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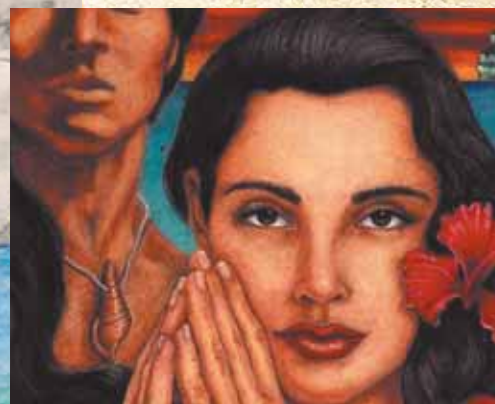
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INSIDE INFO

CSS-15 WELCOMES NAVY'S NEWEST CHIEFS
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Military spouses' best-kept secret

BY LISA SMITH MOLINARI,
SPECIAL TO STARS AND STRIPES

This morning, I peered at my baggy, bloodshot eyes in the bathroom mirror. It had been a rough night. Thanks to wild fluctuations in my hormones, my hair was a rat's nest of sweaty tangles. I tossed two Tylenol down my gullet, hoping to relieve a crick in my neck from tossing and turning, and headache pangs from grinding

my teeth.

"Today's gonna suck," I admitted to myself with a defeated sigh.

A few years ago, I could handle awful mornings like this, because I had secret coping tools at my disposal, learned over 23 years as an active-duty Navy wife. However, now that my husband, Francis, has retired from the military — and now that

SEE SECRET ON PAGE 2



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SECRET: The joy of being alone

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the pandemic has him working from home and two of our adult children living under our roof again — I have no choice but to suffer through rough days in the constant company of my family.

Why can't I use those secret skills I learned as a military spouse? Because they required the one thing I no longer have — alone time.


Everyone knows that military spouses must endure frequent separations and deployments. But people don't realize that since military spouses are alone so often, we get good at it. Our extraordinary resilience doesn't stem from altruism, benevolence or good character. It is a mere necessity. There's no one else there to pick up the pieces if we fall apart, so we must maintain some semblance of control.

When Francis was away, I had plenty of rough nights when I'd wake up exhausted, wondering if I'd be able to get the kids to school, pay the orthodontist bill before it's late, unclog the toilet, power walk in the pouring rain and figure out dinner without losing my mind.

However, I soon learned that, when I was alone, there were no witnesses. All I needed

The Meat and Potatoes of Life

Lisa Smith Molinari



to do was find a lifeline — no matter how socially unacceptable, lazy, unsanitary or depraved — to get me through the day.

Once I dropped the kids off at school, I was free to soothe my stress however I saw fit. I could open the bag of stale Cheese Curls left in the minivan and pour them directly into my upturned mouth. I could tune the radio to a '90s channel, and bellow "Gettin' Jiggy Wit It," off key. I could floss my teeth at one stoplight, and pluck my eyebrows at the next. When I'd drive past base gate guard, I'd quickly flip off the radio and wipe my cheese-stained mouth on my sleeve.

Leave no witnesses. Back at home, I could spend an hour on the floor snuggling with our dog, Moby, if needed. There was no one to hear me baby-talking to him or to see him licking me on the mouth.

Why can't I use those secret skills I learned as a military spouse? Because they required the one thing I no longer have — alone time.

I could sit down at my desk to pay the bills, but if my eyelids got heavy, there was no guilt in plopping my head down and taking a nap. After all, the drool stain on the orthodontist's invoice seemed apropos. I would eventually unclog that toilet, but only after binge-watching

DVRed episodes of "The Bachelor." The secret sleeve of Oreos I'd eat for lunch might leave me feeling too sluggish to power walk, but I'd feel no guilt putting on track pants to make it look like I did.

My secret coping strategies allowed me to function. When I was alone, there was no one to balk, demand my attention or roll their eyes. No one to embarrass, shame or disgust. It was just me, and as I discovered over time, that could be quite wonderful.

And here I sit today, now a "veteran" military spouse, wishing I could eat a sleeve of Oreos and take a nap at my desk. But alas, my family is home, so there are witnesses. I recall my days as a lonely Navy wife with an ironic nostalgia. Military retirement, the pandemic, remote working and quarantine may have drastically changed my circumstances, but I still remember that strangely liberating solitude — unfettered by parental responsibilities, social mores, ethical rules and basic human decency.

The secret joy of being alone.
Read more of Lisa Smith Molinari's columns at:
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Chief Electronics Technician (Navigation) Alex Hepburn is pinned to the rank of chief petty officer by his girlfriend and friend.



Chief Sonar Technician (Submarine) is pinned to the rank of chief petty officer by his daughter.



Chief Culinary Specialist (Submarine) Samuel Lewis receives his combination cover from his sponsor.

CSS-15 welcomes Navy’s newest chiefs

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS RANDALL RAMASWAMY,
SUBMARINE SQUADRON 15

SANTA RITA – Commander, Submarine Squadron 15 advanced six sailors to the rank of chief petty officer during a promotion ceremony onboard Naval Base Guam, Jan. 29.

The ceremony followed a six-week training period known as CPO Initiation, which started the day the CPO advancement results were released.

“We made great chiefs this year; they are tougher and more equipped to guide their sailors,” said Command Master Chief Eric Baker, assigned to CSS-15 and native of Chebanse, Illinois. “You must not only guide and encourage your Sailors, but instill principles of sound leadership and ensure that they are trained, qualified and prepared to be war-fighters. The newly pinned chiefs charged through this year’s season and remained a unified team, despite the challenges presented to them.”

During training, instructed by senior enlisted

leaders, the chiefs encountered lessons and challenges, both mental and physical, designed to enhance their traditional abilities. They also learned what it means to be a chief, including the history and traditions of the chiefs mess.

“It is a culmination of a lot of hard work to make chief, and upon being selected you find that you have so much more to learn,” said Chief Electronics Technician (Nuclear) Joshua Wagner, from Wadesville, Indiana. “I have been fortunate to have many great chiefs in my time and I want to be them. When my future sailors reflect on the people who helped them succeed, I want to make sure that I’m on that list.”

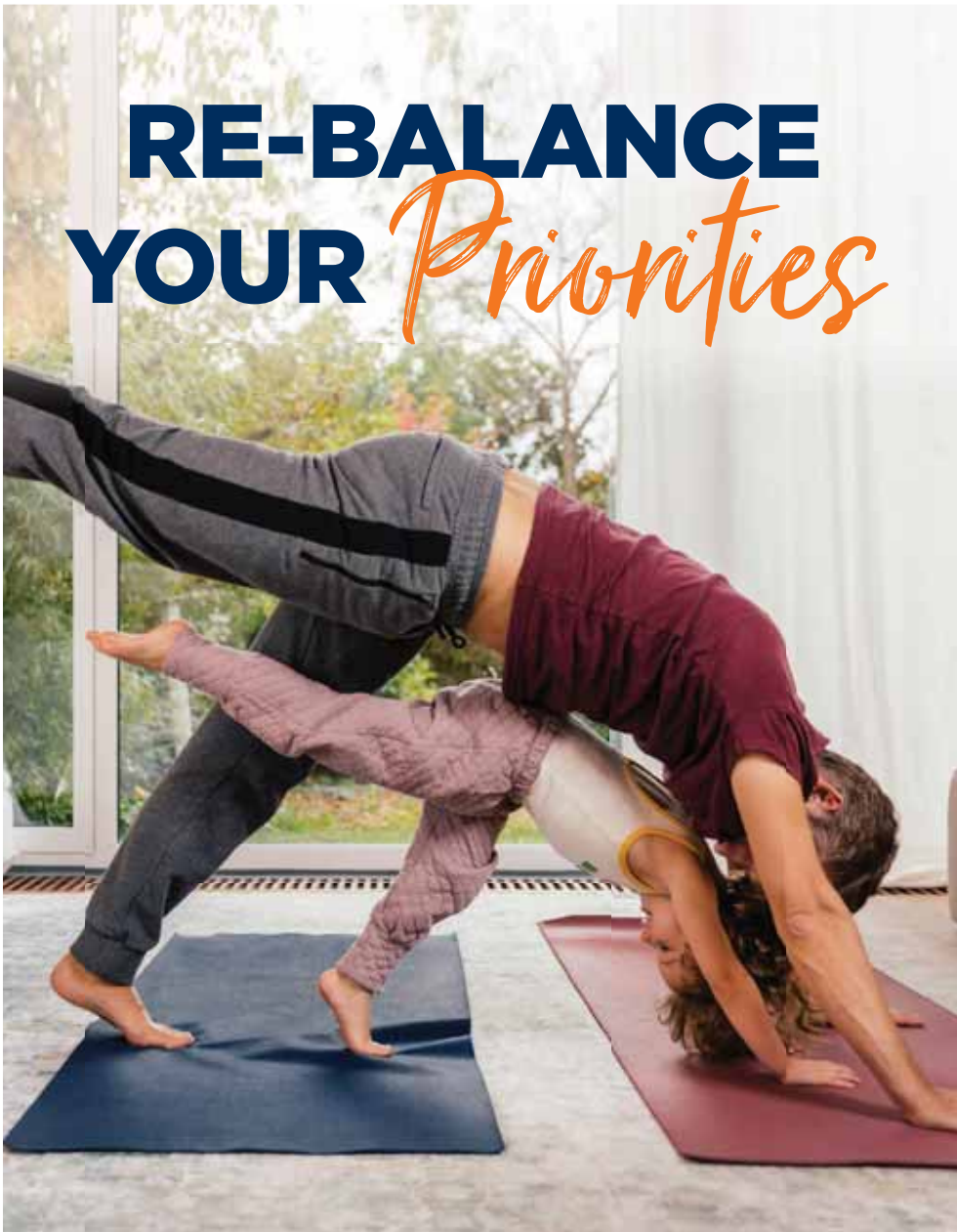
These chiefs will now move forward and use the tools they learned during training to instill the same qualities of leadership and tenacity in the sailors whom they lead.

“Transitioning from a first class to a chief is a big change,” said Chief Electronics Technician (Navigation) Alex Hepburn, from West Palm Beach, Florida. “Making chief means that I can change other people’s

lives by sharing knowledge and upholding a standard for all sailors to emulate.”

CSS-15’s newest chief petty officers are: Chief Electronics Technician (Navigation) Alex Hepburn, assigned to CSS-15, Chief Culinary Specialist (Submarine) Samuel Lewis, Chief Sonar Technician (Submarine) Francisco Cloud, Chief Electronics Technician (Nuclear) Joshua Wagner, all assigned to the Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine USS Key West (SSN 722), and Chief Electronics Technician (Navigation) Jonathan Durell, and Chief Corpsman Nicholas Majarrez, assigned to the Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine USS Asheville (SSN 758).

“The chiefs are now in a position to build strong relationships to help with the weight of the responsibility they now assume,” said Baker. “I’m proud to be with them. This might seem daunting from the outside, but it is an organization where you are never alone. It is a Chief’s job to take care of their sailors, both junior and senior, and reflect on if they are shaping the leaders that they want their sailors to be.”



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DELIGHTFUL GUAM-STYLE DESSERTS

STORY AND PHOTOS BY RUEBEN OLIVAS,
BBQGUAM

HOW ABOUT SOME FRIED BANANA (MADOYA)??



INGREDIENTS

Batter mix for madoya

- 1/2 cup all purpose flour
- 3/4 cup water
- 1/4-1/3 cup sugar
- Mix ingredients together until creamy similar to pancake batter.

DIRECTIONS

- Banana must be firm (when skin is just turning from green to yellow). And you should use the cooking bananas, like plantains. If you do not have these types of bananas at your local grocer, then you can use the sweet ones like "Chiquita" but make sure they are not ripe.
- Peel the banana.
- Slice the banana in half.
- Dip in batter and let the batter drip for a few seconds.
- Fry in oil at about 375° until golden brown.
- Lift banana out of oil and let it drip for a few seconds.
- Place in colander upright and allow to drain.
- Serve hot with butter.

Let me warn you, once you start spreading that butter on these nice and hot, freshly fried banana slices, its hard to stop eating them. You will find that they go down like potato chips. You actually have to force yourself to stop.

I hope you enjoy this little spice of life from Guam. And I would be remiss if I did not thank my lovely wife, Lupe, for sharing this recipe with you all. So Thank You my dear.



1
Slice the banana in half...very carefully!!!



2
Coat well with your batter mix.



3
Place the battered banana slices one at a time in the hot oil. Oil should be about 375 degrees F.



4
Fry them until they are golden brown.



5
Here you have the finished product. But before you start eating them, pat them dry with a paper towel.



6
spread your butter and start in.

PECAN TASSIES (TARTS)...THE PERFECT SNACK



INGREDIENTS

Recipe version by
Lupe (Dydasco) Olivas

For the dough:

- 1/2 cup butter
- 1 3-oz. pkg cream cheese
- 1 cup all-purpose flour

For the pecan filling:

- 1 egg
- 3/4 cup brown sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla
- Dash of salt
- 1 tbsp butter
- 1/2 cup coarsely chopped pecans

DIRECTIONS

- For pastry, in mixer bowl, mix together the 1/2 cup butter and the cream cheese.
- Add flour and mix well. Set aside.
- Mix into bowl the egg, brown sugar, the 1 tablespoon butter, the vanilla and salt, until smooth and set aside.
- Roll pastry dough into 1 inch round balls and place into an ungreased mini-muffin tray.
- Shape dough in each muffin cup to cover the bottom and sides.
- Spoon about 1 tsp of chopped pecans into each muffin cup.
- Fill each cup up with the egg/brown sugar mixture that you previously set aside.
- Pre-heat the oven to 325 F, and then bake for about 25 minutes or until filling has set somewhat firm. Individual ovens vary with their own specific temp and timing. You know how that goes.
- Remove and allow to cool.
- This should make about 24 tarts.
- You can adjust this recipe to your individual taste.

Sometimes your sweet tooth kicks in and sometimes you just got to have some type of pasty. Well, I have the perfect solution for both. Pecan Tassies as they are known on Guam. Also known as Pecan Tarts.

These little jems have that fabulous pecan, butter, vanilla, and brown sugar filling in a fantastic, flaky pastry cup. Talk about tasty and the worst thing is that they are bite sized. A dozen is just not enough.....believe me!!

This was all that was left of 4 dozen. You know I had to flex my quality control wings...

Do yourself a favor and try these out. And don't forget that ice cold glass of milk.

SEE MORE
DESSERT RECIPES
ON PAGES 6-7

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

RED VELVET COOKIE SANDWICHES W/ CREAM CHEESE FILLING

Hey, with all the cooking and grilling that we do, a meal wouldn't be complete without a good dessert. My wife, Lupe, got this recipe for Red Velvet Cookie Sandwiches, while watching TV.

Recipe by Chefs Peter Duenas and Lorena Manibusan, Meskla Restaurant, Guam

Cookie batter:

- 1/2 cup softened butter
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup flour
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 tbsp cocoa powder
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 1/2 tsp red food coloring
- 1 tbsp milk

Cream cheese filling:

- 1/4 cup softened butter
- 8 oz. softened cream cheese
- 1/2 cup powdered sugar

DIRECTIONS

- Pre-heat oven to 375 F.
- Mix ingredients in the following order.
- Fold the butter with granulated sugar.
- Add in the vanilla.
- Add in the eggs.
- Fold in the flour, baking powder, and baking soda.
- Next fold in the powdered cocoa and 1 tsp salt.
- Now add the red food coloring and milk and mix everything together until you have a smooth batter.
- Next use a small ice cream scoop for portion control and drop the batter on a cookie sheet about 3 inches apart.
- Bake at 375 F for about 10 minutes.
- Take out of the oven and allow to cool for 15-20 minutes.

Directions for cream cheese filling:

- To make the cream cheese filling, take the softened butter and whip it until it is creamy in texture.
- Fold in the cream cheese and add the powdered sugar slowly until you have a creamy filling.

Putting it all together:


- Take one cookie and add filling, thickness depends on your personal taste. Cover with another cookie to create the sandwich.

You have got to try this. Super delicious.

For all you macho men out there, you can substitute the glass of milk for a pint of ice cold beer!!!!

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PINEAPPLE CREAM PIE

Well since we have been posting desserts, let me post one of my all time favorites....my mother's Pineapple Cream Pie.



Pineapple Cream Pie... Mom's Recipe!!

INGREDIENTS

- 1 Pkg 9-inch Baked Pie Crust (Pillsbury Frozen Pie Crust or Betty Crocker) or make your own.
- 2 Cans 20oz. Crushed Pineapple w/heavy syrup, drained
- 2 Egg yolks 2 Cups milk 3/4 cup sugar
- 1 Tsp. salt 5Tbsp corn starch
- 2Tbsp butter 1 Tsp. vanilla

DIRECTIONS

- Prepare pie crust according to directions & set aside, allow to cool.
- Over medium heat combine the 2 egg yolks, milk, sugar, salt, and cornstarch. Stir constantly and bring to boil. Mixture will thicken rapidly. When thickened, remove from heat.
- Stir in butter, drained crushed pineapple and vanilla.
- Pour into cooled pie crust and let pie cool.
- Refrigerate until firm.

PISTACHIO CAKE

Everyone loves dessert. A Guam island favorite is Pistachio cake. Here is a great tasting recipe from one of our friends. And it is so easy to make. Even I can make this...



Pistachio Cake... Island Favorite!!

CAKE

Recipe supplied by Arlene

- 1 Box of Betty Crocker Super Moist Yellow Cake Mix
- For the water portion of the instructions, make it 1/2 water and 1/2 Rum.
- Add 1 box of Jello Pistachio pudding into the batter.
- Add green food coloring until it is the color that you like.
- Those are the only deviations from the instructions on the box.

GLAZE

Recipe supplied by Lani

- 1 cup confectioner's sugar 3 tbsp milk
- 1tsp vanilla butter for flavoring

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Gadao's Strength

Once upon a time, a long time ago, on the island of Guahan in the Mariana Islands there lived two manmaga'lâhi (chiefs) named Malaguana and Gadao. Malaguana was the maga'lâhi of Tomhom (Tumon) in Northern Guahan. Gadao was from southern Guahan and was the maga'lâhi of Inalahan (Inarajan).

The manmaga'lâhi, in those days, were usually the strongest and wisest members of their clans. However, there was much debate about who was the strongest and mightiest maga'lâhi of the entire island. Legend had it that because of his tremendous strength, Malaguana was widely regarded as being the greatest maga'lâhi of Guahan. This unofficial title was something that Malaguana and the villagers of Tomhom were proud of and quick to defend. However, there was one skeptic from another village who, during a visit to his relatives in Tomhom, expressed his belief that Malaguana was no match for Gadao.

"Although Malaguana is one of the strongest and mightiest manmaga'lâhi of Guahan, his strength is nothing compared to that of Gadao of Inalahan village," said the visitor.

When Malaguana heard about the visitor's remark he was eager to visit Inalahan to prove that he was stronger and mightier than Gadao. "I am the strongest and the greatest maga'lâhi of Guahan and I will prove it by defeating Gadao in a duel of strength!" boasted Malaguana.

Determined to end the debate over who was the strongest maga'lâhi of Guahan Malaguana made his way to Inalahan. As he entered the southern coastal village Malaguana met up with a man who appeared to be a village farmer. Little did he know that the farmer was Maga'lâhi Gadao.

"Hafa adai!" Malaguana called out, "I am Maga'lâhi Malaguana of Tomhom, the greatest maga'lâhi of Guahan, and I am here to challenge the strength of Gadao. Bring me to him at once!"

Gadao was surprised at Malaguana's words. He decided not to reveal his true identity just yet. He said in a friendly tone, "Welcome to Inalahan, Maga'lâhi Malaguana. If you wish to meet Gadao I will certainly take you to him. But since you've traveled such a long way, I would first like you to join me for some refreshing coconut juice."

"Thank you," Malaguana said gladly.

Gadao went to the nearest coconut tree and with incredible force shook the tree until all the coconuts came falling down. Gadao picked one up from the ground and, with his bare hands, cracked it into two perfect halves, giving one half to Malaguana.

Malaguana was astonished by what he had just witnessed. He could not believe that an ordinary man could possess such tremendous strength. When Gadao looked the other way, Malaguana picked up one of the fallen coconuts and attempted to crack it open with his bare hands. He couldn't do it, and began to doubt his superiority over Gadao.

"If an ordinary Inalahan farmer possesses this

much strength, how much stronger is their Maga'lâhi Gadao?" Malaguana thought to himself. Unwilling to risk defeat and ruin his reputation, Malaguana decided to return to Tomhom.

"I thought you wanted me to introduce you to Gadao?" said Gadao, as he observed Malaguana getting ready to depart. For a moment Malaguana was silent as he thought of an excuse. He finally said, "I'm sorry, I must go home now. I have been away from Tomhom too long and I feel that my leadership is greatly needed back home."

Gadao was quite pleased at this outcome because he was able to intimidate Malaguana without actually challenging him. Gadao decided against revealing his true identity because he knew that Malaguana would go home thinking that Gadao was more powerful than he actually was.

Gadao, however, felt sorry for Malaguana and decided to offer to take him home by canoe and Malaguana accepted Gadao's offer. The two maga'lâhi got into Gadao's canoe and began to paddle in opposite directions. Unaware that the other was paddling in the opposing direction, both maga'lâhi paddled harder and harder as they noticed that the canoe wasn't moving. Finally, the opposing forces, the canoe split in half and both maga'lâhi were thrust in opposite directions.

As a remembrance of this event, Gadao drew the story on a wall in a cave. Today, this same petroglyph is still well preserved in Gadao's Cave in Inalahan. In honor of Gadao, a statue was placed alongside Inalahan Bay. The statue is a huge figure of Gadao sitting in his

portion of the ripped canoe and holding a paddle.

Excerpted from "Legends of Guam," produced by the class members of an education class at the College of Guam in 1962.

CHAM FOLK

GUAM

Alu and Pang

In ancient times the people of the Mariana Islands lived in villages ruled by a maga'lâhi or maga'hâga (chief or high-ranking son or daughter), who made all the rules and decisions for his or her people. In the area of Guahan now known as Tamuning, there lived a great maga'lâhi whose name was Alu. People say



he had supernatural strength. If he wanted a drink, he could shake a niyok (coconut) tree and the juice-filled, young, green coconuts would fall to the ground.

In the Marianas, at this time, many of the events of different villages were told by traveling storytellers. One

day a storyteller from northern Guahan was visiting in southern Guahan, telling about the remarkable strength of Alu.

Pang, who was a maga'lâhi in one of the villages

in the south, heard the storyteller and became envious (jealous) because he, Pang, was also known for great strength. He could even squeeze the juice from a niyok whenever he wanted a drink.

Pang said, "Bring the storyteller to me so that I might hear the story of this great Alu and ask questions about his strength."

The storyteller was brought forth and Pang listened to his tale. Pang then told him, "Go back to Alu and tell him that Pang challenges him to a duel of strength."

Alu immediately accepted the challenge and a date was set for the great match. When the day finally came the people from the south journeyed with their maga'lâhi to the north. Great preparations were underway when they arrived. Taro, yams, fanihi (fruit bat) and other dishes were being prepared to serve at the great duel that was about to take place.

The women needed niyok juice for the fanihi. Seeing this, Pang went and asked, "Should I shake some niyok down for you?"

The women said yes, so he shook some loose for them. Pang, not to be outdone, said, "I will get the juice out for you," and took each niyok and squeezed out the juice with his bare hands.

Dinague Laolao

Back in the ancient days, giants with supernatural strength inhabited the Mariana Islands. The giant men of the different villages and clans occasionally fought or argued with each other. However, they banded together when they believed their island was being threatened by foreign invaders.

One day, a ship was seen out on the horizon. The manmaga'lâhi (chiefs) of the island were concerned that outsiders were trying to invade Guahan at Hagåtña Bay. They got together to figure out how to stop the invaders.

The manmaga'lâhi decided that a huge rock should be placed in the channel to Hagåtña Bay. The maga'lâhi from Orote declared that there were many huge rocks around his village that would be suitable for blocking the bay. The task of getting the rock and placing it in the channel was entrusted to the proud warrior clan of Agueda. When Naguadog, maga'lâhi of Agueda, told his clan the size of the rock needed, the other men laughed scornfully and said, "Naguadog, you don't need your warriors. That task is child's play. Give the task to Pon and Patte, your sons."

Naguadog thought for a moment, then raised his voice loud and clear and called out to his sons. The boys' names bounced like thunder from tree to tree. Quicker than lightning, two small boys, aged three and four, came bounding up to their father, saying, "Naguadog, what do you wish of us?"

Naguadog, putting his strong arms around his sons,

spoke: "My sons, go to Orote Point and get a big loose rock and quickly place it in the entrance of Hagåtña Bay."

Obediently the boys ran off to Orote. They were proud to have been entrusted with such an important task. It was nighttime by the time the boys arrived at Orote, and the moon was full. By the light of the moon, the boys found a loose rock along the cliff which measured roughly 120 feet long, 60 feet wide and 20 feet high. Together they picked up the huge rock and headed back to Hagåtña, playing catch with the rock as they walked along the shore.

As the boys approached the village of Assan (Asan), they stopped to rest. It was about midnight, but, looking up into the night sky, they saw a bright twinkling star. The boys suddenly became nervous. They remembered that the village elders had set a curfew for the children that was strictly enforced.

When Venus, which looks like a bright shiny star, appeared in the sky, all the village children were to return to their homes. Indeed, all children could not be away from their parents or their homes between midnight and early dawn – around six o'clock in the morning.

Thinking this was Venus, they quickly dropped the rock in the water and ran for shelter in the Agueda Caves.

Because the men had given such an important task to children, the job was not completed. The boys failed to block the entrance to Hagåtña Bay, and so the outsiders entered, settled on Guahan and intermarried with the natives. The children of these unions were without superhuman strength, thereby making the natives of



the Marianas ordinary human beings like you and me.

The "star" that the boys saw in the night sky has been called "Dinagi Laolao" which means "fooled by a twinkling star," because the boys were fooled and failed to complete their task.

The rock which they dropped in the water off Assan is called Gapang Rock, which means, "unfinished task." It is a reminder of the days long ago when people of supernatural strength lived in these islands. Today it is known as Camel Rock because of its shape which resembles the hump of a kneeling camel.

This story was adapted from "Legends of Guam." The booklet was produced by class members of an education class at College of Guam in 1962.

MORRO TALES

PEDIA

Puntan Pâtgon

The legend of Puntan Pâtgon (Child's Point) is a folktale about a powerful man who becomes envious of his child's superior strength:

Long, long ago giants are said to have lived in the Mariana Islands. Among them was a proud and strong man named Masala who lived on Guahan. He was the most powerful man in the Marianas and his strength could not be matched by any other.

Masala's wife gave birth to a son. At first Masala was very proud of his child, boasting about him and presenting him to everyone. However, as the child grew into a toddler, people began to notice of his strength and power. Masala grew envious of the attention given to his child.

One day, Masala's son caught an ayuyu (coconut crab) and spent many hours playing with it. Eventually, though, as crabs do, it disappeared into a hole near a niyok (coconut) tree. When the child noticed the ayuyu was gone, he reached down into the hole to get his pet but couldn't get a hold of it. He grabbed the niyok tree near the crab hole and tore it completely out of the ground to uncover the hidden ayuyu.

Masala, watching the child at the time, was about to help his son fetch the ayuyu before he uprooted the tree. Masala flew into a jealous rage and went after his son. The little boy, frightened by his father's anger, ran as fast as he could toward the northernmost tip of Guahan. When he reached Hinapsan (Jinapsan) Point he took a giant leap, landing on the southernmost point of the neighboring island of Luta (Rota), about forty miles north of Guahan.

To this day, there is an imprint of a giant foot in the rock on Guahan believed to be the child's and on Luta there is another footprint at the point where he is said to have landed.

Some believe that the child remained on Luta and

became the great legendary Chamorro Maga'lâhi Taga.

Cultural values

Ancient Chamorro Society author Lawrence J. Cunningham, EdD, writes that folklore:

...explains nature and human nature, and serves as a means to give expression to our emotions. Folklore tells stories about proper behavior and reveals what a culture values.



The legend of Puntan Pâtgon can be interpreted to explain the concept of mamâhlao, which is a Chamorro traditional value meaning "to have shame." Masala's self pride and envy contradicted the value mamâhlao.

Robert Torres Tenorio argues that tales of the physical prowess of Chamorro males show that they were a strong people before the arrival of the Spanish in the late 17th century and how Chamorros responded to colonization. He states: *I subscribe to the opinion that these legends remained popular during the Spanish occupation because they reminded the subjugated natives of a time when the Chamorro was in control of his islands and roamed them*

with pride not even exceeded by their foreign intruders. The folklore that developed during the Spanish occupation is starkly different from that which preceded it. Tales of strength yielded to those of trickery and deception of the Spanish.

By Tanya M. Champaco Mendiola

After the great feast the people gathered together near the beach where the match was to take place. Alu and Pang stood glaring at each other in the center of the group of people, waiting for the signal for the fight to begin.

The signal sounded and the two great manmaga'lâhi charged at each other. The thud of their bodies knocking against each other shook the earth so hard that all of the trees fell down. The ground around them was soon torn up. The fight continued on toward evening with both manmaga'lâhi pounding on each other. Both were hurt and bloody, but Pang was beginning to tire. He could see he was no match for Alu. He ran out to the beach and began swimming away.

Alu grabbed a large rock and hurled it after Pang who was quickly swimming away. The rock found its mark, burying Pang on the spot.

When you are in Tamuning, looking out to the ocean, you can see a rock near the reef. This rock is called Alupang after the great battle of Alu and Pang.

Excerpted from "Legends of Guam," produced by the class members of an education class at the College of Guam in 1962.

**SEE MORE
PUNTAN DOS AMANTES
ON PAGE 10**



www.guampedia.com



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Puntan Dos Amantes

Pursued by his relatives, the young lovers wandered for some time in the most inaccessible wood and rocky areas; but so precarious and wretched an existence reduced them to despair. Determined to put an end to it, they built a tomb of stones and place in it the infant that was the sad fruit of their love.

Then, lost and distracted, they climbed to the very summit of a high, steep-sided peak beside the sea. Binding themselves together by the hair, and clasping one another, they cast themselves from that peak into the waves below.

The cape was named by the Spanish, Cabo de los Amantes (Lovers' Cape), now known as Puntan Dos Amantes (Two Lover's Point). After visiting Guam in 1819 Freycinet used the two lover's story to emphasize the indelible connection between marriage and the traditional caste system in Chamorro society.

Since then the story has changed to include a Spanish figure. The story is best known as follows:

Once, long ago, during a time when Spain claimed the Mariana Islands, there was a family who lived in Hagåtña, the capital city of Guahan. The father was a wealthy Spanish businessman and the mother, a daughter of a great maga'låhi or Chamorro chief. This family owned much land and were highly respected by Chamorros and Spanish alike.

Their oldest daughter was a beautiful young woman, admired by all for her honesty, modesty, and natural charm. One day, as was Spanish custom, the girl's father arranged for her to take a powerful Spanish captain as her husband. When the girl discovered

this, she was so distraught that she ran from Hagåtña all the way to the north of Guahan until she found a secluded and peaceful shore.

There, on the moonlit shore, she met and fell in love with a young man from a modest Chamorro family. He was gentle, with a strong build and eyes that searched for meaning in the stars.

She returned home with a promise to see him again.

When the girl's father learned of the two lovers, he grew angry and demanded that she marry the Spanish captain at once. However, that day at sundown, she stole away to the same high point along the shore, and once again met her Chamorro lover.

Her father, the captain and all the Spanish soldiers pursued the lovers up to the high cliff above Tomhom (Tumon) Bay. The lovers found themselves trapped between the edge of the cliff and the approaching soldiers. All the young man could do was warn them to stay back. The father ordered the soldiers to halt.

The lovers tied their long black hair together into a single knot. Acting as if they were entirely alone, they looked deeply into each other's eyes and kissed for the final time. Then they leaped over the long, steep cliff into the roaring waters below. Her father and all who remained rushed to the edge and stared in great anguish at the ocean below.

The lovers were gone, never to be seen again.

Today the place where they jumped is known as Puntan dos Amantes or Two Lover's Point. Visitors still pay homage there to great love.

By Shannon J. Murphy

The young maidens that saved Guam

Did you ever notice the odd shape of Guahan, the southernmost island of the Mariana Islands in Micronesia? It looks as though large bites were taken from either side. The island is fairly wide at both ends and narrow in the middle. The CHamoru people have a legend about how Guahan got its unusual shape.

Antes na tiempo (a long time ago), the ancestors of the modern day CHamorus came to the Marianas, a mighty race of people. They were called taotaomo'na which means "the people of before." It is said that the taotaomo'na were giants, very clever and wise, and that they possessed magical powers.

During that time a group of fishermen who fished in Hagåtña Bay noticed that the mouth of the bay was growing larger and larger quite quickly. They could not understand what was causing it to grow. Similarly, a group of fishermen from Pago noticed that Pago Bay was also growing larger and larger. It seemed that the center of the island was being eaten away on both sides.

The people could no longer ignore what was happening. The land between Hagåtña and Pago Bay was becoming narrower each day. They realized that if this trend continued much longer the island would soon become two separate islands.

A meeting was called to bring together all the wise taotaomo'na. After comparing their observations everyone agreed that something had to be done – and quickly! They realized there must be an answer about what was causing the narrowing center of Guahan, but unfortunately, no one knew what it was. The group disbanded without knowing quite what to do.

A few days later a Pago fisherman was out early in the morning doing his day's work when he spotted a giant fish! The fisherman, curious to find out more about the large creature, tried to approach it. As he neared, he saw that it was eating big chunks of land! But when he came even closer the giant fish saw him and quickly swam away.

The fisherman ran to tell everyone about the giant

fish that he had seen chewing away at the land in Pago Bay. When they heard his account, the people were outraged and vowed to fend off the giant fish.

Early the next morning all the strong men of Guahan gathered with their weapons and started out on their mission. They were going to stop the giant fish from chewing through the island!

Hagåtña and Pago Bays were filled with canoes of fishermen and others who wanted to help. The men paddled into the bay looking for the terrible fish. Some searched along the coral reef while others looked in the deep ocean outside the reef. The men searched for hours, but no giant fish was seen. As nightfall came everyone returned home filled with disappointment.

The search for the giant island-eating fish continued for many days. Enthusiasm to find it lasted a long time. But no matter how hard the men searched, the fish eluded them.

The news of the failure to find and destroy the giant fish spread from village to village. Some of the young maidens heard the news and were fascinated by the efforts to catch the fish.

The young women talked about the giant fish whenever they gathered to wash their hair and rinse it with fresh water scented with lemons. Their favorite spot to gather for this task was at the Hagåtña Springs. When they finished, the pool would be covered with lemon peels.

One day a young maiden in Pago noticed these same peels floating in Pago Bay. She was puzzled by

their appearance. After some thought, she realized that the giant fish must have eaten a hole all the way under the island from Pago Bay to Hagåtña Springs! She told the other maidens, that must be where the giant fish was hiding.

The next day the maidens gathered at the Hagåtña Springs. They were amused the brave, strong men were unable to capture the giant fish. The maidens then decided they would catch the fish themselves. Cutting off their dark tresses, they wove a net with their long black hair. Because their hair had magical

powers, they knew their net would have magical powers, too.

While they wove they began to sing. They sang for hours, and as they continued to sing, the net grew larger and larger. Even the giant fish could hear their singing from underwater. Enchanted by the sound of their beautiful voices, the fish swam out from its hiding place to listen to the singing maidens. As the fish approached the mouth of



the spring, the maidens drew closer to the fish, still singing and carrying their net of hair. Suddenly they spread their magic net over the spring and dived into the pool, surrounding the fish. The giant fish was trapped and could not escape! In triumph, the maidens then summoned some of the men to help dispose of the giant fish. With their wisdom, magic and beautiful singing, the young maidens had saved Guahan!

This story was adapted from "Legends of Guam", a booklet produced by class members of an education class at College of Guam in 1962.



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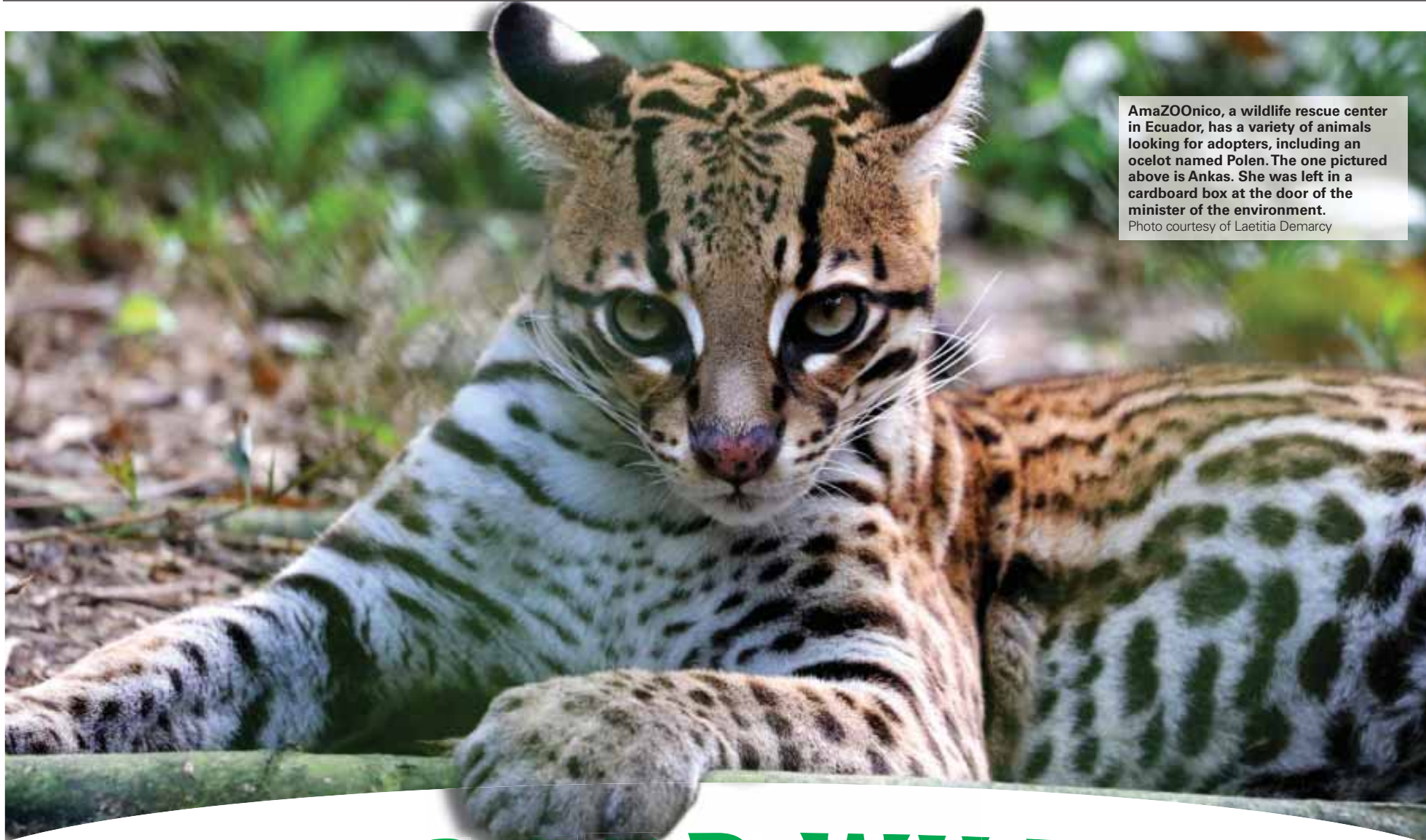


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AmazOOnico, a wildlife rescue center in Ecuador, has a variety of animals looking for adopters, including an ocelot named Polen. The one pictured above is Anka. She was left in a cardboard box at the door of the minister of the environment. Photo courtesy of Laetitia Demarcy

PINING FOR WILDLIFE?

Build your own menagerie with a symbolic adoption

BY ANDREA SACHS,
THE WASHINGTON POST

Happi is an orphaned orangutan in Borneo who loves papaya and building nests with sticks. Dimples is a koala in Australia who lost her mother at a young age but found comfort in the arms of Chris Hemsworth. Batmann is a blind African penguin with oil-slicked feathers who is now living happily ever after with his partner, Penelope, in a South African sanctuary. Though these animals have different backgrounds - and taxonomy - they share a common trait: They are all available for symbolic adoption.

Sheltering in place has significantly shrunk our wildlife-viewing opportunities. But you don't need to travel to be part of the larger animal kingdom. Conservation and rescue groups around the world offer sponsorship programs for a variety of species that often serve as mascots of their home countries: lemurs in Madagascar, elephants in Zambia, coqui in Puerto Rico. Your donation will help the organizations with their rescue, rehabilitation and release operations as well as support the critters unable to survive in the wild. Bonus: Many sanctuaries were open to the public before the pandemic, and you can possibly meet your adoptee (or its relative) once travel resumes.

"Symbolically adopting animals allows these projects to continue to protect wildlife without placing volunteers, staff or animals at risk," said Meredith Whitney, an animal rescue program officer with the International Fund for Animal Welfare. "It's everybody's hope that the remote support now will mean that these organizations will still be around once

travel is again safe and people can visit in person to learn about their good work."

As an expression of their gratitude, the nonprofits will send a gift, such as a plush toy, photo of your newest family member and certificate of adoption. However, before you make room on the mantel for a framed image of your Vietnamese pangolin or Tasmanian devil, some research is required. You don't want your funds ending up in the wrong pockets. Whitney said the organization should be a legitimate sanctuary and not involved in breeding, buying or selling wildlife. Its primary goal should be to return the animal to the wild when possible and provide a lifetime of care when it isn't. The group should also back initiatives that tackle such threats as poaching and habitat loss.

For an extra layer of assurance, Whitney said the group should be accredited by or affiliated with an organization of high reputation, such as the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries, the World Wildlife Fund or Humane Society International. This seal of approval isn't mandatory, but she warns: "It just means that you'll have an extra research burden to ensure that the organization is doing positive work for the welfare and conservation of the animals." Here is a snapshot of adoption programs around the world.

Ecuador

AmazOOnico, one of the biggest rescue centers in Ecuador, has several animals seeking adopters, including Polen, a young ocelot; Biala and Solana, a pair of scarlet macaws; and Poppy, a tapir. For something a little wilder, you can adopt a group of squirrel monkeys known to raid the refuge's food supply. To keep them out of the pantry, the staff feeds them off-site. Adoptions range

from \$30 to \$60 a month.

Guatemala

Why stop at one sea turtle when you can help raise an entire future generation of olive ridley and leatherbacks? Arcas Wildlife Protection created the Sponsor-a-Nest program to counter the perils (overfishing, egg snatching) to sea turtles on the Pacific coast of Guatemala. When the price for eggs drops, usually during nesting season, staff members and volunteers will hit the beach and purchase the precious goods from local collectors. The organization will bury the eggs at its hatcheries and, about two months later, bid the hatchlings adieu as they swim off to sea. A \$25 donation covers a nest of about 100 eggs.

Puerto Rico

You might think reggaeton is the sound of Puerto Rico, but it isn't: Coquis dominate the airwaves, especially from dusk to dawn, when the male tree frogs sing their "co-kee" love ballad. For its Adopt a Coqui program, Discover Puerto Rico partnered with Conservación ConCien-cia, a local nonprofit committed to environmental causes. A \$25 donation goes toward conservation efforts on the island.

Australia

The koalas with the Australian Koala Foundation are more than cute; they have distinctive personalities, too. To find your "one," flip through the profiles of the joeys, adults, wild koalas and mom-and-baby duos, or take the quick matchmaking test. I was paired with Wattle, who "loves her friends almost as much as she loves napping." Donors receive an open invitation to visit their koala in its habitat. (Park admission fees are extra). Participants must

commit to a year of monthly payments - about \$23 for single koalas and \$38 for pairs. Friends of the Koala practices the three Rs (rescue, rehab and release) in the Northern Rivers region of New South Wales, Australia. Among its six adoptees: the three-legged Triumph and Dimples, who shared that special moment with Thor (a.k.a. Hemsworth). Twelve-month packages start at \$38. Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary runs Tasmania's largest wildlife rescue service. Sponsor a Tasmanian devil, wombat or Forester kangaroo for about \$38 a year.

Cameroon

Limbe Wildlife Center has saved hundreds of animals from the bush meat, black magic and pet trade. It has a full house of endangered great apes and monkeys, including western lowland gorillas, chimpanzees, drill monkeys and a mustached monkey named Kiki. The center is also leading the national rescue, rehabilitation and release program for the endangered African gray parrot. Since its founding in 1993, it has rescued more than 3,000 parrots, and last year it returned 125 birds to the wild. Sponsorships start at \$5 a month or \$120 a year.

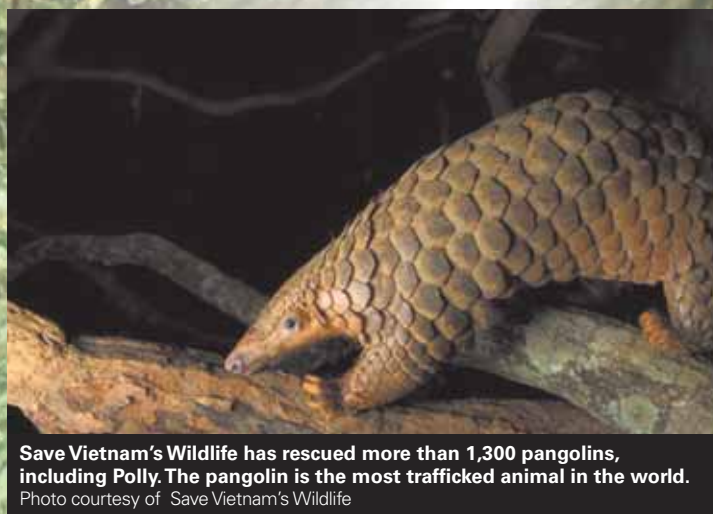
Guinea

The Chimpanzee Conservation Center was established more than 20 years ago to help chimps bought and sold in the pet trade, which decimated the country's wild population. Seven orphaned chimps are looking for sponsors, including Missy, who lost her mother to poachers; and Coco, who spent 14 years entertaining guests at a hotel in Conakry, the capital. From \$5 a month or \$60 yearly.

SEE WILDLIFE ON PAGE 14



Photo courtesy of ISTOCK



Save Vietnam's Wildlife has rescued more than 1,300 pangolins, including Polly. The pangolin is the most trafficked animal in the world. Photo courtesy of Save Vietnam's Wildlife

WILDLIFE: YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

Madagascar and North Carolina

At the Lemur Rescue Center, scan the bios (with a French translator) to find your lemur-mate: Maxi is calm, while Laurent is "lively when it comes to taking food from others." The lemurs reside at the Reniala Nature Reserve in southwest Madagascar. Annual donations run from \$73 to \$1,225. You can also support the primates by becoming a co-owner of a baobab tree at Reniala, complete with co-ownership title. Prices start at about \$25 for the "carrot" tree - so named for its shape, not its flavor. The Duke Lemur Center in Durham, N.C., invites adopters to select one of eight species living at the facility (out of a total 14), including the aye-aye, blue-eyed black lemur or Coquerel's sifaka, which resembles a startled monkey in a panda bonnet. Packages start at \$50, which goes toward the \$8,400 annual cost for one resident. Commit to the full amount and earn the VIP honor of picking your individual lemur.

Malawi

The Lilongwe Wildlife Trust, the country's only wildlife sanctuary, provides a safe space for animals of all walks - and flights - of life. The nature reserve houses about 200 critters, including Frank, a blue monkey; Sheila, a Nile crocodile; Spotty, an eagle-owl; Tao, a vervet monkey; and a trio of yellow baboons named Fox, Pretzel and Mwayi. Five serval cats also call the refuge home, plus a constant stream of pangolins, the world's most trafficked animal. Adoption for the year is about \$34 for all of the animals except the servals, which cost \$54.

South Africa

The Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds works with about two dozen species of seabirds each year, including the endangered African penguin - the continent's only penguin. With its Adopt a Penguin program, choose from one of three options: sponsor a permanent resident, such as Flo or Norbert (about \$68), name a rescued penguin or chick (\$41) or adopt an egg (\$21), which the staff will raise until the bird is ready to waddle off into the wild. Donors can pop in and meet their penguin while it is residing by the front entrance of the Cape Town or Port Elizabeth center or, if it is in rehab, see it on a tour of the facility (about \$4). Egg parents don't have visitation privileges, but the organization can share its release date with you.

Zambia

Game Rangers International is dedicated to protecting Zambia's natural resources, including caring for 20 orphaned elephants. Six of the

pachyderms - Kasewe, Nkala, Ludaka, Lufutuko, Olimba Mtima and Chamilandu - are adoptable. Pay the minimum donation of \$65 per year or round up to \$100 and receive a thank you gift that includes a mounted pencil sketch of your elephant and a crochet toy made by Zambian women at Little Ndaba, a local toy company.

Nepal

With the Red Panda Network, you can double down on the good works: Support a red panda and help restore its habitat through the Plant a Red Panda Home initiative. Since 2019, the project has added nearly 50,000 trees in Nepal's forests. Six red pandas are seeking adoption, though funds benefit all wildlife in the Himalayas, including clouded leopards and black bears. For an annual \$50 contribution, you will receive a small plush red panda; for \$100, select from a T-shirt, large stuffed animal or calendar.

Vietnam

Save Vietnam's Wildlife has five animals needing sponsors: Fishcake, an Asian small-clawed otter; Sang, a leopard cat; Lucik, an Owston's civet; Mr. B, a binturong; and Polly, a pangolin. Since its founding in 2014, the rescue center has saved more than 1,300 pangolins and returned 60 percent of the scaly mammals to the wild. Unfortunately, Polly lost a leg and requires permanent care, which includes a lot of frozen ants. Donations start at \$50.

Borneo and Sumatra

The Orangutan Project supports a network of rescue centers in Borneo and Sumatra that take in orphaned great apes. Among the stars: Sam and Cupcake, a mother and son; and besties Rocky and Rickina. Pay \$10 a month or \$120 for the year. Donations go toward food, vet care and jungle school, where the shaggy-haired students learn how to be proper orangutans.

Atlantic and Pacific oceans

The Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life at the New England Aquarium is focused on the North Atlantic right whale watch. The species is dwindling, with the latest estimates falling below 400. The center has highlighted seven whales for adoption, including Resolution, a male born on New Year's Day in 2005. Four levels of sponsorships are available, starting at \$50. The Whale and Dolphin Conservation runs an orca and humpback whale adoption program. In return for your \$50 year-long donation, you will receive a monthly update on your whale, plus a family tree. Feel free to pencil yourself in.

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



Gordon

You must first fill out the adoption application by clicking "Adoption Info" and receive confirmation that you have been approved before clicking "Add to Cart" to pay for the animal online. Thank you!

A sweet pup looking to meet a new family.

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



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Boonie Stomps Guam

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY
GUAM BOONIE STOMPERS



Feb. 20
Pagat Cave
Pagat Loop

Medium 3 hours for 2 miles
Difficult 4 hours for 3 miles

We offer two ways to get to the same place! We descend the cliff and through the limestone forest to explore the ocean arch with possible jumping and swimming, explore the ancient Chamorro village, then swim in the underground fresh water pool.
Bring: 3 quarts water, hiking shoes, swim suit, flashlight, gloves, sun screen, insect repellent, lunch, and camera.
Special conditions: Stretches of steep trail, walking in cave water and over rough limestone rocks.

Pagat

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.

Feb. 27
Ague Cove

Medium
3 hours for 2 miles

We descend the long fairly steep northwest cliff line to a beautiful isolated cove ideal for jumping, swimming, snorkeling, and possible reef walking if the water is calm. We'll also visit the petroglyph cave and try the rope swing.
Bring: 2 quarts water, hiking shoes, swim suit, snorkel gear, gloves, sun screen, insect repellent, lunch, and camera.
Special conditions: A steep slope to ascend and a few rough rocky trail areas.

Stomp Tips:

- 1) Alcohol and hiking do not mix.
- 2) Do not bring beverages with caffeine on hikes.
- 3) Bring plenty of water with you on hikes.
- 4) When hiking, lots of little snacks are better than one big meal.
- 5) Always carry a well stocked personal first aid kit.
- 6) Carry a couple of extra shoelaces in your first aid kit. They have many uses.
- 7) Always bring a small flashlight in case you get lost, or delayed. Save your phone battery for calls.
- 8) Do not hike alone and let someone know where you are going and your return time.

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Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

1 In this way

5 Bailey of "Hello, Dolly!"

10 Bubbly drink

14 Second to none

15 Sharpshooter Oakley

16 German automaker

17 Fountain fare

18 Plum or apricot, e.g.

20 TV show opener, often

22 Cattle catcher

23 Something to lend

24 Vigor's partner

25 Lament loudly

27 Descend

30 1942 flick "My ___ Sal"

33 Go bad

35 Handel specialty

37 Kilauea flow

38 Small variety (var.)

40 Seductress

41 Roof projection

43 Not too bright

44 Pricing word

45 Uncontrollable

48 Cry softly

49 Very long time

50 Suds source

53 Met highlights

56 Roy Rogers ingredient

59 Shrewd bargain

61 Flat floater

62 Cut, maybe

63 Hardens, as clay

64 Troop group

65 Flat-topped hill

66 On one's toes

67 Small particle

4 Clothing line?

5 Footnote word

6 Place in a crypt

7 Soon, to a poet

8 Skin infection

9 "School Daze" director

10 Word before reef or snake

11 Composer's creation

12 Kauai keepsakes

13 Type of sax

19 GM's birthplace

21 Like some grins or twins

26 On a trip, maybe

28 Make-up artist?

29 Furry one, in internet slang

30 Concert keyboard

31 Intentions

32 Easy run

33 Sow's chow

34 Finish a drive?

36 Chef's need

38 Left-handed Beatle

39 Essential

42 Hugh Laurie series

43 Comedian Carvey

46 Birdwatcher's lure

47 "I swear!"

48 Rigatoni, et. al.

51 Ill-suited

52 Midler of music

53 "Excuse me ..."

54 Went on horse-back

55 Van Gogh flower

57 Garden tool

58 Part of Ringo's kit

60 Schedule abbr.

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Answers to Previous Crossword:

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



Memories with STARS AND STRIPES Pacific

Share your Memories with Stars and Stripes Pacific!

Your photos/stories will appear on the Stars and Stripes Pacific 75th Anniversary Website, 75.stripes.com.



Stripes Sports Trivia

Most people know him for throwing no-look passes, winning MVP, and a Super Bowl title, but did you know Patrick Mahomes' dad played in the MLB? A right-handed starting pitcher, Mahomes played for 6 Major League teams with a brief gig playing for the Yokohama BayStars in the middle. Which team did he debut for?

Answer Minnesota Twins

SUDOKU

Difficulty: Easy

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

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Edited by Margie E. Burke

HOW TO SOLVE:

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

Answers to Previous Sudoku:

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



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GUAM EDITION

FEBRUARY 19, 2021



Anatomy of an outbreak

Coronavirus spread on Roosevelt made worse by Navy failure to follow procedures, report finds **Page 2**

U.S. Navy Cmdr. Brianna Rupp, a preventive medicine physician from the Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center, takes a survey from a U.S. sailor assigned to the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt as part of a public health outbreak investigation in April.

CHRISTOPHER LIAGHAT/U.S. Navy

COVER STORY

Report: Navy failed to follow virus protocol

BY CAITLIN M. KENNEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The coronavirus outbreak aboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt was exacerbated by the failure of Navy commanders to follow procedures meant to stop the spread of infectious diseases, according to a Defense Department report.

The semi-redacted report, published Feb. 8 by the Defense Department's inspector general, examined whether the Navy was prepared to deal with an infectious outbreak, such as the coronavirus, on its ships. Investigators found the service and commands, including U.S. Fleet Forces and Pacific Fleet, which were examined in the report, did have "policies, plans, and procedures" established, but the guidelines were not being properly followed before or after the pandemic began.

"Prior to the [coronavirus] pandemic, we found that four out of five Navy component commands did not conduct a biennial pandemic influenza & infectious disease exercise in accordance with the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations requirements," investigators concluded in the report.

The report focused on the outbreaks at sea aboard the Roosevelt, an aircraft carrier, and the destroyer USS Kidd.

Investigators did so because of the high number of cases relative to each ship's crew size.

The other ships that had at least one case among the crew were at their homeport, according to the report. Adm. Mike Gilday, the chief of naval operations, stated in an administrative message in October that more than 190 ships had at least one case.

The report redacted the official number of ships that have had a coronavirus case, as well as their names. It also redacted the official number of personnel who became infected in the two outbreaks at sea, despite previous reporting on those cases.

The outbreak aboard the Roosevelt occurred following a port call in Vietnam despite a pandemic being declared by the World Health Organization on March 11. The first case was reported March 24 and as the outbreak grew, the ship had to detour its deployment to Guam.

The report highlights several missteps by commanders in handling the Roosevelt outbreak, which included releasing sailors prematurely from quarantine and continuing to keep gyms open despite the need for social



KAYLIANNA GENIER/U.S. Navy

Navy Aviation Electrician's Mate 3rd Class Kyle Hernandez disinfects a berthing aboard the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt on April 12, 2020.

The report highlights several missteps by commanders in handling the Roosevelt outbreak, which included releasing sailors prematurely from quarantine and continuing to keep gyms open despite the need for social distancing.

distancing. Those decisions led to more infections, according to the report.

The Roosevelt eventually had 1,273 cases among its nearly 4,800-member crew, and one death. Chief Petty Officer Charles Robert Thacker Jr., 41, died April 13 at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Guam. The handling of the outbreak aboard the ship led to its commander, Capt. Brett Crozier, to be relieved.

The first case on the USS Kidd was reported April 22 while the ship was operating as part of a

counternarcotics mission in the eastern Pacific, the U.S. Naval Institute News reported. More than 45 sailors among the 330-member crew were infected, according to the Navy at the time. However, no final number of the total cases from the outbreak has been released. Information about the Kidd outbreak was still being collected, according to the report.

The report also highlighted some of the lessons learned from the outbreaks, such as restriction of movements and cleaning pro-

cedures, and how the issuing of new guidance throughout the coronavirus pandemic from these lessons has helped prevent a repeat of what happened on the Roosevelt and the Kidd.

"Although numerous Navy warships have had crew members diagnosed with [coronavirus] while in port, the Navy has continued to deploy warships and submarines without additional widespread outbreaks that would otherwise cripple warships and interrupt their support to the combatant commanders.

... The Navy's updated messages and guidance helped mitigate further outbreaks," the report states.

The report had three recommendations that involved updating policies and procedures with lessons learned from the pandemic and the two outbreaks, such as pre-deployment quarantines and personal protective equipment supplies.

Investigators also recommended the Navy develop a plan for conducting exercises every other year that address infectious diseases. Vice Adm. Phillip Sawyer, the Navy's deputy chief of naval operations for operations, plans, and strategy, and the Navy's surgeon general, Rear Adm. Bruce Gillingham, agreed to the recommendations.

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MILITARY

Coast Guard receives fast-response cutter bound for Guam

By CAITLIN DOORBOS
Stars and Stripes

The Coast Guard in Key West, Fla., took delivery of its newest fast-response cutter, which is bound for Guam to counter an increasingly assertive China, according to a Coast Guard news release.

The 154-foot Sentinel-class cutter Frederick Hatch will be homeported in Guam this summer, joining its sister ships Myrtle Hazard and Oliver Henry, which arrived on the island in September and December, respectively.

The Coast Guard did not specify when the Frederick Hatch would arrive in Guam. Twenty-four crewmembers and about 100 dependents will move to the island with the ship, according to the release.

The three fast-response cutters are replacing older, 110-foot patrol boats previously stationed in Guam and “boast a wide array of improvements over [their] predecessors including advanced command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance systems,” according to the statement.

Fast-response cutters are designed for missions beyond the Coast Guard’s traditional search-and-rescue work, such as homeland security and defense.

“The fast-response cutters in the Pacific are a game-changer for the Coast Guard,” Cmdr. Josh Empen, deputy commander of Coast Guard Sector Guam, said in the statement. “These cutters are conducting longer missions over greater distances

than the older patrol boats they are replacing.”

The Frederick Hatch’s delivery by Bollinger Shipyards fulfills a promise in October 2019 by Coast Guard commandant Adm. Karl Schultz to homeport three new fast-response cutters in Guam “in the face of coercive and antagonistic behavior from China,” he said at the time.

The move is meant to help the Coast Guard police China’s illegal fishing in the region through “fisheries patrols, enhance maritime domain awareness and enforcement efforts” with U.S. partners in the Western Pacific “who have limited off-shore surveillance and enforcement capacity,” then-national security adviser Robert O’Brien said Oct. 23.

The new ships will also take on more traditional Coast Guard roles. The Myrtle Hazard and Oliver Henry “have already saved mariners in distress at sea, intercepted narcotics, and boarded several vessels to deter illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in Oceania,” Empen said.

The Hatch’s namesake received the Coast Guard’s Gold Lifesaving Medal in 1884 for rescuing a schooner’s crew during an October gale, according to the Coast Guard statement.

Hatch received another Gold Lifesaving Medal after rescuing those aboard a grounded schooner near the Cleveland Breakwater lighthouse in 1890.

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ALEXANDRA HUGHES/U.S. Coast Guard

The Coast Guard accepts delivery of its newest Sentinel-class fast response cutter, the Frederick Hatch, in Key West, Fla., on Feb. 10.



U.S. Coast Guard

The Coast Guard’s fast-response cutter Frederick Hatch will be homeported in Guam this summer, joining its sister ships Myrtle Hazard and Oliver Henry.

US and Japan ‘making progress’ on military support deal

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — Negotiators are making headway but have yet to clinch a deal over Japanese support for approximately 54,000 American troops in the country, according to the State Department.

“We continue Host Nation Support negotiations with Japan and are making progress, but there is no agreement yet,” a department spokesman at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo said in an email to Stars and Stripes. The spokesman asked not to be named because negotiations are being led by the State Department in Washington, D.C.

The allies have agreed to extend the current deal on Japanese support for U.S. troops in the country, which expires next month, according to a Kyodo news agency report.

Under the agreement, Japan would pay roughly \$1.91 billion toward the cost of utilities, labor and training for American military personnel during the 2021 fiscal year, around the same level as the previous year, Kyodo reported.

Cost-sharing talks will resume in April, the report said.

Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi discussed host nation support with newly confirmed Secretary of State Antony Blinken by phone Jan. 27, according to a Japanese government statement that day.

The pair “discussed that we would like to accelerate discussions to be able to swiftly achieve an agreement,” Motegi said in the statement.

Former President Donald Trump’s efforts to induce Japan to pay more for its defense weren’t appreciated by Japanese

people, Jeff Kingston, director of Asian studies at Temple University’s Tokyo campus, said July 19.

Trump had demanded Japan pay \$8 billion a year for hosting U.S. troops in the country, former national security adviser John Bolton wrote in his memoir, “The Room Where It Happened,” published in June.

Reports of progress in negotiations are good news for bilateral ties, Kingston said Thursday.

“Trump’s plans to quadruple the amount were damaging and exorbitant and seemed to be taking advantage of [Japan’s] vulnerabilities,” he said.

Stars and Stripes reporter Hana Kusumoto contributed to this report.
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YASUO OSAKABE/U.S. Air Force

C-130J Super Hercules assigned to the 36th Airlift Squadron at Yokota Air Base fly near Mount Fuji, Japan, May 11, 2020.

MILITARY

'Trust can be hard'

Survey finds military families less likely to take coronavirus vaccine than general population

By ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

Members of military families are less likely than the general population to take the coronavirus vaccine when they are eligible, according to a survey conducted by the military nonprofit Blue Star Families.

In December, 33% of the 674 survey respondents said they would take a coronavirus vaccine approved by the Food and Drug Administration should it become available at no cost. Meanwhile, a Gallup survey of the general U.S. population found 58% of respondents were willing to take the vaccine.

"What we've seen is that military families are expressing a lot of concern about the vaccine," said Kathy Roth-Douquet, CEO of Blue Star Families, a nonprofit that provides resources to military families while also conducting research to better understand the challenges they face. "We're seeing that people don't have a sense of trust about the vaccine. They have strong concerns about the development process and timeline."

Among the 53% of military families who responded to the survey that they would not take the vaccine, nearly three-quarters cited a distrust of the development process or timeline.

"Trust is really at the root of this issue," said Roth-Douquet, whose husband served 30 years in the Marine Corps. "Trust can be hard for military families because of the rate that we move around from place to place. You don't really have those trusted networks in your community that you've got a deep history with or that you feel like you can



JOSHUA SEYBERT/U.S. Air Force

Master Sgt. Luca Farkas, 911th Aeromedical Staging Squadron aeromedical technician, fills a syringe with a COVID-19 vaccine at the Pittsburgh International Airport Air Reserve Station, Pa., last month.

really rely on."

About 14% of families said they remain undecided, with most saying they would like more information of side effects to make that decision. For that reason, Blue Star Families coordinated a virtual town hall to allow families to ask questions directly to health experts and military leadership.

In the lead up to the town hall, more than 1,000 questions were submitted. Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, jumped straight into addressing what the survey found to be the most common concern:

the vaccine's timeline and approval process.

"The speed is completely related to the extraordinary advances in scientific platform technology for vaccines. There were no corners cut. We did not sacrifice safety, nor did we sacrifice scientific integrity," Fauci said. "That's the reason why many of you hear me every day in media saying, 'When your turn comes up, please get the vaccine. Both for your own safety, for that of your family and for the American community in general.'"

Severe side effects have been rare, just about one to six people

per 1 million, Fauci said. Even if someone has a history of allergic reactions, he said he still recommends they get the vaccine, so long as they do so in a place that can manage an adverse reaction.

"If you look at the safety of vaccines in general, the risk-to-benefit ratio of safety is about as good as you can get with any medical intervention that you give to anyone. The safety record for this, even though it's just been one year, is actually quite good," Fauci said.

As of Feb. 4, the Defense Department has administered at least one of the two doses required of the vaccine to more

than 424,000 people, according to the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Defense Department has its own tiered approach for the order in which it will vaccinate service members, families and beneficiaries. Some locations have begun offering the vaccine to beneficiaries 75 and older, said Lt. Gen. Ronald Place, director of the Defense Health Agency. Soon, he expects some locations will expand to people 65 and older.

Place said military beneficiaries do not have to wait for eligibility within the military health system for access. They can use state and local resources in their community.

For families living overseas, the Pentagon counted them in the department's vaccine requirements, he said. However, the department is only shipping vaccines made by Moderna to overseas locations and it is not approved for anyone younger than 18.

The Blue Star Families survey found even for those military families who would take the vaccine, it dropped to 18% of respondents who were willing to have their children vaccinated.

The nonprofit is planning to host another event to discuss the vaccine, Roth-Douquet said.

"We really want to be able to take our children to visit their grandparents without putting the grandparents at risk. There's lots of scenarios in which this [vaccine] is good for our community and we need to talk those through," she said.

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Kombucha inspires materials that could save troops' lives

By J.P. LAWRENCE
Stars and Stripes

Kombucha tea has inspired new Army-funded technology that may help troops carry out potentially life-saving tasks, such as detecting chemicals and other pollutants in the environment or purifying water in the field.

Engineers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Imperial College London used SCOBY — which stands for Symbiotic Culture Of Bacteria and Yeast and is a byproduct of the fermentation process used to make the fizzy, often tart beverage — to produce cellulose that can perform numerous functions.

By modifying the yeast in the SCOBY, the researchers found they could create materials that glow in the dark, purify water or change color when sensing dan-

gerous substances.

"The yeast can be designed to secrete proteins of choice," Dawanne Poree, program manager of the Army Research Office, said in a phone call. "You can decide, 'I want this to sense a particular chemical agent or toxin,' and then design the yeast to secrete the protein for that particular chemical."

The yeast can also be programmed to break down pollutants or pathogens after detecting them, a research paper published in the January issue of *Nature Materials* said.

Using SCOBY, the researchers were able to produce large amounts of cellulose, the paper said.

The most immediate use for the material could be for chemical test strips, Poree said.

The technology could also be used to "grow" materials used to make clothing and tools that soldiers require on the battlefield, one of the researchers said.

"We foresee a future where diverse materials could be grown at home or in local production facilities, using biology rather than resource-intensive centralized manufacturing," Timothy Lu, an MIT associate professor of biological engineering, said in an Army statement.

Funding for the project came from the Army Research Office, part of the Development Command Army Research Laboratory, and the Army's Institute for Soldier Nanotechnologies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

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TZU-CHIEH (ZUAY) TANG/Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Army-funded researchers used SCOBY, a byproduct of the fermentation process that produces kombucha tea, to develop tough cellulose that they say will have many battlefield applications.

MILITARY

Navy task force addresses diversity, bias

BY CAITLIN M. KENNEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A Navy task force made 56 recommendations concerning inclusion and diversity to improve the service's culture of respect and accountability, according to its report released earlier this month.

"While there still is work to be done, I am confident that this report's recommendations will help make our Navy better, and we will move forward together toward meaningful long-lasting change. Make no mistake, I am personally committed to this effort," Adm. Mike Gilday, the chief of naval operations, said in a statement.

Task Force One Navy's recommendations are grouped in five areas: recruiting; talent management and retention; professional development; innovation and science, technology, engineering and mathematics; and additional recommendations.

One is to "counter hate speech" by drafting a document that would "increase accountability and awareness of derogatory language." It is meant to empower leaders by educating them on behaviors and language that constitute hate speech and encouraging action, the report says.

Another is to establish a program of volunteer flag officers, master chief petty officers and senior civilians who would mentor service members from different backgrounds to improve or increase retention rates and advancement opportunities for personnel from underrepresented communities.

Task Force One Navy was created in July 2020 in reaction to the national uproar over the death of George Floyd and protests against police brutality and institutional racism. The group was asked to explore issues of racism, sexism and bias and how they affected the readiness of the Navy.

"We have fallen short in the



NICHOLAS CARTER/U.S. Navy

Sailors assigned to Nimitz class nuclear aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson gather before manning the rails on the flight deck of the ship.

past by excluding or limiting opportunity for people on the basis of race, sexual orientation, sexual identity, gender or creed. Our Navy must continue to remove barriers to service, and most importantly, be a shining example of a workforce centered on respect, inclusive of all," Gilday said in the statement.

Over the next six months, the task force held 20 listening sessions with sailors, and there were also more than 280 focus groups from around the Navy, according to the report.

While the final document does not include examples of real stories that were discussed, Rear Adm. Alvin Holsey, director of

the task force, said they took the empathy and respect they heard and witnessed from the sailors and incorporated that into the report.

"We saw transformation watching people in sessions hear other folks' stories. That's how powerful it was," he said. "And then respect — one of our recommendations talks to adding respect to our core values."

Among the panel's other recommendations: A standing committee should be formed to modernize the process for naming ships, buildings and streets to honor national and historic naval figures. Currently, there are ships named after the Confeder-

acy or white supremacists, such as the USS Chancellorsville and the USNS Maury.

The report also found a lack of diversity in the aviation and submarine career fields. Two of the recommendations involve reaching out to grade schools, historically Black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions to raise awareness of STEM career opportunities in fields such as submarines.

Creating an adviser for policy related to women's issues was also recommended after "significant feedback" from the listening sessions and focus groups, according to the report.

In addition to the adviser,

there would be an advisory group to provide input on such issues as uniform and grooming standards, as a way to improve retention and career progression.

The task force leadership emphasized that their work would not fade away but would continue through the Navy's larger Culture of Excellence campaign.

The campaign is focused on improving overall readiness and professionalism of sailors, and holding people accountable for their conduct and actions.

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Report: Washington nears defense cost-sharing deal with Seoul

Stars and Stripes

The United States and South Korea are just weeks away from coming together on a new cost-sharing deal for stationing 28,500 U.S. troops on the peninsula, CNN reported last week.

The report, which cited five anonymous sources familiar with the discussions, said the contract taking shape is a multiyear deal that increases Seoul's contribution by about 13%.

"The final agreement could include mandated increases in South Korea's defense budget," the report said, "as well as an understanding that Seoul will make certain military equipment purchases."

South Korea has offset the costs for hosting U.S. troops under a contract called the Special Measures Agreement since 1991. Negotiations over the amount have always been contentious, but they reached a breaking point in 2018 when

former President Donald Trump reportedly demanded up to \$5 billion per year, a fivefold increase.

Previous contracts have lasted for five years, but the allies agreed to a retroactive, one-year stopgap measure for 2019 after failing to meet the end-of-year deadline.

That deal expired on Dec. 31, 2019, eventually prompting U.S. Forces Korea to place more than 4,000 local base

workers who provide food and administrative services — nearly half of its workforce — on unpaid leave. The furlough was lifted in June after South Korea agreed to pay \$200 million for salaries through the end of this year. Another furlough looms if a deal cannot be struck.

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MILITARY

Long-range punch, light vehicles make a better tank killer

By CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

Marine Corps experiments show that lightweight vehicles mounted with long-range weapons can take out enemy tanks at a distance 15 to 20 times greater than a Marine tank could, a top general said recently.

The anti-tank mission was one of the examples cited by Lt. Gen. Eric Smith, deputy commandant for combat development and integration, for how the service is reshaping to create a “light, lethal and austere” force by the end of the decade.

Smith’s comments, made Feb. 10 at the International Armoured Vehicles Conference hosted by Defence IQ, were first reported by USNI News.

The Marine Corps began divesting its heavy tanks last year, following guidance from Commandant Gen. David Berger.

Law enforcement, cannon artillery, infantry and conventional aircraft units are also being cut or restructured, and officials expect to cut 12,000 Marines from the service’s troop strength by 2030.

It’s all in preparation for a future battlefield where U.S. forces expect to face more conventional forces with capabilities similar to their own.

To combat these “near-peer adversaries,” the Marines could employ groups of about 75 Marines on the first island chain off the coast of mainland Asia and outfitted with their own aircraft and surface ships, to maneuver quickly and keep their enemy’s resources tied up trying to hunt them down.

“In the past, you would think, ‘Well, there’s 75 Marines in location X, they’re not a threat,’” Smith said, as quoted by USNI News. But “if I can sink one of your billion-and-a-half-dollar warships with a one-and-a-half-million-dollar missile, I am a threat.”

That kind of capability “may change the calculus, if I can do that and rapidly move using things like our Joint Light Tactical Vehicle and make it incredibly hard for you to find me,” Smith said. “You have to respect that very small unit, of which we will have dozens and dozens and dozens placed strategically.”

U.S. forces have witnessed that

kind of imbalance firsthand over the past 20 years, as insurgents used cheap improvised bombs to kill or wound troops and disable their expensive hardware

Now, tiny drones that can be easily purchased and weaponized pose the greatest tactical threat to U.S. forces since the roadside bombs began proliferating, Marine Gen. Kenneth McKenzie Jr., head of U.S. Central Command, said.

A nimbler Marine Corps, capable of hit-and-run style tactics, would take away the “luxury” an enemy might have of focusing its intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance on “a few key warships or a few key larger formations who may be closing in on the area,” Smith said.

The service is fielding long-range precision weapons that can be fired from mobile platforms like the JLTV and aircraft, as well as ground-based anti-ship missiles it could use to stop enemies hundreds of miles from a piece of contested territory. That would free up Navy ships to focus on controlling the sea, Smith said.

But while experiments have shown that a JLTV could “kill armor” at far greater distances than a tank, Smith said the service didn’t decide to divest its hulking M1A1 Abrams fleet because they weren’t good tank-killers. Rather, it’s a matter of logistics.

“We can kill armor formations at longer ranges using additional and other resources without incurring a 74-ton challenge trying to get that to a shore, or to get it from the United States into the fight,” he said. “You simply can’t be there in time.”

Still, the Corps’ changes have been criticized by some tankers, such as former Marine armor officer Dan Grazier, a military fellow at the nonprofit watchdog Project on Government Oversight, who spoke to Stars and Stripes last fall about his misgivings about the redesign’s rationale.

“This whole idea of gearing the Marine Corps entirely toward fighting an island campaign against China, I think is greatly misguided, not least because the kind of conflict that envisions is extremely unlikely,” Grazier said.

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FRANCISCO DIAZ JR./U.S. Marine Corps

Marine Corps F-35B Lightning II stealth fighters fly over Wake Island in 2018.

USAF wants to know if key airfield could disappear under rising sea

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

The Air Force is spending \$1.75 million to gauge the effects of future sea-level rise at Wake Island Airfield, located on a remote Pacific atoll that is a key asset in America’s missile defense system.

The “inundation study” was contracted out by the Pacific Air Forces Regional Support Center in September and is slated for completion in March 2022, Pacific Air Forces said in a statement provided to Stars and Stripes.

“The purpose of contracting this study is to gather data and better prepare for future military construction projects,” the statement said.

Jupiter, a climate analytics firm based in San Mateo, Calif., has been subcontracted to conduct the comprehensive study that will “anticipate future sea-level rise and flooding” on the airfield in Micronesia, the company said in an announcement last week.

Wake Island is about 1,500 miles east of Guam and 2,300 miles west of the Hawaiian Islands.

The remote airfield “holds great significance to the Air Force because it serves as a trans-Pacific refueling depot for military missions in addition to being a military training and missile testing location,” the Air Force said in a news release in October.

The 9,800-foot runway — described in the news release as “the longest in the Pacific Islands” — has deteriorated after many years of use.

Roughly 500-600 aircraft use the airfield each year, the Air Force said.

Radar on Wake Island is routinely used in tests of America’s ballistic missile defense system.

“Having the data that this project will yield will enable the Air Force with strategic asset planning,” Jupiter said in its announcement. “With these data, the Air Force will be able to prepare for and mitigate anticipated consequences of severe weather events.”

Those steps could include “hardening” airfield

“With these data, the Air Force will be able to prepare for and mitigate anticipated consequences of severe weather events.”

Jupiter
climate analytics firm

facilities to withstand flooding or relocating them, Jupiter said.

The commencement of the sea-level study comes after the Air Force has already spent millions on upgrades on the airfield.

In the October news release, the Air Force said the airfield was undergoing \$87 million worth of “critical airfield construction” that began in March 2020 and was expected to be completed by this spring.

The Defense Department has been aware for years that coral reef atolls in the Pacific are threatened by sea-level rise due to climate change.

A Pentagon-backed study by the U.S. Geological Survey completed in 2017 analyzed risks of rising sea level to the Marshall Islands, which are home to the Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site. The study concluded that in the near term, those islands would be dealing with larger waves that crash farther inland. In the longer term, some islands could be permanently inundated.

The study said that further analysis was needed on effects of rising sea level on Wake Island, which is roughly 600 miles north of the Marshall Islands, because it has a different coral reef ecosystem.

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MILITARY

Patches, coins note pandemic's impact on troops overseas

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

The coronavirus pandemic is being immortalized in a colorful array of unofficial military patches and challenge coins sold near U.S. bases in South Korea.

Some patches display biohazard symbols or virus clusters, one shows a bottle of beer named "Covid 19 Extra" and many feature logos for military units stationed on the peninsula.

One challenge coin — tokens often handed out by commanders to recognize troops' good work — features the U.S. and South Korean flags, along with the phrases "Katshi Kapshida" (Go Together) and "I Survived COVID-19."

Over the past year in South Korea, 500 U.S. service members contracted COVID-19, the potentially fatal respiratory disease caused by the coronavirus.

Most tested positive after they stepped off an airplane from the United States.

Other virus-related morale patches are relatively simple.

A photograph, apparently of a Pacific Air Forces airman posted on Facebook recently, shows a patch that reads "Vaccinated."

Air Force rules about dress and appearance provided by public affairs officials state that morale patches are not authorized on uniforms.

Unofficial patches have been sold at bazaars on bases in Iraq and Afghanistan in recent decades, however, and deployed troops have been known to wear them on the battlefield.

For example, a U.S. soldier supporting Iraqi troops during the Battle of Mosul in November 2016 was spotted wearing a "Hippie Killer" patch on his helmet.

The Velcro era means it's easy to swap out patches, said Cord Scott, a professor of history, government and film for the University of Maryland Global Campus — Asia, who is based in South Korea.

"I know that some units are trying to get away from things like the Punisher patches (which depict a skull), but for the COVID patches, these are things you might see on a backpack rather than on uniforms," he said in a telephone interview.

The pandemic patches are a time marker, Scott added.

"You're showing you were in a specific unit at a specific time



Facebook

A security forces airman wears a "vaccinated" morale patch in this screenshot from the popular Air Force amn/nc/snco Facebook page.

and went through something," he said.

In Japan, for example, challenge coins were used to commemorate Operation Tomodachi, the U.S. military relief effort following the 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami.

Coins featuring images of President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un were minted in South Korea in 2018 in anticipation of one of their meetings.

Unit emblems and symbols make collector's items of military patches and coins.

"Then you throw the coro-

navirus pandemic on top of it," said Scott, who said he has his own stash of patches and recently sent some to the Pritzker Military Museum & Library in Chicago.

The coronavirus patches will likely be displayed in museums years from now, he said.

"The patches and coins are also significant, as they reflect a time which 100 years from now may not be politically correct or understood without context," he said.

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SETH ROBSON/Stars and Stripes

This challenge coin features the U.S. and South Korean flags, along with the phrases "Katshi Kapshida" (Go Together) and "I Survived COVID-19."

Delayed by pandemic, US-India exercise will kick off in 2021

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

The coronavirus pandemic stymied much of the one-to-one training the Army undertakes with partner nations last year, and the annual Yudh Abhyas exercise in India was no exception.

The exercise had been slated to run in October but concerns over spreading the virus led to its postponement until last week, when roughly 250 soldiers of the 1-2 Stryker Brigade Combat Team joined the same number of Indian troops for two weeks of overdue training.

"We are sort of making up for lost time from when we would have originally been doing this back in October," Maj. Spencer Garrison, a brigade spokesman, said Thursday during a phone interview from Mahajan Field Firing Range in Rajasthan, about 100 miles west of New Delhi.

This is the first bilateral exercise of the year for U.S. Army Pacific after a rocky 2020.

"As soon as we're able to start getting

back into these kinds of combined bilateral exercises, this is one of those relationships that we absolutely want to make sure to advance as soon as we can in a safe way," Garrison said. "Having this exercise with India, in particular, I think is a kind of testament to the importance of the relationship that we're continuing to foster with them, placing them as a priority."

This is the 16th iteration of the annual exercise, whose venue switches between America and India each year. The two countries have deepened their defense ties in recent years.

Indian apprehension over China's growing military might and its desire to dominate the region has bolstered U.S.-India military cooperation.

A clash between Indian and Chinese troops this summer on the disputed border between the two countries left at least 20 Indian soldiers dead.

An informal grouping of India, the U.S., Japan and Australia — known as the Quad — was reenergized in 2020 over the issue

of China.

The current Yudh Abhyas, which ends Feb. 21, is divided into a command post exercise and a field training drill.

The field training involves about a "company-plus" each from the U.S. and Indian armies, Garrison said.

"That's a lot of your traditional kind of small-unit tactics and shared combined training like room clearing, things like that," he said. "It's kind of heavy on counterinsurgency, a counterterrorism focus, but overall hitting a lot of broad skill sets — like weapons familiarization, sharing tactics across the board"

The command and staff of the 1-2 Stryker Brigade will join the Indian Army's 170th Brigade for the command post drill, he said.

The brigade transported about a half-dozen vehicles from Joint Base Lewis-McCord, Wash., to India, including name-sake Strykers.

The Indians brought BMPs, which are amphibious-capable tracked vehicles used

by infantry.

"We're seeing some of the ways the vehicles are similar or different," Garrison said.

U.S. soldiers were required to test negative for the coronavirus before deploying for the exercise, and the Indian Army administered a second test upon their arrival, Garrison said.

"So, a lot of those uncomfortable nasal swabs in the course of just a couple of days," he said with a laugh.

The firing range is remote, with arid and desert-like terrain, which serves as a de facto quarantine.

"When we flew into the nearest airport, it was still about a three-hour bus ride to get up here," Garrison said.

"Out in the middle of nowhere," he said, "you can see where it would definitely help minimize contacts and keep the training audience safe."

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MILITARY

Japanese vending machines offer coronavirus tests

BY HANA KUSUMOTO
AND AKIFUMI ISHIKAWA
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — Vending machines on almost any street corner in Japan sell everything from sodas to ice cream and warm noodles.

Now consumers in Tokyo and a neighboring prefecture can find machines vending coronavirus test kits.

Vending machines in five locations in Tokyo and Kanagawa prefecture are selling polymerase chain reaction, or PCR, test kits for about \$43.

Tokyo, Kanagawa and two other prefectures that comprise the greater Tokyo metro area are under a state of emergency until March 7 due to a winter surge in new coronavirus cases. The surge was the worst of the pandemic thus far and is in decline.

The vending machines, which can be found near Shibuya, Osa-ki, Kanda and Ofuna stations as well as at Jyomyoin temple near Uguisudani, were installed to encourage people to take the test regularly, according to the website for Takenoko ENT Clinic, which provides the kits and analyzes the actual tests.

Kits were nearly sold out at

the Osaki machine earlier this month, while the Shibuya and Ofuna machines were close to fully stocked.

Each kit comes with a sample container, zip-close bags, an informational form and an envelope to send the sample to the clinic in neighboring Saitama prefecture, according to the People vending machine company's website.

After buying the kit, the subjects must deposit a saliva sample in the container, mix it with a saline solution to prevent it from hardening and mail the sample to the clinic.

The test subjects register their information and kit number on the clinic website. Within 24 hours of receiving the test sample, the clinic sends the subjects a website address where they can find their results, according to the clinic.

If the result is positive, the clinic will call the subject directly and also report the result to the clinic's local health care center, the clinic said on its website. The subject will be asked to stay home until contacted by a local health care center.

Some limits apply. Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19, the



AKIFUMI ISHIKAWA/Stars and Stripes

People walk past a vending machine selling polymerase chain reaction kits, which test for the coronavirus, near Ofuna Station in Kanagawa prefecture, Japan, on Feb. 4.

coronavirus respiratory disease, should not take the vending machine test; neither should anyone who has traveled in the previous two weeks or has been in contact with someone already infected with the virus.

The clinic encourages anyone with symptoms or who has been

in close contact with an infected person to see a health care professional.

Its large testing machine allows the clinic to provide tests much cheaper than other providers, according to the clinic.

"Let's take tests once every two weeks to protect ourselves

and the people you care about until the vaccines become widely available," the clinic stated on its website.

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Army launches system to help curb abandoned vehicles

BY WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — All Army installations on Oahu Island will now require soldiers, civilian employees and their family members to register vehicles they drive onto bases, a policy aimed at reducing the number of them abandoned on

installations.

Army Garrison Hawaii's Directorate of Emergency Services announced the new vehicle registration system, Command Sgt. Maj. Mike Oliver said on Facebook Live.

"Effective immediately, all personnel gaining access to the post will need to register their

vehicle," he said. "This will help to decrease the number of abandoned vehicles that we have in our community.

"Our military police and security guards will enforce this new policy starting May 1," he said.

The policy affects Schofield Barracks, Wheeler Army Air-

field, Fort Shafter and all housing owned or managed by the Army.

The policy will have little effect on base visitors because they are already required to register vehicles when requesting a pass.

Abandoned vehicles have long been a chronic problem on Oahu, both on military installations and public streets. Army Garrison Hawaii devotes a webpage to the problem, describing abandoned vehicles as "a major issue here in Hawaii."

Dumping a vehicle in Hawaii is a crime, and active-duty soldiers would face prosecution under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, the page said.

Any soldier out-processing from an Army installation will be required to show proof of "shipping, selling or disposal" of registered vehicles, Oliver said.

"Most soldiers will register

their vehicles with their units, and they'll be able to register their families' vehicles as well there," he said.

"Civilians, contractors, employees or anyone else with business on the installation will be able to register vehicles as an individual," he said. They will be able to register vehicles at the visitors control center at LelaHua Golf Course adjacent to Schofield or at the military police station at Fort Shafter, he said.

The city and county of Honolulu typically removes 2,000 to 3,000 abandoned cars from city streets each year.

Honolulu began offering disposal of junked cars for free several years ago in an attempt to reduce the number abandoned.

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