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Mt. Santa Rosa. Photo courtesy of Guam Visitors Bureau

What will be, will be the next great worry

BY LISA SMITH MOLINARI,
SPECIAL TO STARS AND STRIPES

“What’s next? When will we move? Where will we live? Will I find a job? Where will the kids go to school? Will we make good friends? Will we be happy there?”

These are the questions that bombard even the most level-headed military spouse’s mind, especially during the summer months when about 60 percent of the 430,000 annual Permanent Change of Station, or “PCS moves,” take place. Since military orders are issued only three to six months before report dates, military families are given very little time to make a long list of life-altering decisions about unknowns — housing choices, school placement,

SEE WORRY ON PAGE 2

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WORRY: PCS moves stressful on families

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

neighborhood demographics, local economy, employment options, etc.

Unlike most level-headed military spouses, I'm one of those people who has never dealt well with unknowns during the 28 years when my Navy husband was active duty.

You know the type. The spouses who incessantly scribble lists titled "Stuff I Gotta Do," "Movies I Wanna Watch on Netflix," "Household Projects I Never Quite Finished," "Weight Loss Goals I've Been Working on Since Ninth Grade," "Meals That the Kids Won't Hate," and "Embarrassing Questions to Ask the Doctor."

Yep, that's me. Needless to say, military moves really stressed me out because I didn't deal well with unknowns. I needed something solid, an anchor of information to plan our family's life around. "I don't care if we live in a cardboard box under an overpass, just tell me where we'll live, and I'll plan where to hang the pictures," I've said often over the years.

All joking aside, there are legitimate unknowns that military families face every time they move. If we decide to "geobach" so the kids can finish school, how

The Meat and Potatoes of Life

Lisa Smith Molinari



will that affect our marriage? Will I be able to find work in my field? If the kids change schools, will they struggle with a new curriculum, or will they have to sit through material they've already learned? Will they fit in? How can I make sure they won't experience social isolation?

During the many PCS moves our family endured, I often worked myself into a tizzy over the unknowns about our family's next duty station and our next home. To make matters worse, the anxiety over moving would make me mentally fragile, prone to completely unrelated and illogical apprehensions about our kids, the dog, our health, our parents, taxes, fruit flies, sugar substitutes, world peace, whatever.

During one move when two of our three kids were enrolled in college, my moving-stress-battered mind went to irrational extremes. "What if Anna's

During the many PCS moves our family endured, I often worked myself into a tizzy over the unknowns about our family's next duty station and our next home.

roommate has green hair and bolts in her face? Could someone's hot pot set the dorm on fire and ruin Anna's entire freshman experience? Will Hayden get snapped up by some tech firm after he graduates, and move halfway around the world to California? Will he learn how to iron shirts all by himself? Who is going to pair up all his mismatched

socks? Will I have to fly all the way out there to disinfect his bathroom and make sure he's eating enough fruit? Will our youngest, Lilly, be forced to forgo college altogether because we will be flat broke by the time we pay tuition for Hayden and Anna? Could we all fit into a cardboard box under an overpass if we had to?"

It's not easy being a nut job. I'd much rather drift contentedly through life like a twig on the shoulders of a mighty stream, banishing worry and embracing spontaneity while belting out Doris Day's best "Que Sera, Sera." Do I have deep-seated "control issues" that might one day spiral into a psychotic episode and leave me wandering in front of the courthouse in a dusty wool coat and a tin-foil turban, muttering something about campaign finance reform, and pushing a shopping cart full of empty tuna cans?

There I go again. My rational side knows that all the worries in the world won't change two simple truths of military life: We'll never know what will happen until it happens. And, just like Doris said, whatever will be, will be.

Read more of Lisa Smith Molinari's columns at: themeatandpotatoesoflife.com
Email: meatandpotatoesoflife@googlemail.com



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Forest restoration project launched on Guam

BY STANLEY JAMES,
MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP BLAZ

DEDEDO – Participants of the Marianas Terrestrial Conservation Conference (MTCC) visited Marine Corps Base (MCB) Camp Blaz's North Finegayan Forest Enhancement Site (FES) June 17, 2021. The visit allowed participants to learn more about the innovative conservation efforts being researched at the FES. The site is part of a 1,000-acre forest enhancement program identified in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Biological Opinion for the Marines' relocation to Guam, the largest limestone forest restoration effort in Guam's recorded history.

The conference, which was organized by members of a non-profit organization, attracted scientists, educators, and activists from the local community. "Tãno, Tãsi, yan Todu," CHamoru for "Land, Water, & All Therein," serves as the organization's motto and pledge to the restoration and preservation of ecosystems across the Marianas Islands.

"The reason we started the conference was to share information and make sure that lessons that are being learned in one place are being applied in other places," said Haldre Rogers, MTCC co-organizer, Tãno, Tãsi, yan Todu board member, and assistant professor at Iowa

State University. "This is the first large-scale forest restoration project, so I think a lot of people are looking forward to hearing the lessons that are learned here and what's working and what isn't working."

"We hope these partnerships will not just improve Guam's declining forests, but will create opportunities for local conservationists to ensure community values are incorporated into management approaches. Conservation success both on the installation and throughout the Marianas depends on strong collaboration," said Al Borja, Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC) Marianas environmental director at MCB Camp Blaz.

Records of invasive species on Guam date back to the early 1900s. Cadena de amor, Antigonon leptopus, was documented in 1905 by American botanist William Safford in The Useful Plants of the Island of Guam. Fast-growing plants like cadena de amor enshroud their hosts, reducing the amount of sunlight that reaches underlying plant life.

"I think they are doing some good work in figuring out how to control the invasive vines using different methods people haven't tried before," said Rogers. "I think we'll start seeing some big transformations when they



Sheeka Tareyama, a Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Marianas employee at Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz, briefs Marianas Terrestrial Conservation Conference participants during a visit to the MCB Camp Blaz North Finegayan Forest Enhancement Site on June 17. Photo by Cpl. Andrew King, U.S. Marine Corps

control the Vitex parviflora and start outplanting native plants. I'm looking forward to coming back in a couple of years when that has been done and seeing the transformation a little further."

Removal methods for invasive species like the African tulip tree, Spathodea campanulata, and Mile-a-minute vine, Mikania micrantha, are being researched at the site. Both are on the Invasive Species Specialists Group's top 100 list. Environmental specialists from NAVFAC Marianas, MCB Camp Blaz, and the University of Guam are hopeful their discoveries will serve as a

model for future restoration efforts in tropical environments.

"Guam's native ecosystems face many shared challenges, including feral pigs, deer, and invasive vines. The lessons we learn about controlling these threats may help other restoration projects deal with these concerns more efficiently," said Adrienne Loerzel, NAVFAC Marianas forest enhancement program manager at MCB Camp Blaz.

The process of restoring native habitats also includes the propagation of culturally important species like the territorial tree of Guam, Intsia bijuga, colloquially referred to as ifit. Due

to its solid wood, which was essential for the construction of homes and furnishings, Safford described I. bijuga as the "most important timber tree of Guam."

"One of the big things we're hoping for is that people learn more about the things around them in their environment," said Joni Quenga Kerr, MTCC coordinator, Tãno, Tãsi, yan Todu treasurer, and associate professor of Marine Biology and Chemistry at Guam Community College. "As a teacher, I get students all the time who have never walked into a limestone forest or gone out to the reef." Kerr hopes their efforts help people understand nature is special. "It's something you want to protect. It's something you want to conserve."

MCB Camp Blaz's 18,000 square foot plant nursery is home to 30 native and endemic species, including ifit. This biologically diverse inventory can serve as the essential building blocks of a healthy limestone forest. Preliminary research has resulted in the development of new storage techniques that improve seed viability before propagation.

"Understanding storage requirements and timelines for our native seeds will help us plan for restoration activities. This information is critical to making sure we have enough plants for large-scale outplanting projects," Loerzel said.

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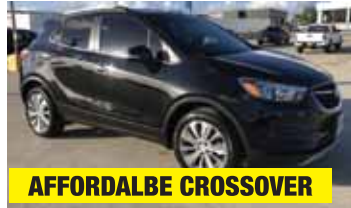
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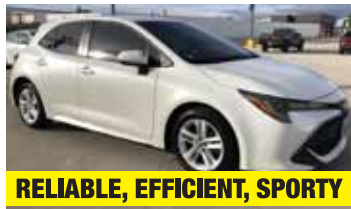
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Rosketti

a Chamorro cookie

STORY AND PHOTOS BY ANNETTE MERFALEN,
WWW.ANNIESCHAMORROKITCHEN.COM

I won't lie to you...you WILL need to have a tall glass of milk or water when you eat these starchy Chamorro cookies. It calls for an entire container of corn starch after all, but despite all that starch, this is a melt-in-your mouth cookie you won't want to miss out on.

As a little girl, I remember going to rosaries just so that I can have some of these yummy cookies. I'd CAREFULLY (they crumble easily) wrap a couple of them in a napkin to bring home for later.

Nowadays, you'd expect to pay a good chunk of change to buy some ready-made for you. I used to love receiving

the occasional care package with a Crab Biscuit can inside. That was the telltale sign, the can, for it wasn't biscuits inside, but Rosketti, carefully packed so

as not to break any. But even if they did break, I didn't dare throw any crumbs away! Oh no! I'd scoop those little bits up and eat them with a spoon, it was like gold to me!

But that was about oh, maybe 25 years ago. I've since learned to make these crumbly, melt-in-your-mouth delights myself.

Since I originally posted this several years ago, I've since learned a bit about the origin of the name of this cookie. This information is from the Guam Hispanic Heritage Facebook page:

"The ROSKAS of Guam. In many countries in the Hispanic world, on the Day of the Three Kings it is customary to serve a ring shaped sweet bread called ROSCA DE REYES. It is believed that in Guam, common Chamorro treats such as ROSKETI, BOÑELUS ROSKAS (commonly known as "yeast donuts"), and ROSKU shortbread were created as a simpler form of the traditional Spanish ROSCA. In Chamorro the word ROSKA refers to a ring or coil shape. ROSKETI and ROSKU are variants that carry the same meaning. The meaning and use of the word ROSKA seems to have been forgotten. And has resulted in ROSKETI being made other shapes in which they can't truly be called ROSKETI."

Additionally, the owner of the Facebook page suggested that a more historically accurate name for what I have pictured below is "monedas" which means "coins."

Well, whatever you choose to call it, it'll be delicious regardless.

Give my recipe a try, but have that glass of milk handy. Enjoy!



Ingredients+

- 1 container corn starch
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- A pinch of salt
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 sticks butter, softened
- 3 eggs
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract

Directions



1 Cream the butter, then add the sugar. Mix until creamy.



5 Cover the mixer with a towel.



9 Press with a fork.



2 Add the eggs and vanilla.



6 Mix until a smooth batter forms.



10 Bake at 375 for 20 minutes.



3 Mix well. Scrape down if necessary.



7 Scrape the sides of the bowl. Use a small cookie scoop to make small balls.



11 Immediately remove to a wire rack to cool.



4 Add the dry ingredients a little at a time.



8 Roll into smooth balls.



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Step into Annie's Chamorro Kitchen via Facebook. Search for: "Annie's Chamorro Kitchen"
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GET TO KNOW



A VILLAGE PROFILE COURTESY OF GUAMPEDIA

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

Yigo (Yigu)Where everyone wants to live.....



Farmers stand near carabao used to work the fields in this historic photo. Yigo has some of the most fertile soil of the island and during the 19th century wealthy residents of Hagåtña began to acquire large areas of land. Photo courtesy of Micronesian Area Research Center (MARC)/ Isla Center for the Arts

BY MICHAEL R. CLEMENT, JR.,
GUAMPEDIA

The meaning of “Yigo” is unclear. According to some, it comes from the Spanish word *yugo* which means yoke (the type used to secure a carabao to a cart or plow). However, some sources refer to the area as *Asyigo* which means the home of (a person known as) Yigo. If this is the case, “yigo” may be an ancient word that's meaning has been lost.

Village history

During the 19th century, wealthy residents of Hagåtña began to acquire large areas of land in this fertile part of the island. The rich soil proved excellent for cocoa which was used to make hot chocolate, a popular afternoon drink for Hagåtña residents. The

area was also known for other agricultural products including coffee, avocado, citrus, and copra. The area of Upi, now Northwest Field, was particularly important for its cattle ranches while several wealthy landowners established copra plantations along the northern coast and in the area of Yigo proper.

By the early years of the American administration, some Chamorus chose to settle permanently in Yigo and surrounding areas. In 1912, the first school opened for grades one through four. In 1919, the US Government authorized land use permits for up to 25 years to attract more farmers to the area. In 1920, Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel was erected so that the people of Yigo would no longer have to make the long journey to Hagåtña each week for mass.

The new village of Yigo was highly self-sufficient because of its excellent farm lands. However, people still had to travel to Hagåtña to buy household goods. In 1925, Jose M. Torres solved this problem by build-



ing the first village store. Torres was a copra trader and would accept coconuts in exchange for groceries. By 1940, Yigo and surrounding areas were home to about 40 families spread out over large distances.

During World War II, most Yigo families were able to stay in the area. Some Hagåtña families relocated to their ranches in the Yigo area, to stay out of the way of the Japanese. However, towards the end of the war, Yigo became the site of a major battle as American forces pursued the Japanese up the center of the island. The final major battle occurred at Yigo on 7 and 8 August 1944, destroying the church and many village homes.

The end of the war brought many changes to Yigo. The village population soared during the post-war years, as displaced Hagåtña families settled ranch lands in the area. Additionally, some of the many non-Chamorus who came to Guam as part of the Civil Service and military decided to make Yigo their permanent home. While some villagers continued to farm, the village began to reorient its economy to the presence of Andersen Air Force Base. Since the 1980s, Yigo has continued to grow, mostly through the construction of public and private housing subdivisions.

Yigo is now the island's second most populated village.



Yigo parish Photo by Guampedia



This village at a glance

- **Population:** The approximate population of Yigo, as of the 2010 US Census was 20,539.
- **Village officials:** Anthony "Tony" P. Sanchez, Mayor, 2021-Present; Rudy M. Matanane, Mayor, 2013-2021; Robert S. Lizama, Mayor, 1997-2012; Eduardo C. Artero, Mayor, 1993-1997; John F. Blas, Commissioner/Mayor, 1989-1993; Jesus P. Cruz, Acting Commissioner, 9/1988-12/1988; David G. Blas, Commissioner, 1981-9/1988; Antonio A. Calvo, Commissioner, 1968-1981; Juan G. Blas, Commissioner, 1965-1968; Jose D. Perez, Commissioner, 1957-1965; Juan M. Santos, Commissioner, 1954-1957; Manuel A. Calvo, Commissioner, 1948-1954; Jesus C. Artero, Commissioner, 1945-1948; Juan A. San Nicolas, Commissioner, 1944-1945; Manuel F. Taguacta, Commissioner, Pre-World War II; Manuel F. Torres, Commissioner, Pre-World War II; Jose P. Leon Guerrero, Deputy Commissioner (under Machananao), Pre-World War II (courtesy of Konsehlon Mahot Guahan/the Mayor's Council of Guam). Loreto V. Leones, Vice Mayor, 2021-Present; Anthony P. Sanchez, Vice Mayor, 2014-2021; Ronald "Ron" J. Flores, Vice Mayor, 2009-2013; Jose P. Leon Guerrero, Deputy Commissioner (under Machananao), Pre-World War II
- **Village description:** Yigo is the island's largest and most northern village, encompassing 35 square miles. On the map, the village looks like a triangle that stretches from Pati Point to Ritidian in the North, and from Ritidian to the coast near Pagat. Yigo is the home to Andersen Air Force Base which has restricted access to the beaches of the village. Yigo has numerous housing subdivisions that have sprung up in the last three decades, but it still retains a rural feel thanks to its large open spaces and dense forests supported by some of the richest soil on Guam. Like all northern Guam villages, it sits on top of the Northern Aquifer, which supplies about 80 percent of the island's drinking water supply.
– Courtesy of Konsehlon Mahot Guahan, the Mayor's Council of Guam

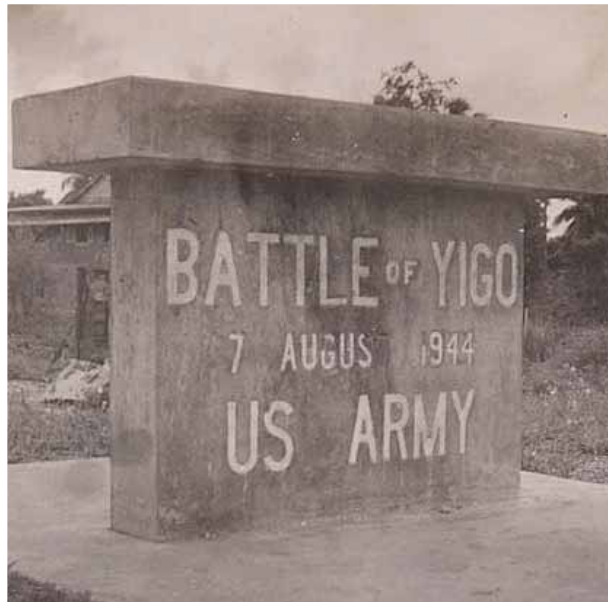
Private Schools

There are also private schools including Trinity Christian School and Dominican Catholic School, which is part of the Archdiocese of Agana Catholic School System.

Department of Defense Schools

Located within the gates of Andersen Air Force Base are the Andersen Elementary and Middle School. They are part of the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools (DDESS) on island for children and wards of active-duty military members, and federal employees hired from the U.S. with "return rights". The DoD DDESS schools on Guam opened Sept. 29, 1997.

Historical



This monument commemorates the final battle of World War II on Guam. Photo by Bert Unpingco, Courtesy of Guampedia

Battle of Yigo Monument

This monument commemorates the final battle of World War II on Guam. As Americans worked their way up the center of the island in early August, 1944, the Japanese fortified their positions around Mt. Santa Rosa. On August 5 the US Army's 77th Infantry were bombarded with artillery. They finally made it through the Japanese roadblocks and secured the summit of Mt. Santa Rosa on August 8. The memorial is just off Route 15 (Back road to Andersen) and Chalan Lolan, not far from the back gate.

Pacific Peace Memorial Park

This memorial was erected by a Japanese group to commemorate all those who died on Guam during World War II. It is located just off Marine Corps Drive at Mataguac, the site of the last Japanese command post. Although the island was basically secure, General Obata, Commander of the

Japanese forces was still holed up in his command post. It was stormed by American troops on August 12, 1944. Rather than surrender, General Obata committed suicide in his bunker.



The Pacific Peace Memorial Park is dedicated to those lost their lives during World War II. It is erected near the battle site between Japanese and American soldiers. Photo by Nathalie Pereda, Courtesy of Guampedia

Recreational

Mt. Santa Rosa

This is the highest point in Northern Guam. From lookout areas near the summit, one can see excellent views of Guam and Rota. At one point there was a pineapple farm in this area.

Yigo Race Track

Built in 2001, just off of Route 15, this drag strip and off road track is a popular local attraction.



Route 15, commonly referred to as the "Backroad" provided an undisturbed link from Mangilao to the back gate of Andersen Air Force Base in Yigo. Several houses have sprung up along this once sparsely populated road. Photo by Nathalie Pereda, Courtesy of Guampedia

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

Institutions

Our Lady of Lourdes Church

This church was founded in 1920 and continues to serve the village's Catholic community. Yigo's fiesta is held the second Saturday of February in celebration of Our Lady of Lourdes.

Guam Public Schools

There are five public schools located in the northernmost village, including Simon A. Sanchez High School, F.B. Leon Guerrero Middle School and Daniel L. Perez, Upi and Machanao elementary schools.

See more of what Guam has to offer at:
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This 1958 photo shows the Our Lady of Lourdes Church. Another Chapel in the nearby district of Agafa Gumas was dedicated a few years ago as the Santa Bemadita Chapel. Photo by Robert Delf, Courtesy of Guam Museum

GUAM NATURE SPOTS

Asan Beach Park



GUAM VISITORS BUREAU

Summer's almost over so you need to take advantage of it! Or maybe you've spent the summer working hard and want a break for the weekend. Either way, everyone just needs a place to unwind sometimes and the best way to do that is by reconnecting with nature. Spend some time with the sun and the trees and you're sure to be feeling relaxed and ready to take on anything.

Here are some great spots on the island to sit and chill out with your friends or maybe even by yourself if you want some reflection time.

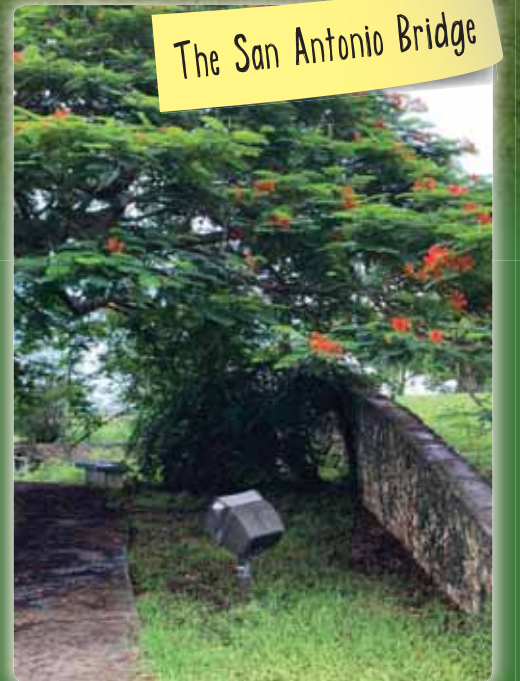
In Agana, the Plaza de España is a great spot for a picnic. Sit in the gazebo, on the benches, or under the trees. If you go on a Thursday, you can catch the Food Truck Frenzy just a little further down the road on the other side of the museum. You can also explore the different areas in the Plaza and learn a little bit about the history behind it.

The San Antonio Bridge is a less visited area so it's a good place for sitting and chatting. The bridge was originally built over a river, but now there is no water since the river was diverted. It's located in Agana across the boat basin and can be seen from Marine Drive.

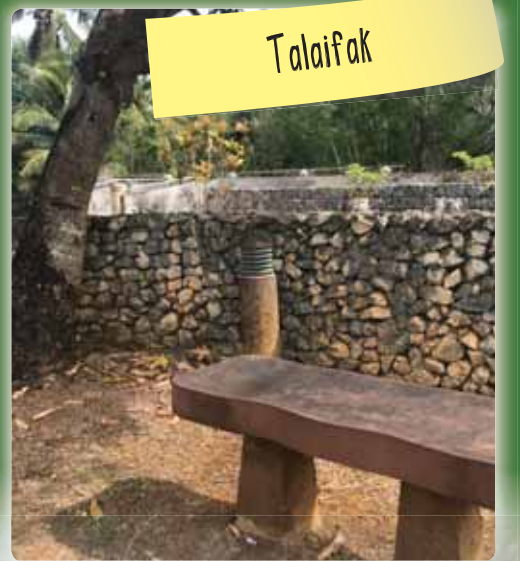
The Talaifak Bridge in Agat has an amazing view. It's such a peaceful place to sit at and can be seen from the road as you drive down south. Make sure to stop by to learn the history behind it!

Asan Beach Park is so fun to explore with your friends. Fly kites in the huge field or exercise around it whether you walk, run, or bike. You can even take a walk through nature trails up the mountain and see a small cave. The nature trails are pretty easy to walk and great for a quick adventure.

These are just a few spots on Guam to check out, especially if you haven't already. If relaxing is what you need, Guam nature spots are the best places to do it. Grab your friends and family and see a little more of our island this weekend!



The San Antonio Bridge



Talaifak



The Plaza de España



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



DAISY

This beautiful shy girl is estimated to be a little over a year old. She's very timid but will warm up to you quickly if you spend a little time with her. She loves playing in the play park and loves exploring. Daisy is looking for her FURever home and family.

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



HAPPY 77th LIBERATION DAY Guam

SHADES OF GREEN

US military's own private resort

at
Walt
Disney
World

Photos courtesy of Shades of Green

STARS AND STRIPES

Wouldn't it be nice to have your own, private resort in the midst of "The Happiest Place on Earth"?

You do if you're a member of any branch of the U.S. military. That's according to Edward Fagan, general manager of Shades of Green, a U.S. Department of Defense-owned resort on the grounds of Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla.

"Disney is a place where dreams come true," Fagan said. "It's the number-one family tourist destination in the world. In its midst we have a beautiful resort. Every member of the military owns this resort. This is something that is provided by the U.S. military as a thank you for your service."

Like other Armed Forces Recreation resorts worldwide, Shades of Green exists to give American troops and their families a place to enjoy rest and relaxation within the military community. The setting is 27 acres nestled between two PGA championship golf courses. The resort features a lodge-like clubhouse, heated pools and water slides, tennis courts, a poolside sports bar, video arcade, fitness facility, spa (offering makeovers for would-be princesses and pirates), fine and family dining, wedding facilities and indoor parking. The feeling is expansive, family oriented and carefree, and the setting is tropical, with rooms featuring balconies or patios with sweeping views of -- as the name implies -- lots of green.

"For somebody who just got 13 inches of snow at home, this is a way to get a change of scene," said Fagan. "Here, there's no question that you're in a tropical environment. We get generations of vacationers, from enlisted to officers to retirees."

Although the green in the resort's name originally came from the shades of green in the camouflage uniforms of all services when the Army bought the resort, there's another kind of green that is very much in focus: the cost of a family vacation to Disney World and its adjoining parks. Since 2007, the cost of one-day adult tickets for Walt Disney World in the off-peak season has increased 51

percent, to \$113, according to the Los Angeles Times. Add the cost of tickets for each family member to the expense of meals, lodging, parking and souvenirs over several days and a vacation at the Disney properties in Orlando can quickly get into many thousands of dollars.

Shades of Green promotes itself as a more affordable alternative, with discounted park tickets and free transportation to the

SEE RESORT ON PAGE 12



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RESORT: Focusing on recruits, retirees



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

parks. The resort also offers an AAFES store; a gift shop offering souvenirs at lower-than-Disney prices; parking for \$7 a day and frequent meal-and-room specials. Room rates are tiered according to rank, starting at \$109 for a standard room for E1-E6 and cadets. Lodging-and-meal deals are offered frequently.

“It’s possible to find a deal in Orlando that would match our room rates,” said Fagan, “but you wouldn’t be in the heart of the Disney property, and that adds the time and expense of driving and parking. And you wouldn’t be vacationing in a secure environment with like-minded people, and in a resort tailored to meet the needs of Wounded Warriors.”

Steve Bell, a retired Air

Force chief master sergeant from Dayton, Ohio, has stayed at Shades of Green about 20 times since the year 2000. Some of the visits have been on family vacations, but most were for research as owner and blogger at <http://www.militarydisneytips.com>, where he has provided Disney discount information by military, for military since 2008. He has spent thousands of hours comparing military discounts at Disney properties, including those offered at Shades of Green. He said the resort can offer big savings, especially for those in the lower enlisted ranks,



and at peak times of year, when room rates at other resorts at Walt Disney World spike. Room rates at Shades of Green remain the same year-round.

“One of the things I love about staying at Shades of Green is the way the guests interact with each other,” said Bell. “At Disney resorts, others just pass you by, but at Shades, others greet you in a friendly manner or even strike up conversations – after all, we are all part of the same big family! It usually starts with ‘Where are you stationed?’ and ‘Where have you been?’ Disney is the perfect place for the military family to de-stress and forget about the real world. When you’re there, you aren’t thinking about the deployment you have coming up next month – you’re just thinking about Disney.”

The resort’s beginnings go back to 1994, when the U.S. Army Morale, Welfare and Recreation department leased a Disney golf resort, thus establishing the only Armed Forces Recreation Center in the continental U.S. It was named Shades of Green to represent the services. MWR entered into a 99-year-lease with Disney and purchased the resort building in 1996. Disney still owns the land upon which it sits.

In its first years, the resort’s popularity caused it to fill to capacity early and often. Reservations were hard to get in busy seasons, with the waiting list sometimes as long as a year. So in 2002 the resort closed for almost two years for a \$50-million remodel and expansion that included more guest rooms and family suites, meeting space, additional dining and more amenities. It reopened in March 2004 with 586 guest rooms, a new Italian restaurant, a gym and roomier ticket sales and gift shop areas.

In September 2017, the resort underwent a \$50-million room renovation of its Magnolia Wing, located in a part of the hotel that was built in 1971. The redo was not at taxpayer expense – Shades of Green is self-sustaining; no outside funds are used in its operation or upkeep.

The resort’s future involves a greater effort to reach out to new recruits and retirees.

“A family might visit four to five times in a lifetime – as a single service member, parent with children, and retiree,” said Annette Zeno, director of sales and marketing for the resort. “Shades of Green and Central Florida are the perfect destinations for military families of all generations to enjoy and create memories that will last a lifetime.”



The main pool is in the shape of Mickey Mouse’s head and ears.

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Our Members Are the Mission



Standard room

WAYS TO SAVE SOME GREEN

■ Shades of Green, one of five Armed Forces Recreation Centers worldwide and the only one in the continental U.S., is a resort serving members of the U.S. Armed forces and their guests. It welcomes military members on active, reserve and National Guard duty, retirees and Dept. of Defense civilians. It is located in Lake Buena Vista, Fla., near Orlando, at Walt Disney World. Room rates are tiered according to rank, starting at \$109 for a standard room for E1-E6 and cadets. For room rates, see <https://www.shadesofgreen.org/rooms>.



■ A standard room sleeps five, with two queen-size beds and a sofa sleeper. At an average 450 square feet, Shades of Green's rooms are among the roomiest to be found at Walt Disney World Resort. Each standard guest room features either a private balcony or patio that overlooks the tropical grounds. Shades of Green also offers 11 family suite combinations. Five family suites sleep up to six guests and six sleep up to eight guests. Because the number of family suites is limited, these rooms reserve quickly. The resort offers package deals including meals and lodging by season.

Shades of Green has guest rooms designed to meet the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards, plus larger elevators, bus transportation with lifts, and square poolside tables to accommodate wheelchairs.

■ Shades of Green provides free bus transportation during park hours to the Walt Disney World Resort Transportation Center, which allows guests to hop on a monorail to the Magic Kingdom or Epcot. Buses are also available to Hollywood Studios, Animal Kingdom and Disney Springs. Ramps and lifts are available.

Round-trip shuttle transportation from Shades of Green to Universal Orlando costs \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ages 4 and up (children under 4 ride free). Orlando is the home of Sea World and many other Orlando-area attractions; discounted tickets can be purchased through Shades of Green's Ticket and Attractions Office.

■ The resort's Survivors' Family Discount Program provides a 50-percent discount off normal room rates for Gold Star families, or those who have suffered the loss of an active-duty family member. For complete information on the resort, tickets to attractions, visit www.shadesofgreen.org.



■ Other Armed Forces Recreation Centers include the Edelweiss Lodge and Resort in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany; the Dragon Hill Lodge in Seoul, South Korea; and the Hale Koa Hotel in Fort DeRussy, Hawaii. For information, go to www.armymwr.com/travel/armed-forces-hotels-resorts.



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Brandy Untalan

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



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

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To save, or to splurge?

How to talk about a budget with your travel companions

BY BAILEY BERG,
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

For some travel companions, the “money talk” wasn’t part of their pre-pandemic planning ritual. But as people start re-planning trips canceled by the pandemic or begin booking their first big vacation for the After Times, it’s probably going to be more necessary.

“It’s hard to tell where people are at now,” said Nick Holeman, head of financial planning for Betterment. “Maybe people had to dip into emergency funds or aren’t able to pay off their credit cards in full for the first time due to the pandemic. Now, more than ever, it’s important to have those discussions.”

Even with those closest to us, talking about money can be challenging. When travel is thrown in, it can be made more stressful, because neither party wants to feel like they’re being held back or made to spend more than they can.

But if you’re willing to have those conversations upfront, it can make the trip more enjoyable, because you won’t be spending your time away constantly looking at a banking app. Here are some tips from financial experts as well as frequent travelers about how to navigate those talks.

How to start the conversation

Because discussing money can often be considered taboo or triggering, Beth Williams, founder of Future Wallet, suggests wading into the conversation by first chatting about what the ultimate goal of the trip is.

“Getting everyone aligned and excited about that can be a helpful way to start off the money conversation,” Williams said. From there, the willingness to be vulnerable and provide others with the range that they would be comfortable spending kicks off the very necessary conversation.

“Being able to take that first step and say ‘I value our friendship, and I’m excited about sharing this time with you, so I also wanted to share something that’s been on my mind,’ which, for example, could be that you’re in a different financial situation than before,” Williams said. “That language is useful in helping talk about a budget.”

Holeman also thinks language and

intent matter when going into discussions about money.

“Even just framing it as ‘Hey, I want to make sure everyone is relaxing and enjoying themselves and having fun together, so let’s have this convo early and make sure we’re all on the same page,’” Holeman said. “It lets people know that you’re not trying to necessarily take charge of things or be judgmental, rather you want everyone to feel comfortable.”

Generally, Williams said, people appreciate the transparency; nobody wants to realize too late that they have entirely different perceptions of what they want to spend on a trip. Conflict often occurs when people waited until too far into the planning process to raise issues with costs.

If conversations become confrontational, Williams suggested asking open-ended questions to better understand the other person’s motivations.

“Asking them more about why spending more on this element is important to them helps you understand them and helps them feel heard,” Williams said.

For instance, if your friend says they want to stay at an inclusive resort because they want a break from cooking, a compromise could be that you share a cheaper Airbnb and offer to handle meals.

Setting budgets (and expectations)

Traveler Elizabeth Sweet said when traveling, whether with a partner, family or friends, setting budgets and expectations go hand-in-hand. While there are myriad ways to increase or lower costs, if you and your companions are coming from wildly different places, it can be challenging to meet in the middle.

“I think it’s important to be realistic and say ‘Okay, if my friend is looking to spend \$10,000 on a trip and I’m looking to spend \$3,000, then we’re looking at very different trips and experiences,’” Sweet said.

For that reason, Lacey Cobb, a certified financial planner with Personal Capital, recommends discussing ballpark budgets well before landing on a destination. It might be a moving target, but it’s a helpful reference point for nailing down larger expenses.

“It really comes down to setting expectations upfront,” Cobb said. “If you handle the hard conversations first, then it allows you to relax on vacation and not be constantly worrying about money.”

Cobb added that having that conversation ahead of time also means you’re able to plan better and can look for ways to reduce costs.

Another element of expectation setting, traveler Arianna Mears said, is repayment plans. If one person puts the lodging on their credit card, it should be discussed how and when they will be paid back beforehand, so it doesn’t devolve into a larger conflict on the road. She also recommended SplitWise, an app that lets you keep track of balances and expenses.

Making room for flexibility

While pre-booking some activities helps with sticking to the budget, it’s important to not over-plan.

Mears said the key to group happiness is to leave plenty of room for flexibility when making itineraries - it allows for people to opt into the larger trip but pick and choose activities they would prefer to spend their money on. That could look like alternative options or simply free time. It is better to split up for a few hours and have everyone do something they enjoy than have anyone feeling resentful about being made to do something they weren’t completely on board with.

“I think if you truly respect your travel partners, you are also accepting and don’t make them feel bad about not joining in on an activity,” Mears said. “I think that’s a really important component that people don’t always talk about: It’s okay for somebody to stay back or do something different.”

Enjoying your time together

Beyond money, many people’s travel-related priorities have changed during the pandemic, ranging from what experiences are important to them and who they spend their time with. For many people, the driving factor for planning trips right now is a desire to see those they care about.

“I’ve found, at least with my friends, that we’re just more hungry for human interaction with those that are close to us, regardless of what we’re doing,” Holeman said. “I think it makes those conversations easier. They’re like, ‘Hey, we’ll make this work. I just want to see you, catch up, connect, see that you’re doing well, and be able to have some new memories with you.’”

Boonie Stomps Guam

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY
GUAM BOONIE STOMPERS





July 24 *Very Difficult*
Invasion Hike *6 hours for 5 miles*
With Bataan Falls Option *Easy / Medium*
3 hours for 2 miles

The Invasion hike retraces the trail of the US 3rd Marines from Asan Beach up the hills and cliffs to Nimitz Hill and the Asan Bay Overlook Memorial. We then hike the open ridge down to Tony's Falls for jumping and swimming. The Tony's Falls Only hike takes a short trail directly to the falls and is perfect for small children and novice hikers.
Bring: 3 quarts water, get wet shoes, gloves, swim suit, sun screen, insect repellent, snacks.
Special conditions: Sword grass, steep hills.

July 31 *Medium*
Lubugon to Fonte Swim Hole *3 hours for 2 miles*

We'll visit the ruins of the historic site of the U.S. Navy radio station and "Operation Magic", hidden in the thick jungle. Then we'll hike to the 1910 brick dam, climb to the excellent lookout, and explore the valley downstream to cool off in the waterfalls and pools.
Bring: 2 quarts water, get wet shoes, gloves, swim suit, sun screen, insect repellent, lunch, and camera.
Special conditions: Sword grass, possible muddy trail, mosquitoes, and some short steep slopes.

Aug. 7 *Medium*
Tinago *3 hours for 3 miles*

Invasion Hike

Every Saturday, Guam Boonie Stompers offers public hikes to a variety of destinations such as beaches, snorkeling sites, waterfalls, mountains, caves, latte sites, and World War II sites. We meet at 9:00 AM in the Center Court of Chamorro Village in Hagatna. The cost is \$5.00 for hikers over 17. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Hikers should provide their own transportation. Guam's trails are not developed. Weather conditions can make the hikes more difficult than described. No reservations required.
For more information: www.facebook.com/GuamBoonieStompersInc or call 787-4238.



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STARS AND STRIPES

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Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

1 Mountain goat's perch

5 Something to debate

10 Anagram for "beat"

14 Circle overhead?

15 La Scala offering

16 Blacken on the grill

17 Emanation

18 Timothy Bottoms plays a law student in this 1973 film (with "The")

20 Pine or cedar

22 Talkative

23 Mournful chime

24 Monotony

27 Once around the track

29 The element carbon, e.g.

33 Deli meat

36 Bit of baby talk

37 Gaming cubes

38 Lunch hour

39 Blow up, in a way

42 West ender?

43 Water-filled ditch

45 Balloon filler

46 Wiped the slate clean

48 Carried out, as laws

50 Fishing equipment

51 Tree-covered

53 Western wear

57 Tear into

60 Most desirable

62 Snake oil salesmen, e.g.

65 Went horseback

66 Player's cards

67 Long-extinct birds

68 "You bet!"

69 Breakfast staple

70 To the left, at sea

DOWN

1 Wheel stopper

2 Harmful household gas

3 "___ Again (Naturally)" (1972 #1 hit)

4 Silverback, for one

5 Hit the bottle

6 Dizzying designs

7 Gusto

8 Steamed state

9 Cancer-causing substance

10 Red-faced

11 Rhythmical accent

12 Magi's origin

13 Deuce taker

19 Some fish bait

21 Love interest

25 Fencing words

26 Armoire feature

28 Coconut flavored cocktail

30 Office neckwear

31 One to grow on?

32 Give for a bit

33 "___ Like It Hot"

34 Before long

35 It's out on a limb

40 Fudged the facts

41 Put up

44 Facing

47 Eager, long ago

49 Muddy

52 Blood giver

54 Stevie Wonder's "My Cherie ___"

55 San Diego slugger

56 Smooth and glossy

57 Masseur's target

58 Kind of carpet

59 Told all

61 "Hey...over here!"

63 Pinnacle

64 Bustle

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

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Stripes Sports Trivia

Upon returning to the National League, this outfielder's career featured a surge in power, going from 26 to 31 and then 57 homeruns during a three-year stretch. Oddly enough, the biggest hit of his career wasn't a homer, but a blooper off one of the game's great closers to win the World Series. Who was player who shared a nickname with a Muppets character?

Answer

Luis Gonzalez

SUDOKU

Difficulty: Easy

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

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

Answers to Previous Sudoku:

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

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Volume 8 Edition 38 ©SS 2021

GUAM EDITION

JULY 23, 2021



Dual drills

B-52 bombers, Army I Corps on Guam to support training exercises **Page 2**

U.S. Air Force B-52H Stratofortress from the 5th Bomb Wing, Minot Air Force Base N.D., parks at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, for a Bomber Task Force deployment.

KEVIN INUMA/U.S. Air Force

COVER STORY

B-52s, Army I Corps on Guam for dual drills

By **WYATT OLSON**
Stars and Stripes

Guam is supporting two simultaneous U.S. military exercises by hosting Air Force bombers and Army soldiers, vehicles and weapons over the coming weeks.

A group of B-52 bombers arrived July 14 on Guam from Minot Air Force Base, N.D., to support Pacific Air Force's Bomber Task Force, according to an Air Force news release.

The bombers will also take part in the Talisman Saber exercise, which runs through the end of the month, with the Australian Defense Force.

The Air Force did not disclose the number of B-52s sent to Guam. Four B-52 Stratofortress bombers deployed there in April from Barksdale Air Force Base, La.

Meanwhile, I Corps, based at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington state, is leading the Army's Pacific Forager 21 exercise from Guam.

The exercise, which runs through Aug. 6, is designed "to test and refine the Theater Army and the Corps' ability to deploy landpower forces to the Pacific, execute command and control, and effectively conduct multi-domain operations throughout Oceania," according to an Army news release.

About 4,000 U.S. personnel are directly participating in Forager, the Army said.

Training scenarios include an 82nd Airborne operation; a bilateral airborne operation with the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force and 1st Special Forces



RICHARD CARLISI / U.S. Army

Soldiers and civilian contractors unload military vehicles from the Army vessel Lt. Gen. William B. Bunker at Naval Base Guam, on July 10 in support of the Pacific Forager exercise.

Group; a live-fire exercise with Apache attack helicopters; and multi-domain operations involving the transport over land, air and sea of Strykers, the Avengers surface-to-air missile system and High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems, the Army said.

"Forager 21 allows us to dynamically employ forces to the

Pacific to practice our response to a full range of security concerns in support of our regional alliances and international agreements across all domains, land, air, sea, space and cyber," Maj. Gen. Xavier Brunson, commander of I Corps, said in the news release.

The tiny U.S. territory of Guam, which lies 4,000 miles

west of Hawaii and 2,500 miles east of the Philippines, is of growing strategic importance to the American military as it grapples with China's expansion in the region.

The island's Andersen Air Force Base routinely hosts deploying bombers, which are used to project U.S. air power throughout the Indo-Pacific with

an eye toward China, Russia and North Korea.

Naval Base Guam is the homeport for four Navy submarines, and the Coast Guard operates a trio of the service's new 154-foot Sentinel-class fast-response cutters from the island.

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Twitter: @WyattWolson

Guard rescues service member left behind by hiking party

By **MATTHEW M. BURKE**
Stars and Stripes

A service member left behind by his hiking party was rescued over the weekend by a Guam National Guard helicopter crew near Mount Lamlam in the island's southern interior.

The Guam Fire Department responded to a 911 call reporting seven lost hikers in the area of the Cetti Bay Overlook at approximately 8 p.m. Saturday, department spokeswoman Cherika Chargualaf said by phone Monday.

First responders found nine lost hikers, all active-duty military from an unspecified service branch, just after 11 p.m. Those hikers left the trail on their own and returned to their barracks, Chargualaf said.

The hikers called firefighters again around 1 a.m. Sunday, saying there had, in fact, been 10 of them and that one service member, a 38-year-old male, had been left behind in the woods, Chargualaf said. She said the hikers were all recent arrivals on

the island.

"They were all fairly new to each other," Chargualaf said. "They weren't actually friends, more acquaintances."

Firefighters searched through the night, Chargualaf said. The National Guard aviation detachment was called at about 10 a.m. Sunday to assist.

The hiker was found several miles away, near the Fena Valley Reservoir, by a UH-72 Lakota helicopter and its seven-person crew shortly before 11 a.m., according to Chargualaf and a guard news release on Sunday. The man, exhausted and dehydrated, was hoisted aboard and flown to U.S. Naval Hospital Guam where he was admitted for observation.

Chargualaf called the incident "strange," due to the hikers not knowing how many members of their own party there were.

"This is what we train for— this is why we're here," Detachment 2 commander Maj. Michael Chen, D Company, 1st-224th Aviation Regiment Medevac Unit, said in



Guam National Guard

A U.S. service member was rescued by the Guam National Guard's aviation detachment July 11 after being separated from his hiking party near Mount Lamlam.

the guard's statement.

"We're all just glad and relieved the hiker is OK. Executing a quick response like this can make the difference, and thanks to the professionalism of our civil-

ian lead agency, in this case GFD, that's exactly what happened."

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MILITARY

GAO report: F-35 program should be scaled back

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

The failure to control F-35 aircraft cost overruns should force the Pentagon to scale back its fleet of advanced warplanes unless it can find new savings, a government watchdog agency report said.

The development of the advanced F-35 fighter, the most costly weapon system in Defense Department history, has faced steadily rising costs for years. And while the military has tried to reduce expenses, those efforts “have produced limited results,” the Government Accountability Office report released July 7 said.

“DOD’s inability to arrest the increases in F-35 sustainment costs and make progress towards the services’ established affordability constraints is due in part to the department’s not having a clear, strategic approach across the F-35 program,” the GAO said.

About 400 F-35s are already in service, making the aircraft a growing portion of the Penta-

gon’s tactical fleet.

The Pentagon plans to procure nearly 2,500 F-35s with an estimated life cycle cost exceeding \$1.7 trillion, the GAO said. About \$1.3 trillion of those costs are related to operating and sustaining the aircraft. The projection reflects an increase of more than \$150 billion over 2012 estimates, the GAO said. It is also billions more than the services can afford, making current plans unsustainable, the GAO said.

“We recommended, among other things, that Congress consider making future F-35 acquisitions contingent on progress reducing sustainment costs,” it said.

The GAO also recommended that Congress require the Pentagon to report annually on progress in meeting cost constraints and develop an affordable plan to sustain the future F-35 fleet.

The Air Force faces the greatest challenge in cutting costs. It is purchasing about 70% of the F-35s and must slash what it spends on each plane by 47%, or the readiness of its squadrons



KIP SUMNER/U.S. Air Force

U.S. Air Force Capt. Kristin “BEO” Wolfe flies an F-35A Lightning II near Hill Air Force Base, Utah, in 2020. The Pentagon plans to procure nearly 2,500 F-35s, but the Government Accountability Office said that plan is not financially sustainable.

could be “negatively impacted,” the GAO said.

Even if the Air Force acquired all of its spare F-35 parts for free over the next few decades, it would still fall considerably short of that cost-cutting goal, the report said.

The F-35 program has faced problems and delays from the beginning. Many of the aircraft remain unable to carry out a full range of missions, the report

said.

Between 2019 and 2020, the U.S. F-35 fleet’s average annual mission capable rate — the percentage of time during which the aircraft can fly and perform one of its tasked missions — improved from 59% to 69%. Its full mission capable rate improved from 32% to 39%.

“F-35 mission capable rates ... have recently improved, but still fall short of warfighter require-

ments,” the GAO said.

The Defense Department partially concurred with the GAO recommendations in a written response included with the report. The Pentagon is updating an affordability strategy document that would span the expected life cycle of the F-35 and review cost-cutting constraints.

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Shipping container falls from Marine helicopter into ocean



EVAN PARKER/U.S. Navy

A CH-53E Super Stallion from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 462 airlifts equipment for the Poseidon’s Watchtower exercise on Irisuna Island, Okinawa, on June 3.

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — The Marine Corps is investigating what caused a steel shipping container to fall from a heavy-lift helicopter into the sea off the western coast of Okinawa.

The Tri-Con container — 8 feet long, 6 ½ feet wide and 8 feet tall — fell from a CH-53E Super Stallion around 12:30 p.m. between Irisuna and Tonaki islands, according to a statement July 13 from the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.

“1st MAW takes all aviation related events seriously and will conduct a thorough review to determine the cause of the incident,” the statement said.

The helicopter was returning from an exercise at military ranges on Irisuna at the time. No injuries resulted from the incident, according to a report July 14 by The Okinawa Times, which cited the Okinawa Defense Bureau.

The Marines are assessing whether they can salvage the container, whose depth is unknown, wing spokesman Maj.

Ken Kunze wrote in an email to Stars and Stripes.

An empty Tri-Con container of that size weighs 2,600 pounds, according to oceancontainer.com.

The container held tools, Meals, Ready to Eat and less than 3 gallons of fuel in a sealed vessel and was on its way to a beach landing zone on the Army base Torii Station in Yomitan, Kunze said.

The contents were used in Poseidon’s Watchtower 21, an exercise in expeditionary advanced base operations by the 3rd Marine Logistics Group and Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 4 that was held last month.

Expeditionary advanced base operations is a relatively new concept that calls for Marines to move inside the range of an adversary’s “long-range precision fires” and establish difficult-to-target forward bases.

Okinawa Defense Bureau director general Isao Ono asked Marine Corps Installations Pacific commander Brig. Gen. William Bowers to prevent such

occurrences, the Okinawa Times said. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs also asked the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo for an investigation.

“Objects falling from the sky is something that does not happen in an ordinary living environment,” Tonaki village Mayor Suguru Tobaru said, according to Okinawa Times. “The villagers and fishermen must be worried.”

This is at least the third incident involving objects falling from Marine Corps aircraft at Okinawa since late 2017.

On Aug. 27, 2019, a Super Stallion lost a cabin window over open water off the Okinawa coast. No injuries or property damage were reported.

In December 2017, a window fell from a Super Stallion and landed on an elementary school sports field near Marine Corps Air Station Futenma’s fence line. More than 50 children were playing nearby at the time.

Stars and Stripes reporter Hana Kusumoto contributed to this report.
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MILITARY

Modern pentathlon athletes follow in Patton's footsteps

Soldiers from Colorado will represent U.S. in event

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — A pair of soldiers say they hope to bring modern pentathlon gold medals home to Colorado after this month's Summer Olympics.

Sgt. Samantha Schultz, 29, a truck driver from Littleton, Colo., and Sgt. Amro Elgeziry, a supply specialist from nearby Colorado Springs, will represent the United States in an event that attracts many soldier-athletes.

America's most famous modern pentathlete was Gen. George S. Patton, who participated in the sport as a junior officer during the 1912 Olympics in Stockholm. Patton, who placed fifth at those games, went on to lead the 3rd and 7th U.S. Armies to victory in Europe during World War II.

Modern pentathlon has its roots in an ancient Greek contest that involved running, jumping, spear and discus throwing and wrestling. The athletes score points based on their skills in fencing, horse riding and swimming before a combined shooting and running event that involves firing at targets and racing around a track nearly two miles long.

The sport requires the sort of skills a soldier might need to deliver a message across the battlefield, said Schultz, who has been competing since 2010.

For Schultz, modern pentathlon was a path to military service.

"There are a lot of countries that have a really strong military presence in the sport," she told

"As an athlete you can feel very isolated, but the Army has provided me with camaraderie."

Sgt. Samantha Schultz
Modern pentathlete

Stars and Stripes in a recent phone interview.

An avid hunter, skier, swimmer and horse rider as a youngster, Schultz found herself training for the sport alongside soldiers from the Army's World Class Athlete Program at Fort Carson, Colo., in 2011.

"They all have this demeanor to them," she said of those participating in the program. "The way they carry themselves and the pride they feel being soldier-athletes — being able to train with them was a huge honor."

Schultz went to basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C., and advanced individual skills training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., where she learned to drive large military vehicles such as the Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck.

"I grew up hunting with my dad, so I drove a Ford truck," she



PHOTOS BY NATHANIEL GARCIA/U.S. Army

Sgt. Amro Elgeziry, foreground, takes aim during the 2018 Modern Pentathlon World Cup in Los Angeles.

said. "But I had never done anything of that magnitude."

Also a member of the World Class Athlete Program, Elgeziry, 33, is headed to his fourth straight Olympic Games. He competed for Egypt at the 2008, 2012 and 2016 Olympics before coming to America and joining the Army in 2017.

Schultz said her goal in Tokyo is to bring home a medal and make her Army buddies, friends and family proud.

"As an athlete you can feel very isolated, but the Army has provided me with camaraderie," she said. "I'm so grateful they're going to be having the Olympics and I get the opportunity to compete."

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Sgt. Samantha Schultz begins the equestrian course on a randomly drawn horse during the 2018 Modern Pentathlon World Cup.

Watchdog report: Legal training is lacking for commanders

By NANCY MONTGOMERY
Stars and Stripes

Legal training provided to commanders may be inadequate, a government watchdog agency found in a report released as Congress determines whether to remove commanders from prosecutorial decision-making in cases involving suspected sexual assault.

The Government Accountability Office, after analyzing legal training and holding discussions with commanders and legal support staff, found that "perspectives varied on the general preparedness of commanders to address legal issues.

"In addition, GAO found that the timing, amount, and mix of legal training provided to commanders may not be

meeting their needs," said the report released earlier this month.

Commanders may be responsible for many legal duties, including making criminal justice decisions, conforming with international law and complying with the rules of engagement in combat.

Legal training is generally reserved for mid-level commanders, but "commanders from all four services indicated that they would have benefited from dedicated legal training earlier in their careers," the report said.

However, commanders of similar grades and responsibilities may not receive similar levels of legal training.

For example, the 101st Airborne Division's company commander course spent 90 minutes on legal issues and

U.S. Army Europe spent 2.5 hours, the GAO found. But at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., nine hours were devoted to legal issues.

"Some commanders and legal support staff expressed the view that commanders would benefit from additional legal training," the report said.

Other commanders said they thought more training would be detrimental because it might lead commanders into thinking they were experts, and not to rely on staff judge advocates for advice.

The GAO also found that problems with recordkeeping made it difficult to know whether commanders completed their required training. The training's usefulness was also unclear because the services primarily relied on voluntary

surveys to gauge effectiveness.

The report comes as the Military Justice Improvement and Increasing Prevention Act, which would shift the decision to prosecute rape, sexual assault and other felonies from the chain of command to military prosecutors, has garnered support from 66 Senate co-sponsors, as well as President Joe Biden and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin III.

The bill is being held up in the Senate Armed Services Committee, whose chairman, Democrat Jack Reed of Rhode Island, and ranking Republican, Jim Inhofe of Oklahoma, oppose it.

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MILITARY



RON BURKE/U.S. Army

A Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle rests on its turret and hood after a rollover. The Government Accountability Office has made nine recommendations to address the most common causes of tactical vehicle accidents.

Report outlines safety shortfalls

Poor training, supervision among leading causes of tactical vehicle accidents, GAO finds

By **CAITLIN DOORNBOS**
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Driver distraction, supervision lapses and training shortfalls were among the leading causes behind Army and Marine Corps tactical vehicle accidents in a new report released by the Government Accountability Office.

The study reviewed 3,753 Army and Marine Corps noncombat tactical vehicle accidents between 2010 and 2019, which resulted in 123 deaths. While the number of deadly accidents fluctuated during the years with a high of more than 23 in 2010 and a low of about 7 in 2017, the causes remained largely the same, according to the report.

To address the issue, the GAO made nine recommendations in the report, calling for the services to create more clearly defined roles for supervisors, establish procedures and mechanisms for risk management and ensure driver-training programs have a well-de-

123

Deaths in Army and Marine Corps noncombat tactical vehicle accidents between 2010 and 2019, according to a Government Accountability Office report. The GAO reviewed 3,753 accidents.

defined process with specific performance criteria.

“The Army and Marine Corps had not clearly defined the roles or put procedures and mechanisms in place for first-line supervisors — such as vehicle commanders — to effectively perform their role,” according to the July 14 report. “As a result, implementation of risk management practices, such as following speed limits and using seat belts, was ad hoc among units.”

While no single event inspired the study, the GAO said it was initiated because “the Army and Marine Corps have experienced tactical vehicle acci-

dents that resulted in deaths of military personnel during noncombat scenarios.”

The report found the services lacked appropriate and continuing driver training across “diverse driving conditions, such as driving at night or over varied terrain,” according to the report.

“Licensing classes were often condensed into shorter periods of time than planned with limited drive time and unit training focused on other priorities rather than driving,” according to the units that the GAO interviewed.

In some cases, troops weren’t effectively communicating hazards found on training grounds and ranges to units and drivers, something that the GAO recommended the services evaluate to ensure “responsibilities to identify and communicate” dangers are upheld.

“If the responsibilities are not being carried out, the [services] should determine if existing workarounds are adequate or if additional resources should

be applied to fulfill these responsibilities,” the GAO said in its report.

The GAO also suggested the Army and Navy secretaries evaluate the number of personnel responsible for tactical vehicle safety “and determine if these units are appropriately staffed or if any adjustments are needed to workloads or resource levels,” according to the report.

“The Army and Marine Corps have practices to mitigate and prevent tactical vehicle accidents, but units don’t always use them,” the report found.

The GAO also recommended the Army and Navy secretaries, along with the Army chief of staff and Marine Corps commandant, create “a formal collaboration forum” for the services to “share methods for identifying and communicating hazards to units with each other on a regular basis.”

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MILITARY

Submariner takes on Navy command on Guam

BY ALEX WILSON
Stars and Stripes

A veteran submariner with three recent deployments in the Indo-Pacific region aboard a submarine tender took the helm of U.S. Naval Base Guam on July 19.

Capt. Michael Luckett relieved Capt. Jeffrey Grimes during a ceremony at the base's Cmdr. William C. McCool Elementary/Middle School. The day provided significant memories for the outgoing Grimes, who took command of the base in July 2018.

"This place at this time of year has a very special meaning for me for several reasons," he said.

The cafeteria and gymnasium were the first shelters for crew of the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt when COVID-19 broke out aboard the ship while at sea last year, Grimes said.

The episode proved a defining moment for the Navy early in the pandemic.

The Theodore Roosevelt's commander at the time, Capt. Brett Crozier, reported the first of 1,273 cases of COVID-19 aboard the ship on March 24, 2020. The carrier steamed to Guam and off-loaded its crew of 4,800, one of whom, Chief Petty Officer Charles Robert Thacker Jr., 41, died weeks later at the naval hospital there. Crozier's handling of the outbreak led to his dismissal.

The pandemic dominated Grimes' tenure as base commander. He oversaw the construction of a 150-bed emergent med-

ical facility and the creation of standard procedures to address outbreaks like the one aboard the Theodore Roosevelt, according to an email from base spokeswoman Theresa Cepeda.

Grimes also supervised improvements to the base's Inner Harbor wharf system and more than 7,000 crane lifts for visiting ships, including foreign vessels.

At McCool, 300 children eventually finished a full year of in-person learning during the pandemic, Grimes said during his farewell address. And, he said, the change of command happened just two days from Guam Liberation Day, when the U.S. territory marks its liberation from Imperial Japan during World War II.

"No matter what challenge falls our way I know that everyone — in uniform and in island casual — will show up to fight, stand side-by-side with their neighbor, lend a helping hand," Grimes said, "and we will defeat whatever challenge that is placed before us."

Luckett, a native of Banning, Calif., most recently commanded the USS Emory S. Land, the lead ship of the Emory S. Land-class submarine tenders. Under Luckett, the Land spent more than 10 months in the Indo-Pacific region, including three deployments with the U.S. 7th Fleet before returning to its homeport on Guam, according to Cepeda.

Luckett graduated from the Naval Academy with a bachelor's in naval archi-



JORDYN DIOMEDE / U.S. Navy

Capt. Michael Luckett, a submariner with Indo-Pacific experience, took command of Naval Base Guam on July 19

ture and went on to command the fast-attack submarines USS Mississippi and USS Missouri. He served as an officer on three other submarines: the USS Jefferson City, the USS Houston and the USS Pennsylvania.

He earned master's degrees from the National Defense University, Naval Postgraduate School and the University of California, Berkeley, according to his LinkedIn profile.

"I am excited, honored and humbled to have the opportunity to lead this fantastic team. Each of you plays an important part in executing the mission of Naval Base Guam," Luckett said during the ceremony. "Your efforts enable the mission readiness of our homeported ships, our shore-based commands and our visiting units."

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Video of airman smashing window sparks USAF review

BY CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

A child inside a car screams as a U.S. airman outside orders the driver out, then smashes the window in a minute-long video that caused a controversy on social media and led to an Air Force review.

The footage from the gate of Mountain Home Air Force Base in Idaho had been viewed over 12 million times earlier this month, after the driver's sister shared a version of it on the social media app TikTok on June 29.

The post, in which Deja Gonzalez says the airman acted illegally and says her sister Tati's two young children were taken away from her, has been "liked" over 2 million times.

In a Facebook post, Tati Gonzalez claimed she had been mistreated by military and local police officials. But the base and the county sheriff say authorities acted appropriately.

The incident began June 26

when Gonzalez was denied entry to the base after arriving with an invalid military dependent ID, invalid driver's license and invalid vehicle registration, an Air Force official said in response to a Stars and Stripes inquiry.

It escalated when she tried to flee, driving her vehicle at a security forces airman who had to move out of the way before executing a high-risk traffic stop "due to the perceived risk of serious bodily harm or injury," said Master Sgt. Eric Harris, a spokesman for the base's 366th Fighter Wing. That is about where the video begins.

"Step out of the vehicle," Tech. Sgt. Ryan Green is heard saying in the original footage shared on Facebook. He then busts in the glass with his police baton. "Step out of the vehicle now."

"I'm pregnant, don't [expletive] touch me," Gonzalez says.

"You just committed a felony," Green says, reaching into the car to unlock the door. "Get out of the vehicle."

"For what?" Gonzalez responds. "You're not the police."

Green tells her he is law enforcement and says he'd already advised her she was being de-

tained, but Gonzalez responds that he called it "a civil matter." She appears to resist and tells him not to touch her, while he explains that he's charging her with evading police. He eventually puts her in handcuffs, despite her protests.

The incident did not meet the threshold for a use of force review, but one was conducted at the security force commander's request, "out of an abundance of caution," Harris said.

Such reviews are conducted by senior noncommissioned officers and may use any audio, video and written records, he said. The NCO in Green's case found that he had responded appropriately, Harris said.

Parts of the official account Harris provided conflict with elements of Tati Gonzalez's version, shared in a 40-minute Facebook livestream with her sister June 30. She says she had come to get her belongings from her former spouse, who is stationed there, and had been told to bring her expired ID.

She was told she'd get help from base officials once she had a divorce decree signed by a judge, she said, but when she

arrived she was initially referred to the visitor's center. She then asked to pull into a parking space near the gate while the guard called for a supervisor, she said. This part of her story is largely consistent with what Harris told Stars and Stripes.

Green soon arrived and asked for her vehicle information, which she told him was among her belongings with her former spouse, she says. Then she says Green began "being weird" while questioning her and called her a liar, which made her feel uncomfortable, so she asked to be escorted off base.

Harris said Green had been trying to deescalate the situation.

Gonzalez recounts questioning Green's authority to "stop a civilian for a civilian matter" before eventually deciding to drive off base. But the gate was up, "so I stopped and I was just sitting there" until Green came up to the door with "that weapon that he had."

She started filming thinking he was going to hurt her, she said.

After being arrested, she was booked into the Elmore County Jail, where she says she was held illegally until June 28, when she

was released after the charges "didn't stick."

The jail has an agreement with the air base to detain suspects arrested on federal property, Elmore County Sheriff Mike Hollinshead said in a phone call.

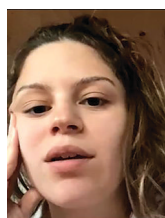
She was held on a \$600 bond over the weekend. When the jail staff called to get a date for her arraignment in federal court, they were told to release her "on her own recognizance."

Federal charges she faces for the registration violation, eluding a police officer and putting her children at risk have yet to be resolved, Harris said.

Gonzalez said she had no transportation when she was released, and that she passed out while walking to a nearby motel. But her debit card had been taken when she was arrested, so she couldn't get into the room.

"Since the incident, Ms. Gonzalez has had several possessions returned to her," Harris said. "Mountain Home Air Force base supports our Air Force members and dependents in accordance with Air Force policy."

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Tati Gonzalez

PACIFIC

Japan details 'sense of crisis' over Taiwan

By **SETH ROBSON**
AND **HANA KUSUMOTO**
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — Japanese military planners are focused on Taiwan “with a sense of crisis,” according to a Ministry of Defense report released July 13.

“Stabilizing the Taiwan situation is important for Japan’s national security and stability of the international community,” states the annual white paper, which was adopted by the country’s cabinet that day. “We need to pay close attention with a sense of crisis more than ever before.”

The United States and Japan have been strengthening their alliance as China continues to expand its military with the stated goal of occupying Taiwan, a U.S.-armed democracy the communists regard as a rebellious province.

The allies would have to defend Taiwan in the event of a major problem, Japan’s deputy prime minister, Taro Aso, said during a political fundraising event July 5, according to Kyodo News.

An invasion of the island by China could be seen as an existential threat, allowing Japan to exercise the right to collective self-defense, he said, according to the report.

Asked about the comments at a press conference the next day, Pentagon press secretary John Kirby told reporters that U.S. policy on Taiwan remains unchanged.

“We continue to observe the One-China Policy,” he said, referring to one acknowledging that Beijing believes it has sovereignty over Taiwan. The sides split during a civil war in 1949. China considers the island a breakaway province that should be brought under its control by force if necessary.

It is possible that China will attempt to invade Taiwan, the defense white paper states.

“In such situation, it has been indicated that it will attempt to deter or try to delay potential intervention by the U.S.,” it says.

While China possesses an



PETER REFT/U.S. Air Force

A member of the Japan Air Self-Defense Force inspects an F-15 Eagle during a past Red Flag drill out of Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska.

overwhelming number of troops, its capability of landing and invading Taiwan is limited, according to the paper.

“In recent years, however, China has been steadily improving its landing and invasion capabilities by building large amphibious ships,” the report states.

Incursions by China

China has repeatedly entered Japanese territorial waters and its ships have been spotted almost every day near the Senkaku Islands, Minister of Defense Nobuo Kishi said in a statement released with the white paper.

Japan and the U.S. have vowed to defend the chain, which is also claimed by Taiwan and China.

“The situation is becoming more serious,” Kishi said.

There are many security issues in the Indo-Pacific region, such as China’s expansion of its naval activities and missile development by North Korea. The importance of the region is increasing as it is going through a global power balance change, he said.

“It goes without saying that we need to strengthen our defense capability and expand the role we can play ourselves,” he said.

“It is necessary to coordinate closely with countries that share the same basic values.”

Kishi stressed the importance of the Japan-U.S. alliance.

“We will put our efforts into further strengthening deterrence and countermeasures capability as an ally in order to continue to further strengthen the unwavering bond between Japan and the United States, as Japan-U.S. Alliance is the foundation of peace, security and prosperity of the region,” he said.

Japan is also looking to enhance its space, cyber and electronic warfare capabilities amid competition from China, according to the white paper.

“In order to adapt to increasingly rapid changes in the security environment, Japan must strengthen its defense capability at speeds that are fundamentally different from the past,” the report states.

Defense-related expenditures for the 2021 fiscal year, which began April 1, have been increased to \$46.5 billion, up 1.1% on the previous fiscal year’s budget, according to the report.

Japan plans to set up a new unit, tentatively named the Space

Operations Group, to specialize in space missions. The country established its first space unit — the Space Operations Squadron — at Fuchu Air Base, Tokyo, in May 2020.

“[The Ministry of Defense] is working to deploy a radar and its operation system which will monitor threats to Japanese satellites such as space debris,” the report states.

Japan’s pursuit of military space capabilities parallels that of its American ally. The U.S. Space Force, established as a military service branch in December 2019, stood up the four-member 16th Expeditionary Space Flight-Alpha, 16th Space Control Squadron, at Camp Kinser, Okinawa, in September 2020.

China is the primary challenge for U.S. forces preparing to fight and win in any future conflict in space, the chief of the U.S. Space Command, Army Gen. James Dickinson, said during a visit to Tokyo in May.

Boost to cyber warfare

Japan’s military is also enhancing electronic warfare capability by strengthening its ability to neutralize the radar and communications of adversaries who intend to invade the country, the report states.

Initiatives include researching a high-power microwave system and high energy laser system, establishing a Japan Ground Self-Defense Force electronic warfare unit and developing stand-off electronic warfare aircraft, according to the report.

Japan’s military has taken comprehensive measures to secure information systems and deal with cyberattacks using specialized units, the white paper states.

A recent competition was held to identify personnel with cybersecurity expertise. The military is promoting the use of external human resources through efforts to recruit a chief cybersecurity adviser with advanced knowledge, according to the report.

In the next fiscal year, Japan plans to buy a new military satellite, four conventional F-35A Lightning II stealth fighters, two F-35Bs, which are capable of short-takeoffs and vertical landings, and three P-1 patrol aircraft, according to the report.

The country also plans to build two destroyers and a submarine, refurbish its Izumo-class destroyers, and buy missile defense systems and stand-off missiles, the report states.

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