends because I moved somewhere. Another sad thing was when my papa had to go on deployment. He missed my 1st birthday, and I was so sad and so was my papa. But when my papa comes home, I feel so excited to see him again. As you can see, I'm proud to be a military child. So, would you agree with me that being a military child is so much fun with a little sadness?

Thisbe Mayo



Being a Military Child
By Kofi Aniyagei

Being a military child is an amazing experience, but it's not all good ones. I have an upside and a downside reason about being a military child. The upside is that I go all around the world, and I make new friends. For example, I was born in New Jersey. Then I moved to Guam when I was 5. In August, I am going to Maryland or maybe return to New Jersey.

One downside reason is that I have to leave a lot of places. This means I also have to leave my friends which is not fun either. When I move from Guam in August, I am going to miss Sach, Lucas, Brody, Zach, Joey and all my other friends.

So now you know why I love being a military child.

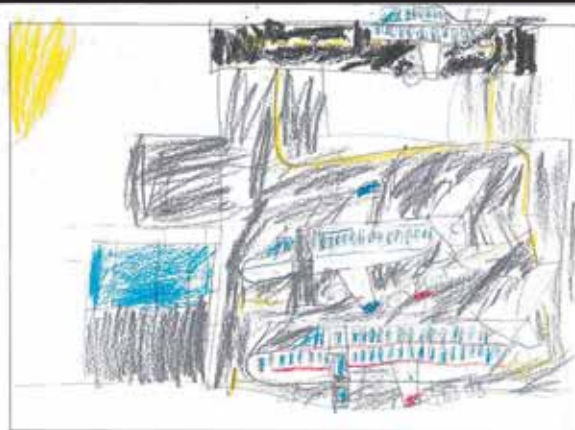
Kofi Aniyagei



Military Child
By Natalie Pacheco

I am a navy kid. I love it and I'm proud of it! I love it because it is fun, and it is great. My Mom is in the US Navy, and I'm proud of her. My dad stays home and takes care of us. It is fun because I get to go on my mom's ship. It is great because I get to meet new friends. My friends are military children, too! One thing that makes me sad is when my mom is away. That means she is on the ship! I miss my mom and when she comes back, I want to hug her a lot. Now you know why I am proud to be a US Navy kid and I love it!

Natalie Pacheco



Being a Military Child
By Tharon Harding

I like being a military child because it is good. I travel a lot. I went to Thailand and Colorado. I like McCool Elementary School because I like math. I also learn many things. All in all, being a military child is great.

Tharon Harding



My Great Life as a Military Child
By Talya Eustaquio

Are you a military child? Because I am. Being a military child is fantastic! But one part makes me upset and that is when I leave Guam. I can't meet up with some friends anymore unless I face time them.

Now let me talk about the good parts of being a military child. First, I get to meet new friends and play with them in the park. I also like eating food from other places like watermelon, pineapple, and many more fruits and vegetables. Another thing I like about being a military child is that I get to go to new places. I've been to Washington and I'll be going to Disneyworld sometime.

All in all, being a military child is awesome. Would you agree?

Talya Eustaquio



Being a Military Child
By Ethan Nanjero

My dad is in the military and I like being a military child. I like it because I can go to waterparks in Africa and Illinois. I also like going on long flights. I get to eat breakfast, lunch, and snacks. WHEN MY DAD HAS TO GO ON THE SHIP FOR DEPLOYMENT, I GET SAD. When he comes back, I get really happy because he's home safe. Now, you know why I like being a military child.

Ehtan Nanjero



Being a Military Child
By Mariah Mediola

I like being a military child because I get to eat lots of food from lots of places like Alaska, Hawaii, and Guam. I also get to meet new friends like Emily, Elizabeth, and Ximena. There are some things I don't like. I don't like airplanes because they are really noisy. I also don't like leaving my friends. All in all, being a military child is sometimes fun, and sometimes not fun.

Mariah Mediola



Being a Military Child
By Lucas Driscoll

Are you a military child? Well, I am and I kind of like it! Here are some upsides and downsides about my life as a military child.

Here are the upsides. I like to meet new friends, like when I moved to Guam, I met Brody, Sach, Kofi, Joey, and Josiah. I play with them at recess.

Here are the downsides of being a military child. I don't like my dad going on deployment. He goes for a few months and I also don't like leaving my friends or when they have to leave.

All in all, that was my experience of being a military child.

Lucas Driscoll

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Celebrating Month of the Military Child

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2nd grade
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Continued from page 5



I'm Proud to be a Military Child
By Josiah Evans

I'm proud to be a military child because I like to travel. Some places I have visited are Thailand and Tennessee. In Tennessee, I played in the pool and saw my gragra and grampa. Also, being a military child, I feel safe because my parents always take care of me from bad things, like drugs.

A downside of being a military child is DEPLOYMENT! When my dad went to the subs for like a month, I missed him. Another downside is when I leave Guam, I will miss my friends because I will leave them behind. But then, I get to meet new friends at my new school. For example, when I went to McCool School, I was scared, but now I'm fine because I have many friends.

As you can see, I'm so happy to be a military child. Would you agree that being a military child is fantastic?

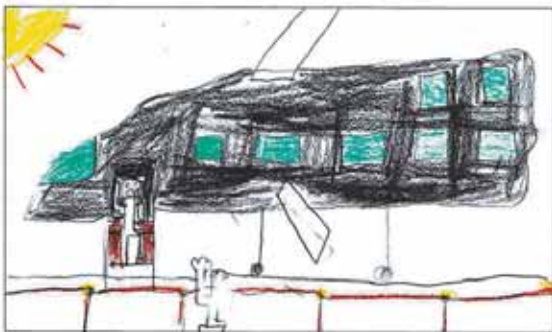
Josiah Evans



Military Child
By Sachihiro Marseglia

In my opinion being a military child is awesome! I say this because I get to meet new friends and play with them. In my school, I have many friends. One of my friends is Kofi. He is my best friend. Another reason I love being a military child is I get to live in different places. I get to explore and go to the beach and swim with my family. My mom and dad play with me and we always have fun. But the sad part was that my dad had to go on deployment. I didn't like that because I missed him. Another sad part is I had to leave my friends. Before moving to Guam, I lived in Alaska. I left Quinn, my best friend in Alaska. As you can see, being a military child is epic! I love being a military child!

Sachihiro Marseglia



Being a Military Child
By Malakai Cauble

First, I'm going to tell you the good part about being a military child and then I'm going to tell you the bad part.

The good part about being a military child is that I can move to a bunch of different places. And I can make a bunch of new friends! Now I will tell you the bad part. The bad part about being a military child is I have to leave a lot of my friends behind and I do not like to leave my friends behind.

Now you know what it's like to be a military child! I feel happy about it! How about you?

Malakai Cauble



Being a Military Child
By Orion James

Are you a military child? I love being a military child!

I love it because most of the kids in my class are military children. Another reason I love it is because I get to live in different places. For example, in Guam where I live now, there are lots of beaches. My family spends a lot of time at the beach especially on weekends. Being a military child, I have made some friends in school like Sach, Brody, Kofi, Joey, and Lucas.

One downside of being a military child is that my dad sometimes leaves for deployment for about five months. This year, he will be gone for my birthday which makes me sad, but when he gets back, we'll have a great time. All in all, being a military child is amazing! Now you know why I love being a military child.

Orion James



Do You Like Being a Military Child?
By Ximena Andrew

Well, I'm a military child, but there are ups and downs, I like to start with the good news. The good news is I get to try yummy food and it is awesome or it is bad! I get to travel to San Diego and Guam. I like Guam because I get to go to the mall and the pool, but I love my dad the most. Another good news is I get to meet new friends. Here is the bad news. My dad goes on deployment and I get sad. My dad went on deployment for 6 months. It is boring without my dad. There are days when my dad cannot come home because he has duty. As you can see, being a military child is exciting, but sometimes a little sad.

Ximena Andrew



Military Child
By Zach Tomeldan

Did you know that being a military child is cool and fun? It is fun because I get to travel and lived in different places. I was born in Maryland, lived in Virginia, and now I live on Guam. I love being a military child because I go to good schools like McCool Elementary School. I get to look at cool things and I make new friends. In Guam, my friends are Sach, Brody, Josiah, Kofi, Joey, Orion, and Lucas. I am happy to have friends. I play with them and I have fun. The down side of being a military child is I have to leave my friends and home when we move to another duty station. Also, once my mom went on deployment for months, and I was sad. But when she came home, she brought toys and food for me. I love my mom. All in all, being a military child is the best for me!

Zach Tomeldan



Being a Military Child
By Joey Weniger

I love being a Military Child. There is one downside, but many good things about it. I love being a Military child because I get to go to amazing places, schools, and meet new friends. I've been to Virginia Beach where I saw an aquarium. I also went to Disney Sea in Japan. And now, I live in Guam. I've also been to amazing schools. I was in kindergarten in Oak Grove Elementary School. For first and second grade I've been going to McCool Elementary School. I met my first best friend, Brooklyn in Virginia. Now I have many friends in Guam.

The downside of being a military child is Deployment. Whenever my dad is gone for months, I feel sad because I miss him and I'm worried about his safety. But when we face time, it makes me feel better to see him doing well. As you can see, I'm having a blast being a military child. It's the best life ever!

Joey Weniger



My Experience at DoDEA Schools
By Zoie Castro

I love it here! It is so much fun because it is a military school. It's not like normal schools because there are smart boards and specials. Many schools don't have specials, and I'm lucky to be here at McCool Elementary School. We even have fancy laptops, and I make friends really fast like on the 2nd day of school. Another thing I like here is my mom works at McCool. I feel proud that she's a teacher here. I get to go to her classroom after school, and I just hang in there until it's time to go home. Sometimes, I have to ride the bus on Tuesdays. Then my dad picks me up. After that, I do my homework on the computer, which is fun and easy for me. Now you know why I love to be here at MCCOOL!

Zoie Castro



Military Child
By Brody Sickels

Have you ever wondered what being a military kid is like? Well, I am one and I will tell you all about it! First, I always go to different places like Guam, Maryland, Texas San-Antonio, Louisiana and much more! Second, I have made lots of friends. Here are some of their names Ryan, Joey, Bobby, Lucas, and Kofi. Third, I have traveled to lots of places and tried so many foods like pad Thai, rolled ice cream, and Ramen noodles. Here is one downside. It is deployment. My dad takes a lot of trips and is very busy, but I am proud of him. I feel sad because I miss him every time. Now you know what I like and don't like being a military kid!

Brody Sickels

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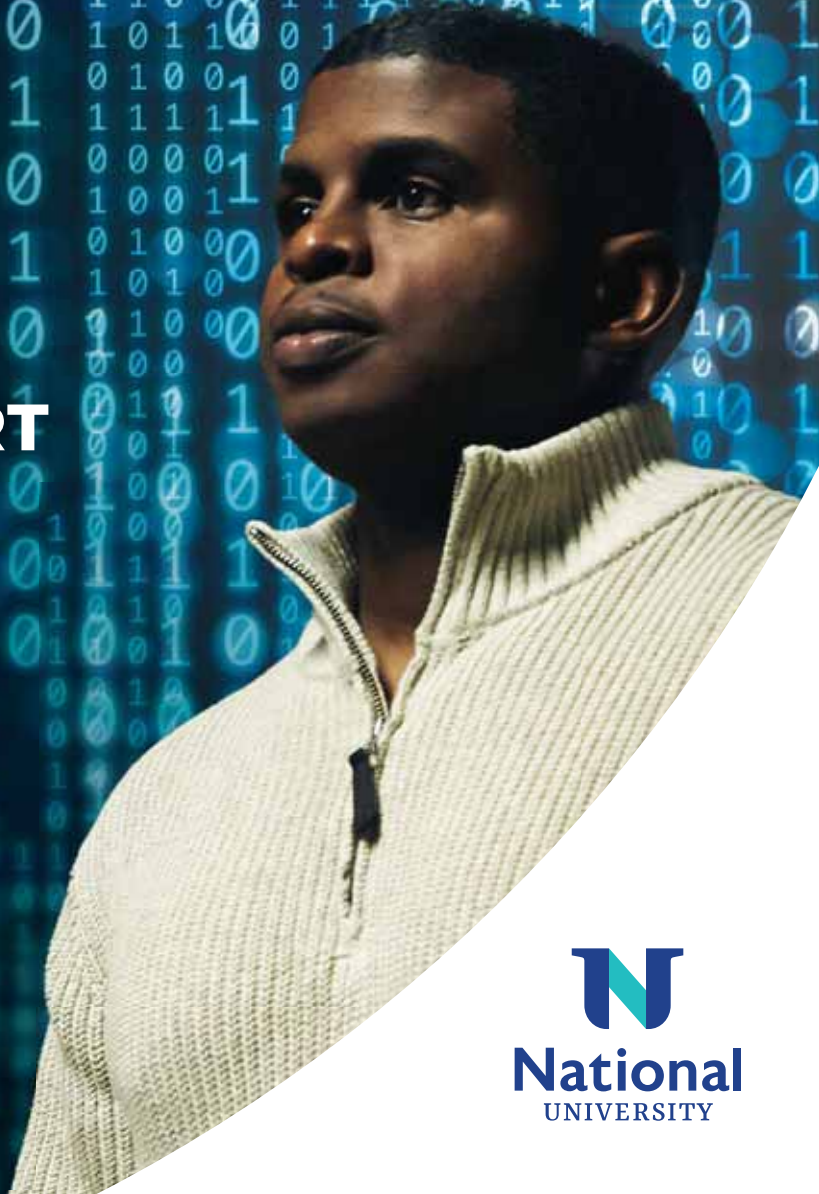
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GET TO KNOW GUAM



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

Hagåtña Timeless as blood itself



The earliest de silleria building in Guam was the 1709 Dulce Nombre de Maria Church in Hagåtña. Photo courtesy of Louis Choris/Lawrence J. Cunningham, Guampedia

BY JILLETTE LEON-GUERRERO,
GUAMPEDIA

Hagåtña is derived from the word *“haga”*, meaning blood. It is believed that this village came about due to the bloodlines of the families that established the village. Appearing as “Agadña” or “Agaña” in Spanish maps, and later, “Agana” in American maps, the Guam Legislature in 1998 changed the official spelling to “Hagåtña” to reflect the original CHamoru pronunciation of the village’s name.

Village history

Carbon dating indicates that the village was inhabited

2,630 years ago and possibly as long as 3,020 years ago. These dates indicate that Hagåtña was settled prior to the appearance of Latte, stone pillars and cup-shaped capstones, approximately 1,100 years ago. Little is known about the village during this time.

Ferdinand Magellan made landfall on Guam 6 March 1521, but it was not until 1565 that Miguel Lopez de Legazpi claimed the Mariana Islands for Spain. The Galleon Trade between Acapulco and Manila was established shortly after Legazpi’s arrival in Manila and passed regularly through the “Ladrone Islands.” Between Magellan’s visit and 1602, approximately 74 ships with as many as 300 people aboard passed through the islands, usually between Guam and Rota. The islanders began to anticipate the arrival of the ships and set out in their swift canoes to trade water and produce for iron.

During this period it is known that outsiders lived among

the CHamoru people for long periods of time although there is scant information about the village of Hagåtña.

Whalers, pirates and traders

Until 1815 Spanish Galleons plied the waters between Rota and Guam conducting trade between Manila and Acapulco. At least 33 other non-Spanish ships are documented to have had contact with the islands during this same period. They were usually whalers, pirates preying on the Galleons, or traders.

Few detailed accounts of the village are known prior to the arrival of the Catholic mission headed by Father Diego Luis de San Vitores in 1668. San Vitores is credited with establishing the Catholic Church in the Mariana Islands. Shortly after arriving on the island of Guam, he renamed the village of Hagåtña, “San Ignacio de Agadña,” in honor of his holy father and patriarch.

At that time Hagåtña was reported to be the island’s principal village. It is estimated that 1,000 people lived in the village that reportedly had 203 dwellings: 53 upper-class homes and 150 other dwellings that belonged to lower caste residents “who had no part of the affairs of Agadña.”

San Vitores was initially welcomed by the island’s nobles, notably the principal Chief of Hagåtña, Chief Quipuha (Kepuha). In appreciation of his graciousness, Chief Quipuha was the first adult CHamoru to be baptized and was renamed Juan in honor of Saint John the Baptist, the patron saint of the island. Don Juan Quipuha as he was then called, is reported to have donated land in Hagåtña for the construction of the first Catholic Church and the house of the Society of Jesus. Upon his passing, he was buried beneath the altar of the Church. Some historians believe that the Dulce Nombre de Maria Cathedral Basilica was built on the site of this first Catholic Church.

Some have questioned the reason why the mission was established in Hagåtña. Father Francisco Garcia, who



Plaza de Espana. Exterior north side the arches of the Almacen and wall. Photo by Burt Sardoma Jr., Guampedia



Pre-War Hagåtña Photo by Guampedia



chronicled San Vitores' life in 1683, states that Father San Vitores was called back to Hagåtña after visiting several villages on the island when the:

Nobles made it a point of honor that he live in their village. After all, the superior of all the fathers should live in the principal village. According to Garcia, Father San Vitores was not happy with this situation but made the best of it saying, 'I am not a prisoner here without consolation, obeying the divine disposition of affairs as if it were the most glorious of missions.' Garcia said, 'But what the devil planned in order to block the spread of the Faith, the Lord used as a means to establish it more solidly. He [San Vitores] made Agaña the stronghold for Christianity in the islands, with a church and a house of the Society of Jesus.'

Violence erupted within a few months of the arrival of San Vitores, due to growing opposition to the missionaries' teachings — which clashed with the traditional practices of the CHamorus. Sporadic fighting on Guam continued for 16 years with a final major uprising in 1684 when the hostile CHamoru faction tried unsuccessfully to drive the Spanish out once and for all, though uprisings continued in the northern Marianas until 1695. Spanish troops aided by newly baptized Catholic CHamorus were finally able to subdue resistance to the establishment of Guam as a Spanish colony.

From Spanish hands to American

During this time, Hagåtña remained the principal village of the island and eventually became the seat of the Spanish government. In 1687 it was formally named as a city and began to take on the characteristics of a Spanish capital. Hagåtña remained the seat of the Spanish government in the Mariana Islands until June of 1898 when Governor Juan Marina, his Spanish officers and military personnel surrendered their arms to Captain Henry Glass of the USS Charleston and boarded the ship as prisoners of war. All Spanish flags on the island were confiscated and the Americans departed without leaving a single American soldier on the island.

A little over a year later, the first regularly appointed American military governor, Richard P. Leary, arrived on Guam. While Governor Leary lived on board the ship for three months while the governor's residence was being renovated, his aide William Safford took up residence in Hagåtña and in effect was the acting or Lieutenant Governor of Guam. Safford, a naturalist, kept a journal of his year-long residence on the island that provides detailed descriptions of the village of Hagåtña.

Arriving for the first time in the village of Hagåtña he observed:

Several streets diverging from the entrance to the town, more or less in the direction parallel to the beach and to the cliffs back of the town. Everything clean and tidy; best houses of masonry with tiled roofs, others of frame or bamboo thatched with coconut leaves or Nipa palm. All of them raised from the ground. Reached the Plaza de Magallanes, upon which face the Palace or Government House, and other public buildings including the Tribunal. Behind the Palace rises the steep escarpment of a plateau on the brink of which is an old fort and powder magazine now used as a signal station; on the west side of the plaza are the Public Treasury and the barracks of the native troops; on the east side the church, the palace and government store house are on the south side; and the tribunal and several private dwellings on the north side.

Between 1899 and 1941 Hagåtña became the seat of the American naval government. During this time improvements were made to the village and a new hospital was

built. Entertainment centered around the Plaza de España, the old Spanish seat of government in the center of the village. The population of the village steadily grew from 7,432 in 1920 to more than 10,000 in 1940.

Japanese takeover

On 8 December 1941 World War II came to Guam. By December 10th the island was officially claimed by Japan and Hagåtña was renamed Akashi-shi. Akashi-shi became the headquarters of the Japanese administration. The Japanese occupation lasted about two and a half years.

American bombardment to retake the island began on June 16 and lasted for three weeks. Systematic bombardment began on July 8th. Hagåtña sustained major damage during this time. More than 1,200 homes were destroyed in addition to many public and private buildings. Numerous structures of historical significance also sustained major damage or were destroyed.

Post-war rebuilding

Post war was a time of rebuilding. Hagåtña again became the capital city of the US Territory of Guam. The rubble from the war was bulldozed into the sea to form the Paseo de Susanna. The federal government, and later the government of Guam condemned large tracts of land and redrew property lots in the village essentially redistributing villages resources. In some cases this action left original landowners without any property in the village. The village population plummeted from 10,004 in 1940 to only 800 in 1950, a ninety-two percent decrease.

By 1960 the population had grown to 1,642. The village reported the second highest median family income on the island with the largest group of workers engaged in wholesale or retail trades, professional services or public administration.

In 1962, a mandatory security clearance required of visitors to the island was lifted. The security clearance had been in place for 21 years and restricted entry to many including US citizens. The lifting of this security requirement brought about significant change to the island and the village of Hagåtña.

While Hagåtña had always been the center of government and commerce on the island, the new tourism industry shifted the focus from Hagåtña to Tumon. The island experienced a building boom as well as an increased presence of military personnel due to America's entry into the Vietnam War. The population of Hagåtña grew to 2,119 by 1970 with the largest group of workers engaged as craftsmen and carpenters while the wholesale and retail trades reported 175 less workers than in 1960.

By 1980, the village population had shrunk to 896, climbing back to 1,100 by the year 2000.

A cultural revival in the 1990s spurred the renaming of the village to its traditional name, Hagåtña. Today, the village remains the seat of the island's government as well as a center of commerce and trade. The village's residential population is only a shadow of its former self. This fact combined with it's significant historical and cultural heritage have fueled a movement to revitalize the island's capital city. A master plan has been developed by the Hagåtña Restoration and Redevelopment Authority to revitalize, preserve and protect the heritage and economic vitality of Guam's capital city.

This village at a glance

- **Population:** As of the 2010 US Census, the village population was 1,051.
- **Village officials:** Th John A. Cruz, Mayor, 2005-Present; Felix F. Ungacta, Commissioner/Mayor, 1981-2005; Thomas F. Mendiola, Commissioner, 1973-1981; Lucas L. San Nicolas, Commissioner, 1962-1973; Juan D. Perez, Commissioner, 1952-1962; Antonio Suarez, Commissioner, 1918-1930; Joaquin Cruz Perez, Commissioner, 1894-1899; Vicente dela Cruz, Deputy Commissioner, (no date provided); Lorenzo Franquez, Deputy Commissioner, 1930; Lucas de Castro, Deputy Commissioner, (no date provided); Jesus de Rivera, Deputy Commissioner, (no date provided); Antonio Guerrero, Deputy Commissioner, 1832-1834 (Courtesy of Konsehelon Mahot Guåhan/the Mayor's Council of Guam).
- **Village description:** Hagåtña, located in central Guam, is nestled between Agana Bay and the cliffs of Agana Heights. It is considered the first European city in the Pacific because of the early colonization of the Marianas, as compared to the rest of the Pacific. It was declared a city by a Spanish royal decree 40 March 1686 as the capital of the Marianas, the residence of the Spanish governor and the site of the garrison. Guam's main roadway, Marine Corps Drive, runs through the village from east to west. Another major artery, Route 4, dissects the village from the shoreline to the central part of the island, running east. Hagåtña borders the village of Tamuning in the east and Asan to the west. The capital of Guam, Hagåtña is the seat of the island's three branches of government: Judicial, Legislative, and Executive as well as the religious center for the Catholic Church. It is also home to numerous commercial activities including legal offices, banks, department/variety stores, insurance, technical and professional services and restaurants. The cultural resources of the village are significant being home to a large number of Guam's historical sites. The Guam Museum, Hagåtña boat basin (formally known as the Gregorio D. Perez Marina), the Guam Public Library (formally the Nieves M. Flores Memorial Library) and numerous public facilities are also located within the village. As opposed to the island's historical past, Hagåtña is currently one of the least populated villages on the island. Residential homes primarily are located below the cliff at the western portion of the village.

- By Konsehelon Mahot Guåhan, The Mayor's Council of Guam



Chamorro children smile despite standing in debris and rummage of Hagåtña in this photo taken at the close of WWII. Photo courtesy of Dave Morris, Guampedia

SEE VILLAGE ON PAGE 10



Latte Stone Park Photo by Guampedia



The San Antonio Bridge Photo courtesy of Lawrence J. Cunningham, Guampedia

VILLAGE: The Guam Museum a highlight

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9



Senator Angel Leon Guerrero Santos Memorial Park
Photo by Nathalie Pereda, Guampedia

Senator Angel Leon Guerrero Santos Memorial Park/Latte Stone Park

This park was originally established during the administration of US appointed Governor Ford Quint Elvidge (1953 to 1956). The park was renamed the Senator Angel Leon Guerrero Santos Latte Memorial Park in 2005 in honor of the Guam Legislature senator's efforts on behalf of the CHamoru people. Santos was a CHamoru rights activist and founding member of Nasion Chamoru, an indigenous activist group.

The park contains eight latte (stone pillars with capstones) transferred by the military from their original locations in the Me'pu and Fena regions in the southern interior of Guam as new military bases were being built in these locations.

Japanese World War II Caves

These caves, located at the base of the cliff line, were man-made with forced labor during the Japanese occupation during World War II. They were used for storage of supplies and shelter. One cave entrance is located directly behind the Latte Stone site at the Senator Angel Leon Guerrero Santos Latte Memorial Park.



Lujan House Photo by Guampedia

Lujan House

Also known as the Guam Institute, the Lujan House is one of the few remaining pre-World War II houses in Hagåtña. The house was built in 1911 by Jose Pangelinan Lujan and was first used as a residence. In 1928 the Guam Institute, founded by Nieves M. Flores in 1922, moved to the Lujan House. Students paid a monthly fee of \$1.00 in order to attend this private school. Among the many notable leaders that graduated from this school were Governor Ricardo J. Bordallo, Bishop Felixberto C. Flores and Judge Cristobal Duenas. The school was forced to close when the Japanese invaded the island in December 1941. The Guam Institute was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on 6 October 1977.

Plaza de España

The Plaza de España was the location of the Governor's Palace during the Spanish occupation. Academics speculate that the plaza was established at its current location after a typhoon in 1693 destroyed Fort Santa

María de Guadalupe, where the governor's residence had been located since 1683. The Governor's Palace served as the seat of government for both the Spanish and the first U.S. Naval Government. Most of the palace was destroyed by the shelling of Hagåtña during the re-taking of Guam in World War II.

The historical structures of the Plaza de España that have survived until the 21st century include:

- The Garden House, which was built around 1736. Prior to World War II, it was used as storage shed to house garden tools for the Plaza de España. In 1954, the Guam Women's Club, at the request of Governor Elvidge, re-established and staffed the Guam Museum within the Garden House, though it has since closed. The original Museum had been bombed during World War II.
- The Azotea and inner court are the only visible structure left of the Spanish palace. In 1933, the U.S. Naval Government built a tiered tin roof over the Azotea, which was originally an open terrace.
- The Chocolate House functioned as a merienda place, where the Spanish and American administrators of Guam and their families entertained, serving morning and afternoon beverages and pastries. The Chocolate House contains two of the oldest Spanish coat of arms on Guam. One is made from soft greenstone dated 1879; the other made of marble is dated 1895.
- The Almacen (Warehouse) Arches and Almacen flagstone floors — The remains of the former entrance to the palace warehouse, which later became an arsenal, and segments of the original floors are still present.
- The ruins of the walls built during Governor Muro's administration, including the more than nine-foot walls behind the Azotea and the low walls behind the Plaza de España ruins, also remain standing. The Plaza was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on 1 May 1974.



Dulce Nombre de Maria Cathedral-Basilica Photo by Guampedia

Dulce Nombre de Maria Cathedral-Basilica

The Cathedral-Basilica rests on the site of the first Roman Catholic mission in the Mariana Islands. CHamorus constructed the original wooden thatched chapel from 1669 to 1670 under the direction of Padre Diego Luís de San Vitores on lands granted by Chief Quipuha of Hagåtña. The CHamoru nobility initially welcomed San Vitores and his fellow priests. The chief of one of the mountain villages complained about letting strangers live in their land, but upon learning that the men were padres, he invited them to his village. Chief Quipuha was the first adult to be baptized, followed by all of the nobles of Hagåtña. Don Juan Quiphua, as he was called after he became a Christian, was the first to be buried beneath the church.

Significant dates/events in the history of the building of the Cathedral-Basilica are:

- In 1705 through 1709, Governor Manuel Argüelles y Valdéz built a church of three naves in Hagåtña using blocks of coral from the sea.
- In 1862, Father Aniceto Ibanez constructed a beautiful chapel to the side of the existing church.
- In 1772, French Commander Crozet described the church as a "beautiful church of red brick and tile."

- In 1912, the Iglesia de Dulce Nombre de Maria was designated a Cathedral. This structure survived until World War II when it was destroyed during the shelling of Hagåtña in preparation for the American invasion.
- In 1958, the present building was completed.
- In 1981, Pope John Paul II elevated the Cathedral to a minor Basilica.
- In 1998, the church underwent major renovations to include a museum gallery featuring exhibits of Guam history and culture and a gift shop.

One of the principal features of the Cathedral-Basilica is the statue of Santa Marian Kamalen. According to oral tradition, a fisherman off Cocos Island, Malessso discovered the statue, during the late 17th century. It is believed that the statue, the patron saint of the Mariana Islands, washed up on the shores of Malessso (Merizo) in spite of its great weight.

By the mid 1800s, it was transferred and permanently housed at the Iglesia de Dulce Nombre de Maria.

Santo Papa as Juan Pablo Dos Monument

This bronze statue commemorates the 1981 visit by Pope John Paul II to Guam. This was the first papal visit to the island. The statue stands on a median on Chalan Santo Papa Juan Pablo Dos Street, named in his honor. It is the location where he held an outdoor Mass in February 1981. The bronze statute originally rotated one full turn every 12 hours; the motor no longer works.

Spanish Bridge

This stone bridge, also known as Tollai Acho (stone bridge in CHamoru), was built around 1800 during the Spanish administration of Governor Manuel Muro, and named after San Antonio de Padua. The bridge spanned the Hagåtña River, where it flowed before its course was greatly changed after the village was rebuilt, after World War II. On the south side of the bridge sits a bronze statue of La Sirena, Guam's legendary mermaid.

The single span, arched bridge with stone abutments is located at Aspinall Street and Route 1. The bridge originally connected the districts of San Ignacio and Bilibic. The bridge was damaged during World War II and finally restored in 1966 with concrete. The bridge was listed on the National Register of Historic Sites on 6 September 1974.

Guam Museum

The Guam Museum, located at Skinner Plaza in the heart of Hagåtña, Guam, is a government of Guam owned museum focused on the history of Guam. Its official name is Senator Antonio M. Palomo Guam Museum and Educational Facility.

The Guam Museum, opened in 2016, reflects the diversity, creativity, and resilience of Guam and the Mariana Islands. It is hoped to encourage people to engage in dialogue, to share multiple perspectives and experiences, and debate issues that concern us all today, and experiences, and debate issues that concern us all today.

Guam Congress Building

The newly-restored Guam Congress Building holds the legislative session hall, hearing rooms, and offices of the island's senators. The Guam Legislature returned to the building, after more than 25 years of absence, in January 2017, after reconstruction finished in December 2016.

The building is the site of the historic Guam Congress walk-out, which led to the passage of the Organic Act of Guam in 1950.

This is a reprint from Guampedia.com, an online resource about Guam history and the CHamoru people, used here with permission.

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Gadao's Cave

A cave of famous petroglyphs named after Gadao, the ancient chief of Inarajan

This is a fantastically short hike to one of Guam's most celebrated cultural treasures. It is definitely a must-see if you are driving through the South.

Quick Stats

Location: Inarajan

Region: Southeast
Difficulty: Very Easy
Time: 5 – 10 Minutes, Allow 30 Minutes
Length: .06 of a Mile
Elevation Gain: 22 Feet
Sight: Caves
Cool Stuff: Pictographs, Ancient Chamorro History
What To Bring: Closed-toe

shoes for walking on sharp limestone

Directions

FROM CENTRAL AND NORTH GUAM

(Inarajan & Talofoto residents, adapt these directions):

- 1 Take Cross Island Road (route 17) from the west to the east, across to Talofoto. You may take route 4a towards the end to head in a more southerly direction. (If starting from the Northeast side just come straight down route 4).
- 2 Whether you stay on 17 or take 4a, you will end up at route 4 (the coastal road) when it ends and turn right, going south. Pass Talofoto Bay and keep going straight.
- 3 When you start entering a slightly more populated area, slow down and look out for the sign to your left (usually covered by trees, which says



- "Gadao's Cave" and turn left here. This is a long, narrow road that skirts the left edge of Inarajan Bay. If you start the curve to the left around Inarajan Bay where the statue of Gadao in half a canoe, the church ruins, and ancient chamorro village is, you have gone too far.
- 4 Take a right turn on the first gravel road that you see.
 - 5 Soon you will see private property and "Keep Out" signs. You will park on the side of the road before driving through where there are two polls on either side used to string a wire cable across a private driveway, marking the end of the public

road. Oftentimes this driveway is left open to allow the residents to drive through. To your right is a chain denying vehicle access with metal cables fencing in a forested area.

- 6 This chain, possibly with a "Keep Out" sign attached, is what you will be hopping

FROM SOUTH OF CROSS ISLAND ROAD

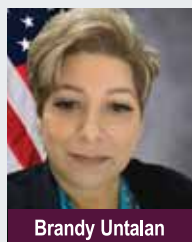
(Including southern Agat, Umatac, and Merizo):

- 1 Drive south on route 2 (the main road), which then technically turns into route 4 and pass the village of Merizo.
- 2 Keep on this road. You will pass the downtown village of Inarajan marked by buildings on your left side, a church ruin and the statue of Gadao in half a canoe on your right. You may have to stop at the stoplight, which is only here until the construction is finished. You will see a mini-mart and old

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GSA Global Supply® has partnered with M80 Systems, a local small business, to serve civilian and military customers in Guam. M80 is now storing and delivering approximately 350 high-demand National Stock Number (NSN) items formerly stored in and shipped from the continental United States. The change reduces delivery time to a few days from weeks or months.

Customers can order using GSA websites (GSA Global Supply or GSA Advantage!®) or via existing customer logistics platforms (e.g., GCSS-Army). GSA's systems recognize the items stocked in Guam and fulfill orders locally. Other items will ship from the mainland. An electronic catalog is available.



Brandy Untalan

The program does not replace existing retail stores managed by GSA at Andersen AFB and Naval Base Guam. Instead, the stores and new outlets are complementary. For more information, please contact your local GSA Customer Service Director, Brandy Untalan, at 671-333-4721 or brandy.untalan@gsa.gov.

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martial arts building in ruins on your left.

- ③ Immediately after these, before you leave Inarajan, you will take your first right, marked by a sign for Gâdao's Cave, which is almost always covered by trees. This is a long, narrow road that skirts the left edge of Inarajan Bay.
- ④ Take a right turn on the first gravel road that you see.
- ⑤ Soon you will see private property and "Keep Out" signs. You will park on the side of the road before driving through where there are two polls on either side used to string a wire cable across a private driveway, marking the end of the public road. Oftentimes this driveway is left open to allow the residents to drive through. To your right is a chain denying vehicle access with metal cables fencing in a forested area.
- ⑥ This chain, possibly with a "Keep Out" sign attached, is what you will be hopping in order to start this short hike.



The opening to your left is the mouth of the cave, and the pictographs of the two stick figures are to your left as you enter.

There is a nice spot to sit and over look the ocean if you keep walking forward, to the right, along the shoreline. Either crawl through the small opening in the rocks, outside of Gâdao's Cave, towards the tip of the peninsula or carefully walk across the spiky limestone closer to the water. Here is a larger, more open overhang with a lovely view of the ocean.

To leave, return the way you came.

Pictographs in Gadao's Cave

Since it is extremely difficult to date cave art, we have a large period of time from when these painting could be from. An educated guess would place them within the Latte Era sometimes between 800 A.D. until Magellan's presence and the Spanish colonization starting around 1521. Since we do not know whether or not some of the symbols are crosses (a Catholic symbol brought in by the Spanish) we cannot place if these paintings came before or after the Spanish colonization.

Guampedia says that the paint used for these symbols was made from white lime, which bonds to the wall by a chemical reaction, and may have been applied by finger. On the west wall, to the right when you enter the cave, there are about 50 drawings ranging from 2 to 20 centimeters in height, depicting human- and animal-looking forms. The most obvious and popular pictographs are on the east wall (to the left upon entering the cave), where two human figures stand together, with one perhaps something in his or her hand. It is suggested that these figures are of Chief Gadao of Inarajan and Chief Malaguana of (now) Tumon, as depicted in their folktale (retold to the right). Others suspect it is of a man and woman.

American anthropologist Laura Thompson studied the cave paintings on Guam and other nearby island before WWII. She described cave paintings in Talofoto and Inarajan in the South and Jinapsan and Mergagen (on Andersen Air Force Base, just north of the Tarague Beach boundary) in the North. Other cave paintings have been found at Ritidian Point, Fena, and Fadian Cave (on the east coast). The drawings depict animals such as fish, stick-figured humans (sometimes without heads), circles, and other various symbols.



These poles mark the start of the private driveway. Park on to the right before passing.

Parking

Park to the side next to the "Keep Out" sign.



Trailhead

Trail begins just past the "Keep Out" chain.



View directly to the right of the cable poles: Trail begins here.

Trail Guide

After you cross the chain, keep straight through the weeds towards the beach for 3 – 5 minutes. Soon the trail will veer to the left along the water. Travel between the large boulders and the shoreline.

The first cave-like structure you may see looking through the trees is not Gâdao's cave. Keep walking straight until you see a reddish rock structure, with a ridge along the middle with a clearly etched level to walk along. Climb up to this ridge with just a couple of rocks to step up, and walk along the rock wall on this middle level.

For more information on other caves on the island and on surrounding islands, please visit: www.guampedia.com/chamorro-cave-art

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- Daryl Talbot

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SCHEDULE 2024

Dates	Locations
Apr. 20 (Sat.)	Earth day clean up - Togoun- Umatac (Medium: Kid friendly)
Apr. 27 (Sat.)	Tinechong Yoki (Double difficult NEW)
May. 4 (Sat.)	Upper Imong (Double difficult)
May. 11 (Sat.)	Talofofu Caves (Medium)
May. 18 (Sat.)	Maemong Rivers & Caves (Triple difficult)
May. 25 (Sat.)	Tarzan Swim Hole (Medium: Kid friendly)

Tarzan Swim Hole
REMINDER! We no longer meet at Chamorro Village. We meet at the trailhead.
 Every Saturday, Guam Boonie Stompers offers public hikes to a variety of destinations such as beaches, snorkeling sites, waterfalls, mountains, caves, latte sites, and World War II sites. We meet at the trailhead on Saturdays at 9 AM. Directions to the trailhead will be posted on the Guam Boonie Stompers Inc Facebook page. The cost is \$5.00 for hikers over 17. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Hikers should provide their own transportation. Guam's trails are not developed. Weather conditions can make the hikes more difficult than described. No reservations required.

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

For more information:
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Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Motel amenity
- 5 Starchy side, slangily
- 9 Sharper than 90 degrees
- 14 Giggly Muppet
- 15 Apart from this
- 16 Like some points
- 17 Mideast's Gulf of ___
- 18 Keep in office
- 20 Heist planner, perhaps
- 22 Grooving on
- 23 Classroom units
- 24 Weighty works
- 26 Row producer
- 27 Statue's stand
- 30 B, on the periodic table
- 33 Gets too much sun
- 34 Astonishment
- 35 Pastor's flock
- 36 "Who ___ we kidding?"
- 37 Where dos are done
- 39 Needing no Rx
- 40 Eccentric
- 42 Paper producers
- 43 Some lab workers
- 45 Patriotic women's org.
- 46 One of a 1492 trio
- 47 Whopper topper
- 51 Paddler's target
- 53 Nonreader
- 55 American in Paris, e.g.
- 57 Graphic ___
- 58 San ___, Calif.
- 59 Place to broil
- 60 Guitar ridge
- 61 Scatter
- 62 Blue jay's abode
- 63 First-timer

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Stripes Sports Trivia

Since its introduction in 1955, the World Series MVP has never been won by the same player in back to back seasons, and 16 players who have won it are now enshrined in the Hall of Fame. In 2015, the Kansas City Royals won their first title since 1985. Which Royal hit .364 en route to a victory over the New York Mets, and an MVP trophy?

Answer

Salvador Perez

SUDOKU

Difficulty: Medium

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

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

Answer to Previous Sudoku:

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

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GUAM EDITION

APRIL 15, 2024



Creating a 'kill web'

Project Convergence connects troops, sensors and weapons to lethal effect. Page 2

Soldiers take part in a human machine integration demonstration using the Ghost Robotic Dog, and the U.S. Army Small Multipurpose Equipment Transport of new U.S. Army capabilities in Fort Irwin, Calif.

SAMARION HICKS/U.S. Army

COVER STORY

Experiment connects services in battle

Troops, sensors and weapons combine to form so-called 'kill web'

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — Army Rangers send a swarm of small drones out over the Marine Corps base in Southern California in search of potential targets. Off the coast, Navy destroyers stand by ready to fire, if called upon.

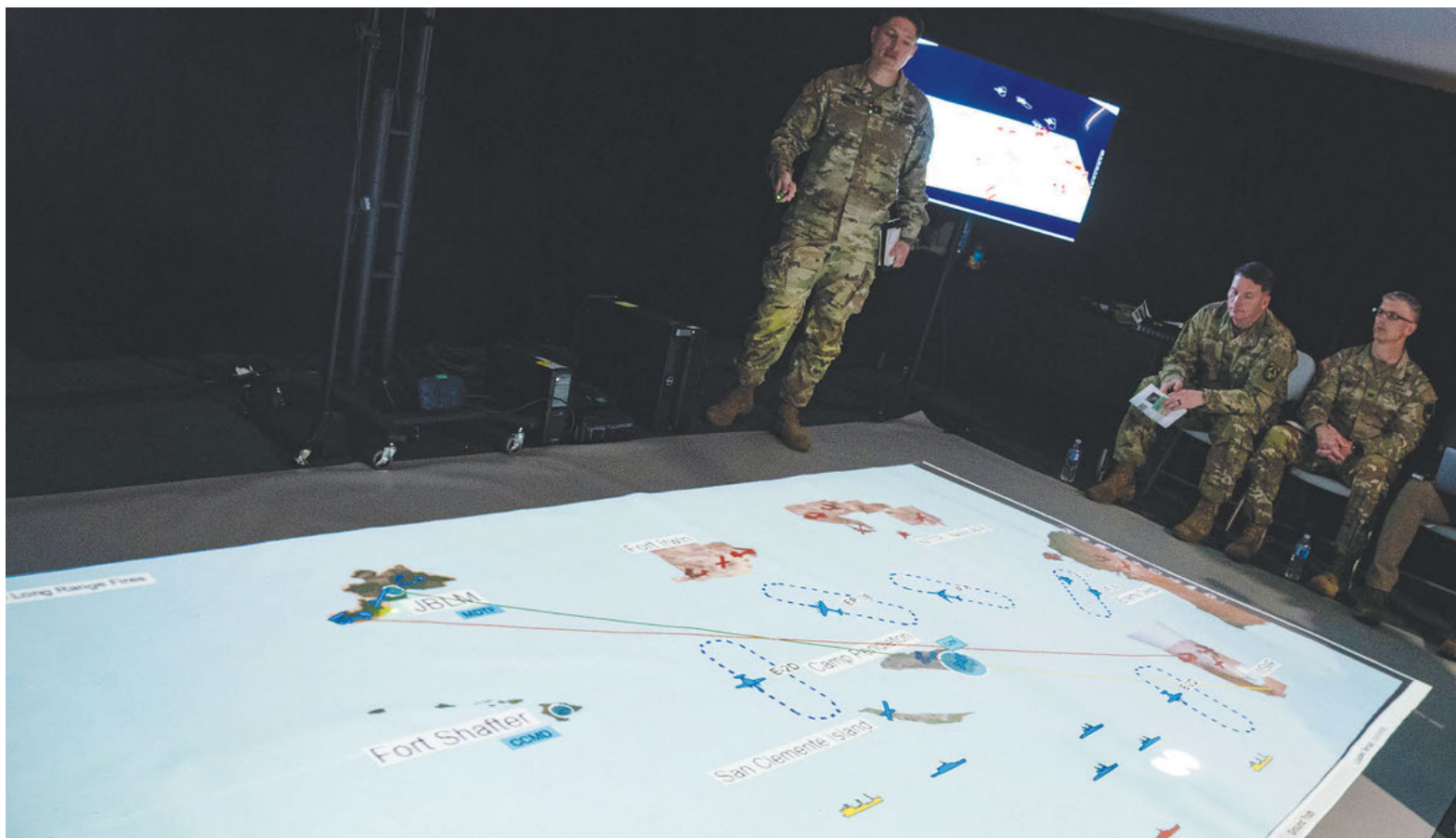
Meanwhile, Marine logisticians just off the shore move supplies onto land using autonomous boats to transport gear close to the coastal base and unmanned drones to deliver the equipment to troops on land.

Farther away, Air Force fighter jets patrol desert training ranges near Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas in search of enemy aircraft. And at White Sands Missile Range, N.M., Army special operators conduct secretive reconnaissance missions, quietly closing in on potential adversaries to gather intelligence.

These training operations across the western United States in recent weeks were linked together by top Army leaders working from a command center at Camp Pendleton, connecting those troops, their intelligence-gather sensors and their weapons to form a so-called "kill web," as part of broad experiment to share targeting information and other data at breakneck speeds among all U.S. military services.

The experiment, known as Project Convergence, was the largest effort yet to pull the services together under a single command and control apparatus to choose the best weapon in the Pentagon's arsenal to destroy a target quickly. Dubbed the Combined Joint All Domain Command and Control, or CJADC2, Pentagon leaders, including Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, have called it the Defense Department's top technology priority, and plan to spend some \$1.4 billion on the program next year, according to its fiscal 2025 budget proposal.

Military leaders believe connecting all the military services sensors — from satellites in outer space to aircraft in the skies and from ships at sea to infantrymen on the front lines — in a communications network is the best way to fight, should U.S. troops find themselves in a conflict with near-peer rivals such as China or Russia, which have spent heavily



PHOTOS BY COREY DICKSTEIN/Stars and Stripes

Army Maj. John Donaho, a capability integrator team leader for Joint Modernization Command, top left, explains the scenarios and battlespace involved in the Army's 2024 Project Convergence capstone event at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

"When those five services come together in exercises like this, we form a fist, and that fist delivers an incredible punch."

Lt. Gen. Ross Coffman
Army Futures Command

in recent years on new military technology.

In one instance during the experiment, a Marine F-35 stealth fighter discovered an enemy target, relayed the information to an Air Force battle management node and an Army artillery battery blasted the target with a missile — all in seconds. That kind of success — rare in a military where the branches speak with jargon unique to their own troops and use weapons systems developed specifically for their branch — proves CJADC2 can work in future conflict, said Lt. Gen. Ross Coffman, the deputy commander for Army Futures Command, who helped lead the experiment.

"There's no Army fight. There's no Marine Corps fight," Coffman said March 5 at Camp Pendleton as Project Convergence prepared to move its 2024 capstone experiment from a maritime fight at the Marine base



Self-driving tactical vehicles move themselves during a demonstration of emerging technologies.

to a desert operation at the Army's National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., some 150 miles northeast. "There's a joint fight. ... Each of our services are extremely capable. I would say the best in the world. When those five services come together in exercises like this, we form a fist, and that fist delivers an incredible punch."

The experiment at Camp Pendleton and Fort Irwin from Feb. 23 through March 20, included two distinct focus areas, both aimed at transforming how the military fights.

The initial phase at Camp Pendleton focused on the ability to move massive amounts of data — the intelligence collected by military sensors — between the U.S. services and several allies, including the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand, and linking together offensive and defensive firing capabilities.

The second phase at NTC fo-

cused on human-machine integration in combat formations — adding small airborne drones and ground robots into the Army's front-line fighting units to expand firepower and reduce risk of harm to the troops closest to the enemy.

The Army launched Project Convergence in 2020 as a small experiment aimed at drastically reducing the time it takes to attack a target after identifying it on the battlefield. Futures Command worked to link various Army sensors across the battlefield — such as drones, radar systems and technology in soldiers' hands — to command-and-control nodes outfitted with artificial intelligence designed to rapidly determine what the target was and what weapon would best eliminate it. Coffman, who also led the 2020 version of Project Convergence, touted at the time his team's ability to cut targeting processes from tens of

minutes to tens of seconds, in some cases.

In three subsequent iterations of Project Convergence, the Army has continued to shave time off its targeting processes, Coffman and other officials said. This year, processing times to find a target, verify it and strike it improved since the initial experiment in 2020 was held at Yuma Proving Ground in Arizona, said Alex Miller, who serves as the top technology adviser to Gen. Randy George, the Army's chief of staff. Miller and Coffman declined to provide specifics about targeting timing in the experiment, citing concerns about revealing too much to adversaries.

"We did see things that took minutes of very human-central processing go down to seconds because the workflows were entirely automated," Miller said. "So, what we did see is from a sensor to someone who could affect a target — two orders of magnitude reduction at times. And it was pretty awesome."

The Army gradually expanded Project Convergence in recent years, adding other services to its second major experiment and several allied militaries later. This year, Project Convergence has grown to encompass a variety of experiments built into training exercises in the Indo-Pacific Command area of operations and the European theater, Coffman said. It will continue later this

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

COVER STORY

FROM PAGE 2

year with another exercise in INDOPACOM.

Coffman described the program going forward as a continuous “campaign of learning.” The experiments served as the capstones for Project Convergence in 2024, which the Army had planned to pour some \$90 million into this year, according to service budget documents.

“We started very small, proving tech [in the initial Project Convergence] and now today we’re talking across services, and proving that we can work together to protect through defensive fires and affect through offensive fires,” Coffman said.

The project used a Joint Track Management Capability data bridge built by the Missile Defense Agency to link all the services’ components together on a single network, he said. The bridge allowed the services and allies to pass data back and forth at rates the Pentagon had never attempted previously.

“This bridge absolutely allowed us to pass information from multiple sensors to multiple shooters, so that an Army sensor passed data to a shooter in every service, and the other services’ sensors passed data to all the other services,” Coffman said. “It worked magnificent. It was able to pass the amount of data that we have not seen before ... increasing it tenfold, and it absolutely was able to pass that data and get it to the right shooter.”

Machine speed

Inside a military tent, Army Maj. John Donaho stands before a large projection of the expansive battlespace and military assets involved in the first phase of Project Convergence. The battlespace spreads out from Camp Pendleton, the experiment’s “nerve center,” as far east as Joint Base McGuire—Dix—Lakehurst, N.J., and as far west as Australia, said Donaho, who leads a Joint Modernization Command capabilities integrations team for Army Futures Command.

The massive battlespace was meant to represent the challenges presented by fighting a conflict in the Indo-Pacific Command area of operations, which spans nearly half the globe’s land area and the Pacific Ocean. The region is the Pentagon’s top security priority, highlighted by China, which is considered the top U.S. challenge as it expands its military and conducts increasingly destabilizing operations in the region, according to Adm. John Aquilino, the commander of INDOPACOM.

At Project Convergence, military leaders worked to ensure that a commander at Camp Pendleton had nearly real-time control of his forces across that huge swath of the globe — from artil-



COREY DICKSTEIN/Stars and Stripes

Army Rangers from the 2nd Ranger Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, take cover while controlling a drone swarm during a demonstration during Project Convergence at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

lery batteries in northern Australia and at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., to Navy destroyers and littoral combat ships operating in waters between Hawaii and California, and aircraft flying throughout the region, Donaho said. The key is the automation brought by artificial intelligence and machine learning that allow any of those troops across the globe to relay information quickly to the commander who can then make a decision with that data, the major said.

There are multiple reasons why the Pentagon wants to hasten its targeting practices to allow commanders to make those decisions “at machine speed,” Donaho said. In some cases, targets might only present themselves for a small window of time.

“So, if something’s only there for 10 or 20 minutes, we don’t have time for 15 telephone operators along the way to pass that message up, get a decision, and then pass it all the way back down to the person who is then tasked to hit that red button to make the rocket go boom,” Donaho said March 5 at Camp Pendleton.

But Pentagon leaders also believe by speeding up the ability to share targeting information and other data between all services operating in a battlespace, it will also save them precious resources, including expensive missiles, which defense leaders fear would be at a premium in the early days of a conflict with a

power competitor such as China.

Without a common operating picture among the services through a program such as CJADC2, the separate branches might end up “double targeting or triple targeting” an enemy asset that reveals itself, said Vice Adm. Michael Boyle, the commander of the San Diego-based 3rd Fleet. Boyle led the Navy’s contributions to Project Convergence.

“If we can’t connect ourselves together, we’re going to all build individual stovepipe plans,” Boyle told reporters March 5. “But if we can connect together, then we can draw from a single magazine across the joint force. We don’t have unlimited magazines ... so this enables us to pick whatever magazine we need to pick from.”

The technology on display at Project Convergence was not limited to the efforts to connect sensors and shooters and share data across all the military services. Coffman said the Army has also used the platform to test the latest technology it hopes to bring to its formations in the coming years, including self-driving tactical vehicles, small drones and robots capable of firing machine guns or other weapons.

Machines before humans

A four-legged robot resembling a dog marches through the streets of a small village built on NTC’s vast desert training grounds. The semi-autonomous ground drone, which weighs

about 110 pounds, is built to provide a soldier with a new means of reconnaissance — “acting as their eyes and ears” on the ground, according to Army officials.

The robotic dog can run about three hours and span distances beyond 6 miles, according to its manufacturer Ghost Robotics. The robot can move through water, climb stairs and send live 360-degree imagery back to its operators. For troops serving on the frontlines, it offers them the ability to stay hidden as it searches potentially dangerous areas, officials said.

The Army has been experimenting with robotic dogs and other ground robots at Fort Moore, Ga., in recent months. But at Project Convergence, it used the new technology for the first time in a major combat training operation. During the experiment, soldiers from several units, including the 82nd Airborne Division, the 3rd Armored Corps and the 316th Cavalry Brigade, tested dozens of robotic and autonomous machines as they fought their way into NTC’s training grounds.

While soldiers have been using small aerial drones at NTC and in other training and combat environments for years, ground robotics have lagged behind their airborne counterparts, said Miller, the tech adviser to the Army chief of staff.

“We’ve learned that ground robotics is a super hard problem,” he said, comparing it to

Tesla and other car manufacturers’ long-running quest to develop safe self-driving cars.

But Army officials believe ground robots, like small unmanned aerial systems, are critical to building a force that can survive in large scale combat operations against an enemy with similar firepower to U.S. forces.

In such an environment, Coffman said, it will be important that American troops make initial contact against enemy forces “with the machines before humans.”

“That is ground and air robots that can move forward to identify where the enemy is, and if something goes ... terribly wrong and the enemy identifies [the robot], then they have shot, and now we know where they are and how we can [attack] them,” the general said. “Everyone on the battlefield can then move to a position of relative advantage, rather than anyone being shot” in that initial firefight.

The Army chose to move the training midway from Camp Pendleton to Fort Irwin to test its robots in its most demanding environment, where the desert routinely wreaks havoc on the soldiers who train there each month and their equipment.

If the robots and human soldiers can work together on NTC’s austere grounds, they can likely operate in most any environment to which they are sent, Coffman said.

George, the Army chief of Staff, said Project Convergence might help the Army hasten its pace at integrating some robots into its traditional combat units.

“This is a fast-moving train,” George told reporters. “It needs to be. We have a real sense of urgency to get after this.”

The Army will continue experimenting with robots as it moves forward into the next phase of Project Convergence, officials said. The service plans to conduct experiments under the Project Convergence umbrella in the summer during the Valiant Shield 2024 wargames in the INDOPACOM region. And the service requested some \$73 million to continue Project Convergence in fiscal 2025.

“The lessons we’re learning are going to be applied in the next Pacific exercise, then in Europe. We’re stringing these lessons learned together with real exercises ... so we can continually improve,” Coffman said. “It’s worth it. It’s worth every penny. The readiness of the joint force and the partnership with our allies is invaluable. When called upon, the women and men of this nation, women, men of other nations will fight side-by-side, preserve liberty, and the cost of this ... experiment is worth every penny to ensure that can happen.”

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MILITARY



JESSICA SCOTT/U.S. Army

Soldiers wear sun hats, better known as boonies, on the Jungle Operations Training Course at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, in 2021. Graduates of the course are authorized to wear the boonie as their garrison headgear in the Pacific theater.

Healthy headgear or floppy fail?

Army has authorized soldiers to wear the boonie hat at Fort Bliss in Texas

By BRADLEY LATHAM
Stars and Stripes

A command's novel approach to protecting troops from sun exposure in one of the nation's warmest states has soldiers past and present weighing in on whether the boonie hat is the right fit for the Army.

News of the authorization at Fort Bliss in Texas to wear the boonie, officially designated the sun hat by the Army, spread on social media with posts on unofficial Army and military Reddit pages.

Reactions have been overwhelmingly positive, with many applauding the decision as good for morale, though several commenters were skeptical with the posts being so close to April Fools' Day.

"This is how little it takes to make enlisted Soldiers happy. Somebody finally gets it," a commenter wrote on the Private News Network Facebook page, which is a self-described military entertainment site.

Other social media users disagreed with the move, saying the boonie has a comical and unprofessional appearance.

"This is the stupidest hat the Army has to offer," a user on the Army subreddit page wrote. "You goobers look like you're about to go on safari."

Another Reddit user called it the Army's most practical hat, albeit one that "looks like a



Reddit

Maj. Gen. James P. Isenhower III, commander of 1st Armored Division, Spc. Christian Sutton and Command Sgt. Maj. James Light wear their sun hats, better known as boonies, at Fort Bliss, Texas.

rumped diaper half the time."

Nevertheless, soldiers from bases in Arizona, Colorado and Kansas expressed their desire across multiple social media platforms for boonie hats at their installations.

Maj. Gen. James P. Isenhower III, commanding general of the 1st Armored Division at Fort Bliss, has authorized soldiers to wear boonie hats on the post and surrounding training areas since October, said Lt. Col. Kimbia Rey, a spokeswoman for the division.

Army regulations allow commanders to authorize the hat in field environments, on work details or in other places where the patrol cap isn't practical. The sun hat has a wide brim to provide more protection to a soldier's face, ears and neck than the patrol cap or beret.

Neighboring city El Paso is commonly referred to as "Sun City," with an average of more than 300 sunny days per year, Rey said.

Ultraviolet light overexposure from sunlight and tanning beds is the most preventable cause of skin cancers, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The American Cancer Society estimates 3.3 million people in the U.S. are diagnosed with non-melanoma skin cancers each year.

"If you've ever been stationed at Bliss, you'd understand why this has been a long time coming," a commenter identifying himself as an Army veteran wrote on Facebook. "Bliss is a different kind of duty station when it comes to the sun."

Another commenter identifying himself as a soldier with 19

years of service wrote on Facebook that "as someone who has had skin cancer cut off his face, I support this."

All soldiers, whether permanently stationed, on temporary duty or visiting Fort Bliss, are authorized to wear the boonie hat. There is no temperature or seasonal requirement for authorized wear, Rey said.

Wearing the boonie at Bliss comes with some restrictions. Along with the requirements outlined in Army guidance, Isenhower issued rules regarding formations and ceremonies. It can only be worn in formations if all soldiers wear them, and at outdoor ceremonies, all soldiers must wear either the boonie or patrol cap without mixing the two, Rey said.

Although the sun hat has been an issued Army clothing item dating back to the Vietnam War era, wear outside of combat or training environments has been rare.

Graduates of the 25th Infantry Division's Jungle Operations Training Course are authorized to wear the boonie as their garrison headgear in the Pacific theater. A small population of soldiers across the Army also have been authorized to wear it as a part of medical treatment plans.

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Last survivor of Arizona sinking dies

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

Lou Conter, the last living survivor of the USS Arizona sinking, died recently at his home in Grass Valley, Calif. He was 102.

His death was announced in a news release by Historic Pacific Parks, a not-for-profit organization that supports preservation of and education about significant sites in the region.

Conter was the last of 335 sailors and Marines who survived the destruction of the Arizona during the Dec. 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor. A total of 1,177 crew members after Japanese planes dropped armor-piercing bombs on the battleship.



Conter

Conter's death leaves fewer than two dozen veterans of the Pearl Harbor attack known to be living.

For years, Conter, donned in Navy whites, had been a fixture at the annual Dec. 7 commemorations held at the Pearl Harbor National Memorial in Hawaii. He remained vigorous until recent years and often served as a spokesman for the dwindling coterie of survivors.

He did not attend the ceremony the past three years due to health issues, but he was present via recorded messages played for the audience.

"For those of us who survived that terrible day, we all shared something in common," Conter said in the 2021 recording. "Dec. 7, 1941, changed our lives — not just for those of us who were on the USS Arizona or at Pearl Harbor but throughout the United States. It affected those of us who served as well as our families, our friends and our neighbors."

The second-to-last living Arizona survivor, Howard "Ken" Potts, died about a year ago at age 102.

Conter epitomized what it meant to be a member of the Greatest Generation, which fared the Great Depression and spent nearly four years at war against Imperial Japan and Nazi Germany, said Aileen Utterdyke, president and CEO of Pacific Historic Parks.

"He had an exemplary career in the Navy and was steadfast in imploring the schools, parents and everyday Americans to always remember Pearl Harbor," she said.

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MILITARY

Army course teaches rival's way of thinking

Class on China Way of War is being taught in Pacific

BY WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — About 2,500 years ago, the Chinese philosopher and general Sun Tzu counseled military strategists that to know the enemy, become the enemy.

U.S. Army Pacific has taken to heart that ancient advice to develop a deep understanding of an adversary's mindset with the launch of a course on the China Way of War.

The weeklong course was piloted last fall, offered in Hawaii for the first time in February and will be pushed out across the Indo-Pacific region in coming months.

China and America are not enemies, of course, but they are deeply entwined in an economic, diplomatic and military competition. U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin has described China's military as America's "pacing challenge."

"We wanted people within this command to think about how China thinks," Michael Schaefer, director of training at Army Pacific, said recently at Fort Shafter.

As compelling as the course may seem, China Way of War covers a much wider gamut than

outright combat.

"It doesn't just look at war," Schaefer said. "Really, the idea would be: How do we prevent war? That's really what we're getting after — understanding that when we do something, there may be a response from China."

China is expected to have a fully modernized military by 2035, according to the Office of the Director of National Intelligence's annual threat assessment published in February.

"In the South China Sea, Beijing will continue to use its growing military and other maritime capabilities to try to intimidate rival claimants and to signal it has control over contested areas," the assessment states. "Similarly, China is pressing Japan over contested areas in the East China Sea."

Strategic thinking

The China Way of War, open to uniformed and civilian personnel of all services, exposes participants to Chinese strategic thinking, providing them an understanding of how the Chinese army, officially the People's Liberation Army or PLA, might think about and act on varying scenarios.

It was modeled after a similar

Army course in Europe that focused on Russia after its invasion of Ukraine two years ago, Schaefer said.

Army Pacific contracted Booz Allen Hamilton to design and facilitate its course, which is based entirely on open-source material and uses no classified information, Schaefer said.

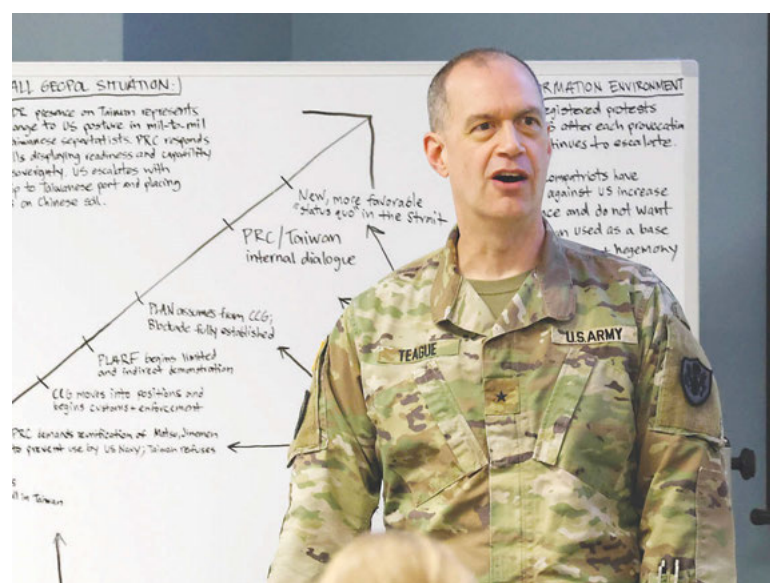
As inscrutable as China's military might seem, its chain of command employs an organized metric in making decisions, he said.

Commanders in the U.S. armed forces use a defined "military decision-making process" in responding to defense scenarios, he said.

"China has the same thing," he said. "So, China has a deliberate decision-making process — completely unclassified. And it's taught to [our] students so that each day they go through the decision-making process, and then they talk about what they think China may be thinking."

On day one of the course, each student is assigned a role in the Chinese military.

"And then each day, the students are given scenarios, and they have to respond with how they think — they're now the PLA — China is going to re-



TAYLOR GRAY/U.S. Army

Army Brig. Gen. Patrick Teague, U.S. defense attaché to China, speaks during U.S. Army Pacific's first class in the China Way of War at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

spond," he said.

For example, perhaps a high-level dignitary flies into the Indo-Pacific region on a junket to Taiwan, a self-governing island over which China has claims of sovereignty.

"What do you think is going to be the response?" Schaefer said.

Students talk through the scenario, offering the likely response by the Chinese entity they are portraying.

It is a reverse perspective considered too rarely in the U.S. armed forces, he said.

Blue on Red

"In the military, we're always the blue force; we're always friendly guys taking on the red forces, no matter who it might be," he said.

"As an intelligence officer, it's incredibly important to know what the enemy thinks, so that

you can try and predict what the enemy will do and why they make the decisions that they do," Maj. Louis Crist, 10th Support Group, U.S. Army Japan, a February class member at Schofield Barracks, said in an Army news release.

That session also included guest speaker Brig. Gen. Patrick Teague, a senior defense official and defense attaché to China.

Classes are limited to about 30 students, including students from allied and partner nations.

Schaefer said the Army intends to offer China Way of War eight to 10 times a year, including sessions taught by a mobile training team at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington state, and in Alaska, Japan and South Korea.

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Army's top Pacific leader touts US influence in region

BY SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — A recent poll suggests China is the popular choice in Southeast Asia, but the United States still has the cooperation of the region's military forces, the commander of U.S. Army Pacific said recently.

Growing numbers of participants in annual, U.S.-led military exercises demonstrates that U.S. military engagement in the re-

gion is expanding, Gen. Charles Flynn said during a roundtable discussion at U.S. Embassy Tokyo.

"What I see, at least with the army forces leadership and formations, is there is a continued and steady increase in multilateral and multinational work together," he told reporters.

China is considered the most influential economic and political-strategic power in the region,

outpacing the U.S. by significant margins, according to the annual State of Southeast Asia survey published by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Studies Centre — Yusof Ishak Institute in Singapore.

Just over half the poll's 2,000 respondents prefer China if the region is forced to align itself in the ongoing U.S.-China rivalry. But many indicated an independent stance is preferable to em-

bracing either power.

"The US as a choice dropped from 61.1% in the previous year to 49.5%," the survey states. "Close to half of the respondents (46.8%) believe that ASEAN should enhance its resilience and unity to fend off pressures from the two major powers."

Flynn pointed to Balikatan, an exercise scheduled to bring 16,000 U.S. and Filipino troops together in the Philippines from April 22 to May 9, as an example of growing U.S. influence.

Other exercises, including Super Garuda Shield in Indonesia and Talisman Sabre in Australia, have grown to include not just the U.S. and host nations but forces and observers from 14 or 15 other nations at each, including some from Southeast Asia, Flynn added.

"Balikatan is in two to three weeks, and I expect the number of countries sending formations or observers to be in the teens," he said.

The ASEAN poll shows that

Filipinos bucked the trend, with support for the U.S. as a preferred partner growing from 78.8% to 83.3% since last year and support for China falling from 21.2% to 16.7%.

The results come during increased tension between Manila and Beijing.

In recent months, Chinese coast guard and maritime militia have tried unsuccessfully to block Philippine vessels resupplying the BRP Sierra Madre. The grounded World War II-era ship serves as a territorial outpost at Second Thomas Shoal, a disputed reef in the South China Sea.

China's military has been on a dangerous trajectory for the past decade, Flynn said.

Its aggressive behavior, including recent actions off the Philippines' western coast is "illustrative of that irresponsible behavior," he said.

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Reg. \$899

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NEW ARRIVAL!

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Now \$898

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A perfect combo with our Barton Sectional
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SUNDAY BRUNCH

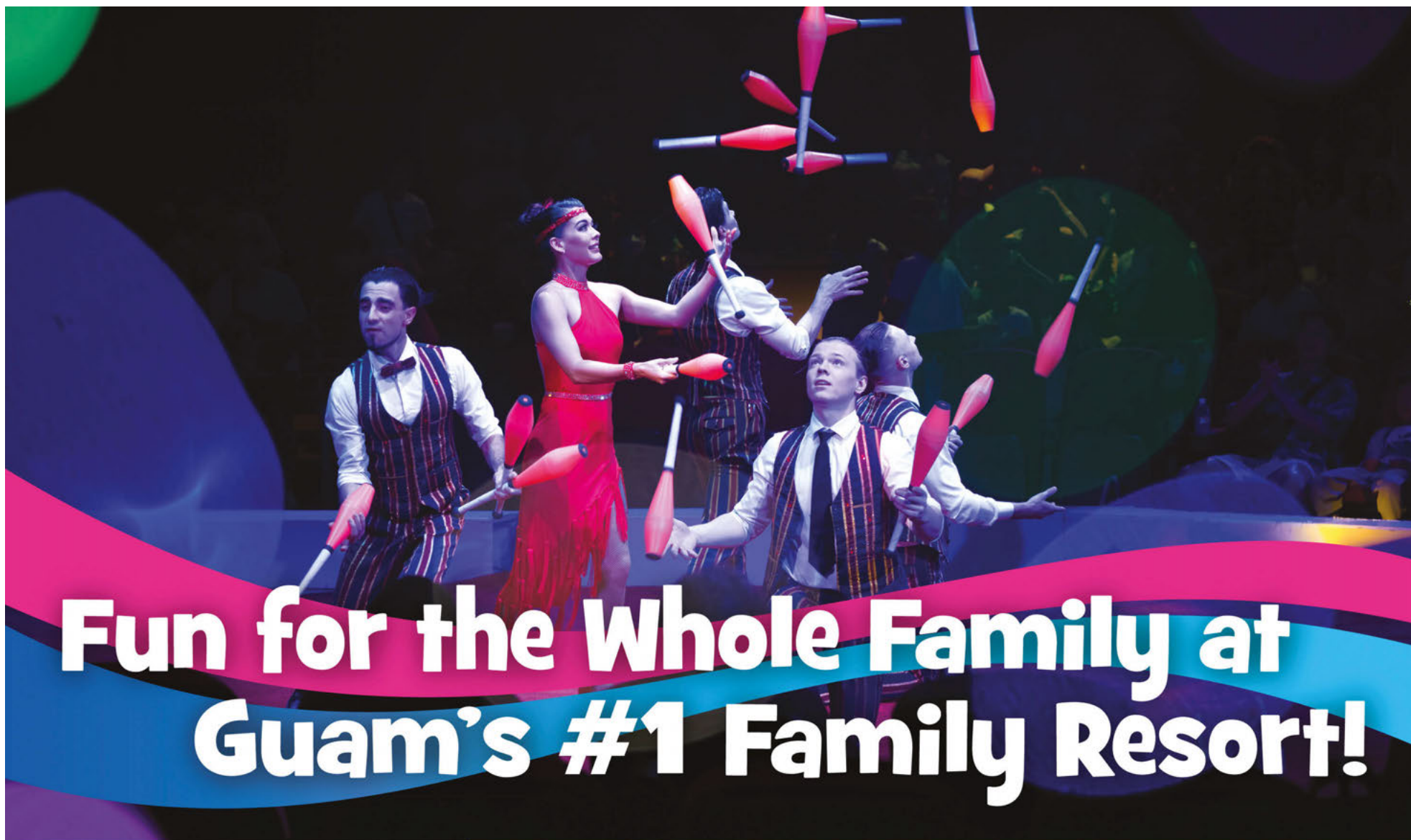
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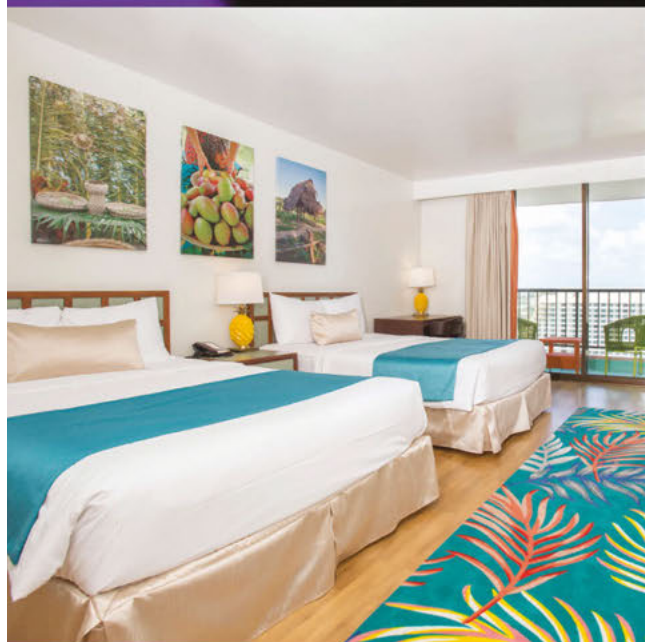
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Expiration is 6 months from date of issue.

Upon making a booking, mention that you saw the ad on Stars and Stripes!

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Resident Child Room & Circus Birthday Package Available: 3/1/24 – 6/30/24

DELUXE ROOM & CIRCUS PACKAGE **\$355**
 + 11% tax per night

INCLUDES:

- Preferred Circus Tickets for 2 Adults + 2 Children,
- Birthday greeting card, 1 circus toy, 1 face painting
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