

**SERIOUS CAR SERVICE**

**JAMAICAN GRILL**

**HAGÁTÑA** 472-2000/2600  
**TUMON** 647-3000/4000  
**DEDEDO** 633-3000/4000  
**MANGILAO** BBOJN SOON

**4 LOCATIONS**

**INSIDE INFO**



**ANDERSEN CONDUCTS ANNUAL FRUIT BAT SURVEY**  
PAGE 2



**NAVFAC MARIANAS EMPLOYEE CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF SERVICE**  
PAGE 4

**The Meat and Potatoes of Life**

**RETURN TO SCHOOL GIVES RISE TO FASHION FEARS**  
Page 7



**HUMAN RESOURCES SUPER STAR CELEBRATES 40 YEARS**  
PAGE 10

**MDA**

**LEARN TO SCUBA DIVE**  
CALL (671) 472-6321 EXT 1

**'Vaccine snobs' head to Guam for sun, sea, shots**  
Pages 8-9

**Sailors help feed those in need**

BY THERESA CEPEDA,  
U.S. NAVAL BASE GUAM

SANTA RITA – More than 20,000 pounds of food was distributed to the local soup kitchen and village mayors' offices through the Feds Feed Families campaign coordinated by U.S. Naval Base Guam (NBG).

This year marked the 12th annual government-wide Feds Feed Families (FFF) food drive, which encourages employees from all federal departments and agencies to give in-kind contributions -food, services, and time - to food banks and pantries. The campaign ran from June 1- Aug. 31 and highlighted a summer of giving, along with reminders to donate throughout the year. On NBG, Religious Program Specialist 1st Class Dimitry Givans led the Chaplain team's effort to collect and distribute the food.

"It is humbling any time the chapel team is able to care for our neighbors in the community," said Lt. Joseph Buck, NBG chaplain. "Feds Feed Families empowers

people to think about those in need of help and to do something tangible to support them. This program raises awareness of our community's needs and produces a mindfulness about the donors' ability to help others."

The donations included dry and non-perishable food and benefitted the Hågat, Inalåhan, Dededo, Sânta Rita-Sumai, and Malesso Mayors' offices and Archdiocese of Agana, Ministry to the Homeless soup kitchen.

**SEE FEED ON PAGE 10**

U.S. Naval Base Guam Chaplain's Office along with sailors from U.S. Naval Hospital Guam delivered nearly 2,000 pounds of food items and paper products to the Kamalen Karidat soup kitchen in Hagåtña on Aug. 31.

Photo by Valerie Maigue, U.S. Naval Base Guam



**KFC** IT'S BACK! **Kentucky Fried Chicken SANDWICH**

**KFC** 'it's finger, lickin' good'

ANIGUA • BARRIGADA  
DEDEDO • MANGILAO  
TAMUNING • YIGO  
GPO • MICRONESIA MALL

[KFC Guam](https://www.facebook.com/KFCGuam) [KFCGuamig](https://www.instagram.com/KFCGuamig) [kfc-guam.com](http://kfc-guam.com)

# STARS AND STRIPES

www.stripes.com

**Max D. Lederer Jr.**  
Publisher

**Lt. Col. Michael Kerschbaum**  
Commander

**Michael Ryan**  
Chief of Staff

**Chris Verigan**  
Engagement Director

**Marie Woods**  
Publishing and Media Design Director

**Chris Carlson**  
Publishing and Media Design Manager

**Eric Lee**  
Advertising and Circulation Manager

**Monte Dauphin**  
Guam Area Manager

**Kentaro Shimura**  
Production Manager

**Rie Miyoshi**  
Engagement Manager

**Denisse Rauda**  
Publishing and Media Design Editor

**Publishing and Media Design Writers**

ChiHon Kim

Shoji Kudaka

Takahiro Takiguchi

**Layout Designers**  
Kazumi Hasegawa  
Mamoru Inoue  
Yuko Okazaki  
Kayoko Shimoda

**Multimedia Consultants**

Max Genao Doug Johnson

Jason Lee Hans Simpson

Chae Pang Yi Gianni Youn

Robert Zuckerman

**Graphic Designers**

Yukiyo Oda Kenichi Ogasawara

Yosuke Tsuji

**Sales Support**

Yu mi Choe Hiromi Isa

Yoko Noro Yusuke Sato

Saori Tamanaha Toshie Yoshimizu

**Distributors**

Joe Guzman

John Wesley

For feedback and inquiries,  
contact [MemberServices@Stripes.com](mailto:MemberServices@Stripes.com)

To place an ad, call 355-5160  
[guam.stripes.com/contact](http://guam.stripes.com/contact)

# Andersen conducts annual fruit bat survey

BY SENIOR AIRMAN AUBREE OWENS,  
36TH WING

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE – Members from 36th Civil Engineer Squadron environmental flight partnered with the University of Guam along with the Government of Guam, United States Fish and Wildlife Service and members of the community to conduct this year’s fruit bat survey on Aug. 20, 2021 at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam.

Among agencies, community members and volunteers from 21 different organizations on base, 89 participants were able to participate in the survey and add to historical data that has been collected to help the endangered fanihi, a fruit bat that is endemic to the Mariana Islands.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has listed fanihi as an endangered species. Additionally, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species lists the Mariana fruit bat species as “threatened with extinction”.

“Whenever we do any type of federal action, whether it be trimming a couple of trees or putting in a military construction project, we have to make sure that what we are doing is protecting our natural and cultural resources,” said Sarah Diebel, 36th CES environmental flight chief. “We have to do our part in making sure projects are given a thorough environmental impact analysis to ensure we are in compliance with the law and that we implement conservation

measures into the projects, when necessary.”

The annual surveys for the fanihi began in 2013, when the fruit bat’s roost site began to scatter across the northern part of Guam. Tracking the species’ migration pattern is important so that their habitat and other cultural locations can be persevered on the base.

All of the volunteers for the survey were in place, dispersed across Andersen AFB’s terrain, before 5 a.m. since the bats are nocturnal and they tend to forage during hours of darkness. In order for the survey to be successful, each

volunteer was responsible for making timed observations if they saw any fruit bats and where they were coming from and going to in order to learn more about where they find their food and where they inhabit.

“The survey helps us understand what populations we have here to assist in their protection,” said Diebel. “It’s our job to align Andersen’s mission of projecting air power, expanding combat capability, and strengthening partnerships from the forward edge of the Indo-pacific, with natural resources conservation.”

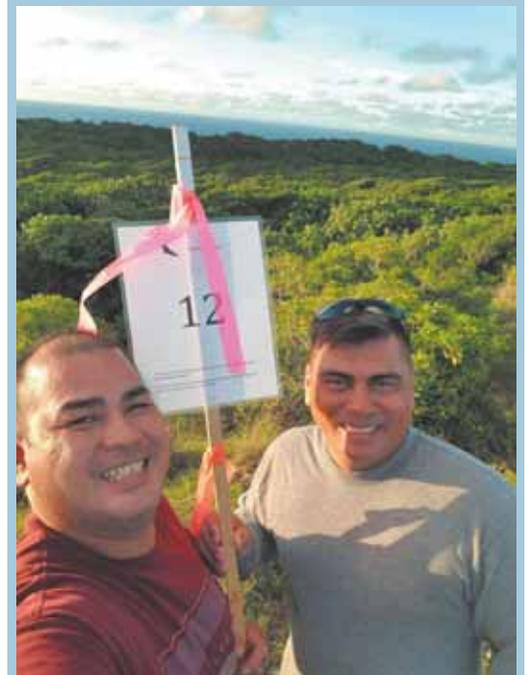
The results of the 2021 Annual Fruit Bat Survey concluded successfully with more information on the fanihi, which allows members from the 36th CES environmental flight understand the species better and implement protective measures to ensure Andersen AFB is preserving the endangered species.



An endangered fanihi returns to its roosting.  
Courtesy photos



In the early morning, participants capture the sunrise while looking for the endangered fanihi.



James Lewis and Jacob SanNicolas, 2021 Annual Fruit Bat Survey volunteers.

## Save like a Pro

Apple iPhone 12 Pro Max  
256 GB

Save \$200!  
~~\$41.97 per month~~

**\$35**<sup>30</sup> per month  
on NOW  
with ACCESS \$60

Enjoy ACCESS \$60 with Endless Local Voice & SMS, 30GB of 4G LTE Data with endless use of the following apps:

671-688-CARE  
[docomopacific.com](http://docomopacific.com)

Offer available in Guam until September 30, 2021, or while supplies last. Purchase of minimum \$60 Access plan required. Promotional rates based on 30-month device installments on NOW program. Subject to credit check. Other conditions may apply.

# Best Deal of the Year, Just for You.

## Sign up for Internet and Mobile services with GTA and save over \$1000!

- \$700 Smartphone Discount
- \$240 Internet Bundle Discount\*\*
- Free Smart Accessories Bundle with Smart earphones, phone case and screen protector

LIMITED TIME OFFER

### Samsung Galaxy S21

**WAS**  
**\$37.46**  
 per month

**NOW**  
**\$8.30\***  
 per month with  
**HPO** ✓



\*Terms & Conditions Apply. HPO pricing requires any Limitless wireless plan. 2 year pricing requires Live Limitless wireless plan. \*\*\$240 Internet discount over 12 months. Offer available until September 30, 2021.



Call us at  
**644-4482**



Visit us at  
[www.gta.net](http://www.gta.net)



# NAVFAC Marianas employee celebrates 50 years

STORY AND PHOTO BY JOANNA DELFIN,  
NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING  
COMMAND PACIFIC

With half a century of service in the books as a civilian employee, Mildred “Millie” Camacho had these words of advice for her colleagues: “Being a federal employee is so rewarding. If you find yourself ready to give up, don’t.”

Camacho celebrated her 50th year in civil service this month surrounded by colleagues and friends as Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC) Marianas Commanding Officer Capt. Tim Liberatore presented her with her golden service pin and length of service award.

Camacho entered the workforce as a clerk typist in the Officer in Charge of Construction Guam in 1971, after her sister encouraged her to take the civil service entrance exam. She worked her way into the world of finance with the 36th Contracting Squadron at Andersen Air Force Base, the Naval Base Guam Public Works Center, and now with NAVFAC Marianas financial management department.

“I just love working with numbers, and I’ve always been

“I do want to retire when the time is right, You don’t every really think about it. I never thought about my years in service, how much more time I have or anything like that. I just kept working.”

- Mildred Camacho



Mildred Camacho, Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Marianas financial management analyst, right, and her daughter Karianne Camacho, NAVFAC Marianas real estate business line leader, share a moment after the command awards ceremony in Asan.

really good at it even when I was in high school and college,” she said. “I think that was my calling. I stuck to that field and focused on my career, and it’s just a dream that I reached 50 years; I never thought I would.”

Though some days in the office are better than others, Camacho attributes her drive to her daily workouts, meeting and networking with new

people, and having coworkers who have turned into friends.

“There are lots of waves, of course. You have weak knees and a weak heart, but you have to remain strong; and with the help of our Lord, I remained strong,” she said. “Being happy at what you do and who you work with makes a difference.”

While her career has afforded her many benefits and

opportunities, and although retirement is usually on the horizon when a milestone like this is reached, Camacho said she isn’t quite there yet but is looking forward to it and spending much needed time with her family, and working on community projects.

“I do want to retire when the time is right,” she said. “You don’t every really think about it.

I never thought about my years in service, how much more time I have or anything like that. I just kept working.”

Camacho and her husband Ricardo live in the village of Barrigada and have five children – Vivian, Rick, Adrienne, Karianne and Roseanne; five grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

**Nana's Cafe**

**LET'S GET CRACKIN!**

ENJOY DELICIOUS SEAFOOD AND MORE

OPEN DAILY  
5:30PM-9:00PM  
T. 649-7760  
www.nanascafeguam.com

Scan QR code to view menu and book reservation

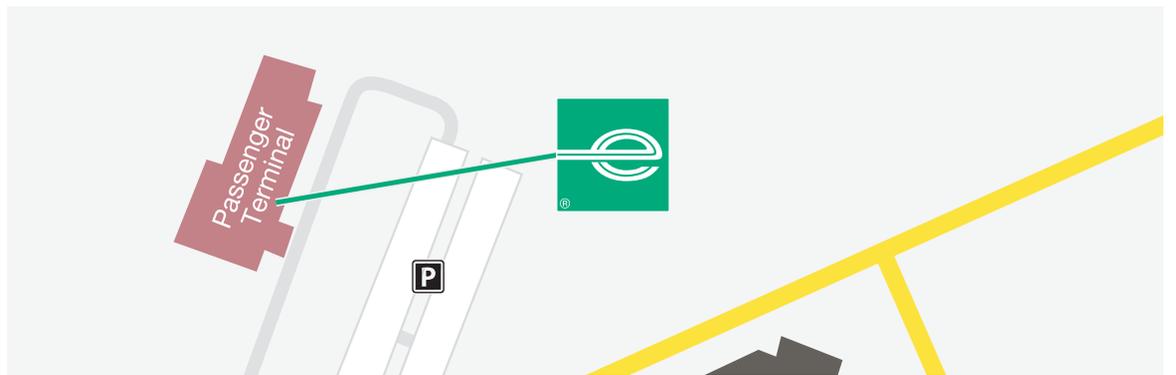


## Proud to serve those who serve.

With a great selection of vehicles and convenient locations in Navy, Andersen, and the Guam International Airport, you can do and see more on island with Enterprise.

**Andersen Passenger Terminal**  
Open Daily: 0800 - 1630

To reserve, call **653-7368**  
or **649-0110 (24/7)**



**NEX Autoport Service Center**  
Open Monday - Saturday: 0800 - 1630  
Closed Sundays

To reserve, call **564-1870**  
or **649-0110 (24/7)**





Bass shared her vision of what the Air Force will look like in the coming years, and heard from 36th Wing airmen.



Bass speaks with airmen assigned to the 734th Air Mobility Squadron and the 44th Aerial Port Squadron about Operation Christmas Drop.



Bass receives a brief from Commando Warrior cadre at North West Field on Aug. 27.

# CMSAF visits the Forward Edge of the Indo-Pacific

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
SENIOR AIRMAN MICHAEL MURPHY,  
36 WING

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE — In December of 2020, the document Action Orders to Accelerate Change Across the Air Force was released, describing what strategic approach is necessary to move forward as a force.

Since then, the 36th Wing has created and implemented new standard operating procedures to meet the call to Accelerate Change or Lose by spearheading a training guide for Agile Combat Employment concepts and Multi-Capable Airmen skillsets.

Within the 36th Wing, the 36th Contingency Response Group was placed at the forefront of writing a robust and capable training syllabus. This training plan focuses on ACE and MCA concepts executed at the wing level, and the 36th CRG was naturally right for the job.

“The Contingency Response community is the logical birthplace for training Airmen to open and operate from new locations in support of Agile Combat Employment,” said Lt. Col. Christopher Denzer, the 36th CRG deputy group commander. “The average Contingency Response Airman has always been a Multi-Capable Airman due to the adaptive and flexible nature of small teams opening a new operating location. The 36th Wing saw an opportunity to leverage already existing training capabilities and training grounds organic to the 36th CRG to start moving out on MCA training in support of ACE.”

The 36th CRG also already employs three accredited courses whose cadre represent training subject matter experts who were ready to begin creating guidance Denzer said.

Denzer explained that breaking down ACE concepts requires units to be innovative and adaptive to challenging environments. ACE can look different depending on each unit’s mission and craft, which will affect the requirements



Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force JoAnne S. Bass receives an Operation Christmas Drop t-shirt from Matthew Carowan, OCD president, at Andersen Air Force Base on Aug. 27.

and training for service members to properly utilize MCA skills. Units falling under Air Combat Command will require different training than units under Air Mobility Command.

“At a tactical level ACE will mean different things to different units as they try to tackle problem sets specific to their aircraft, mission and potential operating environments,” said Denzer. “Our standard operating procedures will continue to evolve as units develop their specific plans to execute ACE. One

**“It was exciting to see how our airmen are getting after it, and how Andersen is developing that skillset to ensure we are ready anytime, anywhere.”**

*- JoAnne S. Bass,  
Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force*

unit may require more training or a higher level of proficiency on special fueling operations due to their aircraft type.”

Denzer pointed out though that ACE and MCA should not automatically mean CRG, but will eventually become synonymous with how wings operate and respond to contingency needs. U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Jason Ornellas, the quality assurance manager assigned to

the 36th Logistical Readiness Squadron Petroleum, Oil and Lubrication Flight, says that his team has been involved

with the development of ACE and MCA skillsets since last year.

“We have integrated with our CRG counterparts and were able to instruct PACAF’s first-ever MCA course, while also accomplishing many firsts on the island, including the first fuel bladder hot refuel to a U.S. Navy search and rescue helicopter at an austere location,” Ornellas said. “ACE and MCA training should be readily embraced by other units. I have been fortunate enough to be involved in many operations that are out of our normal scope.”

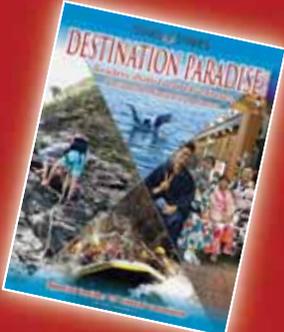
These skills will propel how the U.S. Air Force has previously responded to contingency operations, and create reliable methods of employment to project airpower with minimal environmental footprint and cost at the quickest pace possible.

Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force JoAnne S. Bass recently made a visit to Andersen AFB and performed ACE exercises alongside airmen from the 36th CRG.

“Future conflict will never look like wars of the past,” said Chief Bass. “That is why we have to get after building multi-capable, strategically-minded, airmen today, so they can compete, deter and win tomorrow. It was exciting to see how our airmen are getting after it, and how Andersen is developing that skillset to ensure we are ready anytime, anywhere.”

Guam’s location is prime for the 36th CRG to respond in the Indo-Pacific region as the forward edge of U.S. Territory in the Pacific Theater said Denzer.

“The 36th Wing is invested in this region and is therefore very clear on the urgency to remain a leader in this great power competition,” said Denzer. “We have found so many amplifying capabilities and mutual interests within the group, wing and even with our Allies, we would be foolish not to accelerate change in how we operate. We have a great deal of responsibility in ensuring a free and open Indo-Pacific.”



Dream about your next vacation with

# DESTINATION PARADISE

STARS AND STRIPES

Pick up the magazine or get it online



# Return to school gives rise to fashion fears

Unfortunately, I recall many excruciating details from my adolescent years, from the Smurfs puffy stickers I stuck inside my locker to that humiliating day I threw up in the cafeteria in front of my entire seventh grade class, and every awkwardly self-conscious moment in between.

During this gawky stage, I hovered in a nervous state of adolescent limbo between my carefree primary years and the uneasy self-awareness of my late teens. At night, I'd lay awake in my mock-brass twin bed, under my Klivan cat sheets, staring at the Holly Hobby doll on my floral Contact-papered shelf, practicing kissing on the back of my hand, and wondering, "Who the heck am I, anyway?" Although nothing seemed certain, I thought having trendy clothes would go a long way in attracting a half-way decent friend group ... and maybe someday, a boyfriend.

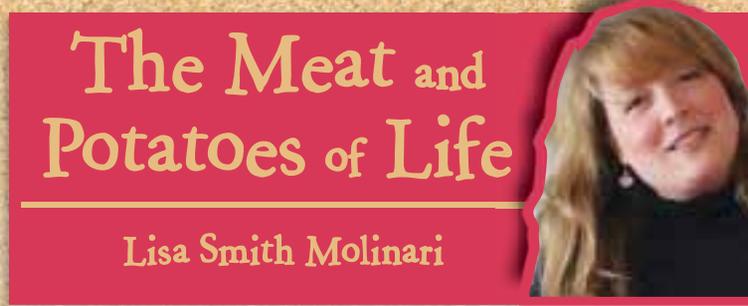
My parents aimed to clothe me in polyester dresses and knee socks for the rest of my life. That worked until middle school, when my best friend showed up on the first day wearing a blue satin jacket, rainbow suspenders, a Coneheads

T-shirt and Sasson jeans with a clear plastic back pocket that showed off her Bonnie Bell Lip Smacker. Seeing that my friend's cool outfit earned her social status, I was desperate to create my own style.

My older brother had abandoned the color-coordinated Garanimals outfits my mother bought him at J.C. Penneys, and replaced them with a decent pair of jeans, concert T-shirts and turf shoes. He parted his hair straight down the middle, and voilà! His entrance into the cool crowd was instantaneous, too.

For me, however, fashion was bewildering, with an intimidating array of trends from which to choose. Just buying a new pair of jeans was overwhelming. Pleated or plain front? Acid or stone washed? Tapered or Flared? Jordache or Lee?

Would I wear a madras shirt, a cut-up sweatshirt, a Members Only jacket, a cowl neck, a Forenza sweater, an oversized blouse with a brooch at the neck, a popped collar polo shirt, a whale-print turtleneck, or a blazer with enormous shoulder pads? How could I choose between painter's pants, Hamertime pants, parachute



pants, stirrup pants, and overalls? Jellies, Converse Chucks, Tretorns, Reebok high tops, Vans, penny loafers, Capezios, Docksidiers and Candies. Not to mention the dizzying assortment of accessories: fingerless gloves, leg warmers, Vuarnet sunglasses, Swatch watches, stick pins, braided headbands, mood rings, fanny packs and banana clips.

Even after choosing an outfit, I still had to decide whether rooster bangs or a bi-level would go better with my frosted purple eye shadow! Oh the agony!

Unfortunately, I never developed a sense of fashion and eventually gave in to my mother's influence, wearing brown leather loafers, blouses that tied at the neck à la Colonel Sanders, and my hair long with a slab of bangs that made

**It's OK if fashion isn't your thing. Your best accessories are your personality, your intellect, your talent, your sense of humor, your kindness, your generosity, your determination, your compassion and your resilience.**

my face look like it was framed with a ring of Polska kielbasa.

Even when I managed to convince my mother to buy me something trendy from the juniors rack, I could never quite pull it off. When she bought

me Lee overalls, I accidentally dipped the strap into the girls' restroom toilet before history class. When I wore a cool pair of boots I got for Christmas, I wiped out on a patch of ice stepping off the bus.

At some point, I gave up on acquiring fashion sense and honed my sense of humor. I didn't get a good date to the prom, but I was voted "Class Clown" in 1984 and later became a humor writer. Now, as I watch military families go shopping for back-to-school clothes, I hope that less fashion-savvy kids are not stressing about what to wear to school like I did.

It's OK if fashion isn't your thing. Your best accessories are your personality, your intellect, your talent, your sense of humor, your kindness, your generosity, your determination, your compassion and your resilience. Wear whatever clothing makes you feel comfortable and confident, then simply let YOU shine through.

Fashion trends change, but character is forever. And that's totally cool.

Read more of Lisa Smith Molinari's columns at:  
[themeatandpotatoesoflife.com](http://themeatandpotatoesoflife.com)  
 Email: [meatandpotatoesoflife@gmail.com](mailto:meatandpotatoesoflife@gmail.com)



**You could miss out,  
 or you could  
 choose USAA.**

**Members switched and saved an average  
 of \$725 per year.<sup>1</sup>**

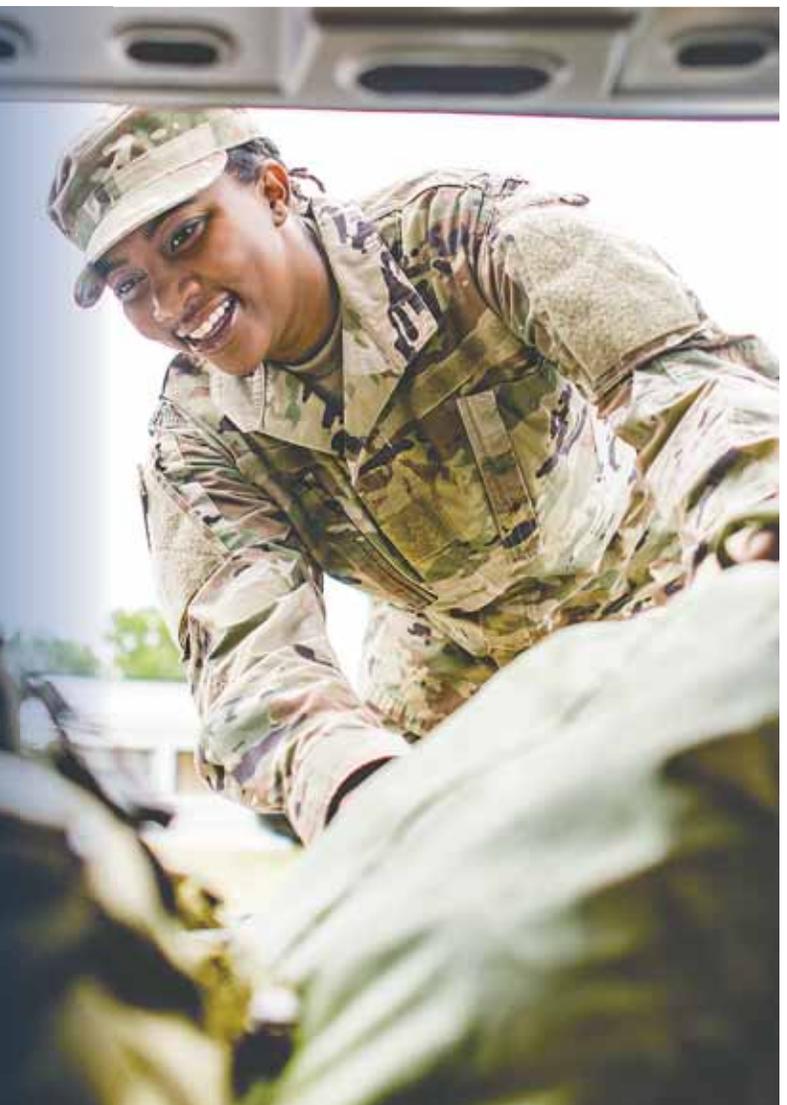
**If you know, you know. If you don't, we do.**



**AUTO  
 INSURANCE**

**[usaa.com/auto](http://usaa.com/auto)**

<sup>1</sup>Potential average annual savings, rounded to the nearest \$25 increment, based on countrywide survey of new customers who switched to USAA and self-reported savings from March 11, 2019 to March 18, 2021. Individual savings may vary and isn't guaranteed. Use of the term "member" or "membership" refers to membership in USAA Membership Services and does not convey any legal or ownership rights in USAA. Restrictions apply and are subject to change. Automobile insurance provided by United Services Automobile Association, USAA Casualty Insurance Company, USAA General Indemnity Company, Garrison Property and Casualty Insurance Company, based in San Antonio, TX; USAA Limited (UK) and USAA S.A. (Europe), and is available only to persons eligible for P&C group membership. Each company has sole financial responsibility for its own products. No Department of Defense or government agency endorsement. © 2021 USAA. 280415-0721



# 'Vaccine snobs' v for sun, sea

STORY AND PHOTOS BY LYRIC LI,  
THE WASHINGTON POST



Diners show their vaccination record and registered phone number before entering Micronesia Mall food court on Aug. 30.



Korean scholar Shin Hee-seok enjoys a beer while watching a local band, the Yuppies and Deloreans, perform at the Lobster & Grill in downtown Tumon.

**P**assport: check. Coronavirus test: negative. Temperature: normal.

Wearing an N95 mask and face shield, Jimmy Lin lugged his bag full of instant noodles and beachwear out of Guam's modest airport one recent afternoon.

"It feels kind of surreal being here," said the 37-year-old from Taiwan, who owns a ski resort in Japan that he hasn't visited since early 2020 because of travel restrictions. "I used to travel abroad at least every other month, and then suddenly the world was closed on me."

Like thousands of Asian tourists who have visited this American outpost in the Pacific since early this summer, Lin was in Guam to get his preferred coronavirus shots — Pfizer-BioNTech's messenger-RNA doses — under a vaccine tourism initiative designed to offset pandemic losses.

Barbados wants you to work from its beaches during the pandemic

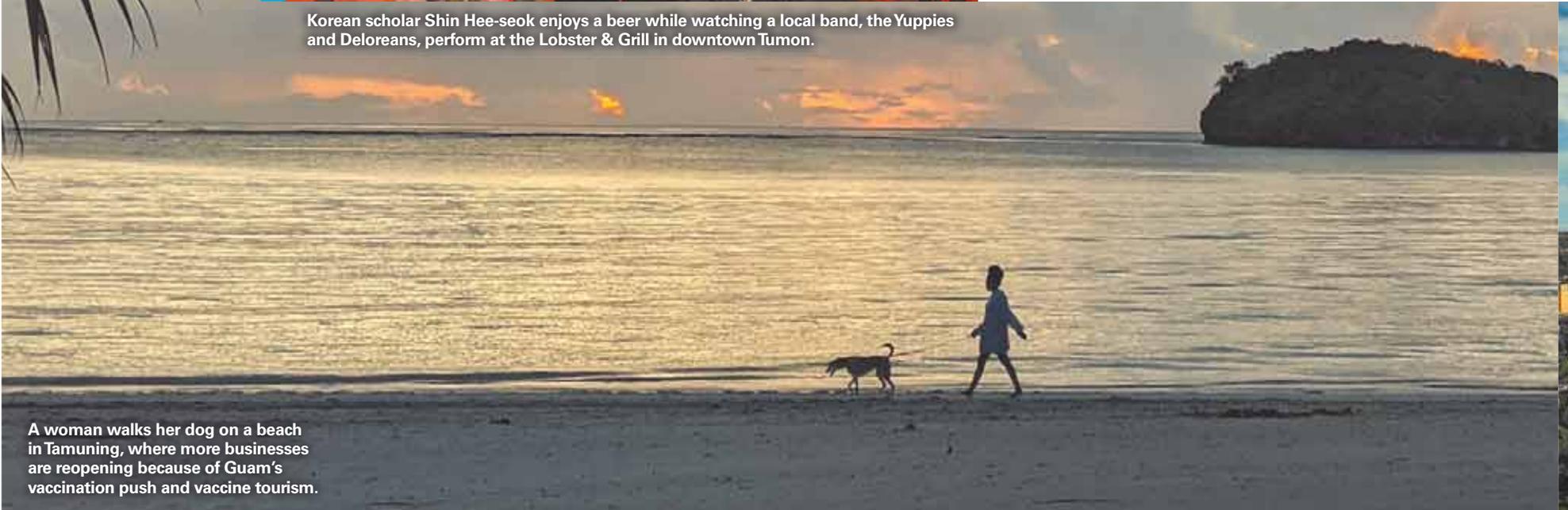
While an increasing number of tourism-reliant countries, such as Italy and Thailand, recognize vaccination records for travel, a vacation abroad remains off-limits for millions of the unvaccinated. Enter Guam, a U.S. territory with ample vaccine supplies and no quarantine restrictions, where more than 80 percent of the eligible population is fully vaccinated. For residents of Taiwan, South Korea and elsewhere, three weeks on a tropical island plus the chance to get doubly dosed equal an opportunity they can't always get at home because of supply shortages and access issues.

"I'm a vaccine snob," said Lin, who got his first Pfizer shot on Aug. 3 through Guam's government-sponsored "vacation and vaccination," or AirV&V, program, paying \$100 for one dose. "Here in Guam I can choose the vaccine I want at an affordable price, but back in Taiwan, all I could do was wait for whatever is available, at who knows when."

Around the world, tourism-dependent places have come up with creative ideas to try to jump-start business devastated by the pandemic. Some have sought to lure digital nomads or allowed visitors to quarantine in resorts. Others have tried travel bubbles that have collapsed when new outbreaks have flared.

And while Guam's AirV&V initiative can go only a small way to redeeming lost tourist dollars — more than 1.6 million international visitors graced these shores in 2019

— bu  
"S  
incre  
Japa  
high  
sales  
E  
unva  
So  
of pe  
first  
Trav  
Va  
them  
scale  
TSM  
tours  
stay  
M  
reop  
cinat  
aging  
comi  
ping  
"A  
touri  
Kao,  
a vil  
close  
Chri  
and  
Br  
from  
Ne  
sum  
Aug  
man  
ties  
-Bas  
now  
have  
"T  
any  
for  
a ne  
rest



A woman walks her dog on a beach in Tamuning, where more businesses are reopening because of Guam's vaccination push and vaccine tourism.

Mos  
Tum  
and

# Visit Guam and shots

Businesses say it's worth a shot. Since the AirV&V program, we have started to see an increase in international guests from Taiwan, Korea and Japan," said Honoka Yamazaki, a planning manager at the Grand Tsubaki Tower, adding that room bookings and restaurant reservations were up compared with last year.

The European Union recommends new travel restrictions for fully vaccinated Americans.

Only about 2,000 visitors from Taiwan, where only 4 percent of the population are fully vaccinated, have visited Guam since the island's first charter flight on July 6, according to Taiwan's Lionel Travel, which operates tour groups to Guam and Palau.

Vaccine tourists book their shots online and often get a checkup at a kiosk in the tourist center of Tumon, home to upscale hotels and luxury shops. Tech companies including Intel, the world's largest chipmaker, have booked groups of employees, who arrive on charter flights and stay in a handful of designated AirV&V hotels.

Cafes and restaurants in Guam's tourist hot spots have reopened in recent weeks as more locals have gotten vaccinated. And now, the modest inflow of tourists is encouraging other businesses to follow suit. To keep the arrivals flowing, Guam officials have proposed giving a \$500 shopping coupon to AirV&V vacationers.

Full recovery may take a long time, but bringing the tourists back is a vital start to that recovery," said Anna Lin, owner of the beachfront Ocean Villa in Tamuning, a village abutting Tumon. Her guesthouse, which had to close for months in 2020 after a lockdown, reopened before Christmas and has seen more visitors from Taiwan, Japan and the Philippines this summer.

But even here, 1,500 miles from Tokyo and 4,000 miles from Hawaii, the pandemic is never far away.

Not so soon had Guam officials eased restrictions this summer than coronavirus cases began to spike again in August. The local government on Monday reinstated mask mandates and social distancing rules. U.S. military facilities — including Naval Base Guam and Andersen Air Force Base — also reimposed mask requirements. Restaurants require proof of vaccination for dine-in customers and have stepped up checks.

The pandemic, as you can see, is not going anywhere anytime soon," said Brandon Kinsella, a project coordinator for the AirV&V program. But, he said, "there will always be a demand for vaccines and a market for travel." Guam, like the rest of the United States, will roll out booster shots in coming

weeks.

Some tiny countries hope for a big boost from vaccine tourism.

The new wave of infections has taken away some of the excitement for visitors longing for a sun-and-sand vacation. Some Taiwanese groups visiting Guam for vaccinations are choosing to quarantine themselves in their hotel rooms, emerging only for takeaway food.

"I don't want to get covid when I came here to get vaccinated against the virus," said Richard Chang, a recent retiree from Taipei, who had just received his second Moderna shot at the Hyatt Regency Guam and was clutching his arm at the instruction of a Mandarin-speaking local guide.

Guam has seen other crises before, and eventually recovered.

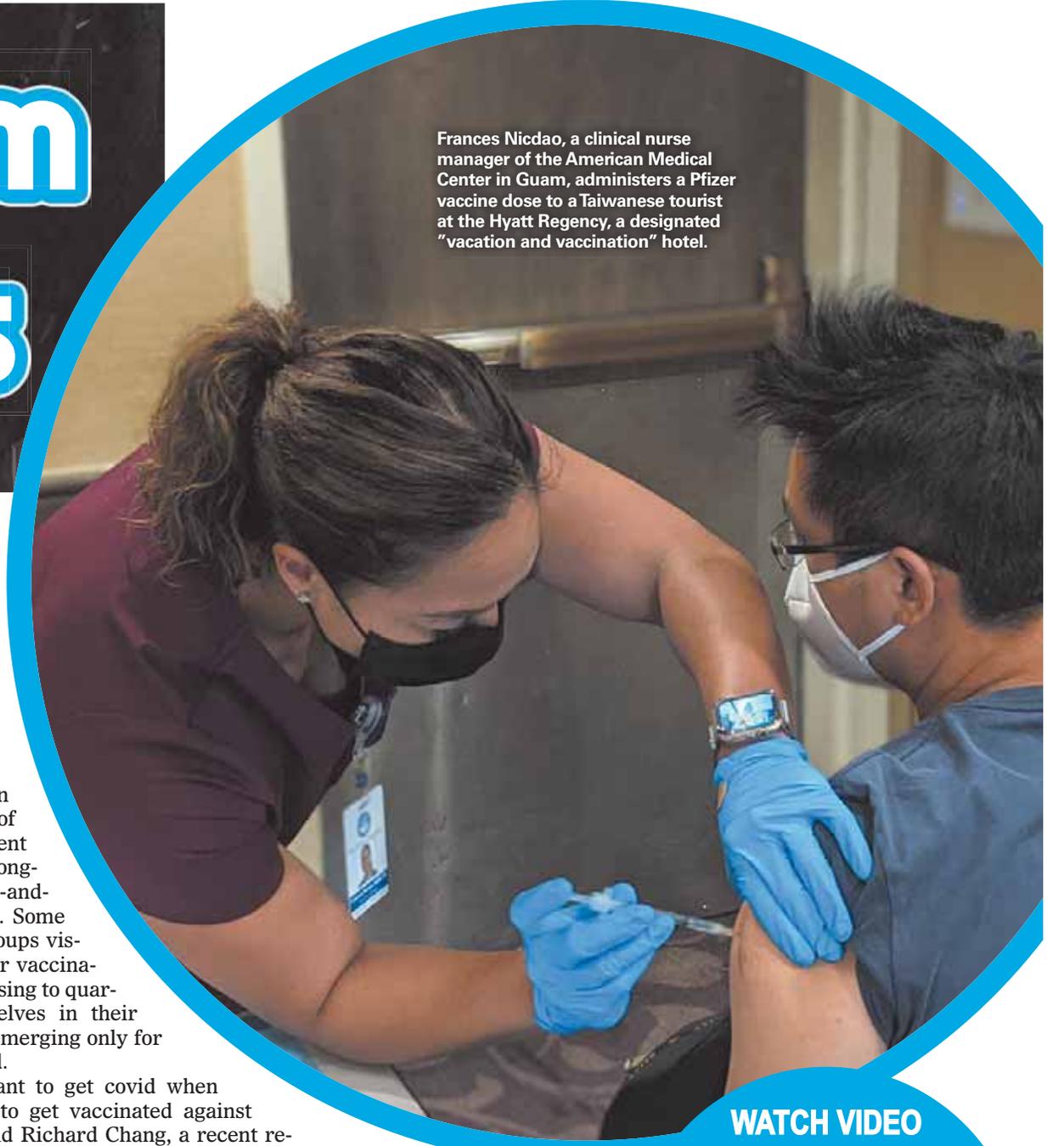
Accompanying his fiancée for three weeks of vacation and vaccination, Shin Hee-seok, a South Korean scholar, said the delta variant reminded him of the North Korean missile threat to Guam in 2017, which scared many visitors and sent flight and hotel prices plummeting.

"South Koreans have outgrown the fear of North Korean missile threats and are now learning to live with the coronavirus," said Shin, an international law researcher at Yonsei University in Seoul.

South Korea, one of the island's top sources of tourists, is recording more than 1,000 infections a day. And while the outbreak on Guam — population 170,000 — is small compared with those elsewhere, vaccine tourists face other, more prosaic concerns.

"I've done everything that's still open to tourists, from

Frances Nicdao, a clinical nurse manager of the American Medical Center in Guam, administers a Pfizer vaccine dose to a Taiwanese tourist at the Hyatt Regency, a designated "vacation and vaccination" hotel.



WATCH VIDEO



Pfizer, partnering with BioNTech

shooting and hiking to jet skiing, kayaking, scuba diving and surfing," Lin, the Taiwanese resort owner, said the night before he headed home in late August, fully vaccinated, and into mandatory two-week quarantine.

"For someone who's used to city life, Guam feels like paradise, but only for the first week or two. If I had to spend longer here, I would probably get bored."

Alicia Chen in Taipei contributed to this report.



At AirV&V vacationers stay along Tumon Bay, where many upscale hotels and luxury shops are located.



A Taiwanese tour group at a temporary vaccination point at the Hotel Nikko Guam, which has seen more Asian arrivals since the AirV&V program launched in July.

# Human resources super star celebrates 40 years

BY LESLIE HULL-RYDE,  
MILITARY SEALIFT COMMAND FAR EAST

One proud Guamanian has dedicated her entire 40-year career to serving the U.S. Government, the last 24 with Military Sealift Command.

Norma Pillman is known throughout MSC, especially in the Far East, as a go-to expert on all things related to human resources: interpreting the ever-changing personnel instructions; negotiating and receiving permanent change of station orders for incoming and transferring personnel; conducting and tracking required training; advising leaders on administrative matters; and advertising, hiring and onboarding new personnel, whether active duty, reserve, civilians, and civil service and contracted mariners.

"I'm the one-stop shop that everyone goes to when they

have any questions, from pay issues to overseas entitlements," Pillman says.

She routinely coordinates with MSC headquarters in Norfolk, Virginia, so she is knowledgeable about all recruiting efforts and changes to human resources policies or procedures. These may include equal employment opportunities, labor relations, succession planning and staffing.

"Without a doubt, Norma has the broadest understanding of every aspect of human resources and manpower management," says Cmdr. Gillian Medina, commanding officer of Ship Support Unit Guam.

"She is a sought-after expert from MSC leaders all over our enterprise – from Norfolk to Asia.

"She not only has a masterful understanding of every

//  
I'm the one-stop shop that everyone goes to when they have any questions, from pay issues to overseas entitlements.  
//

- Norma Pillman

requirement and regulation related to human resources, but she can articulate them so that leaders understand nuanced considerations and can make informed decisions on how best to support our people, which includes military and civilian, afloat and ashore," Medina adds.

One of the pieces of the personnel puzzle Pillman proudly brings together is the unique support to civil service mariners who crew the MSC ships operating in the Indo-Pacific region. That's a multifaceted responsibility and includes supporting MSC job fairs conducted on Guam and providing information on the application process and employment benefits to hundreds of people interested in the possibility of joining the MSC team. Pillman

facilitates new hires' on boarding process, proctoring tests, explaining benefits and establishing pay procedures and ensuring all allowances and benefits are received.

From the daily tasks – processing regular and Family and Medical Leave Allowance requests; renewing ID cards, tracking retirement and ship-to-ship transfer requirements; repatriating civil service or contract mariners to the United States following an afloat or overseas tour – to the sobering responsibility of casualty notification and support, Norma has done it all in the last four decades.

"At the heart of everything we do is taking care of our people and their individual needs," Pillman says.

"It starts with the hiring

process – and making sure we have the right person in the right position in the right location – and then supporting our people throughout their careers, including numerous transitions to and from ships and assignments, up to and through retirement.

"Because of the ever changing evolution of current events and regulations, especially in this part of the world – and particularly right now – I focus on all these administrative tasks so our ships and their crews can stay focused on their missions which ultimately keep our country safe," says the proud native of Agat, Guam.

"Working with hardworking, dedicated professionals -- whether military, federal civilians, civil service mariners, contracted mariners, contractors or prospective MSC employees – is an honor for me.

"Just meeting each person makes my day satisfying, knowing that I have made a positive difference for them – and MSC."

Although Pillman has been with the government for 40 years, she's been with MSC for almost 24. She claims MSC is a "unique organization."

"I would encourage anyone interested in working for an awesome command – either afloat or ashore to come aboard. Every day is a new and rewarding challenge -- and an exciting -- one," Pillman said.

## GSA in Guam

GSA Global Supply® is partnering 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 new 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.

Check Out GSA's Guam Catalog!



Scan this QR code to view  
GSA's 2021 Guam catalog.



## FEED: Impacting quality of life of families

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Our team is overjoyed to be able to establish relationships with our community partners," Buck said. "We hope these donations not only fill some empty stomachs but also remind our neighbors how much we appreciate them and care about their needs."

Buck acknowledged the support of the Orote Commissary, tenant commands, and all donors who helped with the food drive. On NBG, Commissary patrons were able to purchase bags filled with food and donation drop-off boxes were made available at the Chapel.

"Our goal was to support communities we knew were in need, and we tried to maximize the impact on the quality of life of our neighbors here in Guam," Buck said.

Since Feds Feed Families launched in 2009, the campaign has collected more than 99 million pounds of food for donation. In 2020 alone, federal employees donated more than 7 million pounds.

### FEEDING THOSE IN NEED

One of the recipients of the local donations was the soup

kitchen in Hagåtña. During the pandemic, the soup kitchen had to adjust their hours and some services, but continued to operate by providing to-go bags with canned goods to the homeless, according to Doris Royal, the organization's program director.

"We offer services to people who are in need," Royal said. "Although, we cater to our homeless brothers and sisters, and the less fortunate, we do not turn away anyone who is in need of a hot meal. No questions are asked if you are seeking our assistance."

For the month of July, they handed out 767 bags of non-perishable food and fed more than 530 people in August. While the counts vary on a daily basis, on average, they feed 125-150 people per week.

The soup kitchen is able to provide these services through community support, Royal said.

"Every donation big or small will help to replenish our pantry and to continue assisting individuals or families," Royal said.

Nearly 2,000 pounds of food was donated to the organization Aug. 31 through the Feds Feed Families program, including

245 pounds of food from U.S. Naval Hospital Guam.

"We feel, honored and grateful to be a recipient," Royal said. "On behalf of the Archdiocese of Agana, Ministry to the Homeless, we extend our humble gratitude and appreciation to everyone who has contributed to this campaign – our active military, retirees, civilians, and veterans. We thank you for your service to our island."

A substantial food donation through the campaign was also delivered to the Hågat Mayor's Office, who in turn distributed them to their residents.

"Receiving these items and distributing to our residents who are in need of it, especially during these difficult times, is a very much needed show of faith in our community and working relationship," Hågat Mayor Kevin Susuico said, acknowledging the recent donations. "These type of campaigns help us help our community by giving them a little nourishment and self-care to keep them going for as long as they can until they can get back on their feet. On behalf of the community of Hågat, we thank you for all your continued support."



# CREATE A HOME YOU LOVE

We provide beautiful, quality home furnishings from credible global designers and well-known U.S. manufacturers at prices you can afford.

### WE ALSO OFFER:

- Free Design Consultations
- Window Treatments
- Financing
- Furniture Protection Program



**10% Military Discount on any regular-priced item**  
 \*Cannot be combined with other discounts and promotional prices\*



**FINANCING AVAILABLE**  
 Get 12 months of zero interest.  
 Subject to credit approval.

(671)300-9590 | OPEN EVERYDAY 10am-6pm  
 118 Martyr Street, Hagatna, Guam 96910

@furniturekathystyle  
[www.furniturekathystyle.com](http://www.furniturekathystyle.com)

WE PROUDLY CARRY



AND MANY MORE!

# Reserve corpsman named MSC Far East Sailor of Quarter

BY LESLIE HULL-RYDE,  
MILITARY SEALIFT COMMAND FAR EAST

GUAM – Military Sealift Command Far East selected Petty Officer Perpetuo Quintua, a reservist on extended orders in Guam, as its junior Sailor of the Quarter.

While assigned to Ship Support Unit Guam as the lead medical representative, Quintua has been instrumental in keeping civil service mariners healthy and vaccinated. His efforts have helped ensure the medical readiness of the MSC fleet operating in the Indo-Pacific Region.

“The majority of my role during the pandemic is to implement health protocols to lessen the impact of COVID-19 to make sure we maintain a healthy status of the MSC ships doing crew swaps on Guam,” Quintua said.

“It is important because we have to make sure we maintain a COVID-free fleet and maintain healthy crews so they can fulfill their mission of supporting the fleet.”

To that end, Quintua tracks the medical and personal health and well-being of civil service and contracted mariners. This includes keeping up with numerous little details that have a great impact on the big picture – medical testing, appointments, prescription refills, urgent care, and release from required quarantine periods upon arrival on Guam. Quintua considers assisting with MSC’s COVID-19 vaccination efforts “one of the greatest accomplishments.”

His civilian job helped set him up for success at SSU Guam. When not on active duty, Quintua works as a health



Photo by Reynaldo Rabara, Joint Region Marianas

“There was no intent on staying longer than 150 days until I realized this is exactly what I wanted to do, especially during these times.”

- PO2 Perpetuo Quintua

educator with Guam’s Department of Public Health and Social Services. In this role, he’s tasked with health promotion, client retention and progress reporting for numerous programs.

“Public health in the civilian world is not so different. We serve individual patients and clients with unique medical conditions who are dealing with the same uncertainties right now.”

For this reason, Quintua says the reserve program benefits not only SSU Guam but also the entire fleet.

“With our diverse capabilities and skill sets, the Navy can send reservists anywhere, anytime,” he said.

For the last six months, Quintua has applied all his expertise and experience to his responsibilities as the lead medical representative for MSC Far East’s Ship Support Unit Guam. Quintua will soon wrap up this assignment, one he never expected to be anything more than his normal annual training.

“There was no intent on staying longer than 150 days until I realized this is exactly what I wanted to do, especially during these times,” the second class petty officer from Tayabas City, Philippines, said.

“I would prefer to continue doing so if given a chance.”

**Q:** Have you worked with MSC in the past?

**A:** This is the first time I was assigned to work with MSC, and I never thought it would be this exciting, and challenging and fulfilling at the same time.

**Q:** Why is the MSC mission important and why did you want to support it?

**A:** The Navy relies on the mariners for supplies, ammunition, repairs, personnel movement, and for conducting specialized missions. MSC plays a vital role in maintaining

and sustaining not only the world’s greatest Navy but also the world’s most reliable and lethal armed forces. I want to support what MSC does because I see my mission, as a reservist, similar to theirs. We are both ready, and we rally behind our warriors, ultimately becoming the warrior ourselves.

**Q:** How did you contribute to mission accomplishment?

**A:** Commitment – Each mariner who comes to the island to meet a ship has a very unique situation. I have to make sure I am faithful to policies, regulations and requirements, while at the same time taking care of each mariner’s specific needs. To do all this, you have to be committed - to the mission, the policies and the individual mariner.

Network and Team Building – I think I am able to leverage SSU Guam’s capability and proactively watch for potential challenges to help avoid some pitfalls. Working with the SSU Guam team I help ensure positive results and mission accomplishment. My job could not have been done as easily without the support of the team at SSU Guam and the network of capable individuals and organizations who are always ready to support. Fortunately, I have established and maintained a good relationship with my counterparts at the hospital and all over base, basically with all those in the business of helping us take care of MSC mariners.

Flexibility -- On any given day, I come to work not really knowing what is going to happen. I literally sit down in my office chair and say: “Okay, what do we have for today?” I learned the importance of focusing on every day as if that’s everything that matters. Bottom line is, I have to be flexible and carry out each day, one mariner, one task at a time. One thing is for sure, there is never a dull day.

**Q:** Why did you decide to affiliate with the reserves?

**A:** I thought joining the reserves was my best option, given my situation four years ago, I still believe it is one of the best decisions I have ever made. Being in the reserves gives me the opportunity to keep my civilian status while at the same time giving me an opportunity to don my service uniform anytime I am needed.

**Q:** Why are reservists important to mission accomplishment?

**A:** We are ready! Our mission is to “provide strategic depth and deliver operational capabilities to the Navy and Marine Corps team and joint forces, in times of peace and war” (source: Navy Reserve Homeport). This is what I try to live every day.

**Q:** What can active duty and civilian employees learn from reservists?

**A:** It is not the uniform, or the rank, or the clothes that I wear coming to work in the morning. What’s important is how I put these things to work, so that at the end of the day, I can proudly say I have done something worth my time.

**Q:** Anything you would like to add?

**A:** I just wanted to take this opportunity to express how grateful I am to be able to work with the most amazing team I could ever ask for. SSU Guam is a wonderful place to work, learn, and be successful. The command leadership, headed by Cmdr. Gillian Medina, has given me every kind of example and opportunity to work harder for my goals, look after the needs of everyone who comes my way, stay focused on the mission, while at the same time still enjoy and love what I do.

New to the Federal Workforce?



Health Plans designed for Federal Employees

CHOOSE:

A wide range of benefit options

Money-Saving Value

FULL ACCESS TO FHP HEALTH CENTER

\*UP TO \$600 IN WELLNESS INCENTIVES

\*Non-FEHB Supplemental Wellness Program



Scan QR Code or visit <https://www.takecareasia.com/openseason20> for more information.



takecareasia.com

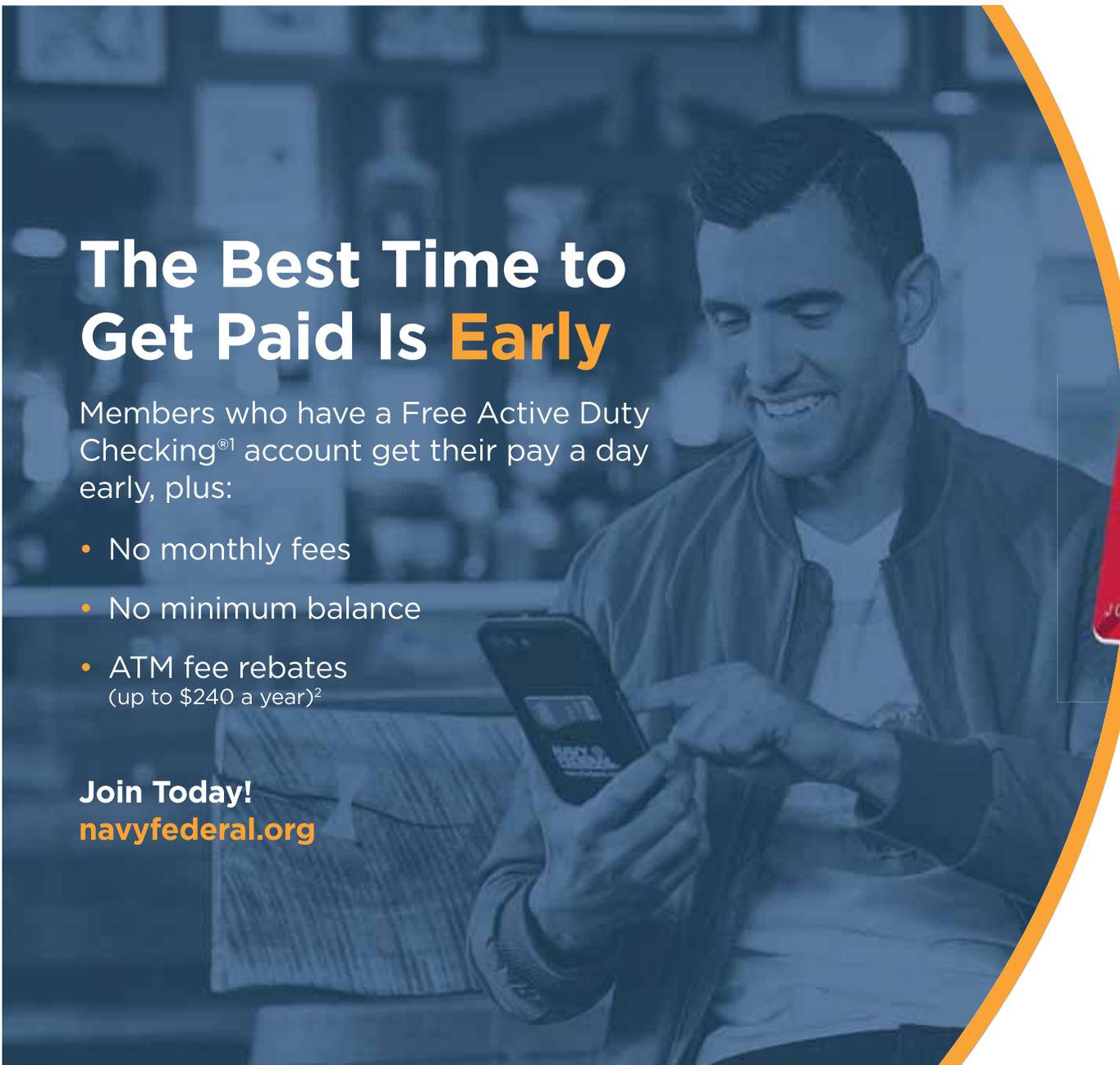
Connect with us



# hotel nikko guam

A tranquil and unique paradise with breathtaking views of the Pacific sunset. Hotel Nikko Guam offers affordable luxury hotel rooms and suites in Guam. With a spectacular wing-shaped international-style deluxe resort hotel nestled between Tumon Bay and Gun Beach, all of its 470 luxury hotel rooms offer private balconies and ocean views, complimented with beautiful sunsets.

Reservation: (671) 649-8815



## The Best Time to Get Paid Is **Early**

Members who have a Free Active Duty Checking<sup>®1</sup> account get their pay a day early, plus:

- No monthly fees
- No minimum balance
- ATM fee rebates (up to \$240 a year)<sup>2</sup>

Join Today!  
[navyfederal.org](http://navyfederal.org)

**NAVY FEDERAL** Credit Union<sup>®</sup>  
ARMY  
MARINE CORPS  
NAVY  
AIR FORCE  
COAST GUARD  
SPACE FORCE  
VETERANS

Our Members Are the Mission



Insured by NCUA.  
<sup>1</sup>A qualifying military direct deposit of net pay must post to your Free Active Duty Checking account within 90 days of account opening. If the military direct deposit of net pay stops for more than 90 days, the account converts to a Free EveryDay Checking account. <sup>2</sup>Up to \$20.00 in ATM fee rebates per statement period. The Contactless Symbol is a trademark owned by and used with permission of EMVCo, LLC. © 2021 Navy Federal NFCU 14005 (6-21)

# COMICS CORNER



HELLO, YOU'RE ON THE AIR! ARE YOU A FIRST-TIME CALLER?

Daryl Talbot



PRESS ON!

by Randy Denman



PRESS ON!

by Randy Denman

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



### Plumeria

This sweet female pup is estimated to be about 7 months old. She is the calmest, sweetest pup you'll ever meet.

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



# VINCE

JEWELERS  
GUAM'S FOREVER JEWELER

**SALE**  
Save Up to  
**60% OFF\***



\*In-store only. Exclusions apply. See Store for Details.

*Your Love is Our Love*



VOTED PIKA'S BEST OF GUAM #1 BEST JEWELRY STORE 2017-2020 | #1 BEST LUXURY BRAND 2020

East Agana (Main Branch)  
(671) 646-1688

Agana Shopping Center  
(671) 472-1888

Guam Premier Outlets  
(671) 649-9888

Micronesia Mall  
(671) 632-8888

facebook/vincejewelers

www.vincejewelers.com

@vincejewelers

Stripes Guam is A Stars and Stripes Community Publication. This newspaper is authorized for publication by the Department of Defense for members of the military services overseas. However, the contents of Stripes Guam are unofficial, and are not to be considered as the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, including the Department of Defense or the U.S. Pacific Command. As a DOD newspaper, Stripes Guam may be distributed through official channels and use appropriated funds for distribution

to remote and isolated locations where overseas DOD personnel are located. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement of those products by the Department of Defense or Stars and Stripes. Products or services advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use, or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user, or patron.

# Boonie Stomps Guam

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY  
GUAM BOONIE STOMPERS



**Aguada Falls**

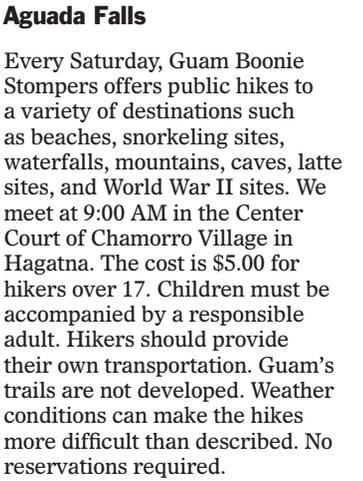
Every Saturday, Guam Boonie Stompers offers public hikes to a variety of destinations such as beaches, snorkeling sites, waterfalls, mountains, caves, latte sites, and World War II sites. We meet at 9:00 AM in the Center Court of Chamorro Village in Hagatna. The cost is \$5.00 for hikers over 17. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Hikers should provide their own transportation. Guam's trails are not developed. Weather conditions can make the hikes more difficult than described. No reservations required.

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



**Sep 18** Very Difficult  
**Aguada Falls** 5 hours for 5 miles

We travel to a waterfall the group has not visited yet, traversing a long steep and grassy ridge in western Guam to a large unique and picturesque waterfall. There are several smaller falls and swimming spots along the way.  
**Bring:** 3 liters water, hiking shoes, gloves, sun screen, insect repellent, lunch and snacks, and a camera.  
**Special conditions:** Sword grass, river walking, steep slopes, little shade, and a long hike.



**Madofan Falls & Agaga River**

We hike down the southwestern savannah to a series of three large waterfalls on the Madofan River, then walk the beach to the Agaga River and head upstream on a narrow jungle river to find more waterfalls. Those wanting an easier exit can walk to Sella Bay.  
**Bring:** 3 quarts water, get wet shoes, gloves, swim suit, sun screen, insect repellent, lunch and snacks.  
**Special conditions:** SSword grass, steep hills, walking in water.

**Sep 25** Medium/Difficult  
**Madofan Falls & Agaga River** 4 hours for 2 miles

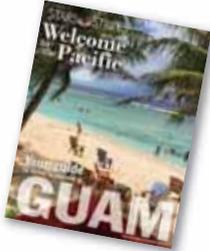
**Oct 02** Very Difficult  
**Imong Falls** 6 hours for 5 miles

We trek to a waterfall we haven't been to in decades. Heading up the rain gauge trail, we'll turn south on the Southern mountains trail. Turning east, we'll head steadily downhill through open savannah and sword grass to a long river cascade and an impressive two step falls.  
**Bring:** 4 quarts water, hiking shoes, gloves, swim suit, sun screen, lunch and snacks, and camera.  
**Special conditions:** Possible mud, sword grass, steep slopes up and down, and a long hike.

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

## NEW TO THE PACIFIC?

Contact [CustomerHelp@stripes.com](mailto:CustomerHelp@stripes.com) to get your free copy of  
Welcome to the Pacific magazine!







### STARS AND STRIPES

Digital edition also available. Download online.

### Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

**ACROSS**

- 1 Street fleet
- 5 1999 film, "10 Things I \_\_\_ About You"
- 9 Norwegian king
- 13 Excel shortcut
- 14 Roswell sightings
- 15 Barn topper
- 16 Stomach lesion
- 17 Oscar, for one
- 19 Place for petunias
- 21 News media
- 22 Notability
- 23 Hearing range
- 25 Hog the mirror
- 27 Puzzling problem
- 31 Ind. neighbor
- 33 Gary who portrayed Churchill
- 36 Dinner, e.g.
- 37 \_\_\_ terrier
- 39 Hightailed it
- 40 Past or present, in grammar
- 41 Anagram for "cone"
- 42 Energetic person
- 44 Barely manage, with "out"
- 45 Phonograph feature
- 47 Large-eyed primate
- 49 Hand over, as for sale
- 52 Big bash
- 55 MGM opening?
- 58 Kind of drill
- 60 Mistaken
- 62 Cordial flavoring
- 63 Gets ripe
- 64 Rihanna nickname
- 65 False gods
- 66 Turn's partner
- 67 Smart-\_\_\_
- 68 Zebra feature

**DOWN**

- 1 Kind of lily
- 2 Crook's helper
- 3 Milwaukee player
- 4 Like bad losers
- 5 Agriculture
- 6 Pitt flick, "Burn \_\_\_ Reading"
- 7 Pond hoppers
- 8 OH time zone
- 9 Paycheck fattener
- 10 Behind schedule
- 11 Picnic pests
- 12 Bank charges
- 13 Hand-warmer
- 18 Familiar with
- 20 Film spool
- 24 Farm female
- 26 Long, long time
- 28 Baby Boomer or Millennial
- 29 Mardi Gras wear
- 30 Safe, on board
- 31 Clickable image
- 32 Track assignment
- 34 Word before and after "oh"
- 35 Tylenol, e.g.
- 38 Disaster-aid group
- 40 Jones who sang "It's Not Unusual"
- 42 Cubby hole?
- 43 Waiter's handout
- 46 Crazy as a \_\_\_
- 48 Kenya's neighbor
- 50 Go bad
- 51 Get used (to)
- 53 Cotton thread
- 54 High cards
- 55 Vegan no-no
- 56 For that reason
- 57 Half of seis
- 59 Badly injure
- 61 Historic time

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 |    |    |    |    | 14 |    |    |    | 15 |    |    |
| 16 |    |    |    |    | 17 |    |    | 18 |    |    |    |
| 19 |    |    |    | 20 |    |    |    | 21 |    |    |    |
| 22 |    |    |    | 23 |    |    | 24 |    |    |    |    |
|    | 25 |    | 26 |    |    | 27 |    | 28 | 29 | 30 |    |
| 31 | 32 |    | 33 |    | 34 | 35 |    | 36 |    |    |    |
| 37 |    | 38 |    | 39 |    |    | 40 |    |    |    |    |
| 41 |    |    |    | 42 |    |    | 43 |    | 44 |    |    |
| 45 |    |    | 46 |    |    | 47 |    | 48 |    |    |    |
|    |    | 49 |    |    | 50 | 51 |    |    | 52 | 53 | 54 |
| 55 | 56 | 57 |    |    | 58 |    |    | 59 |    |    |    |
| 60 |    |    |    | 61 |    |    |    | 62 |    |    |    |
| 63 |    |    |    | 64 |    |    |    | 65 |    |    |    |
| 66 |    |    |    | 67 |    |    |    | 68 |    |    |    |

Copyright 2021 by The Puzzle Syndicate

## ADVERTISE WITH STARS AND STRIPES

Market your business to the U.S. military community in Guam

**Contact Us**  
**Doug Johnson**, Guam Multimedia Consultant  
 E-mail: johnson.douglas@stripes.com • DSN: 355-5160 /671-687-5041

## Stripes Sports Trivia

**SAY MY NAME!** In the late 90s, I was about as good of a power hitter as there was in baseball. After hopping from the American League to the National earlier in the decade, I was the toast of a town. Heck, I even had a catchy nickname to match my powerful swing. Life was very, very good to me. Later on in my career though, things went downhill with one swing of the bat. Who am I?

**Answer**
"Slamm'n' Sammy" Sosa

### SUDOKU

Difficulty: Medium

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

**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 Previous Sudoku:

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

Copyright 2021 by The Puzzle Syndicate

## Your votes. Your favorites. Your Best of the Pacific.

# ANNOUNCING THE BEST OF 2021




Pick up the magazine or get it online



# ISLAND DENTAL

**WE WELCOME TRICARE!**

**CALL (671) 989-5999**

**Open on weekends! Open evenings on weekdays!**



Island Dental

[island.dental](https://www.instagram.com/island.dental)

**Accepting All Major Insurances**

Located in Dededo

Next to American Grocery



# STARS AND STRIPES<sup>®</sup>

[stripes.com](https://www.stripes.com)

Volume 8 Edition 42 ©SS 2021

**GUAM EDITION**

SEPTEMBER 17, 2021

## CHANGING COURSE

Marine Corps revamps infantry school to produce critical thinking and more advanced infantrymen  
**Page 2**

A Marine infantry student at Camp Lejeune, N.C., practices setting up an ambush Aug. 27 as part of a pilot program meant to drastically change the way the Corps trains its infantrymen.

COREY DICKSTEIN/Stars and Stripes



## COVER STORY

# Marines testing new infantry training program

BY COREY DICKSTEIN  
*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. — Marine Corps leaders have their eyes on the kind of combat that a war against an adversary such as China or Russia could bring, and they are training their troops to be prepared for that fight by building better-thinking, more well-rounded infantrymen capable of operating in small units with little oversight.

The Corps wants to create infantrymen who will arrive at their first duty station with the critical and creative thinking skills of Marines several years into their career, instead of the robot-like, trigger-pullers that some have accused the service of producing in its longstanding entry-level infantry course, Marine officials said.

At Camp Lejeune, N.C., the Corps' School of Infantry-East is attempting to make those changes, experimenting with a new initial infantry training program that lasts longer, includes more face-to-face time with instructors, and challenges green infantrymen on more difficult skills, said Col. David Emmel, the school's commander.

"The Marine Corps is going through very large changes ... and we are one element of that within the larger service's efforts," Emmel told reporters Aug. 27 at Camp Lejeune, as the first group of 194 Marines neared completion of the School of Infantry-East's first attempt of the new training program, known as the Infantry Marine Course. "That's making a more lethal, smarter, more elite Marine infantryman — Marines with a strong moral foundation, who are grounded in the Marine Corps ethos, who possess the skill and the will to succeed in the future operational environment. And, as part of that, the critical thinking which allows him [or her] to be adaptive in that environment."

Those changes have been driven by the vision of Marine commandant Gen. David Berger — who, since becoming the top Marine in 2019, has instituted an overhaul of the service aimed largely at checking Chinese power in the Indo-Pacific region, where he believes his troops will need to work more closely with the Navy and in smaller units to compete with China's forces. As commandant, Berger has axed the Marines' tank units, urged

Congress to shrink its force size and instructed units to prepare its youngest Marines to make tough battlefield decisions without a higher command's input.

At Camp Lejeune, Marine instructors are preparing some of the Corps' newest infantrymen for just that operating environment in the Infantry Marine Course pilot program, which expands initial infantry training from nine weeks to 14 weeks. It marks the second use of the new program, which began with a course at the Marines' School of Infantry-West at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

The new course puts new Marines in the field for about nine weeks, practicing critical infantry skills, fighting each other in force-on-force battles, and training them on advanced weapons to which those who have completed traditional Marine initial infantry training have not been exposed.

But the most critical change to the course is how instructors work with their students, Emmel and other officials said.

The new model pairs a single combat instructor — an experienced infantry noncommissioned officer trained to teach new Marines — with a squad of 14 Marines, who the instructor is charged with overseeing, teaching and mentoring throughout the entire course. For decades, instructors taught Marines in infantry school in large groups, 80 to 200-plus at a time, officials said.

Sgt. Jonathon Ritter, a combat instructor in charge of one of the Infantry Marine Course squads, said he has gotten to know his trainees much better during the pilot course than when he has taught in previous iterations of initial infantry training.

The one-on-one time allows him to better understand how his students learn, what they respond to and how they react to challenges. His young Marines have advanced quicker than those he has taught in the traditional class, he said.

"Their development is actually exceeding a lot of our expectations," Ritter said. "I took them from Day 1 where they couldn't do any infantry skills, and then now to see them on the live-fire ranges, being able to execute, use their weapons for the right target without any [instructor] supervision — that's extremely re-



COREY DICKSTEIN/Stars and Stripes

**Marine infantry students at Camp Lejeune, N.C., practice setting up an ambush, as their instructor looks on. The live-fire training on Aug. 27 was part of their 12th week of initial infantry training and part of a program meant to drastically change the way the Corps trains its infantrymen.**

warding.

"A lot of the stuff they're learning now is stuff that Marines [who are] traditionally one or two years into the fleet learn, and here we have them learning this stuff at entry level training. That's huge."

## An ambush

A blast from a claymore mine shot a cloud of smoke billowing dozens of feet into the air. From positions concealed by trees just beyond the mine's reach, 14 young Marines opened fire with M27 rifles and M240B machine guns.

In minutes, the smoke cleared and the firing ceased. The enemy — robotic targets outfitted in camouflage — had been defeated. For the squad of freshly minted Marines about 12 weeks into the new Infantry Marine Course, the brief live-fire operation was the culmination of a week focused on sharpening the planning and tactical skills that go into executing an age-old combat tactic — an ambush.

For those leading the Marines, it was verification of the new efforts.

The squads each planned their ambushes on their own without their instructors' input after spending the week learning the tactics that go into planning an ambush and practicing without live ammunition, said Marine Capt. David Allen, the commander of the School of Infantry's Echo Company, which is conducting the pilot course. Combat instructors then tagged along as the squads conducted their ambushes, offering the occasional pointer, but allowing the Marines to make — and hopefully learn from — their own mistakes, Allen said.

One squad after another on

Aug. 27 ran through the exercise on the sandy, wooded training grounds. Some groups executed near-perfect ambushes, Allen said. Others struggled.

Despite the shortcomings, none of the Marines were chewed out. Combat instructors rarely yelled, except over the roar of gunfire. Young Marines held their heads high, as their instructors went over what they had done right and wrong just minutes after completing the mission. The Marines asked questions, and they prepared to run ambushes again.

"They're more willing to approach you, ask a question, more willing to engage in the training and just learn," said Sgt. Govan Walcott, a combat instructor leading one of the 14-man squads in the pilot. "We're not yelling. We're here to instruct, to teach and then let them learn it their way and then go out and execute what it is that we're trying to teach."

## 'Not just idiots'

Traditionally, a new Marine infantryman — a boot, in Marine slang — will arrive at his or her first station with an elementary understanding of infantry tactics and spend the next two or more years learning how to actually operate from unit leaders, Walcott said.

The pilot program is designed to provide boot Marines to the Corps' infantry battalions nearly ready to fight on the first day.

"We're speeding up the timeline," said Emmel, the School of Infantry-East commander.

For the instructors, it takes a shift in mindset. Walcott, who enlisted in 2015, said his instructors at the School of Infantry-East would tell him exactly what to do and when to do it. In the

pilot program, instructors explain to students an outcome they want out of a scenario and let the new Marines find their own paths to that result.

"We're looking at it like, hey, these are not just idiots, you know. These are individuals who can actually think and operate on their own and operate as a unit," Walcott said. "So it's — I'm going to give you this knowledge. Let me see how you apply it. And, the way you apply it actually might be somewhat of a different train of thought than I would have had. It might even work better."

Walcott and other instructors said the pilot course was proving beneficial to the new Marines.

He said he believed the Corps should adopt the training, which Corps brass will consider later this year after running at least two more pilot courses, one each at Camp Pendleton and Camp Lejeune.

Unlike infantry Marines who graduate traditional initial infantry training, those who complete the pilot program will have learned to shoot Javelin anti-tank missiles, fire machine guns, and use other weapons that new riflemen usually would not be trained to do.

Training Marines to use multiple weapons systems is a major advantage on the battlefield, Walcott said, adding he had never been exposed to some of the weapons, including the Javelin, before becoming an instructor.

"These guys are definitely more trained up, so it wouldn't take as long to spin them up" at their first unit, he said. "And, then these guys are going to bring skills to the fleet that are not there right now."

## 20 YEARS AFTER 9/11

# Change on the horizon

The US military adapted for the war on terror. Now it has to change again, experts say

By J.P. LAWRENCE  
*Stars and Stripes*

The adaptations required of the U.S. military for its irregular warfare since 9/11 have created a risk that American forces will lose in an armed conflict against a major power, and now the country must reacclimate to more traditional foes, some experts warn.

American combat after 9/11 did not feature conventional warfare against massed units, but instead pitted the U.S. and its allies against small bands of insurgents lacking air forces, navies or jamming technology of note. These fighters could simply melt into the populace after a clash.

As a result of battling guerrillas for almost two decades, the skills the U.S. needs to fight a major power with modern technology have atrophied, government officials and analysts say.

“You have whole generations of soldiers with firsthand experience in fighting wars that probably won’t look very much like the wars you’d be fighting in the future,” said Karl P. Mueller, a senior political scientist at the Rand Corp.

Calls for reform began well before the U.S. war in Afghanistan ended in a Taliban victory last month, but the coming years will most likely see a greater urgency for changes in strategy and tactics.

“The DOD is refocusing after two decades of fighting insurgencies to great-power competition,” said Elizabeth Threlkeld, a South Asia expert at the Stimson Center in Washington. “That is going to require a significant retooling in the way the U.S. fights.”

Mueller said a war against China or Russia would lead to deaths and equipment losses on a scale far beyond the worst days in Iraq or Afghanistan, and he noted that war games simulating a conflict against Russia or China frequently end in decisive defeats for the U.S.

While these war games are meant to be difficult and test U.S. military planners, they are not overly pessimistic, he said.

The war declared on terrorism after 9/11 altered nearly every aspect of the American approach to combat.

Counterinsurgency efforts put low-level military officers in charge of economically developing areas amid conflict in the belief that doing so would sway locals to support allied governments, which were often corrupt.

The U.S. also engaged in counterterrorism, which encouraged military leaders to rely on small units of elite special operations forces. These units could find



CONNOR MENDEZ/U.S. Army

**U.S. Special Forces soldiers look for enemy fighters on a mountainside during a firefight in Afghanistan's Laghman province in 2016. After two decades of fighting guerrillas, experts say the American military needs to prepare for battle against a major power with modern technology.**



U.S. Africa Command

**Pictured is the joint operations center at U.S. Africa Command headquarters in Stuttgart, Germany. Modern command centers feature arrays of screens with live drone imagery, which is beamed to high-ranking leaders thousands of miles away.**

and kill enemies in shadowy operations with minimal public oversight.

Special operations forces have “almost risen to the status of a separate service,” said retired Lt. Gen. Richard Mills, who commanded Marines in Helmand province from 2010 to 2011. He added that the past 20 years led to vast changes in how the U.S. military communicates on the battlefield.

A World War II veteran could walk into an average command center of the 1990s, with its radios and paper maps, and feel at

home, said Mills, who began his military career in 1975. But modern command centers feature arrays of screens sharing live battlefield imagery captured by aerial drones and beamed to high-ranking leaders thousands of miles away, Mills said.

This strategy, with its reliance on elite forces backed up by airstrikes and use of real-time communications, would most likely have to change against a technologically advanced foe such as China, analysts say.

“The main danger is that we will assume dependable commu-

nications connectivity at all levels of command for high data flows in particular,” said Michael O’Hanlon, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, where he specializes in U.S. defense strategy.

Furthermore, the Taliban did not have missiles able to sink aircraft carriers and devastate airfields or the ability to shoot down aerial refueling tankers and radar surveillance planes. They were also significantly outnumbered by U.S., Afghan and NATO forces, which enjoyed clear advantages in firepower and battlefield mobility.

The battle for the skies will be the most striking difference between fighting insurgents and major powers, Mueller said.

“We haven’t fought an enemy that has had the ability to contest our control of the air since 1972,” he said, adding that even the drones used over Afghanistan and Iraq would be easily shot down and that tactics will have to adapt.

The U.S. military sounded the alarm on its “eroding” competitive advantage in 2018, publishing a National Defense Strategy that said competition between large states, not terrorism, is the primary national security concern.

In recent years, the military established the Space Command, developed organizations to prepare for future wars and updated

its field manual to emphasize battlefields where enemies have tanks, artillery, air forces, drones and cyber capabilities.

The end of the war in Afghanistan will make it easier for the U.S. to shift away from counterterrorism to threats like China and Russia, but this could be a mistake, said Brian Michael Jenkins, a senior adviser to the president of the Rand Corp.

The skills honed over the past 20 years are still applicable, as wars against China and Russia would most likely include elements of irregular warfare, Jenkins said.

Bill Roggio, a senior fellow at the nonprofit Foundation for Defense of Democracies and editor of Long War Journal, said that any change in how the U.S. fights will require America’s military leaders to honestly assess the past 20 years.

Over that period, American military leaders created a culture that was not inclined to reflect on its strengths and weaknesses, but instead focused on managing perceptions, Roggio said.

“My biggest concern with the U.S. military moving forward is that these generals who have never had accountability will, let’s face it, lose us the next war,” Roggio said.

## MILITARY

# 'We know what's coming'

## Defense experts warn about military costs of climate change

By DAVID CHOI  
*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — Leaders from defense institutes worldwide converged in Seoul, South Korea, recently to raise the alarm on military threats posed by “irreversible and abrupt climate change.”

Global temperatures are expected to reach or surpass a warming threshold of 2.7 degrees Fahrenheit in the next 20 years, United Nations climate change experts reported in August, “unless there are immediate, rapid and large-scale reductions in greenhouse emissions.”

Without action, the planet is in store for increasing heat waves, longer warm seasons and continued sea-level rise, contributing to coastal flooding and erosion, according to the report.

Panelists from the United States, France, Switzerland, Netherlands, India and Bangladesh gave their assessment of these threats during a three-day seminar hosted by South Korea's Ministry of Defense.

Tom Middendorp, Nether-

lands' former chief of defense and chairman of the International Military Council on Climate and Security, warned that nations had “a responsibility to prepare” for the implications of climate change.

“I cannot remember any other conflict in my military experience where we had this level of scientific foresight,” he said during the virtual portion of the seminar. “We know what's coming to us.”

The Netherlands, according to Middendorp, appropriates a significant amount of its defense budget for “protection against the sea,” because much of its population lives below sea level.

“As sea level rises, it's a big issue in a country like the Netherlands,” he said.

Severe heat patterns are also already having a direct impact on military equipment, according to Shafqat Munir, head of the Bangladesh Center for Terrorism Research.

Troops stationed in Mali as part of a United Nations' peacekeeping force have been unable



ROBERT FELLINGHAM/U.S. ARMY

**Severe heat patterns have already begun having a direct impact on military equipment used by United Nations' peacekeeping forces as global temperatures continue to rise.**

to use their communication devices until the evening, when the temperature cools off, Munir told the panelists.

“Excessive heat is going to render military equipment useless,” Munir said. “We're already seeing some of that in action.”

The U.S. military recently described climate change as a top national security issue and incorporated it into its wargame simulations. A Defense Department assessment in 2019 found 79 installations impacted by climate change.

“Today, no nation can find

lasting security without addressing the climate crisis,” Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said during a climate change seminar in April. “We face all kinds of threats in our line of work, but few of them truly deserve to be called existential. The climate crisis does.”

Climate change's biggest impact on national defense is the way it “undermines and destabilizes societies,” said Sharon Burke, a former U.S. assistant secretary of defense for operational energy. She told the panel that while the military is unable

to fight climate change through conventional means, it “may well result in military missions” ranging from humanitarian, disaster relief and combat.

“If the nations of this world are unable to cut greenhouse gas emissions ... if we fail, then militaries should be planning for profound insecurity and more military missions later in this century, or possibly sooner, if we hit certain tipping points,” Burke said.

choi.david@stripes.com  
Twitter: @choibboy

# Army-funded researchers build 'shrimp-scale' robot

By CHAD GARLAND  
*Stars and Stripes*

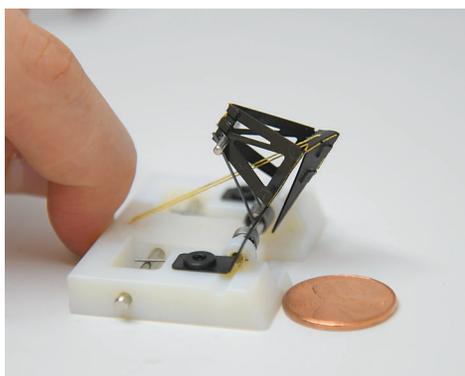
The small, well-armored mantis shrimp can fire off a shell-cracking jab faster than a speeding bullet, and researchers have now managed to mimic that feat with a tiny robot.

A team of Army-funded roboticists, engineers and biologists from Harvard and Duke universities recently published their findings on how the prawn-like pugnacious can send out their club-like appendages in milliseconds with a force that can take off a crab's arm with one strike, the Army Research Laboratory said in a statement.

A robotic model developed as part of the research accelerates at the equivalent of a car reaching 58 mph in 4 milliseconds, according to a video by Harvard's John A. Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

“Actuator architecture like this offers impressive capabilities to small and lightweight mechanisms that need to deliver impulsive forces for the Army,” said Dr. Dean Culver, program manager at the lab, which is part of Army Combat Capabilities Development Command, as quoted in the statement.

The 1.5-gram, “shrimp-scale robot” isn't



Harvard SEAS

**This 1.5-gram robot mimics the punch of a mantis shrimp.**

as fast as the shrimp, but pound-for-pound it's faster than any similar device at that scale, according to Harvard.

The research is the latest in a spate of military-funded studies into the extremely violent mantis shrimp, which is not really a shrimp but a type of crustacean known as a stomatopod. They're so unique, scientists have called them “shrimp from Mars.” They gained notoriety online about a decade ago when they were praised in an homage on the web comic *The Oatmeal*.

Capable of seeing some 100,000 colors

— 10 times what humans can — they're the only animal known to see circular polarizing light. That type of light is read by sensors in optical CD and DVD readers and satellite communications, but the sea creatures do it better, Air Force-funded research found over a decade ago.

The military has researched using their vision as a basis for developing undersea navigation without GPS.

Around 200 million years ago, the mantis shrimp developed special raptorial appendages, or “raps,” the University of California Museum of Paleontology in Berkeley says in an online exhibit. Some species are “speakers” with sharp raps that stab soft prey through the heart. Others are “smashers” with club-like raps that crush shells and have been known to break aquarium glass and human fingers.

The punches form low pressure bubbles that collapse with such speed they create bursts of light and heat reaching an estimated 8,500 degrees Fahrenheit.

At the time, military-funded researchers at the University of California Riverside had published a study into how their clubs' shells withstood the force. That team has researched the animal's shells for over a decade for ideas to help improve the design of things like football

helmets and body armor.

The secret to their ultrafast and powerful blow, whose shockwave can kill even if the punch doesn't land, is in a short but noticeable delay between when latch-like parts of the animal's tendons release and when the punch actually fires. Researchers sought to understand what held it back and allowed more energy to build up before being rapidly released.

Using high-speed cameras to study the appendage's movements and a tiny robotic model to replicate it, the team confirmed their theory that the geometry of the raps themselves caused the delay.

“By more closely mimicking the geometry ... the team was able to exceed accelerations produced by limbs in other robotic devices by more than tenfold,” Culver said.

But the interdisciplinary team's research had wider implications, he said.

“There's a broader takeaway here — something the engineering community and defense research can keep in mind,” Culver said. “We're not done learning about mechanical performance from nature and biological systems.”

garland.chad@stripes.com  
Twitter: @chadgarland

## MILITARY

# Make an A-10 at home

USAF site will soon let users download 3-D printable jets

By CHAD GARLAND  
*Stars and Stripes*

A redesigned Air Force website will soon let users bring detailed models of A-10 "Warthogs," F-16 Fighting Falcons and other U.S. military jets into their own homes in both virtual and physical forms.

A handful of computer-rendered military aircraft models will be available for viewing in augmented reality on smartphones or mobile devices. Users will also be able to download files from the site to use in 3D printing.

The expected rollout of the new feature comes amid the military's intensifying use of computer modeling for virtual reality, augmented reality and 3D printing in areas such as pilot training and equipment maintenance. For example, some replacement parts and specialty tools have been 3D-printed.

The capabilities are slated to debut Oct. 1 on a new version of the Air Force website [www.af.mil](http://www.af.mil), Master Sgt. Dan DeCook of the Air Force public web team said in a webinar. It will be rolled out to the service's other sites over the weeks that follow.

"This is a huge thing," DeCook said. "It's much more complicated than other parts of the site."

The 3D graphics to be hosted on the [af.mil](http://af.mil) site will be good enough for public affairs uses but not for printing replacement parts or the like, one official said in the webinar published online recently.

While the site is expected to launch with 10 models, the library will continue to expand, officials said.

"Eventually, we'll have all of our aircraft available," DeCook said.

Part of the complexity, he said, is that the detailed computer renderings, which can be viewed from any angle, take up more memory than other media ele-



MATTHEW LUMBATIS/Defense Media Activity

**An F-16 Fighting Falcon model was printed from a file that the Air Force plans to publish on its website in October. While the site is expected to launch with 10 models, the library will keep expanding, officials said.**

ments.

The webinar was one of several recent sessions showcasing various new features on Air Force sites in the Defense Media Activity's American Forces Public Information Management System. The system hosts many of the military's public-facing websites.

The augmented reality option, which will let viewers see the aircraft as if it were right in front of them, will work

only on mobile devices, said Elexus Parra, host of the webinar.

On most 3D models, the computer program will allow for a variety of scales to be entered based on the printer's size and capabilities.

At Texas' Goodfellow Air Force Base, instructors began "stepping away from PowerPoint slides" and two-dimensional drawings of military equipment in favor of 3D models to help train imagery in-

telligence analysts to recognize them from various angles, the Air Force's 315th Training Squadron said in a statement earlier this year.

NASA has already made 3D-printable versions of spacecraft, lunar landing sites and extraterrestrial terrain available on one of its websites.

[garland.chad@stripes.com](mailto:garland.chad@stripes.com)  
Twitter: @chadgarland

## Marines remove hazardous foam from Okinawa bases

By MATTHEW M. BURKE  
AND MARI HIGA  
*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — The Marine Corps on Okinawa recently replaced its supply of aircraft firefighting foam known to contain harmful contaminants PFOS and PFOA with a more environmentally-friendly version, according to a Marine spokesman.

Most of the potentially toxic aqueous firefighting foam was at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma in Ginowan but also at other camps and installations around the island prefecture, according to an email from Marine Corps Installations Pacific spokesman Lt. Col. Matthew Hilton.

Supplies of that foam were shipped elsewhere in Japan to be incinerated, Hilton said. He did not provide details on when or how much material was shipped.

"This action significantly reduces the environmental risk posed by PFOS and PFOA on Okinawa and is another concrete



VANESSA JIMENEZ / U.S. Marine Corps

**The Marine Corps on Okinawa has replaced firefighting foam known to contain harmful contaminants with a more environmentally friendly version.**

demonstration of MCIPAC's transparency and its strong commitment to environmental stewardship," Hilton's statement reads.

PFOS and PFOA are man-

made organic compounds. Studies involving lab animals show exposure to PFOA increases the risk of certain tumors of the liver, testicles, breasts and pancreas, according to the American Can-

cer Society. Studies involving humans and PFOA are so far inconclusive.

Neither the Marine Corps nor the Air Force's 18th Wing on Okinawa responded to emails Sept. 10 seeking further information on the replacement firefighting foam. U.S. Forces Japan in 2019 said replacement foam coming to Kadena Air Base on Okinawa would contain trace amounts of PFOA but no PFOS.

Hilton's statement said the Marines' new foam meets Department of Defense requirements and "still provides the same life-saving benefits in the event of a fire."

A spokesman for Okinawa prefecture's Military Base Affairs Division said it learned of the replacement foam from Hilton's statement.

"I don't know what the alternative product is," the spokesman said by phone. "I cannot say if this alternative product is good or bad at the moment."

It's customary in Japan for

some government officials to speak to the media on condition of anonymity.

The prefecture first asked the U.S. military to replace the firefighting foam after a spill in 2019, the spokesman said. He called the Marine Corps' move "progress."

On Aug. 26, the Marines released treated water containing low levels of the toxic compounds into prefecture's wastewater system and ultimately into the ocean. The water was captured during accidental spills of firefighting foam at MCAS Futenma.

Prefectural Gov. Denny Tamaki said he learned of the August release as it happened and demanded that it stop.

The Okinawa Defense Bureau, which represents Japan's Ministry of Defense, did not respond to a request for comment Sept. 10.

[burke.matt@stripes.com](mailto:burke.matt@stripes.com)  
Twitter: @MatthewMBurke1  
[higa.mari@stripes.com](mailto:higa.mari@stripes.com)  
Twitter: @MariHiga21

## MILITARY

# Green Berets escorted out amid Guinea chaos

By JOHN VANDIVER  
*Stars and Stripes*

A team of U.S. Green Berets on a recent training mission in the West African nation of Guinea needed local security forces' help to make it through a chaotic street scene after the country's president was ousted, U.S. Africa Command confirmed Sept. 10.

A video circulating on social media shows three U.S. soldiers in a car that is surrounded by people jumping up and down as it's making its way to the U.S. Embassy in the Guinean capital of Conakry. Armed Guinean troops are seen providing security.

"Guinean security forces provided an escort to Conakry to ensure the safe passage of the team," U.S. Africa Command said in a statement.

The soldiers were part of an Army special operations team that was forced to cancel planned training activities after a military seizure of power, AFRICOM said. It added that they had been moved to the U.S. Embassy.

The video appears to depict part of that relocation, AFRICOM said.

During the video, the soldiers' car is surrounded by a crowd, which appears to be more excited than threatening.

The soldiers don't appear to be overly concerned. One Green



PHOTOS BY THE HOUSE OF CONGO/TWITTER

**In a screenshot from a video posted on Twitter, a car carrying U.S. soldiers passes through a raucous crowd in the African country of Guinea.**

Beret in the video is smiling and holding his arm out the window to shake hands with passers-by.

U.S. special operations units routinely conduct small training missions with local forces in Africa and other countries known as Joint Combined Exchange Training events, or JCETs.

A military team led by Guinean Col. Mamady Doumbouya

seized control last weekend and deposed the country's president. Doumbouya had received extensive training in France, served for a time with the French military and took part in various international missions, including in Afghanistan, according to the BBC.

"The U.S. government and military are not involved in this



**A large crowd surrounds a car carrying U.S. special operations troops on an assignment in Guinea, as shown in this screenshot from a video posted on Twitter.**

apparent military seizure of power in any way," AFRICOM said. "The United States strongly condemns these actions in Guinea and any attempts at forceful

seizures of power or unconstitutional actions."

vandiver.john@stripes.com  
Twitter: @john\_vandiver

## DODEA seeks feedback on proposed student dress code

By ERICA EARL  
*Stars and Stripes*

A proposed update that simplifies the dress code for service members' children at Defense Department schools is available for parents to review.

The update looks a lot like the dress codes in place at individual schools within the Department of Defense Education Activity from Europe to the Far East, although this one appears to uniformly apply to all schools, according to DODEA's website. It also appears to streamline lengthy dress codes at individual schools into less than a dozen bullet points.

"We really want to garner feedback from our communities for this dress code," DODEA-Pacific chief of staff Todd Schlitz told Stars and Stripes. Schlitz said he didn't know when the new code, if approved, would take effect.

DODEA headquarters in Virginia did not respond to emails seeking further information Sept. 8 and Sept. 9.

The updated code applies many of the same rules found in student handbooks from DODEA schools. Clothing must cover the body "continuously from one armpit across to the other armpit, over the torso and waist area, on down to no shorter than 8 inches above the kneecap at any time," the new code reads.

Footwear must be "age appropriate," among other attributes, and jewelry,



AKIFUMI ISHIKAWA / Stars and Stripes

**A new dress code may be coming soon to students at Defense Department schools worldwide.**

grooming, accessories and apparel that "denote membership in a street gang associated with criminal behaviors" are also out of bounds.

Individual schools spell out similar prohibitions but lack the language specific to the proposed update. The dress code for Yokota High School in Tokyo, for example, does not specifically mention street gangs or criminal behavior.

The proposed DODEA-wide code also

bans wearing sunglasses, masks, caps and the hood on a hooded sweatshirt inside the school building, the reason being the student's head, face and ears may not be hidden obscured.

The proposed updates likewise prohibit see-through or mesh garments unless wearing appropriate clothing underneath. It stipulates a minimum 2-inch strap for sleeveless garments and no garments with discriminatory or hateful speech or imag-

ery, or that advocate use of alcohol, cannabis and other controlled substances.

Other rules are more subjective, such as not allowing clothing that is "inappropriate to learning" or "attire not commonly found in school environments," like costumes.

The updated code balances what DODEA defines as appropriate dress for a learning environment with individual self-expression, according to the proposal.

"Use of a dress code helps to teach the art of balancing respect for the task at hand with the right to enjoy self-expression," it reads.

Exceptions to the dress code can be made to accommodate expression of religious beliefs, or a medical condition or disabilities, the proposed code states. Accommodations can be made for cases of financial hardship, according to the DODEA regulation that covers dress codes.

The dress code falls under the DODEA regulations on student rights and responsibilities, which is reviewed every two years.

"We continually rotate through and look at our programs and guidance and make updates," Schlitz said.

To read the proposed dress code, go to <https://www.dodea.edu/HQ/upload/Proposed-Student-Dress-Code.pdf>

earl.eric@stripes.com  
Twitter: @ThisEarlGirl

## MILITARY

# Navy launches unmanned, AI systems task force

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The Navy will launch its first task force dedicated to unmanned systems and artificial intelligence in the Middle East on Thursday as the U.S. military continues to shift its counterterrorism forces within the region, the service announced.

Naval Forces Central Command will oversee Task Force 59, which will concentrate unmanned and AI capabilities from across the Navy and roll them out for sailors to use in a real-world, complex setting, said Vice Adm. Brad Cooper, the commander of NAVCENT and 5th Fleet.

“We need to get unmanned systems out into the fleet into the hands of operators, so this is exactly what we’re doing here at NAVCENT with Task Force 59,” he said Wednesday.

Cooper declined to say whether the new task force would be involved with counterterrorism missions, though he said NAVCENT has “been very involved with Afghanistan from a [noncombatant evacuation] standpoint.”

The establishment of the Navy task force in the Middle East comes as the United States boosts its reliance on unmanned capabilities in the region after withdrawing all American forces from Afghanistan last week and ending 20 years of military involvement in the country.

U.S. Central Command has said it will continue to conduct “over-the-horizon” counterterrorism strikes in Afghanistan if needed. That included two drone strikes on Islamic State fighters in Kabul in the final days of U.S. evacuation efforts from the city.

The Task Force will employ some technologies that have not yet been used in



SHANNON RENF/U.S. 3rd Fleet

**An MQ-9 Sea Guardian unmanned maritime surveillance aircraft system flies over littoral combat ship USS Coronado in April.**

daily operations. The idea is to evaluate the systems in a real-world setting, which “is exactly what will help us accelerate the technology development and integration across the fleet,” Cooper said.

“This effort is really to get the unmanned systems in the hands of the operators so they can put it against real problems and determine whether it helps solve those problems and if it doesn’t, perhaps we should look for [other options,]” he said.

Task Force 59 will integrate the Navy’s arsenal of aerial, surface and undersea drones and AI systems “as a means to do

two things: enhance our maritime domain awareness and to increase our deterrence,” Cooper said.

Among those unmanned and AI technologies are those used in the Pacific Fleet’s Unmanned Battle Problem 21, a weeklong exercise in April that tested manned and unmanned capabilities in invented scenarios, Cooper said.

The initiative comes as the Pentagon pushes to further integrate AI and unmanned capabilities into the forces as it focuses on confronting near-peer adversaries such as China. In its 2022 budget, the Defense Department requested \$112

billion for development, testing and evaluation — its largest-ever request for the category that includes AI and autonomous systems development.

“Beijing already talks about using AI for a range of missions, from surveillance to cyberattacks to autonomous weapons,” Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin told the National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence in July. “China’s leaders have made clear they intend to be globally dominant in AI by the year 2030.”

Primarily, the drones and AI systems will be used to offer a more complex picture of the surrounding environment, from above and below the surface, Cooper said.

“An unmanned surface vessel nested with five or six or 10 other unmanned surface vessels patrolling a certain area in this region offers us the ability to see what’s happening in that region and would obviously deter malign activity that would happen there,” he said.

The 5th Fleet region, which spans from the Red Sea to parts of the Indian Ocean, offers benefits to testing the equipment in operational settings as “the waterways are ripe for real-world evaluation” with its 5,000 miles of coastline and “three critical choke points,” including the Strait of Hormuz, the only passage from the Persian Gulf to the open ocean, and the Suez Canal, which connects the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea, Cooper said.

“I think that environment really suits us well to experiment and move faster,” he said. “Our belief is if the new systems can work here, they can probably work anywhere else.”

doornbos.caitlin@stripes.com  
Twitter: @CaitlinDoornbos

## Navy issues new grooming standards

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — Sailors can now sport several new hairstyles based on new grooming standards that the Navy announced recently.

The service has officially sanctioned flat-tops, faded and bald hairstyles in addition to the traditional “high and tight” look for male sailors, the Navy said in a statement. Sideburns are also authorized, but not for bald sailors.

Women are now allowed to have “very short hair styles” that show the scalp, but “razor-cut bald styles are not authorized except when prescribed for treating medical conditions.”

“This gives women more options for greater ease on hair care, especially while on deployment when longer styles can be tougher to maintain,” said Rob Carroll, who is in charge of Navy uniform matters. “Female sailors have been asking for this flexibility.”

While some sailors might have donned these looks already, the new standards spell out what’s accepted to “eliminate inconsistency” and “provide clearer guidance that will facilitate compliance and enforcement,” Carroll said.

The uniform policy updates come after Navy leaders listened to “fleet feedback, uniform group discussions and command-sponsored requests,” Vice Adm. John Nowell, the chief of naval personnel, said in a message to the force.

“Navy uniform policy updates directly support Sailor 2025 objectives to attract and retain the very best sailors by finding greater flexibility in our policies and practices,

### Uniform and Grooming Policy Updates

NAVADMIN 183/21

#### EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

##### FOR WOMEN, HAIR RULES NOW

ALLOW SHORT STYLES AND EVEN SHOWING THE SCALP. THIS INCLUDES TAPERED BACK AND SIDES OF THE HEAD. RAZOR-CUT BALD STYLES ARE NOT AUTHORIZED EXCEPT WHEN PRESCRIBED FOR TREATING MEDICAL CONDITIONS. THIS UPDATE AND MANY OTHERS CAN BE FOUND IN NAVADMIN 183/21.



### Uniform and Grooming Policy Updates

NAVADMIN 183/21

#### EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

##### MEN'S APPROVED HAIRSTYLES NOW

INCLUDE BALD, FLAT TOP, FADED AND HIGH AND TIGHT. ALL STYLES INCLUDE ALLOWING SQUARED OR ROUNDED GRADUAL TAPERS IN THE BACK OF THE HEAD. SIDEBURNS ARE AUTHORIZED BUT CANNOT EXCEED THE HAIR LENGTH OF THE HAIRCUT. SIDEBURNS WITH BALD HAIRSTYLES ARE NOT ALLOWED. THIS UPDATE AND MANY OTHERS CAN BE FOUND IN NAVADMIN 183/21.



**The Navy grooming policy for women was updated to allow “very short hair styles” that show the scalp. Flat-tops, faded and bald hairstyles in addition to the “high and tight” look for male sailors were sanctioned.**

including uniforms,” Nowell said, referencing the Navy’s personnel management modernization program.

In addition to hairstyles, the new standards allow punctuation marks in name tags and tape for sailors whose legal names contain accents. The standards also permit male sailors to wear earrings while on leave or liberty while wearing civilian clothes. In addition, female sailors can now wear heels up to 3 inches in height, up from 2½ inches.

Smartwatches and fitness trackers are also now allowed to be worn as watches, but they “are subject to applicable security regulations” as some contain GPS and other

tracking technology, according to the updated uniform policy.

The new standards also laid out acceptable colors for eyeglasses and sunglasses frames. Sailors may now wear silver, gray, black, navy blue, brown, gold or translucent glasses frames. However, straps to secure the glasses can only be used “for foreign object debris prevention and safety,” according to the service.

doornbos.caitlin@stripes.com  
Twitter: @CaitlinDoornbos

U.S. Navy photos

## MILITARY

# Vet's Silver Star comes after 11-year fight

BY CHAD GARLAND  
*Stars and Stripes*

The war in Afghanistan wasn't even half over when Adam Holroyd earned his Silver Star.

But it would not be pinned on the retired sergeant's chest until more than a decade later — after the enemy he fought, the Taliban, had already retaken the country.

Holroyd pulled a special operations medic to safety during a firefight in a remote corner of Nuristan province 12 years ago, then he battled a fire in an outhouse that held dozens of rocket-propelled grenades. Later, he climbed into the smoldering shack to pull out the RPG rounds, crate by crate.

The 10th Mountain Division veteran was finally presented the country's third-highest award for those actions Sept. 1 in a ceremony at Fort Drum, N.Y. The ceremony culminated an 11-year push, plus a year of delay after the medal was misplaced.

Yet nearly a decade earlier, a SEAL who had been on a shadowy mission with the CIA when he helped Holroyd quench the fire and remove the RPGs was quietly awarded a Navy Cross. It's one step down from a Medal of Honor.

"I'm pretty sure we could have gotten more than a Silver Star ... but we had to get something," said a senior Army noncommissioned officer who drove the effort to get Holroyd's medal but who asked not to be named in order to discuss the matter.

Stars and Stripes is not identifying the sailor, though his name has previously been disclosed in other published sources, including military promotion board results linking him to SEAL Team 6.

A redacted version of the Navy Cross citation was included in a 2016 USA Today report on secret medals, but Holroyd's actions had been largely unknown before the ceremony earlier this month.

Had he not risked his life on repeated trips to smother the



U.S. Army

**U.S. soldiers from 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division, fire mortar rounds at suspected Taliban fighting positions during Operation Mountain Fire in Afghanistan in July 2009.**

burning stockpile of RPGs, a resulting blast could have been deadly and likely would have deprived dozens of soldiers of a schoolhouse that was protecting them from well-disciplined enemy snipers, the senior NCO said.

"What Adam did, not only did it save lives, but it saved the mission," he said.

## Mountain Fire

Holroyd's actions in the firefight came about a month into a mission to liberate Barg-e Matal district, a remote mountain village that was a vacation spot for Kabul's elite.

A task force of some 220 U.S. and Afghan troops — most from 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment — were sent to secure the district center on a long-range air assault in July 2009. The mission was known as Operation Mountain Fire.

It was largely political, requested by Afghanistan's president at the time, Hamid Karzai, to secure polling places ahead of August elections, said Jason Dempsey, a retired lieutenant colonel who had previously served with 1-32. Clearing it was supposed to take three days but ended up taking about 70.

Though the district center was a meaningless objective, Mountain Fire "put an incredible load

on 1-32," said Dempsey.

The assault force landed without a fight in cornfields outside town, in the shadows of high mountain peaks of the Hindu Kush, said Maj. Michael Harrison, former commander of Attack Company, 1-32.

Within hours the enemy launched an ambush from the hills on all sides. An RPG blast mortally wounded Staff Sgt. Eric Lindstrom.

Two medics earned Bronze Stars with "V" device for valor for repeatedly braving machine-gun and rocket fire to treat and help evacuate five wounded that first day.

The Americans then dug in for a grueling battle, Harrison said in a phone interview. What followed was over two months of fighting from mud-and-timber huts and in the surrounding mountains to allow police and district leaders to return.

## Schoolhouse attack

In 2008, insurgents had overrun another outpost in Nuristan, at Wanat, in what was one of the bloodiest incidents for the U.S. in the 20-year war.

Holroyd's heroics came on Aug. 10, 2009, in response to an attack on the battalion headquarters element at what was dubbed "the girls' schoolhouse."

his bare hands he removed the smoldering RPG warhead that ignited the conflagration.

Then the sailor went outside the compound, making several trips under fire to toss the ordnance into the river. Their actions allowed the other troops to return to their positions and repel the assault, records state.

That wouldn't have been possible without Holroyd.

## Unrecognized

Soon after the attack, Holroyd was chewed out for not evacuating the schoolhouse, he said, but members of the Navy who were there wanted to put him in for an award.

The senior NCO submitted him for the Silver Star with the Army. The recommendation was approved at the brigade level before the paperwork "just disappeared," Holroyd said. He learned of the nomination only after he'd left the service.

It's not clear when the SEAL got the Navy Cross — an official cited security concerns in response to a query — but an unredacted citation was published online in a government document apparently created in 2011.

At some point, Holroyd met with a senator's aide about an inquiry into his own missing award, but that went nowhere, he said in July.

A co-founder of Spiritus Systems, a tactical gear company popular with special operations troops, Holroyd said he just let the matter go after that. It wasn't about the award, he said, but frustration over 1-32's relative lack of honors.

"We did things that were very dangerous," he said. "And they weren't recognized."

The battalion received a Valorous Unit Award in 2010 for Mountain Fire. But Holroyd believed that many of its soldiers, particularly the junior enlisted ones, didn't get their deserved individual recognition, he said.

He said he planned to dedicate his Silver Star to them.

"This award is and has always been larger than just me," he was quoted in an Army statement as saying at the ceremony.

It's still not clear what held up the awards process, but the senior NCO said he never gave up on it because the thought of not doing so drove him "absolutely crazy."

The medal honors the blood, sweat and tears Holroyd gave while doing what was asked of him, the senior NCO said.

"This was absolutely the least I could do" to say thanks, he said. "Sometimes words don't do it."

garland.chad@stripes.com  
Twitter: @chadgarland

Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher

Terry Leonard, Editor

Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor

Doreen Wright, Guam Edition Editor

Scott Foley, Revenue Director

## CONTACT US

633 3rd Street NW, Suite 116, Washington, D.C. 20001

Editorial: (202) 886-0005

Advertising: (202) 886-0014

Additional contact information: [stripes.com](http://stripes.com)

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

The contents of Stars and Stripes are unofficial, and are not to be considered as the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, including the Defense Department or the military services. The Guam Edition of Stars and Stripes is published jointly by Stars and Stripes and this newspaper.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense or Stars and Stripes of the products or services advertised.

Products or services advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use, or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user, or patron.

© Stars and Stripes, 2021