

Veteran Owned Business
Hagatna / Tumon / Dededo / Mangilao
ORDER ONLINE
JAMAICANGRILL.COM



STARS AND STRIPES

Community Publication

GUAM

VOLUME 19 NO. 24

JUNE 23 – JULY 6, 2025

SUBMIT STORIES TO: GUAM@STRIPE.COM • GUAM.STRIPE.COM • [FACEBOOK.COM/STRIPEPACIFIC](https://www.facebook.com/stripespacific)

FREE

**SHARE YOUR
PIECE OF PARADISE
WITH US**

Stars and Stripes is asking readers to write about their own piece of paradise. Yes, that means you! Our annual Destination Paradise magazine highlights must-see travel spots across the Pacific – and your bit of paradise could be included in our 2025-26 edition that hits the streets on Pacific bases in September. Submit your story and photos to paradise@stripes.com by **July 15**. We'll make you famous! Check out our previous Destination Paradise magazines

INSIDE INFO

FREEDOM ROCKS Festival
JULY 4TH
POLARIS POINT
EVENT STARTS @ 3PM
OPEN BASE EVENT - OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
JOHNNY SUITE & CHANTE LIVES!

**NBG - POLARIS POINT TO
HOST FREEDOM ROCKS
FEST JULY 4**
PAGE 12

**OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
FOR ALL YOUR
DIVING NEEDS**
(871) 472-6321
WWW.MDAGUAM.COM

Q&A with dive instructor

DIVING ON GUAM

Pages 8-10

12 best dive sites

How to get certified

THANK YOU GUAM!

KFC 50 YEARS

EAT AT **KFC** & GET A CHANCE TO
**WIN A NEW TACOMA TRUCK
AND OTHER GREAT PRIZES!**

KFC "it's finger lickin' good"

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

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

STARS & STRIPES

80 YEARS

1945 - 2025

PACIFIC

Max D. Lederer Jr.

Publisher

Laura Law

Chief Operating Officer

Lt. Col. Marci Hoffman

Commander

Scott Foley

Revenue Director

Chris Verigan

Engagement Director

Marie Woods

Publishing and Media Design Director

Chris Carlson

Publishing and Media Design Manager

Eric Lee

Revenue Manager

Kentaro Shimura

Production Manager

Rie Miyoshi

Engagement Manager

Denisse Rauda

Publishing and Media Design Editor

Publishing and Media Design Writers

Shoji Kudaka

Hyemin Lee

Luis Samayoa

Takahiro Takiguchi

Layout Designers

Yuko Okazaki

Kayoko Shimoda

Yurika Usui

Multimedia Consultants

Max Genao

Doug Johnson

Hans Simpson

Chae Pang Yi

Benjamin Yoo

Gianni Youn

Robert Zuckerman

Graphic Designers

Mamoru Inoue

Kazumi Hasegawa

Yukiyo Oda

Yosuke Tsuji

Sales Support

Naoko Asato

Tomoyo Hoshino

Yeseul Kim

Dong Ju Lee

Yoko Noro

Yusuke Sato

Kanna Suzuki

Saori Tamanaha

Toshie Yoshimizu

Distributors

Joe Guzman

For feedback and inquiries,

contact Customerhelp@Stripes.com

To place an ad, call

DSN 315-229-3224 (Doug Johnson)

or 315-229-3174 (Eric Lee)

johnson.douglas@stripes.com

or lee.eric@stripes.com

A Japan Air Self-Defense Force military working dog handler commands his dog to bite a simulated suspect.

Staff Sgt. Russell Postmus, right, responds to a simulated noise complaint during a Pacific Air Forces Advanced Combat Skills Assessment K-9 competition.

Andersen hosts PACAF K-9 contest

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
STAFF SGT. JASMINE BARNES,
36TH WING

Andersen Air Force Base, Guam – A Pacific Air Forces Advanced Combat Skills Assessment K-9 competition was hosted by military working dog instructors assigned to the 736th Security Forces Squadron May 19 - 22, 2025, here.

The competition was designed to sharpen combat readiness, enhance interoperability and forge stronger bonds through realistic, high-intensity security forces scenarios in direct support of being prepared to meet challenges across the Indo-Pacific theatre.

Contestants from Republic of

Korea, Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, and Japan, to include Japan Air Self-Defense Force, competed for four days to take the crown for PACAF's best military working dog team.

"MWD teams were evaluated on the handlers' ability to utilize their dogs effectively," said U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Michael Madeira, 736 SFS MWD instructor and competition judge. "They were evaluated on patrol and detection skills during a series of field problems, and they executed a variation of different combat agility events with their dogs."

Teams participated in a simulated stress fire event, dismounted detection, controlled aggression

and more.

"We had different dog teams come in from across PACAF," Madeira added. "Each base sent their best, which made it really hard for us, as instructors, to judge them. Everybody did phenomenal."

The weather played a challenging factor during the competition for one of the contestants.

"The weather was definitely tough and played a factor for a lot of our dogs including those who operate in hot environments," said Staff Sgt. Santos, 673rd Security Forces Squadron military working dog handler assigned to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska. "The most challenging part of the competition was definitely doing

the ruck up Tarague Beach here, but we all finished really strong."

As Madeira and his counterparts plan for the 2026 competition, he offers future participants some advice to prepare.

"For next year, I'm looking forward to changing some things up, adding some new elements and taking things away from this year," said Madeira. "Prep yourselves, prep your dogs and dig into the canine regulations that we have."

The winners of the 2025 PACAF ACSA K-9 competition are Staff Sgt. Russell Postmus and MWD Baro assigned to the 647th Security Forces Squadron out of Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii.

Your Service, Our Thanks.

Bundle your plans for unbeatable savings — exclusively for Active-Duty Service Members and Veterans.

Bundle more, save more!

LINK DUO

Mobile + Home Internet

\$184.50/mo*

Regular price \$205/mo.

Unlimited Premier

Unlimited

Local talk, text & data

U.S. long distance talk & text

Mobile hotspot

Internet Extreme Pro

1 GIG DOWNLOAD

10 Mbps UPLOAD

2 SuperPod ACs INCLUDED

LINK TRIO

Mobile + Home Internet + Entertainment

\$262.79/mo*

Regular price \$291.99/mo.

Add-on dTV+ & make it a TRIO!

dTV+ Expanded Pass

50+ HD Channels (including dTV+ Basic Pass)

No equipment fees

Easy to use

Rewind & catch up on shows from up to 3 days ago

2 SuperPod ACs INCLUDED

671-688-CARE | docomopacific.com

*All offers are available for active-duty service members and veterans residing in serviceable locations. 12-month contract is required for Internet and Unlimited FLOW Premier plans. DOCOMO PACIFIC reserves the right to change promotional details and duration at any time. Additional installation fees and conditions may apply. While supplies last.

docomo pacific

Better Together

America's Best Deserve Our Best.

Exclusive Offer for Active Duty Military and Families



Live Limitless Plan
\$20^{OFF}

Get our best plan for only **\$65/mo.**
when you bring your own phone.
No contract required!

Visit our NEX and AAFES BX locations today!



Call us at
671-644-4482



Visit us at
www.gta.net



Available to active duty military service members and their dependents. BYOP sign-ups only. Promotion applies to Live Unlimited wireless plan. No term commitment required. Service members and dependents must show a valid active military ID or military dependent ID to avail of the promo. Visit gta.net for more information.



The crew of the B-29 Superfortress "Colleen" in Cuba after their first over water flight. Capt. Carl Bauer, center.



Liz and J.T. Pianetta, family members of Capt. Carl Bauer, inspect the wreckage at the B-29 "Colleen" crash site.

Family of B-29 ‘Colleen’ captain visits crash site



Photo of a B-29 Superfortress named "Colleen" landing on North Field, now called Andersen Air Force Base.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
STAFF SGT. PEDRO TENORIO,
36TH WING

On June 22, 1945, during the closing days of World War II, a B-29 Superfortress named "Colleen" crashed at North Field, now Andersen Air Force Base, Guam. Assigned to the 458th Bombardment Squadron, 330th Bombardment Group, 20th Air Force, the aircraft (tail number 42-93955) had been en route to Tamashima, Japan, on a bombing mission when engine issues forced the crew to abort. Piloted by Capt. Carl R. Bauer, the B-29 attempted to return to base, but encountered poor weather which caused a misaligned approach as well as masked obstacles in the

way of the runway. Ultimately, after narrowly avoiding a red lighted pole of the radar station, the left wing dropped and Colleen and her crew dove over the cliff line and into the cliffside jungles. Of the eleven crew members aboard, only one member survived. 2nd Lt. Wallace F. Howard who was the tail gunner. The crash left a deep mark on the wartime air base community. Decades later, in 1997, remnants of the wreckage were discovered in the jungle. Among the wreckage, the remains of Capt. Bauer & his co-pilot, 1st Lt. James D. Gilbert. Their remains were recovered and laid to rest with full military honors in 1998. Now, 80 years later, a family arrived on Guam to visit this

historic site and pay their respects to their uncle. Mrs. Liz Pianetta and her three children, Caitlin, Matt, and JT, arrived to Guam in April and visited Andersen AFB to honor the memory of Capt. Carl R. Bauer. Her father, Bauer's younger brother, had hoped to follow in Carl's footsteps by joining the Air Corps, but by the time he was enlisting, the need for new pilots had diminished. He instead served in mainland Japan during the occupation and administration of the Allies after the war. In 2002, Liz's father and Carl's daughter, Colleen (name-sake and nose art of the aircraft), made the journey to Guam to see the crash site. More than two decades later, Liz felt it was time for her own visit. "I looked at it as a pilgrimage almost," Liz shared. "I couldn't come in 2002 and I have always wanted to. My uncle and my dad are gone now, so I am the oldest of my generation in our family." The path down to the Colleen crash site is one of the more challenging hikes on Andersen AFB. Overgrown terrain and steep

grades lead to the secluded area where wreckage still lies where it fell. The trek was arduous, but worth it for the family. "It's really hard to think about how big the site was," said Caitlin Pianetta, great niece of Capt. Bauer. "[Debris] was everywhere and so spread apart. It was nice to go with my brother, who is a pilot, because he could tell us what the pieces were. It was just an amazing experience." The Pianetta family hopes this visit won't be the last for their family. The legacy of the crew of B-29 Colleen remains a vital part of their heritage. One that will continue to be passed down through stories, pictures, and shared experiences. If you're looking to hike to the crash site or explore other historical locations on Andersen AFB, be advised: these trails can be strenuous and hazardous, with some slopes approaching 60 degrees. We recommend reaching out to experienced guides and preparing appropriately in large groups. As well as remember to be respectful as these paths are not just beautiful landscapes, but also places connected to history.

“I looked at it as a pilgrimage almost. I couldn’t come in 2002 and I have always wanted to. My uncle and my dad are gone now, so I am the oldest of my generation in our family.”

- Liz Pianetta

Remembering the crew

- The crew of the Colleen fought, served, and were laid to rest on Guam. We remember them:
- Capt. Carl R. Bauer - Pilot – San Pedro, CA
 - 1st Lt. James D. Gilbert - Co-Pilot – Knoxville, TN
 - 1st Lt. Jett W. Foster - Bombardier – Charlotte, NC
 - Sgt. Elmer Kalman - R. Gunner – Kenil, NJ
 - 2nd Lt. Wallace F. Howard - T. Gunner – Survived
 - Sgt. Ralph W. Dugan - Radio Operator – Festus, MO
 - 2nd Lt. Leslie A. Evans Jr. - Radar Operator – Wichita Falls, TX
 - MSgt. Luther M. Justice - Flt Engineer – Manning, SC
 - 2nd Lt. Gordon E. Kimball - Navigator – Ventura, CA
 - Sgt. Richard A. Morel - L. Gunner – Brooklyn, NY
 - Sgt. Donald A. Olson - C.F.C. Gunner – Beloit, WI

JOIN THE TEAM!

NOW HIRING

SEND YOUR RESUME TO:
CHANWOOCORP@GMAIL.COM
OR VISIT ONE OF OUR STORES







Fastest and Most Reliable Shipping To and From the U.S. West Coast

Matson provides the capacity and versatility to transport all types of containerized, roll-on/roll-off, and flat rack cargo. We offer the fastest transit time from the U.S. West Coast to Guam, Saipan, Tinian, Yap, Palau, and Kwajalein. For more than 25 years, our personal, commercial, and construction customers have counted on us to deliver their goods reliably and on time. Our online technology allows you to easily schedule and track your shipment along the journey from any personal device. Speak with our shipping experts at (671) 475-5961 or visit matson.com to schedule your next shipment.

Matson.

TO FRIDAYS

DISCOVER
THAT FRIDAYS FEELING

TUMON, GUAM

Coast Guard officer lauded for advancing ocean conservation

BY CWO SARA MUIR,
U.S. COAST GUARD FORCES
MICRONESIA / SECTOR GUAM

In the vast expanse of the Pacific, where ocean currents weave intricate patterns and marine life sustains millions, the battle against Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing (IUU-F) stands as a critical mission for global sustainability. At the forefront of this effort is Lt. Brian Maffucci, a U.S. Coast Guard officer whose innovative leadership and strategic vision earned him the prestigious Captain Quentin R. Walsh Award. This accolade, named after a Coast Guard hero whose groundbreaking work in the 1930s helped save whale populations from extinction, celebrates exceptional contributions to the Coast Guard's Living Marine Resources (LMR) and counter-IUU-F missions. Maffucci's work as the IUU-F Operational Planner at Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam (CGFM/SG) since July 2022 exemplifies the award's spirit, advancing peace and prosperity in the Oceania region through tireless dedication.

IUU fishing in the Pacific

IUU fishing poses a dire threat to the Pacific's ecological and economic stability. Spanning millions of square nautical miles, the region supports some of the world's

most biodiverse marine ecosystems and provides livelihoods for coastal communities. Yet, illegal fishing depletes fish stocks, undermines food security, and fuels economic losses estimated at billions annually. Unreported catches evade scientific assessments, making sustainable management challenging, while unregulated fishing disrupts ecosystems, often targeting vulnerable species. In the Pacific, where nations like the Republic of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands rely on fisheries for survival, IUU-F threatens not just marine life but the cultural and economic fabric of entire communities.

For the U.S. Coast Guard, combatting IUU-F aligns with long-term strategic goals of fostering peace and prosperity in the Pacific by promoting maritime security, upholding international law, and supporting regional partners.

New role, lasting impact

In the last three years, the creation of the IUU-F coordinator position

at CGFM/SG marked a shift in the Coast Guard's approach to this challenge. Covering a 1.9 million square nautical mile area of responsibility, the role demands strategic oversight, international collaboration, and operational ingenuity. Lt. Maffucci stepped into this position with a wealth of experience, having served as an intelligence specialist, an instructor at Training Center Yorktown, and a strategic briefer at U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters. His master's degree from the National Intelligence University further equipped him to tackle the complexities of IUU-F.

At the forefront of this effort is Lt. Brian Maffucci, a U.S. Coast Guard officer whose innovative leadership and strategic vision earned him the prestigious Captain Quentin R. Walsh Award.

Maffucci's impact was immediate and far-reaching. As a significant force behind CGFM/SG's maritime law enforcement operations, he orchestrated initiatives that strengthen maritime domain awareness and foster international partnerships. One standout achievement came during a multifaceted support mission in Palauan waters, where an HC-130 Hercules airplane and crew from Air Station Barbers Point in Hawai'i sighted over 100 fish aggregating devices



Lt. Brian Maffucci gives an interview to members of the crew from the Korea Coast Guard training ship KCG 3011 Badaro after a subject matter exchange on fisheries and maritime law enforcement aboard Badaro. Photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Yandel Lopez, U.S. Coast Guard

(FADs)—tools often used illegally to attract fish.

Leveraging his authority as a Foreign Disclosure Representative, Maffucci swiftly authorized the release of critical location data to the Palauan government. This action enhanced Palau's ability to monitor and protect its waters, directly bolstering regional security and economic stability.

Building bridges

Maffucci's influence extends beyond operations to education and diplomacy. During a visit by the Korea Coast Guard, he delivered a compelling presentation to over 75 cadets, highlighting IUU-F trends, U.S. strategies, and the value of bilateral agreements. His insights not only educated future maritime leaders but also strengthened ties between the U.S. and Korea coast

guards. Following the visit, Maffucci conducted a video interview on the importance of international partnerships and global fish stocks, now used as training material by the Korea Coast Guard. This effort underscores his commitment to building a global network of allies united against IUU-F.

As one of two U.S. Coast Guard representatives on the Mariana Trench Monument Advisory Council, Maffucci further amplified his impact. His votes on key council positions and contributions to the Monument Management Plan helped protect one of the Pacific's most iconic natural wonders. By integrating IUU-F strategies into broader conservation efforts, he ensures the Coast Guard's mission aligns with global environmental goals.

You Could Get 20,000 Bonus Points With Your Summer Purchases!

Start the summer with a **More Rewards American Express® Credit Card**, and you could earn **20,000 bonus points** when you **spend \$2,000** within the **first 90 days** of account opening.¹

Plus, you can get a one-time \$98 statement credit when you purchase an **annual Walmart+ Membership**.²

With More Rewards, you can also enjoy:



3X Points at Restaurants & on Food Delivery³



3X Points at Supermarkets³



3X Points on Gas & Transit³



Travel Discounts & Perks

Plus, earn **1X points** on all other purchases.³

Apply today!

Visit navyfederal.org/MoreRewards.

**NAVY
FEDERAL**
Credit Union
Our Members Are the Mission

Navy Federal Credit Union is federally insured by NCUA.¹ Offer valid for cardholders issued new Navy Federal More Rewards American Express® credit card accounts. To be eligible for the 20,000 points offer, you must make \$2,000 or more in eligible purchases within 90 days of account opening. Eligible purchases are purchases for goods and services, minus returns and other credits. Eligible purchases do not include fees, interest charges, balance transfers, gambling, convenience checks, cash advances, or other cash-equivalents (e.g., money orders, gift cards, prepaid cards). Please allow up to 8 weeks after the 90-day period for the 20,000 points to post to your rewards balance. Account must be open and not in default at the time the 20,000 points are scheduled to post to your rewards balance. Limit of one promotional offer at account opening. Offer valid for accounts applied for between 4/1/25 and 1/1/26.
²One-time statement credit of \$98 when you pay \$49 or more for an annual Walmart+ membership. Excludes monthly Walmart+ membership. Annual Walmart+ membership must be purchased within one year from your Navy Federal More Rewards American Express® Card account opening date to receive the one-time statement credit. Please allow up to 30 days after the annual Walmart+ membership fee posts to your account for the \$98 credit to post. Your annual Walmart+ membership will auto-renew annually following enrollment, and your credit or debit card on file will be charged for an additional term at the fee(s) in effect at the time. You may cancel your annual Walmart+ membership by calling Walmart Customer Care at 800-924-9206 or through your Walmart account. Walmart is a registered trademark of Walmart Apollo, LLC. Navy Federal More Rewards American Express® Cards earn 3 points for every \$1 of eligible purchases made for gas, transit, restaurants, food delivery, and supermarkets, and 1 point for every \$1 of other eligible purchases. Eligible purchases are purchases for goods and services, minus returns and other credits. Eligible purchases do not include fees, interest charges, balance transfers, gambling, convenience checks, cash advances, or other cash-equivalents (e.g., money orders, gift cards, prepaid cards). Merchants are assigned codes by payment networks based on what they primarily sell. We rely on this information to identify gas, transit, restaurant, food delivery, and supermarket purchases. If the purchase is not identified as a gas, transit, restaurant, food delivery, or supermarket purchase, it will not receive additional points. For example, purchases for transit that are identified as railway, ferries/water trip, taxi, limousines, bus lines, charters, tour buses, tolls, road/bridge fees, and parking/lots will receive 3 points for every \$1 spent. However, purchases at restaurants located within another establishment (e.g., hotel, casino, commissary, grocery store, event venue), and purchases for gas at superstores, supermarkets, and warehouse clubs, may earn 1 point per \$1 spent because they typically are not assigned codes identifying them as restaurant or gas purchases. For more information, view the More Rewards American Express® Card Program Description at navyfederal.org. The Navy Federal More Rewards American Express® Card is issued and administered by Navy Federal Credit Union. American Express® is a federally registered service mark of American Express and is used by the issuer pursuant to a license. © 2025 Navy Federal NFCU 14496 (4-25)

DON DON DONKI

VILLAGE OF DONKI

CELEBRATE FREEDOM & FAMILY WITH US!

From the 4th of July to Liberation Day, shop seasonal favorites, summer must-haves, and enter for a chance to win big in our in-store giveaways!



DON DON DONKI OPEN DAILY 7 AM – 1 AM

DON DON DONKI Guam is your go-to destination for fresh groceries, quick meals, home essentials, and unique Japanese finds—all under one roof! With 25,000 items from Japan, the U.S., and PPIH Group stores worldwide, there's something for everyone. Visit us today!



PROUDLY SERVING THOSE WHO SERVE!

SENIOR DISCOUNT (55+)

EVERY MONDAY • 7 AM – 1 PM

Get **5% OFF** your total purchase at DON DON DONKI Guam.

*Must present a valid ID to avail discount. Does not apply to alcohol, tobacco products, and select promotional items.

MILITARY DISCOUNT

EVERY WEDNESDAY • 9 AM – 9 PM

Get **5% OFF** your total purchase at DON DON DONKI Guam.

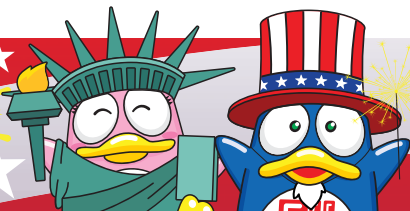
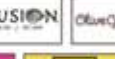
*Must present a valid ID to avail discount. Does not apply to alcohol, tobacco products, and select promotional items.



OPEN DAILY 10 AM – 10 PM
*Individual Store Hours May Vary

FOODHALL

Experience the best of dining and shopping at the Village of DONKI FOODHALL!



LIBERATION DAY SWEEPSTAKES

PROMO PERIOD: JUNE 1 - JULY 19 (3 PM)

Terms and Conditions

1. Receive one entry form with every purchase of ANY 2 ELIGIBLE KINGFORD CHARCOAL PRODUCTS (4 varieties available). Multiple entries are allowed. A valid proof of purchase (receipt) must be attached to each entry form.
2. Only final sales of eligible Kingford charcoal items qualify for this promotion.
3. Winners will be picked and announced via Air Raffle, and prizes will be distributed at the INFORMATION CENTER ON SATURDAY, JULY 19TH AT 3 PM.
4. Must be present to win.

1 Lucky Winner will receive a BBQ GRILL SET



ELIGIBLE PRODUCTS

WIN THE ULTIMATE HOME BAR SET

ONE (1) LUCKY WINNER WILL BRING HOME A BUDWEISER PUB TABLE SET WITH BAR STOOLS AND A COUNTERTOP FRIDGE!

PROMO PERIOD: MAY 26 – JULY 20, 2025



HOW TO ENTER

1. Buy any Budweiser Family 12-pack at DON DON DONKI Guam.
2. Receive 1 entry form per 12-pack purchased.
3. Drop your completed form at the DON DON DONKI Customer Service Counter.

Terms and conditions may apply. See store for more details.

READY FOR THE GRILL, TABLE, AND FIREWORKS!



From BBQ must-haves and ready-to-serve platters to everyday essentials — we've got the little things that make your gathering smooth and stress-free.



Discover a selection of Japanese beers and liquor, along with a variety of popular international and US beers and brews.

DOWNLOAD THE DONKI APP AND BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

Earn points, snag exclusive member-only deals and turn your savings into cash coupons. It's free, it's fun, and it's made just for YOU!



DONKI

Google play

Available on the iPhone App Store

FOLLOW US FOR UPDATES!



DON DON DONKI Guam



donki_gu



www.villageofdonki.com • www.dondondonki.com/gu

12 best dive

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
THE GUAM GUIDE



Tokai Maru and SMS Cormoran

Perhaps the most well known dive sites on Guam, this combination of wrecks from two different world wars is the only such dive site in the world. Both wrecks are unique dives on their own, but a chance to touch both at the same time is a memorable achievement for any diver's bucket list.



The Blue Hole

Considered to be Guam's signature natural feature dive, the Blue Hole is a crevice that opens into the ocean floor off Orote Peninsula. The dive begins at 50' and lets out at 135'. The visibility in this area can be an incredible 100'+. Look out for large tuna, unicorn fish, and reef sharks on this beautiful blue ocean dive.



11-Mile Reef

More experienced divers should check out this deepwater ocean site. Eleven miles off the coast of Guam, the ocean floor rises to around 100 feet creating an oasis of sea life. You're likely to spot reef sharks in these exceptionally clear waters.



Cocos Island

Often done as a drift dive, ride the currents as you pass over fish-filled coral beds off the east and west coasts of Cocos Island. Keep an eye out for turtles, spotted eagle rays, and white tip reef sharks. Like many of the dives further off the coast, the visibility here is much clearer than at reefs closer to Guam, so bring your camera.

VIEW VIDEO!!

Shows the process and rules for getting SCUBA



How to get certified for scuba diving

BY PEGGY PIXLEY,
THE GUAM GUIDE

The island of Guam is unique for its cultural, historical, and ecological features. Located in the Pacific Ocean and neighboring the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam is famous for its warm, crystal-clear, waters which are perfect for an array of water sports, especially SCUBA diving. Guam's SCUBA industry stands out as being affordable and accessible. Whether you're looking for a beach or boat dive, being near the ocean makes them a breeze to conduct. Historical wrecks and beautiful reefs are just a short drive or boat ride away, offering incredible underwater adventures that won't break the bank. Here are several things you should know about getting dive certified on island.

SCUBA GEAR

SCUBA is an acronym for self-contained breathing apparatus. It refers to a system of equipment that makes it possible to stay underwater longer than while free-diving and explore deeper than while snorkeling. You will learn the more technical components of your gear during certification courses, but the standard equipment consists of:

- ☐ BCD (Buoyancy Control/Compensator Device)
- ☐ Regulator
- ☐ Mask
- ☐ Boots
- ☐ Fins
- ☐ Weight belt and weights
- ☐ Air tank



During your courses, the dive shop will provide rental accommodation for the required gear. This is usually a small fee included with your certification cost. Going into your course, you need to know your shoe size, weight, and clothing size to get a proper fit for your gear. This will also account for how much weight your instructor will have you attach to your weight belt on the dive. It may take a few dives to know how much weight works best for you.

On Guam, it is common for wetsuits to be an optional choice due to the warm temperatures of the water. However, keep in mind that it does get colder the deeper you are projected to dive and while performing a dive at night. If you choose not to opt for a wetsuit, the best thing to wear is a rash guard that can protect you from the sun and help prevent chaffing from your BCD. Your preferences on gear will come to you over time after trial and error as you grow as a diver. There are variations of fin sizes and shapes, styles of masks, lengths of dive boots, and so much more.

Check out these dive shops!

GUAM TROPICAL
DIVE STATION



AXE MURDERER
TOURS/SCUBA GUAM
DIVE SHOP



MICRONESIAN
DIVERS
ASSOCIATION (MDA)

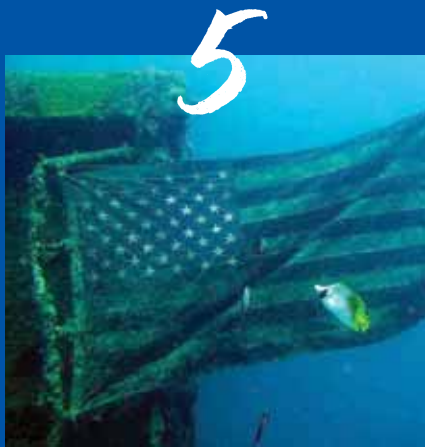


PADI DIVE SHOPS



Dives on Guam

BY PEYTON ROBERTS,
M GUIDE



American Tanker

Most shipwrecks lie in fairly deep waters. But resting on the south side of the Apra Harbor jetty, this water barge turned artificial reef starts at 50', making it a great beginner wreck dive. Stop to take your picture with the American flag, a stunning site under water.



Gun Beach

Often referred to as "the best shore dive on Guam," Gun Beach is a great place to spot turtles, rays, and octopus. Follow the pipes out from the shore through the breakwater for a safe entry and exit past the reef line.



Coral Gardens

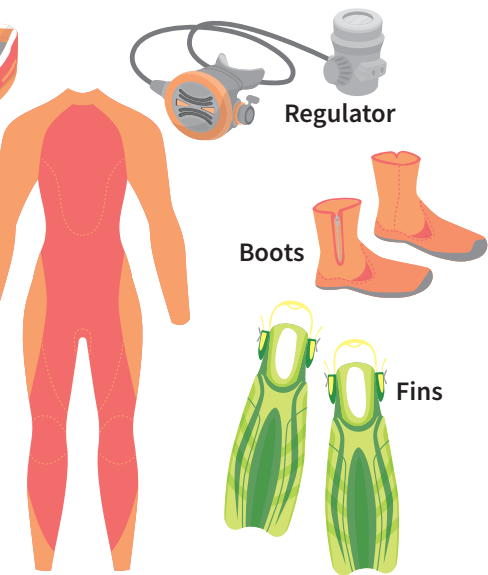
This underwater fantasyland of coral formations is located just south of the marina in Agat. If you're a strong swimmer, Coral Gardens could be doable as a shore dive. In addition to the massive coral structures, you're likely to spot lion fish, eels, and Christmas tree worms in this peaceful and relatively shallow (45') underwater garden.



Gab Gab

Located at the beach on Naval Base Guam, this massive wall of coral seems to go on forever and is jam packed with fish and other reef life. A night dive here is a great place to spot colorful crabs and different varieties of shrimp. Keep your eyes out for turtles as this wildlife preserve is one of their favorite hangouts.

See DIVES on Page 10



basic dive theory, underwater skills, and gear assembly.

3. Pass the course

You will receive a book to study during your course and possibly classroom lessons. There will be a time in and out of the water dedicated to learning. To pass the course, you need to complete the required diving skills, as well as a written exam. Afterward, you will receive a certification card (digital or physical) and can dive within the range of your certification level.

• Minimum Requirements

The minimum age requirement for getting Open Water Diver certified is 15 years old, however, student divers at least 10 years of age can earn the PADI Junior Open Water Diver certification, which they may upgrade to PADI Open Water Diver certification upon reaching age 15. Applicants must also have the ability to swim and tread water, and being medically fit to dive. Dive shops on Guam average range their OW diver costs from \$200 to \$300. These shops will also carry different kinds of certifications, such as PADI (Professional Association of Dive Instructors), SSI (SCUBA Schools International), and NAUI (National Association of Underwater Instructors).

• Specialty Courses

There are specialty courses depending on the type of dive certification you choose, the route going forward from Advanced Open Water certification leads into the professional field. Additionally, you can take specialty courses such as Nitrox (enriched air), deep diving, drift diving, and more to enhance your skills and/or qualify for different kinds of diving.

Q&A with dive instructor

THE GUAM GUIDE

The Guam Guide brings you an exclusive interview with Robert G. Wyckoff, a seasoned dive instructor from PADI (Professional Association of Diving Instructors). Read on for some valuable tips and insights on getting your diving certification and the thrilling world of underwater exploration.



Robert G. Wyckoff Photo courtesy of Robert G. Wyckoff

Q. What would you say is the "Golden Rule" of SCUBA diving?

A. The "Golden Rule" is and should always be "safety first." Especially in the dive industry, where in some places, it's more about customer satisfaction. Well, for a dive incident to occur, due to safety not being the top priority, which, by the way, begins with the company scheduling the customer. Then, it is handed down to the instructor, or DM, or the boat captain if it's a boat dive. The cost is even greater

than a complaint or bad review. So, for a company to fail, sometimes it starts with paperwork and questions, or basic procedures not being asked or followed. Then, it's up to the instructors or DMs to make the next determination, with safety being their top priority.

Q. What should someone who has never been SCUBA diving expect on their first dive?

A. Having conducted a ton of DSDs and open water courses with first-time scuba divers, the biggest error they make, because of course the expectation is that this is going to be great, is not having mentally prepared themselves for the mental pressure to come. Some handle it well, and some don't. And based on how their instructor briefs them, and or given great water and weather conditions, that's how it starts mentally, getting them in the right mind frame to meet those great expectations. So, I'd say with what to expect, think of it like your first-time

See Q&A on Page 10

CERTIFICATION PROCESS

1. Choose a dive shop and do trial dives

Getting SCUBA certified can seem daunting at first, so it's understandable if you feel hesitant to jump right in. You can inquire at a dive shop if they provide a DSD (Discovery Scuba Diving) or Try SCUBA course. This course provides the essential information needed to dive safely, without worrying about certification standards. During a trial dive or two, you can decide whether you feel comfortable SCUBA diving. See our dive shop list further down this article.

2. Get an Open Water Diver certification

Most people jump into getting an Open Water Diver certified immediately. OW Diver certification can range from a commitment of 3-7 days. It consists of a combination of confined water dives (swimming pools) and open water dives (open ocean). The curriculum includes

DIVES: Exploring the depths

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

9



Gab Gab 2

For big fish and possible nurse shark sightings, check out this reef in Apra Harbor where the Atlantis Submarine circles. Interact with the curious and well-fed giant trevally. Look for the bright red anemone and keep an eye out for giant eels.

10



Anae Island

A short boatride from Agat marina lies this interesting rock island, complete with a shallow cave to pass through. Go at night and keep your eyes open for lobster. This is also a great snorkel spot, accessible by kayak.

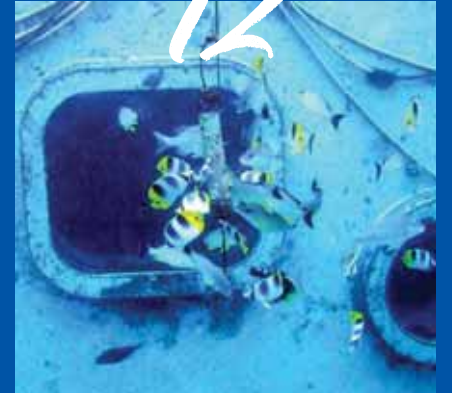
11



Pete's Reef

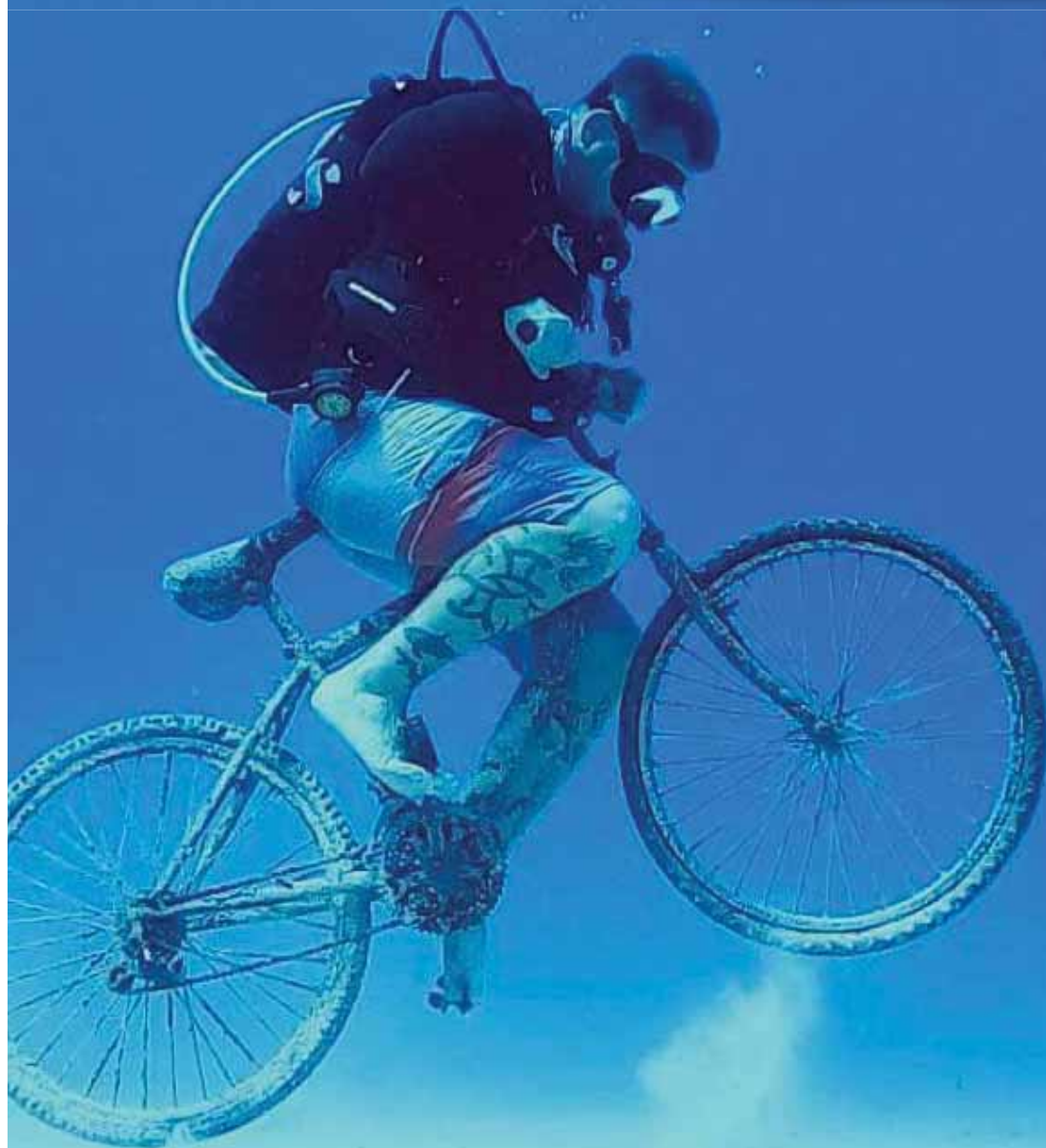
Plenty to see at this lively reef, accessible by boat from Agat Marina. This underwater city of colorful life especially comes alive at night when you can spot sleeping parrot fish and hunting eels.

12



Fish Eye

Located off Rt. 1 south of Asan Beach, Fish Eye is a great shore dive for beginners. Among the schools of butterfly fish and sergeant majors, keep an eye out for barracuda. Wave to tourists through the windows of the underwater lookout situated in one of Piti's "bomb holes."



Q&A: Safety key to diving

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

rock climbing or driving a car or riding a bike. Take it slow and balance yourself out mentally and physically, should be the expectation for a great experience.

Q. What should someone do to prepare for their first dive?

A. Sleep! I say that because not getting enough sleep can affect them mentally and physically of which scuba diving requires both to be in good health. First-time divers who are conducting it the day after a bad night's sleep or very little sleep or worse none at all, almost always have stress and physical issues. I've even had to cancel dives because you could see the customer was mentally and physically exhausted but determined to go scuba diving. So, sleep and eating a light but healthy meal before beginning are the best ways to prepare.

Q. What advice would you give someone before doing their first dive?

A. Read the medical questionnaire! Be honest when answering those questions and if you're unsure, consult a doctor and not the company or instructor because they sometimes have financial interests as their priority, not your safety. Too many times I've had people who have lied on their medical form from doctors, nurses, judges, lawyers, and professionals who I've had to say, "I'm sorry, but I'm going to need a doctor's note signed and stating you are physically and mentally healthy enough for this." People underestimate just how dangerous SCUBA diving can be and some of the professionals, to whom I've mentioned, think they know better, but as an instructor, you have to put your foot down and tell them otherwise or they're not diving with you.

Q. Why do you think someone should get dive certified?

A. It's a whole new world to be explored. It's a mental barrier for some to get passed. It's a new challenge. It's a healthy addiction. It's also an amazing relationship builder. It's mental meditation for many, and or an extreme rush for others. It's safe when safety is made the top priority and communication is always maintained.

AUTO SPOT

SCAN THE QR CODE TO SHOP GUAM'S BEST SELECTION OF USED VEHICLES



 <p>2014 HYUNDAI ACCENT GLS NOW \$7,995 OR \$59 PER PAYCHECK</p> <p>#25M157A</p>	 <p>2019 MITSUBISHI MIRAGE G4 NOW \$10,995 OR \$80 PER PAYCHECK</p> <p>#24M095A</p>	 <p>2018 NISSAN ROGUE SPORT NOW \$11,995 OR \$88 PER PAYCHECK</p> <p>#24P220</p>
 <p>2017 TOYOTA COROLLA NOW \$12,995 OR \$95 PER PAYCHECK</p> <p>#24M187A</p>	 <p>2018 MAZDA CX-9 SPORT NOW \$17,995 OR \$132 PER PAYCHECK</p> <p>#25P064</p>	 <p>2022 NISSAN SENTRA NOW \$17,995 OR \$132 PER PAYCHECK</p> <p>#25P008</p>
 <p>2023 HYUNDAI VENUE NOW \$17,995 OR \$132 PER PAYCHECK</p> <p>#24P322</p>	 <p>2019 MITSUBISHI ECLIPSE CROSS NOW \$18,995 OR \$139 PER PAYCHECK</p> <p>#24C154</p>	 <p>2022 KIA FORTE FE NOW \$18,995 OR \$139 PER PAYCHECK</p> <p>#23P076</p>
 <p>2019 SUBARU FORESTER NOW \$18,995 OR \$139 PER PAYCHECK</p> <p>#25P056A</p>	 <p>2015 LEXUS RX 350 NOW \$22,995 OR \$168 PER PAYCHECK</p> <p>#25C015</p>	 <p>2016 GMC YUKON SLE NOW \$22,995 OR \$168 PER PAYCHECK</p> <p>#22P377</p>
 <p>2022 HYUNDAI SANTA CRUZ NOW \$25,995 OR \$190 PER PAYCHECK</p> <p>#25P087</p>	 <p>2021 FORD BRONCO NOW \$29,995 OR \$219 PER PAYCHECK</p> <p>#24G017C</p>	 <p>2023 TOYOTA VENZA LE NOW \$31,995 OR \$234 PER PAYCHECK</p> <p>#25P065</p>

*WITH APPROVED CREDIT. TERMS AND CONDITIONS MAY VARY. MONTHLY PAYMENTS ARE ONLY ESTIMATES DERIVED FROM THE VEHICLE PRICE AT A 72 MONTH TERM, 8.0% INTEREST AND 10% DOWN PAYMENT. SEE DEALER FOR DETAILS.

AUTO SPOT

671.478.AUTO (2886)
255 E. MARINE CORP DR, HAGATÑA






WWW.GUAMAUTOSPOT.COM



SCAN TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION



DRIVE FURTHER

FOR AS LOW AS

\$35

A DAY

WITH FREE SHUTTLE SERVICE

BASIC INSURANCE IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE RENTAL PRICE. ALL OFFERS ARE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY AND MAY CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE. FREE PICK-UP AND DROP-OFF AVAILABLE. SOME RESTRICTIONS MAY APPLY. FOR RESERVATIONS OR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL (671) 648-7498 OR EMAIL US AT CUSTOMER.SERVICE@SIXTGUAM.COM.

WE HAVE THE VEHICLES TO **FIT YOUR NEEDS**
GIVE US A CALL TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION TODAY AT 671.648.7498

SIXT
rent a car

NBG - Polaris Point to host Freedom Rocks fest July 4

BY THERESA MERTO CEPEDA,
U.S. NAVAL BASE GUAM

NAVAL BASE GUAM - The public is invited to the U.S. Naval Base Guam (NBG) Freedom Rocks festival scheduled for Friday, July 4 at NBG - Polaris Point.

In an effort to reduce traffic congestion, the gate will be open for those with normal base access at 2 p.m. Those without base access will be welcomed at 3 p.m. A military ID or visitor pass is not required for access. Admission is free.

"The Naval Base Guam team looks forward to once again welcome the community to celebrate our nation's birthday," said Capt. John Frye, NBG commanding officer. "While it is a day of celebration, on Independence Day we are reminded of the extraordinary courage and vision of our nation's founders who boldly declared our independence and laid the foundation for the freedoms we cherish today."

During the Freedom Rocks event, there will be a special performance presented by Armed Forces Entertainment: Johnny Suite and Chante, Hawaii-based island reggae



Photo courtesy of U.S. Naval Base Guam

artists; Navy Entertainment: Freedom Circus; and local entertainment by Precious Metal band and Jimmy Dee's Chamorritas and Matuas fire show.

The event will also feature bounce houses,

inflatable games, water activities, face painters, caricatures, balloon artists, food trucks, and MWR concessions. Attendees are advised that most concession booths will only be accepting cash payment. An ATM will be onsite.

The fireworks display will be launched at 8:15 p.m. from a barge just outside the Point Club and last approximately 12 minutes.

Polaris Point will be open until the installation reaches capacity for parking or at 8 p.m. prior to the start of the fireworks display. Guests who would like to view the fireworks from Polaris Point are advised to arrive before the closure.


The following are examples of prohibited items: drones, weapons, personal fireworks, back-packs, grills, glass containers, coolers, large bags, tents, recording devices (audio or video), outside alcohol, pets, rollerblades, skateboards, and roller-skates. Marijuana and other drugs are also prohibited on military installations.

The following are examples of allowed items: small bags or purses, umbrellas, towels, strollers/wagons, and folding chairs. Security personnel will inspect all personnel, bags and hand-carried items at the entrance to the event.

Carpooling is encouraged and parking along the roadway leading to Polaris Point is prohibited. There will be parking inside the Polaris Point compound.




Use Your GI Bill to Earn an American Degree in Tokyo



TEMPLE UNIVERSITY
Japan Campus

Admissions Counseling Office
1-14-29 Taishido, Setagaya-ku, Tokyo 154-0004, Japan
E-mail: ac@tuj.temple.edu Tel: +81 (3) 5441-9800
www.tuj.ac.jp #TUJapan






LIFTING THE ISLAND. BUILDING THE AMERICAN DREAM.





DENZAI
DENZAI America Inc.

NCCCO Certified Operator

671-482-7988
inquiry.america@denzai.group



SUNDAY BRUNCH

*Free flowing
mimosas &
draft beer!*

TWO SEATINGS:
10AM-12PM
12:30PM-2:30PM

671-479-2652/3  **mesklaguam.com**  **/MesklaGuam**  **@meskla**

Book your reservation at **reservations@mesklaguam.com**

130 E MARINE CORPS DRIVE, STE 103, HAGÂTÑA, GUAM, 96910




WEDDING SEASON

Sale

NATURAL AND LAB GROWN DIAMONDS



VINCE
JEWELERS

VOTED PIKA'S BEST JEWELRY STORE 2017-2024 | BEST LUXURY BRAND 2020, 2021, 2023, 2024

AGANA SHOPPING CENTER
671.472.1888

EAST AGANA (MAIN BRANCH)
671.646.1688



GUAM PREMIER OUTLETS
671.649.9888

MICRONESIA MALL
671.633.8888

 [facebook/vincejewelers](https://facebook.com/vincejewelers)

 store.vincejewelers.com

 [@vincejewelers](https://instagram.com/vincejewelers)

TIME TO EXPLORE SEOUL!

6 Days / 5 Nights

Room Package

Stay at Dragon Hill Lodge to be right in the center of Seoul's attractions, and also enjoy onsite access to services and facilities serving our U.S military and DoD communities.

\$499

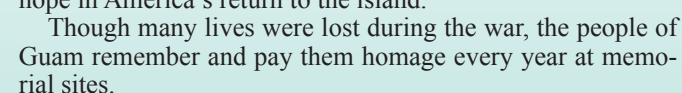
USAG YONGSAN

reservations@dragonhilllodge.com

DSN: #315-738-2222
or #02-790-0016 ext.1

www.dragonhilllodge.com

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



 **GREEN LIZZARD**
 **TIKI BAR**
 **NO SHIRT, NO SHOES, NO WORRIES**
7PM - LATE 7 DAYS



Boonie Stomps Guam

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY
GUAM BOONIE STOMPERS



Mt. Tenjo

REMINDER! We no longer meet at Chamorro Village. We meet at the trailhead.

Every Saturday, Guam Boonie Stompers offers public hikes to a variety of destinations such as beaches, snorkeling sites, waterfalls, mountains, caves, latte sites, and World War II sites. We meet at the trailhead on Saturdays at 8 AM. Directions to the trailhead will be posted on the Guam Boonie Stompers Inc Facebook page. The cost is \$5.00 for hikers over 13. 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/GuamBoonieStompers



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

SCHEDULE 2025

Jun. 28 (Sat.)	Faha and Priest Pools (Easy)
Jul. 5 (Sat.)	Mt. Tenjo Sunset Hike (Medium) *Start time change to 5:30 pm
Jul. 12 (Sat.)	Liberation Hike-Asan Pt. (Easy) / Mt. Alifan (Medium to Difficult)
Jul. 19 (Sat.)	Libugon Radio Station to Fonte Dam / Swim Hole (Medium)
Jul. 26 (Sat.)	Korean Airline Memorial (Easy) / Hidden Bunker (Medium) / Charlie Corn / (Difficult)
Aug. 2 (Sat.)	Taguan: 1000 Steps (Easy-Medium)
Aug. 9 (Sat.)	Asmafines Falls (Medium) and Option: Lofan Falls (Difficult)

FOR EVERYONE'S SAFETY:
No Pets Allowed
No Drones Allowed

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

Complete **10** Boonie Stomp hikes to earn a free Boonie Stomp T-Shirt.

We are military veterans and have base access



Why PCS Used Car Lot?

✓Veteran-owned & operated

✓Quality vehicles most with low mileage

✓"No pressure" sales approach

✓High customer service ratings

Visit our website at www.pcsusedcarlotguam.com for the latest inventory



PCS USED CAR LOT

Find us on  

Largest selection of imported Japanese vehicles on island!

Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

1 "Famous" cookie guy

5 Not quite shut

9 One who's not "it"

14 2022 Jordan Peele flick

15 Bit of baby talk

16 "Easy on Me" singer

17 Much-loved

19 Burrowing rodents

20 Ultimate goal

21 Direct info source

23 Marginal marking

25 Vintner's vessel

26 Electrician's device

29 Put out

31 Beer topper

32 Like legal voters

37 Ship of Greek myth

38 Dry cell part

39 Surfer's concern

40 Restores to office

42 Rider's grip

43 Rest area sight

44 Basketball stat

46 Panama, for one

48 Insulating foam

51 Farmers' spreads

53 Brisk, in music

57 Case opener?

58 B-24 bomber of WWII

60 ___ Dame

61 Diner offering

62 Centers of activity

63 Cornered, in a way

64 Very Soho

65 Spic-and-___

2 Daybreak, poetically

3 Kind of column

4 Reef predator

5 Tainting

6 Condiment container

7 Highly capable

8 Diameter halves

9 Poor one

10 Object of worship

11 Amazon drop-offs

12 Kagan of the court

13 Bowler's button

18 Coin opening

22 In a clingy manner

24 Amphitheater

26 Many miles away

27 Additional

28 Judicial officer

30 Recoveries

33 Understood

34 Perfect model

35 Make corrections

36 Cub Scout groups

41 Bad-mouthed publicly

45 Excitement

46 Start to "got a clue"

47 SAG member

49 1965 march site

50 Basket material

52 Emerald Isle

54 Resting on

55 Cola lead-in

56 2000 film, "___ Brockovich"

59 Slugger's need

Copyright 2025 by The Puzzle Syndicate

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

ADVERTISE WITH STARS AND STRIPES

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

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

Stripes Sports Trivia

How many clubs is one allowed to have in their bag during a round of golf?

Answer 14

SUDOKU

Difficulty: Easy

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

Copyright 2025 by The Puzzle Syndicate

Edited by Margie E. Burke

HOW TO SOLVE:

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

Answer to Previous Sudoku:

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

Free shuttle service

The automotive matchmakers

Military discounts



GUAM CARMONY

(671) 878-2277

- Only dealership with used cars under 10k!
- Financing Available!
- Over 150 Cars in stock!
- Free Shuttle Service!
- Serving the community for over 10 years!
- Military Discounts!

www.guamcarmony.com

131 W Soledad Ave Hagåtña, 96910, Guam

(Across from Hagatna Boat Basin, next to Mosa's Joint restaurant)



THE VETERANS' CHOICE

PATRIOT CAR RENTAL

477-CARS

PATRIOTCARRENTAL.COM

Free shuttle service

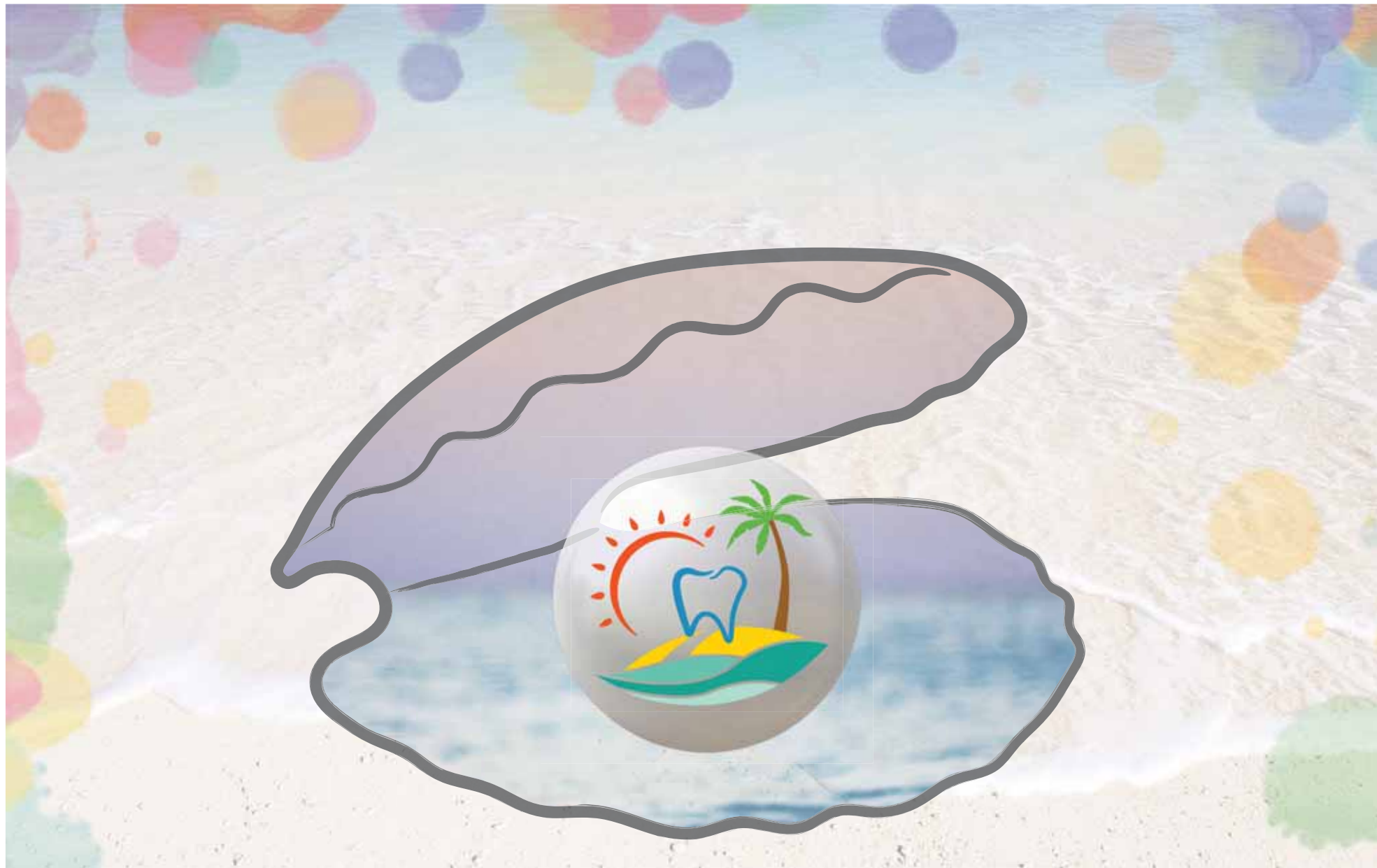


Military Special

\$25
/ day rentals

\$500
/ month rentals

477-CARS (2277) 140 Hernan Cortez Ave Hagatna, GU 96932 across Agana boat basin next to Main Street bakery.



ISLAND DENTAL

WE WELCOME TRICARE!
CALL (671) 989-5999

Open on weekends! Open evenings on weekdays!



Island Dental



island.dental

Accepting All Major Insurances

Located in Dededo
Next to American Grocery



**AMERICAN
GROCERY**

**AJISEN
RAMEN**

MARINE CORPS DRIVE

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

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

Volume 11 Edition 6 ©SS 2025

GUAM EDITION

JUNE 23, 2025

Trump revives old names for bases

But posts won't commemorate Confederates **Page 2**



President Donald Trump gestures after speaking at Fort Bragg, N.C., on June 10, when he announced several U.S. Army bases in the South will return to their former names.

ALEX BRANDON/AP

COVER STORY

Trump changing names of more Army posts

President revives names of bases that honored Confederates

By MATTHEW ADAMS
Stars and Stripes

President Donald Trump promised on the campaign trail to bring back the name Fort Bragg to the Army base in North Carolina. In March, the base named Fort Liberty less than two years earlier was again Fort Bragg.

On June 10, Trump announced seven other southern Army installations would return to their old names that were changed in 2023 because they honored Confederate generals.

“We are going to be restoring the names to Fort Pickett, Fort Hood, Fort Gordon, Fort Rucker, Fort Polk, Fort A.P. Hill and Fort Robert E. Lee,” Trump told a crowd at Fort Bragg. “We won a lot of battles out of these forts. It’s no time to change.”

Trump has made no attempt to hide his disdain for the name changes to nine southern Army installations in 2023, which grew out of a years-long, multimillion-dollar effort that began in his first administration.

Some of Trump’s supporters long cheered his calls for Confederate names to remain on or return to Army posts, and some veterans who served at these installations have vowed to never recognize the official name changes that were conducted in ceremonies between March and October 2023, when Fort Pickett, Va., became Fort Barfoot; Fort Lee, Va., became Fort Gregg-Adams; Fort A.P. Hill, Va., became Fort Walker; Fort Hood, Texas, became Fort Cavazos; Fort Rucker, Ala., became Fort Novosel; Fort Polk, La., became Fort Johnson; Fort Bragg became Fort Liberty; Fort Benning, Ga., became Fort Moore, and Fort Gordon, Ga., became Fort Eisenhower.

Base names were changed after Congress mandated the Pentagon rid its installations of names and items honoring those who served the Confederacy.

Congress created the Naming Commission in the 2021 National Defense Authorization Act — the annual must-pass bill that sets Congress’ policy and spending priorities for the Pentagon — charging the panel with identifying all items in the Defense Department inventory associated with the Confederacy.

Earlier in Trump’s second administration, Defense Secre-



ALEX BRANDON/AP

President Donald Trump gestures after speaking at Fort Bragg, N.C., on June 10.

“We won a lot of battles out of these forts. It’s no time to change.”

President Donald Trump

tary Pete Hegseth announced the return of Fort Bragg and Fort Benning, which was restored in April.

But Bragg no longer refers to Confederate Gen. Braxton Bragg, for whom the base was named in 1918, but for Pfc. Roland L. Bragg. Benning now honors World War I veteran Cpl. Fred G. Benning.

Cynthia Smith, an Army spokeswoman, said in a statement that Army Secretary Daniel Driscoll will take immediate action to implement these redesignations.

“The Army will take all necessary actions to change the names of seven Army installations in honor of heroic soldiers who served in conflicts ranging from the Civil War to the Battle of Mogadishu,” Smith said. “Five of them received the Medal of Honor, three received the Distinguished Service Cross and one

received the Silver Star.”

The Army continued the effort of finding new names without ties to the Confederacy.

Fort Pickett, formerly Fort Barfoot, will be named in honor of Distinguished Service Cross recipient 1st Lt. Vernon W. Pickett for his actions during World War II. While pinned down by enemy machine gun fire, Pickett crawled forward and destroyed two enemy positions with grenades. After being captured, he escaped from a transport train with fellow POWs and rejoined his unit before being killed in action.

Fort Hood, formerly Fort Cavazos, will be named in honor of Distinguished Service Cross recipient Col. Robert B. Hood for his actions during World War I. Amid intense shelling near Thiaucourt, France, then-Capt. Hood directed artillery fire under enfilading machine-gun fire. After his gun crew was lost to enemy fire, he rapidly reorganized and returned fire within minutes, restoring combat capability.

Fort Gordon, formerly Fort Eisenhower, will be named in honor of Medal of Honor recipient Master Sgt. Gary I. Gordon for his valor during the 1993 Battle of Mogadishu, Somalia. Gordon volunteered to be in-

serted to defend wounded crew members at a helicopter crash site and held off an advancing enemy force, protecting the pilot after exhausting all his ammunition.

Fort Lee, formerly Fort Gregg-Adams, will be named in honor of Medal of Honor recipient Pvt. Fitz Lee for his heroism during the Spanish-American War. During a coastal assault in Cuba, Lee voluntarily disembarked under direct enemy fire to rescue wounded comrades.

Fort Polk, formerly Fort Johnson, will be named in honor of Silver Star recipient Gen. James H. Polk for his gallantry in action as commanding officer of the 3rd Cavalry Group (Mechanized) during operations across Europe in World War II. Then-Col. Polk led reconnaissance and combat missions under fire, spearheading Third Army advances as part of Task Force Polk. He later served as commander in chief of U.S. Army Europe.

Fort Rucker, formerly Fort Novosel, will be named in honor of Distinguished Service Cross recipient Capt. Edward W. Rucker for extraordinary heroism in World War I. Flying deep behind enemy lines, then-1st Lt. Rucker and his fellow aviators engaged a numerically superior enemy force in a daring aerial battle

over France, disrupting enemy movements and completing their mission against overwhelming odds.

Fort A.P. Hill, formerly Fort Walker, will be named in honor of Medal of Honor recipients Lt. Col. Edward Hill, 1st Sgt. Robert A. Pinn and Pvt. Bruce Anderson for extraordinary heroism during the Civil War. Then-Capt. Hill, Pinn and Anderson executed significant actions separately at Cold Harbor, Va., Chapin’s Farm, Va., and Fort Fisher, N.C., in support of the U.S. Army.

At Fort Bragg, Trump brought up the tug-of-war involving Fort Bragg with the crowd.

“Can you believe they changed that name in the last administration for a little bit,” the president asked the crowd at the base.

Some soldiers behind the stage responded with boos and gave the thumbs down.

Hegseth, after appearing in a congressional hearing, and Driscoll attended the event alongside service members, veterans and their families.

Driscoll, who spoke to the crowd earlier in the afternoon, called Trump “the greatest recruiter in our Army’s history.”

The Associated Press contributed to this report.
adams.matthew@stripes.com
@MatthewAdams60

MILITARY

Navy aims to cut funds for shipbuilding

Senator says service plans to forgo \$16B and at least 6 new warships

By CAITLYN BURCHETT
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Navy is proposing a \$16 billion cut to shipbuilding in 2026 and does not intend to move forward with plans to purchase at least six new warships, the top Republican on the Senate Armed Services Committee said.

“I am deeply disappointed with the administration’s fiscal year 2026 budget request for the Navy. Particularly I am disturbed about the shipbuilding account, which plummeted to \$20.8 billion from last year’s \$37 billion,” Sen. Roger Wicker, R-Miss., chairman of the committee, said during a hearing on the Navy’s budget.

The Navy’s 2026 budget, which has yet to be provided in full to Congress, is poised to undercut efforts to restore shipbuilding, Wicker said.

The Navy does not intend to ask for two new destroyers in its 2026 budget, which the sea service has historically purchased

each year. Instead, Wicker said the Navy seems to be counting on additional funds from a separate bill under consideration now in Congress that would provide the Pentagon about \$150 billion to invest in shipbuilding, a layered missile defense shield and other defense priorities.



Wicker

Republicans are pushing that bill through Congress using the reconciliation process, which will allow them to bypass Democratic opposition and pass the legislation with a simple majority vote.

“This shortfall reflects efforts to game the budget in anticipation of congressional reconciliation funds, which were intended as supplemental — not a substitute,” Wicker said.

The Navy’s proposed budget also does not include the purchase of new Virginia-class sub-

marines, two of which the Navy typically has sought to buy each year, the senator also said. The submarine class was among several shipbuilding programs identified in 2024 by then-Navy Secretary Carlos Del Toro for falling behind schedule. The Virginia-class submarines are running 24-36 months late.

Nor will the service seek to purchase two Constellation-class frigates, a troubled shipbuilding program that was halted as the service and the shipbuilder try to figure out how to build the ship. The Navy began work on the first Constellation frigate in 2022 with a then-estimated price tag of \$1.3 billion. But estimates have since ballooned by more than \$200 million, and delivery of the ship has been delayed by three years to 2029, according to the Government Accountability Office, a federal watchdog.

The committee, Wicker said, expects a clear plan to restore shipbuilding momentum, and he

expressed congressional commitment to work through the Navy’s shortfalls. But before that can happen, the Navy must deliver its budget in full to Congress.

“An announcement from the Navy will need to be made soon, Mr. Secretary, or we will risk further challenges to the industrial base,” Wicker said, directly addressing Navy Secretary John Phelan.

The Navy, which relies on contracted private shipbuilding companies, has come under fire in recent years for its shipbuilding struggles. The sea service planned to have a battle force of 313 ships by 2025. But in its fiscal 2025 shipbuilding plan, the Navy said it will have 287 ships by 2025 — 26 fewer ships than expected. Meanwhile, China, considered America’s top military competitor, is rapidly growing its fleet and is on pace to reach a 425-ship fleet by 2030.

Phelan has said strengthening shipbuilding is his No. 1 priority.

But Sen. Angus King, I-Maine, said the Navy’s proposed base budget contradicts Phelan.

“All the talk about building up ships and then having shipbuilding cut in half doesn’t jive,” King said.

Phelan said in his opening remarks that he now has a “clear picture” of the Navy’s challenges and is developing a plan “to fix what is broken.” He said he recently toured three foreign shipyards and seven domestic shipyards to learn what could be done more efficiently. Additionally, Phelan said he is working closely with the Pentagon and the White House Office of Management and Budget and said the efforts were moving in “a good direction.”

“I hope so. As a wise old New Englander once said, your actions speak so loudly I can’t hear your words,” King said.

Burchett.caitlyn@stripes.com
@CaitlynBurchett

DOD reviews Biden-era sub deal with Australia, UK

By CAITLYN BURCHETT
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon is reviewing a Biden-era deal to share nuclear-powered submarine technology with Australia and the United Kingdom and could scrap the deal if it doesn’t align with President Donald Trump’s agenda.

A 2021 pact by Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States — known as AUKUS — was formed to build up Australia’s maritime capabilities in the Indo-Pacific region to counter China. The agreement outlines the U.S. selling at least two Virginia-class submarines to Australia in the 2030s, with other submarines jointly built. The U.S. and Britain are also training Australian navy personnel, which began in 2023 as part of the agreement.

The review is being conducted to verify the pact meets Trump’s “common sense, America first criteria,” according to a defense official who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

“As [Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth] has made clear, this means ensuring the highest readiness of our service members, that allies step up fully to do their part for collective defense, and that the defense industrial base is

meeting our needs,” the official said.

The review drew backlash from some lawmakers who have been staunch advocates of the trilateral agreement, including Sen. Tim Kaine of Virginia, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee and the top Democrat of the subcommittee on seapower.

“If this administration is serious about countering the threat from China — like it has said as recently as this morning — then it will work expeditiously with our partners in Australia and the U.K. to strengthen this agreement and ensure we are taking steps to further boost our submarine industrial base. Anything less would play directly into China’s hand,” Kaine said in a June 11 statement.

Rep. Joe Courtney of Connecticut, the top Democrat on the House Armed Services Committee’s seapower subpanel, pointed out the United Kingdom conducted its own review of AUKUS. He said the U.S. will likely reach the same conclusion as the U.K.: “AUKUS is overwhelmingly in the interest of all three nations and the entire Indo-Pacific.”

“Abandoning AUKUS would cause lasting harm to our standing with close allies and rejoice

in Beijing,” Courtney said.

Australia’s defense minister dismissed concerns that the deal was under review, The Associated Press reported. Richard Marles told local reporters that he had known about the review of the deal “for some time,” saying it was a “very natural step for the incoming administration to take.” He noted the U.K.’s government also reviewed AUKUS after it was elected, and his own government had looked at it as part of its own review of Australia’s entire defense posture.

“I think an incoming government having a look at this is something that they have a perfect right to do, and we welcome it and we’ll work with it,” he said.

Hegseth and Marles met on the sidelines of a recent defense conference in Singapore. Afterward, Marles told reporters that he was optimistic and had come away with “a sense of confidence about the way in which AUKUS is proceeding,” the AP reported.

Hegseth’s address to the defense forum made multiple mentions of cooperation with Australia but no reference to AUKUS. Hegseth later mentioned the deal when he was taking questions, urging allies in the Indo-Pacific to increase their defense spending and underscored the need for



Lt. JAMES CAVILA / AUKUS Integration & Acquisition

Sailors assigned to the submarine USS Minnesota conduct mooring operations at HMAS Stirling, Australia, in February.

a “strong, resolute and capable network of allies and partners” as the U.S. seeks to counter China.

In January, Australia made the first of six \$500 million payments to the U.S. under the AUKUS deal. And in February, the Virginia-class USS Minnesota arrived in Western Australia, marking the first of several planned visits by U.S. submarines this year.

For years, the U.S. Navy has struggled to keep the construction of its Virginia-class submarines on track. A shipbuilding review last year found the sub-

marines were 24-36 months behind schedule.

Michael Sharpe, the chief executive officer of the AUKUS forum, lauded the review as an assessment that has the potential to strengthen the allied program for the long term.

The review, he said, presents Australia with the opportunity to take on more of the industrial burden felt by the U.S. The forum is a member-led organization connecting industry, academia, research, government, and defense across the three partner countries.

MILITARY

Units' museums on Army shutdown list

Dozens of facilities to disappear over next 3 years as part of budget cuts

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

RAMSTEIN, Germany — Dozens of Army museums around the world dedicated to units, some among the most storied in the service, will disappear over the next three years as part of cost-cutting and efforts to align with Pentagon priorities.

The U.S. Army Center of Military History announced plans this month to close or consolidate 29 of its 41 active-duty museums to direct more resources toward "readiness and lethality," a statement on the center's Facebook page said.

The official list of closures has not been released pending approval from Army headquarters, but center spokesman F. Lee Reynolds confirmed June 5 that it had leaked online.

Among the facilities proposed for shutdown are the 82nd Airborne Division War Memorial Museum at Fort Bragg, N.C., and the 2nd Cavalry Regiment Museum in Vilseck, Germany.

"The problem is we're not getting additional money, so we have not been able to staff the museums the way we would like to and conduct the maintenance and rotate exhibits the way we would like," Reynolds said. "We just don't have the funding."

The Army should decide on the proposal soon, Reynolds said.

The closures are expected to save \$114 million over 10 years through reductions to staffing and operating costs, Reynolds said. The center does not plan to fire any current employees but will offer staff positions at other locations. Some current openings will go unfilled.

The cost-cutting measures are being proposed as Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth has repeatedly expressed the Pentagon's intent to take steps toward making the military a more lethal fighting force.

On June 6, the mood was somber at the Vilseck unit museum, otherwise known as the Reed Museum and 2nd Regiment of Dragoons Heritage Center.

Curator Denise Wald tried to smile as she lovingly viewed exhibits stretching back from the unit's formation in 1836 to the present.

"It's very special, to not just the regiment but our history and our footprint here in Europe," she said. "It's a shame to lose it.



The 2nd Cavalry Regiment Museum in Vilseck, Germany, portrays the regiment's history from its formation in 1836 to the present day. It is among 29 on a closure list compiled by the U.S. Army Center of Military History.

PHOTOS BY MATTHEW M. BURKE/Stars and Stripes



A display commemorating Operation Iraqi Freedom is seen at the 2nd Cavalry museum in Vilseck.

Please come visit while you can."

All of the proposed cuts are to museums located on U.S. military bases.

There will also be a pair of consolidations in addition to two already happening at Fort Cavazos in Texas and Fort Campbell in Kentucky, Reynolds said. Fort Jackson's four museums in South Carolina will be merged into one,

as will three at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri.

Reynolds said artifacts and exhibits from the shuttered sites could move to the 12 surviving museums and four training support facilities, including the National Museum of the U.S. Army at Fort Belvoir, Va., which will not be affected by the cuts. Some items could be loaned out or put

into the Army's two storage facilities, Museum Support Center Alpha at the Anniston Army Depot in Alabama, which stores large items like vehicles and aircraft, and Museum Support Center Bravo at Fort Belvoir, which stores smaller items like weapons and uniforms.

Exhibits from the 82nd Airborne Museum, for example, will



A World War I display with period uniforms is seen at the 2nd Cavalry Regiment Museum in Vilseck.

"The problem is we're not getting additional money, so we have not been able to staff the museums the way we would like to and conduct the maintenance and rotate exhibits the way we would like."

F. Lee Reynolds

U.S. Army Center of Military History

likely go to the Airborne and Special Operations Museum in Fayetteville about 11 miles away, he added.

The plan to close the museums came from the Center of Military History, led by executive director and chief military historian Charles Bowery Jr., Reynolds said. The move has been in the works for quite a while as local museum directors told of staffing and budgetary shortfalls, he said.

The criteria used to determine which museums would get the ax were public access, number of visitors, maintenance requirements and relevance, Reynolds said. Closures are slated to start this summer and continue through September 2027, he added.

It will then take two years to properly remove and store artifacts, clean out buildings and give them back to their installations, according to Reynolds.

burke.matt@stripes.com
@MatthewMBurke1

PACIFIC

US must harden bases against drones

Rand report urges Air Force to do more to protect its installations

BY SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

The U.S. Air Force needs to do more to protect its Indo-Pacific bases, including from evolving threats such as drones, according to a California-based think tank.

The Rand Corp. report — Assessing Progress on Air Base Defense — was released recently and highlights the growing vulnerability of U.S. military installations to low-cost, remote-controlled and autonomous drones, a tactic that has gained prominence in the war in Ukraine.

“It is at the lower end of the capability spectrum that threats may be evolving the most quickly,” the report warns. “Recent experiences in the Russia-Ukraine war are highlighting the threat of small remote control and autonomous drones to air bases, particularly to soft buildings and aircraft parked in the open.”

The report follows a recent Ukrainian drone strike that reportedly damaged or destroyed a portion of Russia’s long-range bomber fleet, raising alarms about the susceptibility of U.S. air assets to similar attacks.

“Russian air base defenders do not appear ready to protect their air bases against the small drones that are destroying their aircraft,” Rand’s report states without referencing the June 1 strike. “To avoid a similar fate on a much larger scale, the U.S. Air



JESSI STEGALL/U.S. Marine Corps

U.S. and Japanese service members work to repair airfield damage during a Keen Sword drill at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, in October.

Force should conduct a serious cost benefit analysis of fielding its own active defense capabilities, ones that are tailored for air base defense in Pacific and European threat environments.”

While major adversaries like China pose a high-end threat with ballistic and hypersonic weapons, Rand warns that even less capable adversaries could deploy large numbers of drones to autonomously seek and destroy soft targets such as aircraft, fuel depots and control towers.

“China has also demonstrated the use of drone swarms,” the

report states.

“Its industrial capacity, experience in mass production of drones, and wide-ranging use of machine learning could quickly make it the preeminent producer and user of such systems.”

The report outlines a spectrum of potential threats to U.S. air bases, from hobbyist quadcopters to hypersonic boost-glide missiles.

While the Army leads efforts to counter unmanned aerial systems and has fielded some short-range air-defense systems, Rand emphasized that gaps remain,

particularly against smaller drones.

Ongoing projects include the development of directed energy weapons to target drones, but the report concludes that passive defense measures remain the most cost-effective option for improving air base resilience.

These measures include hardened shelters, camouflage, decoys, asset dispersal, redundant fuel supplies, runway repair capabilities and blast-resistant construction.

“A combination of both active and passive defense measures is

understood to be critical for defending air bases during conflict,” the report states. However, “passive defenses, such as fuel bladders, runway repair, and aircraft shelters have generally been seen as the most cost-effective investment.”

The report recommends increased investment in both active and passive air base defense systems and urges the Defense Department to prioritize passive infrastructure improvements.

robson.seth@stripes.com
@SethRobson1

Summer drills to sharpen US mobility in the Pacific

BY SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

Multiple logistics exercises this summer will test and enhance U.S. forces’ airlift and sealift capabilities across the Indo-Pacific, the head of U.S. Transportation Command said recently.

“We’ll test the current logistics architecture and infrastructure, which provides sustained freedom of maneuver in the region and for the joint force,” Gen. Randall Reed told reporters during an online press conference.

The drills come at a time of heightened tensions, as China rapidly expands its military, constructs bases in disputed South China Sea territory and

threatens to invade or blockade Taiwan.

Reed was on a multiweek tour that included stops in Guam, the Philippines, Japan and South Korea. Photographs released by the Defense Department show him meeting recently with officials at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, and in Manila. He was also set to stop in South Korea, he said.

While Reed did not reveal many specifics about the upcoming drills, he confirmed one would be Mobility Guardian, a biennial exercise held in the Indo-Pacific for the first time in 2023.

That iteration involved forces from Australia, the United Kingdom, Canada, New Zealand,



JORDAN GARNER/U.S. Air Force

U.S. Transportation Command head Gen. Randall Reed, left, visits Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, earlier this month.

France and Japan. Together, they moved 15,000 U.S. and international troops using 70 aircraft for resupply missions, aerial refueling, and medical evacuations across a 3,000-mile train-

ing area.

This year’s exercise series aims to demonstrate the ability to rapidly mobilize and deploy forces from the U.S. to spots throughout the Indo-Pacific,

Reed said.

“These exercises will be very key to allow us to test tactics, techniques and procedures with allies and partners, and allow us to enhance our connectivity across various locations,” he said.

The U.S. military is committed to modernizing its sealift and airlift fleets, Reed said, adding that he’s been vocal about the need for more sealift capability.

“The fleet that we have is capable but aging, and quite simply, we need to get newer, more modern ships for the crews to operate,” he said. “We’re pushing to make sure that we can increase our capacity to move the personnel and equipment rapidly across this vast region.”

PACIFIC

Bomb-scarred Zero Hangar's decades of history marked

By JANIQUEA ROBINSON
Stars and Stripes

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI, Japan — For decades, it stood largely ignored, its thick concrete walls weathered by air raids and time — a relic from a different era, tucked away on this modern military installation south of Hiroshima.

Earlier this month, the Zero Hangar was formally rededicated in a ceremony that sought to both honor the past and underscore the present strength of the U.S.-Japan alliance.

The event drew a crowd of American and Japanese military personnel, including Rear Adm. Ichiro Ishikawa, head of Fleet Air Wing 31 of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force.

The air station's commander, Col. Richard Rusnok, delivered remarks that recalled MCAS Iwakuni's wartime role and the hangar's survival. During World War II, the base served as a training site for the Imperial Japanese Navy Air Service and became the target of repeated American air raids.

"On 9 August 1945, Iwakuni was once again attacked by B-24s from the 11th Bomb Group operating out of Okinawa with a focus on roads, railways, remaining oil facilities, and the air station,"



Marines rehearse in front of the Zero Hangar ahead of a recent rededication ceremony for the historic structure.

Rusnok told the crowd. "In this raid, three of the hangars were destroyed with likely casualties in at least one of those hangars where civilians took shelter."

The Zero Hangar was the only one of its kind left standing after the bombings, its 40-centimeter-thick concrete walls withstanding blasts that flattened the rest of the base.

The structure is believed to have housed various aircraft during the war, including the Mitsubishi A6M, better known as the Zero, or Type 00. Sleek and maneuverable, the aircraft played a central role in the war's closing chapters.

"It fell into disrepair over the years," Rusnok said of the hangar.

"It was slated for demolition multiple times. At times, deployed personnel found reasons to borrow their leader's cars and park in the top of the hangar — a true testament to the strength of materials used to build it."

Rusnok shared insight into the hangar's unofficial legacy among the U.S. military community.

"There was also a 'Zero Hangar qualification' that involved riding a bicycle over the top," he said, drawing laughter from the crowd. "As air station commander, I implore you not to do any of those activities today."

In 1986, the base's then-commander, Col. D.J. McCarthy, worked with the Japanese American Cultural Friendship Associa-



PHOTOS BY JANIQUEA ROBINSON/Stars and Stripes

Guests check out the replica Zero fighter on display inside the historic Zero Hangar at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan.

tion to preserve the structure and repurpose it as a museum. A replica Zero aircraft — used in the 1984 Japanese film "Zero Fighter in Flames" — was placed inside.

Navy Chief Petty Officer Steve Parson collaborated with Petty Officer 1st Class Andrew Busken, the Seabee lead, to spruce up the hangar, according to a statement emailed by 2nd Lt. Justin Weinstein, a base spokesman. As part of the project, the team added custom-built display cases to showcase key artifacts tied to the hangar's history.

The displays include a historical flag signed by Japanese Imperial pilots, a parachute, and a letter from the film studio that do-

nated the Zero replica to the air station, the statement said.

"Today, we are here to rededicate that museum, nearly 40 years from when it opened and 80 years later from when the shrapnel scars on its outside were made by falling bombs," Rusnok said at the rededication. "Tonight is an opportunity to remember the past, but also to celebrate all that is good here in Iwakuni. There is no greater force for good in the Indo-Pacific region than the U.S.-Japan alliance, and that alliance is stronger than ever here in Iwakuni."

robinson.janiquea@stripes.com
@JaniqueaRob

Restored US bomber to go on display in Papua New Guinea

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

An American bomber from World War II that sat hidden in Papua New Guinea's jungle for decades will soon go on display at a museum in Port Moresby, the island nation's capital, according to the Australian air force.

The Douglas A-20 Havoc, built in 1943 in Long Beach, Calif., was assigned to 5th Air Force during the war and crash-landed in the island's interior after a combat mission the following year.

Known as the Hell'N Pelican II, the aircraft was rediscovered in 1976 and has since undergone extensive restoration in Australia.

The bomber was shipped to Melbourne in 1943 before being flown to Papua New Guinea — then the Australian-administered Territory of New Guinea — according to information published recently on the Pacific Wrecks website. In March 1944, it arrived at Gusap Airfield, where it was assigned to 2nd Lt. Charles Davidson and Sgt. John McKenna.



Crew members painted the Hell'N Pelican II with an image of a pelican carrying a bomb.

Painted with nose art of a pelican carrying a bomb, the Hell'N Pelican II flew its first mission on March 29, 1944, striking Bunabun Harbor at low altitude, according to Pacific Wrecks.

On April 16, the bomber participated in another low-level strike on Holladia — present-day Jayapura — before running low on fuel in poor weather and crash-landing near the village of Amalmon.

"During the landing the propellers were bent backward and



PHOTOS BY JESSICA GRAY/Australian Defence

The Douglas A-20 Havoc bomber Hell'N Pelican II is loaded onto the ADV Reliant in Townsville, Australia, earlier this month, for transport to the Papua New Guinea National Museum and Art Gallery.

the leading edge of the left wing was damaged when it impacted small trees," the website states.

Behind enemy lines, Davidson and McKenna received air-dropped supplies, including a radio and life raft, according to Pacific Wrecks. The pair evaded Japanese patrols and crocodiles for two weeks, eventually floating down the Gogol River to

safety. They were rescued by the Australian ship HMAS Matafele and returned to Gusap Airfield.

Covered by vegetation, the bomber remained hidden until its discovery in 1976.

Six years later, the Papua New Guinea government offered the Havoc and another airframe to the Australian air force for restoration, Squadron Leader Karyn

Markwell, an Australian air force history and heritage spokeswoman, said recently by email.

In 1984, a CH-47 Chinook airlifted the bomber to the HMAS Tarakan, a landing craft, which sailed it to Australia, Markwell said.

Restoration efforts were carried out from 1985 to 1993 at bases in Richmond, Wagga and Amberly, using parts from other Havoc fuselages.

Although the restored aircraft was gifted to the Papua New Guinea National Museum and Art Gallery in 1996, it remained at Amberly's aviation heritage center while a dedicated exhibit space was built.

The aircraft was recently disassembled and shipped back to Papua New Guinea aboard the ADV Reliant, Markwell said.

It is scheduled to be unveiled at the museum's new Aviation Heritage Hangar in time for the 50th anniversary of Papua New Guinea's independence on Sept. 16.

robson.seth@stripes.com
@SethRobson1

MILITARY



BRIAN McELHINEY/Stars and Stripes

Japanese soldiers remove a 5-inch shell from an explosion-proof container after defusing it in Yaese, Okinawa.

Japanese troops demonstrate new method to defuse US shells

BY BRIAN McELHINEY
AND KEISHI KOJA
Stars and Stripes

YAESE, Okinawa — Japanese troops this month demonstrated a new, explosion-proof container that improves safety during the removal of unexploded U.S.-made ordnance leftover from World War II.

The demonstration took place in Yaese, a town in southern Okinawa where a five-inch shell was discovered at a farm on May 7.

Six members of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force's 101st Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit used the cylindrical container — roughly the size of a washing machine — to safely defuse the shell.

As reporters watched from about 80 feet away, troops placed a wooden box holding the shell

into the container, sealed it and covered it with a protective tent. About five quiet minutes later, they removed the tent and retrieved the defused shell.

The process takes about 20 minutes longer than traditional methods but can be carried out quickly once a shell is found, a spokeswoman with the Ground Self-Defense Force's 15th Brigade said.

The traditional method typically involves digging a 20-foot hole and lining it with metal plates. The new container eliminates the need for excavation and significantly reduces the evacuation radius by minimizing noise and vibration, according to the Okinawa General Bureau's website.

"Using the container helps a lot because it is safer," the brigade spokeswoman said.

The container was specially

designed to defuse five-inch shells and has been used 25 times since it was introduced in January 2024.

The device used to disable the shell — known as a dearmer — was not described in detail due to security concerns.

The high-strength steel cylinder has a dual-layer structure designed to contain explosions and fragments from five-inch shells, a bureau spokesman said.

Nineteen of the 23 bombs defused on Okinawa between April 2024 and March were five-inch shells, according to the brigade spokeswoman.

The bureau has no plans to create containers for other bomb sizes, the bureau spokesman said.

mcelhiney.brian@stripes.com, @BrianMcElhiney
koja.keishi@stripes.com, @KeishiRKoja

Navy ending its experimentation on dogs, cats

BY LINDA F. HERSEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Navy announced the termination of all research testing on cats and dogs, after facing increased pressure from lawmakers and animal rights groups.

Calling the end to the experiments long overdue, Navy Secretary John Phelan has ordered the service surgeon general to review all medical research programs to ensure they align with ethical practices and "true scientific necessity."

"It gives me great pleasure to terminate all Department of the Navy's testing on cats and dogs, ending these inhumane practices and saving taxpayer dollars," Phelan said on social media.

The Navy secretary thanked the administration of President Donald Trump, including Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and the Department of Government Efficiency for vetting and ending contracts that fund experiments on dogs and cats.

Sen. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, was among lawmakers who congratulated the Navy for ending the studies. Ernst recently has opposed the U.S. continuing to fund testing on cats and dogs in other nations, including China.

"This is a taxpayer-funded problem," said Anthony Bellotti, president of the White Coat Waste Project, a nonprofit watchdog that tracks animal testing by federal agencies.

The group estimated the federal government spends \$20 billion annually on research studies using dog and cats as test

subjects.

The end to the Navy's tests followed a recent social media campaign by activist Laura Loomer of Florida against the federal government conducting studies using cats and dogs.

Loomer, who has ties to Trump, has a podcast called "Loomer Unleashed" that she used to share information on experiments that White Coat Waste Project said it obtained under the Freedom of Information Act.

"President Trump is helping ensure funding is not allowed any longer. He is receptive to ending these contracts," Loomer said recently on her podcast.

The Trump administration last month pulled the plug on a \$10 million study funded by the Defense Department that involved giving electroshocks to cats in experiments on constipation and incontinence, according to White Coat Waste Project.

Justin Goodman, senior vice president for advocacy and public policy at White Coat Waste Project, said the study was dropped after Loomer and Elon Musk objected to the tests. Lawmakers also objected to them.

He said the Navy then moved to eliminate experiments using dogs and cats.

"Taxpayers shouldn't be forced to pay for pet abuse in Navy-funded labs," Goodman said.

The animal rights group PETA praised the Navy's elimination of testing using dogs and cats.

hersey.linda@stripes.com

Air Force charity revises aid to cover more needs for airmen

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

Mental health counseling, domestic violence relocation and immigration fees are now among the expenses covered by Air Force Aid Society financial assistance programs.

The nonprofit relief organization this month added nine categories to the list of needs for which airmen, guardians and their families can seek interest-free loans or grants in a pinch, an agency statement June 9 said. The other new ones are adoption fees, overseas car rental, basic furniture for new households, child car seat and booster seat

stipends, essential home repairs and vehicle shipment costs during assignment moves.

The expanded support reflects current needs and was made in response to feedback from families and front-line support agencies, the organization said. "We're evolving to meet the real-life challenges our members face so they can stay focused on the mission," said retired Maj. Gen. Ed Thomas, the society's chief of staff.

The organization did not say why the various categories were added. But a Rand Corp. study in 2024 found that many service members avoid needed mental

health treatment through military providers out of fear it would harm their careers.

The cost of seeking more confidential care off base also can be a barrier, according to the study.

Domestic violence relocation support is intended to help service members and their spouses leave abusive partners by providing them with immediate funds. The Army Emergency Relief Fund began offering a similar assistance program in November. Survivors of abuse cited financial dependence on their abuser as the most common barrier to reporting, a 2021 audit by the Government Accountabil-

ity Office found. They also listed transitional compensation as the most needed resource that was unavailable to them at their installation.

Other changes by the agency include merging all assistance requests into one simplified application, whether the person requesting aid qualifies for a no-interest loan or a grant.

Created in 1942, the society is considered the official charity of the Air Force and Space Force. It provides financial help so applicants can pay for such things as medical bills, car repairs, funeral expenses or veterinary care. Active-duty Air Force and Space

Force personnel, Air Force guardsmen and reservists, retirees, surviving spouses and family members are eligible for agency assistance. The dependents of personnel who died on active duty or while retired may be eligible as well.

Applicants can go to www.afas.org and click "request assistance" or visit the on-base Military and Family Readiness Center. Applications may require supporting documents, including a budget worksheet to assess need.

svan.jennifer@stripes.com
@stripesktown

MILITARY

Ranger earns Soldier's Medal for saving hiker

BY GARY WARNER
Stars and Stripes

JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD, Wash. — Army Staff Sgt. Callum Wilkie had just met Chris Zwierzynski as they were separately traveling up the Old Chute Route to the summit of Mount Hood, the 11,249-foot dormant volcano east of Portland, Ore.

Moments later, Wilkie saw Zwierzynski stumble and plummet more than 500 feet down the ice- and rock-strewn face of the mountain.

“Just one bad step, and he fell right past me,” Wilkie said.

Zwierzynski said he recalled little from the potentially fatal fall.

“I hit my head, I had eight broken ribs, a shattered left foot, head injuries, some internal injuries,” he said.

Wilkie, the senior medic for the 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, made the treacherous climb down to where Zwierzynski lay unconscious.

“No bullets or bomb fragments like in combat, but a lot of damage,” Wilkie said.

The two men were reunited June 9 at a ceremony at Lewis-McChord, where Wilkie received the Soldier's Medal for his seven-hour effort to save Zwierzynski's life in July 2024. It's the Army's highest award for valor



U.S. ARMY
Army Lt. Gen. Matthew McFarlane, left, exchanges a salute with Staff Sgt. Callum Wilkie after pinning a Soldier's Medal on Wilkie's uniform at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

and bravery in a non-combat situation.

Wilkie and a fellow Army medic were on leave and decided to hike Mount Hood. A native of Twain Harte, Calif., near Yosemite National Park, Wilkie was on familiar ground, having hiked to the Mount Hood summit at least three times.

The Army said Wilkie has climbed 46 of Washington's 100 highest peaks. In the summer, he'll lead 60 Rangers on a search-and-rescue training hike up Mount Rainier, the 14,411-foot inactive volcano that seems to loom over Lewis-McChord, just 31 miles to the southeast.

Zwierzynski, 56, who works for a trucking company in Scottsdale, Ariz., was building his experience. On his 50th birthday, he had made a pact with himself to hike to the highest point in all 50 states.

About 10,000 hikers each year attempt to climb to the top of Mount Hood, according to the Oregonian newspaper. Mount Hood is a climb that requires ice axes, ropes and crampons — the steel spikes attached to the bottom of boots for traction on ice.

More than 130 people have died hiking on Mount Hood since the peak was first reached in 1870. Each year, up to 50 people

require rescue from the mountain, according to the Oregonian.

Zwierzynski was hiking with three friends, but the group had separated as the challenges of the top part of the trail slowed progress. Wilkie said he and his friend saw Zwierzynski climbing closer to the rock face of the mountain and encouraged him to take a safer route.

“We were just talking with him, trying to get him to move to our safe route, and just trying to ensure that he buddied up because he was by himself,” Wilkie said. “He's about maybe an additional 15 to 20 feet ahead of us when he took a bad step and started to fall.”

Zwierzynski said he recalls just snippets of the beginning and end of the incident.

Wilkie's background as a medic took over.

“He was asking if they can cut my clothes to inspect my injuries,” Zwierzynski said. “I gave him my wife's name and phone number. I couldn't tell my name. Fast forward six hours later, I remember hearing the helicopter.”

Wilkie said he triaged the injuries, paying special attention to Zwierzynski's broken left foot,

which had no pulse.

“He knew that he had to keep it straight or by the time I got to a hospital, they would have to amputate,” Zwierzynski said. “He did that for six hours. If he hadn't, I wouldn't be standing here on two feet today.”

Wilkie said when Zwierzynski's fall stopped, he was concerned it was fatal.

“I had a good friend in climbing, another Ranger, die in a climbing accident in May last year,” Wilkie said.

After hitting an SOS beacon that sent out an emergency call monitored by local search-and-rescue officers, Wilkie made his way down the mountainside.

When he reached Zwierzynski, Wilkie said his training as a Ranger medic — including his deployment to Afghanistan — “kicked in on the side of that mountain.”

“A big focus here is just to master the fundamentals,” he said. “I'm not carrying my gigantic aid bag on my back, like when I am on duty, but we practice how to improvise.”

With the help of other climbers and park rangers, Wilkie was able to stabilize Zwierzynski until an Oregon National Guard medical evacuation helicopter arrived and took him to a hospital in Portland.

warner.gary@stripes.com



Imagery on US vehicle in Syria prompts investigation

BY LARA KORTE
Stars and Stripes

A Defense Department investigation is underway into the appearance of an armored U.S. military vehicle in Syria that was inscribed with a cross and an Arabic word that can be considered offensive to Muslims.

The inquiry was launched after the digital news outlet Middle East Eye published the image showing the vehicle on patrol near the city of Hasakah,

in the northeast part of the country. On the upper portion of the vehicle, the word “Kafir,” meaning “infidel,” is written in Arabic script next to a cross.

Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve, the U.S. military coalition leading efforts in Syria and Iraq, is aware of reports of “unapproved symbols or languages,” a task force spokesperson said.

Officials have “initiated a formal inquiry and taken proactive measures to ensure that

U.S. military equipment bears no markings that violate U.S. Department of Defense policy,” the spokesperson said.

The photo was taken in late May, according to Middle East Eye. It sparked criticism on social media from users who interpreted it as a show of defiance against Muslims.

Charles Lister, the director of the Middle East Institute's Syria program, shared the photo on X and called it “idiotic.”

The word Kafir was originally



LAURENT PERPIGNA IBAN, MIDDLE EAST EYE/used with permission
An American military armored vehicle displaying a cross and the word “Kafir,” Arabic for infidel, patrols near Hasakah, Syria, on May 31.

applied to the populace of the Hindu Kush in northeastern Afghanistan before the region, formerly known as Kafiristan, was forcibly converted to Islam, according to the Merriam-Webster dictionary.

The dictionary calls the word dated and adds that it is often considered offensive.

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth has previously received backlash for having the word tattooed on his arm.

The U.S. has maintained a constant military presence in Syria for more than a decade as part of its effort to defeat Islam-

ic State. Last fall, the U.S. troop presence there reached a peak of more than 2,000.

The Defense Department is now pulling out troops from the country following the fall of Bashar Assad's regime in December.

Pentagon officials plan to withdraw hundreds of service members and consolidate the U.S. bases in Syria in the coming months, eventually reducing the total force to fewer than 1,000 troops and one base.

@lara_korte
korte.lara@stripes.com

Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher

Brian Bowers, Guam Edition Editor

Scott Foley, Revenue Director

CONTACT US

633 3rd Street NW, Suite 500, Washington, D.C. 20001

Editorial: (202) 886-0005

Advertising: (202) 886-0014

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

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

© Stars and Stripes, 2025

for members of the military community.

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

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

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