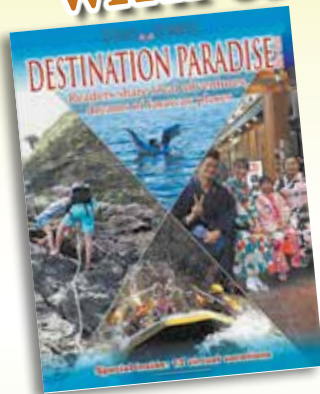


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**Pages 10-14**

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## At-risk military teens foreshadow at-risk military future

BY LISA SMITH MOLINARI,  
 SPECIAL TO STARS AND STRIPES

**W**hy aren't parents panicking? Why isn't this a top story in the media? Why aren't political, military and healthcare leaders shouting this from the rooftops? Why is there so much apparent apathy for an issue that is crucial to our future?

In October 2021, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Adolescent and Child Psychiatry, and the Children's Hospital Association issued a joint statement, declaring a National State of Emergency in children's mental health due to dramatic increases in

childhood mental health disorders, mental-health related emergency room visits and suicide attempts. "We are caring for young people with soaring rates of depression, anxiety, trauma, loneliness and suicidality that will have lasting impacts on them, their families and their communities," the statement read, calling for immediate action to solve the crisis.

If the general population of teens are experiencing dramatic increases in mental health problems, what about military teenagers? Does their unpredictable mobile lifestyle with frequent deployments and disruptions put them at even greater risk?

**SEE AT-RISK ON PAGE 2**



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# AT-RISK: Mental health key concern

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The answer is a resounding yes, according to the 2022 Military Teen Experience Survey (MTES) conducted by the National Military Family Association (NMFA) and Bloom: Empowering the Military Teen. “Military kids look just like any other kid, so you don’t realize what’s happening in their homes and the weight of the responsibilities that they’re carrying. We learned that weight is heavier than we knew,” said Besa Pinchotti, NMFA’s CEO.

The 2022 MTES shows 37% of military teens reported have thoughts of harming themselves or others, and over 90% have “at risk” mental well-being in low to moderate ranges. The report states that the 28% of military teens who scored in the lowest mental well-being range reported having trouble thinking clearly and making decisions. “They also rarely felt optimistic, did not often feel relaxed, and felt disconnected from others,” common experiences associated with depressive symptoms, according to the survey report.

Factors associated with lower mental well-being included being an older teenager, having dual military parents, changing schools more frequently, experiencing more deployments and separations and having thoughts

## The Meat and Potatoes of Life

Lisa Smith Molinari



**With 90% of military teenagers at risk for mental health issues, it is frightening that we might fill the ranks of our future force with military legacies with a history of psychological struggles.**

of self harm.

Sadly, 46% of military teens also reported having food insecurities due to military families’ unique financial challenges, compared to only 11% of U.S. households that experience food insecurities. According to the 2022 MTES report, food insecurity is also linked to increased thoughts of self harm and low mental well-being in military teens. “We need to understand more about our military teen’s mental health and well-being, but all of these issues are really interconnected. It’s hard to feel okay when you’re worried about having enough to eat. It’s hard to

feel okay when you don’t know if you have access to the care you need,” Pinchotti said.

“Military teens told us they often don’t feel seen or heard,” the 2022 MTES report states. Although “the Fiscal Year 2021 (FY2021) National Defense Authorization Act included a mental health scheduling pilot to help service members and families access the care they need,” they say much more needs to be done by Congress and DoD, including building robust mental health provider networks that accept TRICARE, decreased copays for mental healthcare

and removing barriers for military spouses to enter the mental health field.

Military teenagers may feel invisible, but there’s one survey result that should get every American’s attention. Although only 11% of all U.S. teenagers claim that they’ll join the military one day, and although only .7% of Americans actually do, the 2022 MTES showed that more than four times as many military teenagers intend to serve, and many plan to enlist right after high school. With 90% of military teenagers at risk for mental health issues, it is frightening that we might fill the ranks of our future force with military legacies with a history of psychological struggles.

Pinchotti says NMFA and Bloom won’t stop shedding light on these issues. “This isn’t a one and done scenario ... We are committed to learning more about our teens’ experiences and working with policy makers for long-term solutions to support our teens of today and, for nearly half of them, the force of tomorrow.”

Read more of Lisa Smith Molinari’s columns at: [themeatandpotatoesoflife.com](http://themeatandpotatoesoflife.com) and in Lisa’s book, *The Meat and Potatoes of Life: My True Lit Com*. Email: [meatandpotatoesoflife@gmail.com](mailto:meatandpotatoesoflife@gmail.com)

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# LINEBACKERS OF THE WEEK

Staff Sgt. Calvin Magcalas

## 'It is important to work hard'

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
AIRMAN 1ST CLASS ALLISON MARTIN,  
36TH WING

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Calvin Klein Magcalas, quality assurance inspector with the 36th Maintenance Group, was recognized as the 36th Wing's Team Andersen Linebacker of the Week, at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, June 1, 2022.

The Team Andersen Linebacker of the Week recognizes outstanding enlisted, officer, civilian and total force personnel who have had an impact on achieving Team Andersen's Mission, Vision and Priorities.

Since arriving at Andersen AFB, Magcalas started as a structures craftsman where he

led a team of 11 Airmen. During this time his corrosion experience was instrumental in the audit of 176 36th Logistics Readiness Squadron assets where he identified over \$600,000 in needed repairs. His efforts were vital in securing a three year, \$2.2 million War Reserve Materiel maintenance contract.

His outstanding work ethic directly led to his selection as quality assurance inspector for the 36 MXG and Wing TODO manager. He quickly assimilated himself to the duties of two separate positions. As the TODO Manager, Magcalas manages 16 accounts, 1,600 thousand publications, and has distributed 10 Time Compliance Technical Orders. His actions have safeguarded \$2.3 billion in munitions and



Staff Sgt. Calvin Klein Magcalas receives the Linebacker of the Week Award from Brig. Gen. Jeremy Sloane and Chief Master Sgt. Brian Smith on June 1.

maintenance equipment.

Magcalas's work ethic and unit involvement sets the tone for his peers and Airmen. He constantly demonstrates the importance of leading people and improving the unit by facilitating squadron

physical training sessions and coordinating his squadron's first ever 36th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Airman's Day team building event.

"I feel that it is important to work hard because whether it's

sitting in front of a computer or working under the hot sun, working hard builds your endurance and increases your confidence, especially on days that I know I have earned my Paycheck," said Magcalas.

The term Linebacker is rooted deep within Team Andersen's history. Operation Linebacker II took place on Dec. 18, 1972, and was the largest number of heavy bomber strikes launched by the U.S. Air Force since the end of World War II. During the operation, B-52s from Andersen flew round-the-clock bombing missions over North Vietnam to destroy major targets in Hanoi and Haiphong in an effort to bring the Democratic Republic of Vietnam back to negotiations.

Tech. Sgt. Lucas Mitchell

## 'Constantly striving to improve and develop'

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
AIRMAN 1ST CLASS KAITLYN PRESTON,  
36TH WING

U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lucas Mitchell, the non-commissioned officer in charge of intel mission operations with the 36th Contingency Response Support Squadron, was recognized as the 36th Wing's Team Andersen Linebacker of the Week, at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, May 25, 2022.

The Team Andersen Linebacker of the Week recognizes outstanding enlisted, officer, civilian and total force personnel who have had an impact on achieving Team Andersen's Mission, Vision and Priorities.

Mitchell serves as the lead for intelligence operations



Tech. Sgt. Lucas Mitchell receives the Linebacker of the Week Award from Col. David Aragon and Chief Master Sgt. John Payne at Andersen Air Force Base on May 25.

supporting the 36th Contingency Response Group. He and his team provide all-source intelligence analysis within the Indo-Pacific area of responsibility. They work in support of taskings for humanitarian assistance,

disaster relief, contingency operations and building partnership capacity.

"It's a good feeling to know that the intelligence my teams, current and prior, have provided has led to direct battlefield

effects," Mitchell said. "We see the impact of tactical, operational and strategic decisions daily."

He also developed a threat brief for the Indo-Pacific region directed toward Silver Flag attendees that identified 15 new threats and advanced near-peer capabilities. He briefed 100 service members across seven bases in the region with real world readiness vulnerabilities and advantages.

Working with three intelligence community organizations across the Pacific Air Forces Command, Mitchell established standard operating procedures and created the first baseline multi-organization debriefs, advancing worldwide incident response within the career field.

Additionally, Mitchell collaborated with the 36th Operations Support Squadron to execute five threat briefs to almost 500 military and civilian personnel.

During Cope North 2022, Mitchell led a multi-national task force for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief intel. For this exercise, he directed mission briefs, handled requests for information and integrated U.S. and Australian contingency response capabilities.

"He is constantly striving to improve and develop," U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Sarah Wagstaff, the 36 CRSS intel flight chief, said. "Mitchell's work ethic and professionalism exemplifies what the Air Force needs in a noncommissioned officer."



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# Best Warriors compete on Guam

STORY AND PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. JORDAN HACK,  
UTAH NATIONAL GUARD

A Soldier's transformation into a warrior is difficult to describe. Hand-picked by leadership, proving themselves with every drop of sweat, every sore muscle, and every labored breath; Soldiers who compete naturally don the title of Best Warrior for their unit, regardless of whether they win. It's called the Best Warrior Competition for a reason. A fitting title, each iteration features a gathering of the best asset the Army has to offer—the warrior. Winners are awarded the honor of moving on, but being chosen to compete in the first place is, in itself, a great accomplishment that commands respect.

Seven different states, including Utah, and the territory of Guam sent their strongest, fittest, most capable Soldiers to compete in the Region VII Best Warrior Competition on the island of Guam, May 23-26, 2022. The competition crowned a new Soldier-of-the-Year and Non-Commissioned-Officer-of-the-Year for the region.

The Utah Army National Guard sent Cpl. Spencer Fayles with the 144th Area Support Medical Company, and Staff Sgt. Jackson Fagan with the Utah National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion as this year's representatives.

Fayles placed first in the Soldier-of-the-Year category, while Fagan placed fourth in the NCO-of-the-Year category.

Leading the pack following the mystery event, Fayles was nothing but humble regarding his winning performance.

"I've been surrounded by people better than me all the way leading up to this, who trained me and helped me and put a lot of effort into me," said Fayles. "Master Sgt. Baker, Staff Sgt. White, they were there with me and helped me every step of the way. I wouldn't be here without them."

Participants competed in a host of activities during the competition testing many key skills, proficiencies, and physical fitness abilities.

Monday morning, the Soldiers put their physical fitness on display early during the Army Combat Fitness Test. The ACFT features six events designed to simulate situations a Soldier would likely face in combat. The events included deadlift, standing-power throw, hand-release pushup, sprint-drag-carry, plank, and two-mile run.

Later in the day, they were put through a grueling obstacle course and stress-shoot lanes. It was a very hot and humid day on the island as well, making everything extra tough on the competitors.

"Through all of those events it was obvious that our competitors had done a significant amount of preparation and were ready for the challenges that the rest of the week was going to present," said Command Sgt. Maj. Spencer Nielsen, senior enlisted

leader, Utah National Guard.

"Although I was obviously pulling for the Utah Army National Guard competitors, something that I am always impressed by is the quality of the Soldiers and NCOs competing. Watching and participating in the Best Warrior Competitions is always inspiring and humbling to me."

Tuesday morning, the competitors wielded a map and compass to complete a four-hour, land-navigation course. They continued to showcase their knowledge of weapon systems, radio communication, and combat medical response that afternoon during the eight-station Army Warrior Tasks event. Most of the tasks involved the proper handling and knowledge of specific weapon systems. The Soldiers had limited time to clear, disassemble, and reassemble weapons such as the M4 carbine, M249 squad automatic weapon, M240B medium machine gun, and Mark 19 grenade machine gun—all weapons they are likely to encounter when deployed in a combat-ready zone.

Wednesday brought the Soldiers indoors for the day. Looking sharp wearing the Army Service Uniform, each Soldier and NCO was graded on proper uniform wear, composure under pressure in front of a command sergeants major board, and ability to write a 500-word essay.

Throughout the day, each competitor also sat down with the Guam Army National Guard Public Affairs Officer, Cpt. Mark Scott, to discuss their experiences.

Fagan shared an ancient Native American quote, which he said summarizes the character of each competitor and why they competed. The quote reads, "When the warrior within you awakens, you will no longer fear death. You will realize that a person can kill your body, but they can never kill your soul."

He went on to say, "that's what it takes to be a best warrior—when you have a strong heart, you're willing to give it all."

It turned out that every competitor needed to hear that quote that day, as Thursday brought the culminating mystery event—the competition finale.

Many people don't realize that Guam is home to the tallest mountain on Earth. That's including below sea level because the 1,332-foot Mount Lamlam also extends down the Mariana Trench. For the pinnacle event, the competitors hiked to the top of Mount Lamlam. The nearly 10-mile event started with a two-mile swim from Coco's Island to the main island, immediately followed by a six-mile uphill ruck march.

Fayles, reflecting on



Fayles remains in good spirits on a nearly six-mile ruck march as part of the mystery event.



Fayles disassembles a MK 19 grenade launcher.



Cpl. Spencer Fayles receives a certificate of participation during the Region VII Best Warrior Competition award ceremony on May 26.

the event at the top of the mountain, said it was brutal.

"It was challenging. It was awesome. This one from the island was tough and then followed by that ruck in this heat. Super challenging."

Challenging as it was, both Utah Soldiers conquered it all, ultimately earning the respect of the staff and every competitor.

Fagan expressed it was a humbling experience representing his family.

"It's not for me. It's for them," he said. "I want to be the best father and husband that I can be and just represent them well, make them proud so that one day they'll be able to look up to their dad and just be proud."

Nielsen likes what he sees in the up-and-coming generation of warriors.

"The takeaway I always have is that the future of the Army is in good hands, and the next generation of senior leaders are competent, motivated, and professional."

Fayles moves on to the national competition, and both Soldiers have every reason to be proud of their accomplishments. They have solidified their spot in the small ring of National Guard best warriors.



Fagan successfully completes a nearly two mile swim back to the main island as part of the mystery event.



Fagan receives the mystery event briefing.



Competitors prepare for the mystery event blindfolded.

Staff Sgt. Jackson Fagan receives a certificate of participation during the Region VII Best Warrior Competition award ceremony on May 26.





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# 36th Wing changes command

BY 1ST LT. JADE WATKINS,  
36TH WING

**ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE** – The 36th Wing bid farewell to Brig. Gen. Jeremy T. Sloane, and welcomed Brig. Gen. Paul R. Birch during a change of command ceremony June 10, 2022.

Birch assumed command of five groups, 18 squadrons and 22 primary tenant organizations executing U.S. Indo-Pacific Command's Bomber Task Force, Theater Security Packages, Tanker Task Force, contingency response and Humanitarian and Disaster Relief Operations from the most forward sovereign U.S. Air Force base in the Indo-Pacific Region.

Lt. Gen. David A. Krumm, 11th Air Force commander, presided over the change of command ceremony and transferred the wing's guidon from Sloane to Birch, symbolizing the passing of responsibility and authority.

During his speech, Krumm thanked Sloane for his exceptional leadership during command and said that his efforts and dedication set the stage for continued success.

"As your remarkable command sadly comes to a close the only ray of light I see is that man[Birch] sitting next to you to take over the helm as we go forward," said Krumm. "he brings a wealth of experience



Brig. Gen. Paul R. Birch (Center) takes command of the 36th Wing from outgoing commander, Brig. Gen. Jeremy T. Sloane (right), as Lt. Gen. David A. Krumm, commander, 11th Air Force, applauds during a change of command ceremony on June 10 at Andersen Air Force Base. Photos by Staff Sgt. Ryan Brooks, U.S. Air Force

and knowledge that will take the 36th Wing to new levels of excellence."

As installation commander, Birch is responsible for the well-being of more than 8,000 joint service members, civilian personnel, dependents and contractors on Andersen AFB. Additionally, he supports Department of Defense installation management of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands as the deputy commander of Joint Region Marianas.

"The service members I have

met here at the forward edge are creative and innovative thinkers; you have an intellectual curiosity to understand your environment, your capability and the challenges we face," said Birch. "As I think about all that we will accomplish together because of your ability and dedication, I'm grateful."

Birch came to the 36th Wing from the Pentagon, Washington D.C., where he served as the

Chief of Strategic Planning Integration Division and the Deputy Chief of Staff in Plans and Programs.

Keeping with 36th Wing change of command tradition, Sloane also passed the swagger stick to Birch. Maj. Gen. Charles J. Bondley, Jr., designed the original emblem for the 36th Wing, then known as the 36th Pursuit Group, in 1940 when he was a 1st Lt., and had the emblem officially emblazoned on the swagger stick.

The stick signifies strength and the legacy of honor that all Airmen represent and is passed from commander to commander. It has since been a

proud tradition that has endured for eighty years, and will continue to do so into the future.

"As with this beautiful island's geography, there are some rocky ups and downs before we get to the beautiful beach or stunning view," said Birch. "but I cannot wait to walk that path with all of you, and I see a vision of unmatched capability and capacity for the 36th Wing, Team Andersen and all of the Indo-Pacific Region."

Sloane will go on to retire from the U.S. Air Force and will be moving to Alabama with his family.

*Editor's Note: A swagger stick is a short stick or riding crop, like one used in horseback riding, which is usually carried by a uniformed person as a symbol of authority. Maj. Gen. George S. Patton famously carried a swagger stick throughout World War II.*



Birch offers remarks during the 36th Wing change of command ceremony.

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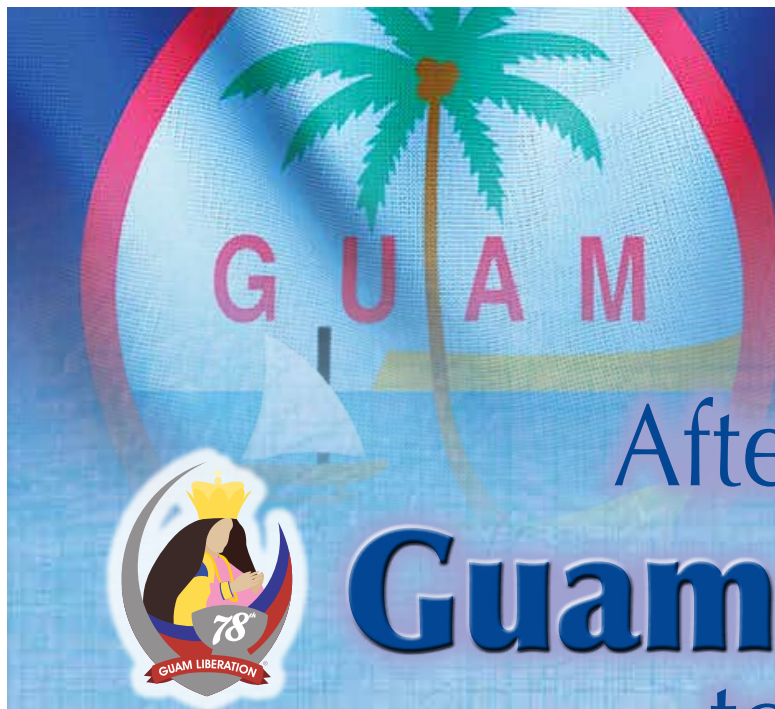


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Photos courtesy of Guam Governor's Office / Mayor Council of Guam



# After two-year break, Guam Liberation Day to be celebrated

BY TAKAHIRO TAKIGUCHI,  
STRIPES GUAM

**G**uam Liberation Day on July 21st is the island's most important holiday aside from Discovery Day (the first Monday in March). Liberation Day commemorates the U.S. military liberating the island from Japanese occupation on July 21, 1944.

Prior the COVID-19 pandemic, the island would go into a month-long celebration with many festivities including a carnival, history lectures, a night market with many food vendors, games and booths and more activities at the Pasco Sports Complex/Hagatna Boat Basin area. For the last two years, however, many of the festivities were put on hold.

This year, as COVID-19 numbers dwindle, the island will bring back some of the festivities for a special two-day event with the theme of "The Strength to Overcome, The Faith to Persevere!" marking 78 years since Liberation.

Events scheduled include the famous Liberation Parade, Special Liberation Fandanña Friday Event, a drone light show and fireworks displays. However, there will be no carnival and no coronation of a Liberation Queen this year.

The Liberation Day parade is scheduled on July 21 along Marine Corp Drive and will be broadcasted live by Channel 12 TV. To close the first day, a drone light show and fireworks display will follow the parade.

Day two will feature the special Liberation Fandanña Friday Event at Governor Joseph Flores Memorial Park (Ypao Beach) where you can enjoy various entertainment, food trucks and family activities, along with the Liberation Freedom Jump with US and Guam flags. Another fireworks display in the evening will wrap up the two-day festival.

The schedule of the planned events is TBA, so please visit the Guam Visitors Bureau's official event page for more details as they become available.

Get ready to celebrate the return of Liberation Day this year!

takiguchi.takahiro@stripes.com



## 78TH GUAM LIBERATION UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

SCHEDULE UPDATES: <https://www.visitguam.com/liberation78/>



### 2-Day Festivities

#### 1st Day

Thursday, July 21, 2022

- 78th Liberation Parade along Marine Corps Drive  
PBS Live Broadcast of the Liberation Parade,  
TV Channel 12
- Liberation Drone Light Show and Fireworks  
Display in Paseo, Agana

#### 2nd Day

Friday, July 22, 2022

- Special Liberation Fandanña Friday Event at  
Governor Joseph Flores Memorial Park (Ypao  
Beach)  
Entertainment, Food Trucks, & Family Activities  
Liberation Freedom Jump (US and Guam Flags)
- Fireworks display in Ypao Beach

### Memorial Events

**YONA** - Manenggon Memorial  
July 3 (Sun) at 9 a.m.

Location: Manenggon Memorial

**YONA** - Asinan Memorial  
July 3 (Sun) at 10:30 a.m.

Location: Pago Bridge

**M-T-M** - Marine Depot  
July 7 (Thur) at 9 a.m.

Location: Maite (across Car's  
Plus)

**Barrigada** - Kålaguak Memorial  
July 8 (Fri) at 9 a.m.

Location: Tiyan, Barrigada

**Mangilao** - Mangilao Memorial  
July 12 (Tue) at 9 a.m.

Location: Mangilao Mayor's  
Office

**Inalahan** - Inalahan Memorial  
July 13 (Wed) at 9 a.m.

Location: Agfayan (across Bear  
Rock)

**Asan** - Asan Memorial Landing  
July 14 (Thur) at 10 a.m.

Location: Asan Memorial Beach  
Park

**Malesso** - Tinta and Faha  
Memorial

July 15 (Fri) (time: TBA)

Location: Site Visitation

**Malesso** - Tinta and Faha

Memorial Mass

July 16 (Sat) at 5 p.m.

Location: San Dimas/Our Lady of  
the Rosary Catholic Church

**Hågat** - Hågat Memorial  
July 19 (Tue) (time: TBA)

Location: Next to the Hagat  
Senior Center

**Santa Rita-Sumai** - Sumai  
Memorial

July 20 (Wed) at 11 a.m.

Location: Naval Base Cemetery

**Yigo** - Chagui'an Massacre  
August 8 (Mon) at 9 a.m.

Location: Yigo

## A LOOK BACK IN HISTORY

### Island leader and patriot

WAR IN THE PACIFIC NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK

**I**n February 1942, two months after Guam was invaded and captured, Japanese officials introduced classes to educate island children and adults about the Japanese culture and language as well as mathematics and reading.

The first classes were held at George Washington High School, then located in Agana and just five years old. And chosen to lead the school was someone eminently qualified to do so - the high school's principal and perhaps the island's leading educator, Agueda Iglesias Johnston.

Mrs. Johnston was the wife of William G. Johnston, who was sent to a prisoner-of-war camp in Japan in January 1942 along with about 500 other Americans living on the island at the time; she was left to alone care for their children. The tragic events of the time made her a single parent, decades before the term was even in use.



Agueda Johnston

But the young woman also took on another responsibility - as an island leader, as a patriot.

As the occupation continued, Mrs. Johnston helped raise the morale of Chamorros through her communication of the progress of the war. Much of the information was obtained by radios, kept hidden from the Japanese military occupying forces. Messages were sometimes passed inside the wrappers around the bars of soap made by her family. The soap was given to Chamorros, sometimes under the very eyes of Japanese guards.

She was also involved in the efforts to help Navy radioman George Tweed evade capture by the Japanese. Mrs. Johnston provided food, clothing, and reading materials for Tweed.

When the Japanese began to suspect her involvement, she was interrogated about his hiding place. She was beaten and whipped before she was freed.

During the occupation, she received a note from

Japanese authorities. Written in Chamorro, the note informed her of the death of her husband William in a POW camp in Kobe, Japan. A part of her life gone and her heartbroken, Mrs. Johnston continued on, caring for her family and eventually helping them safely reach Manenggon, a concentration camp for Chamorros established by the Japanese prior to the Liberation.

Mrs. Johnston, her family, and the others in the Manenggon camp were freed by American forces. A year later, she was back to being a principal, the head of the new George Washington High School, a school made of canvas and tin and running on materials - paper, chalk, and pencils - donated by the U.S. military.

Born in 1892, the lifelong educator passed away in 1977. But her place in Guam history, as an educator, as a community leader, as a patriot lives on. To recognize her memory and her courage, the people of Guam renamed George Washington Junior High School in Ordot in her honor. The school is now Agueda I. Johnston Middle School.



## A LOOK BACK IN HISTORY

*Symbol of hope, controversy*

BY PAUL J. BORJA,  
WAR IN THE PACIFIC NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK

When the Argentina Maru sailed from Guam on Jan. 10, 1942, all American prisoners of war were accounted for except six Navy sailors:

A. Yablonsky, yeoman first class; L.W. Jones, chief aerographer; L.L. Krump, chief machinist mate; C.B. Johnston, machinist mate first class; Al Tyson, radioman first class; and perhaps the most famous of the group - George Tweed, also a radioman first class.

Only Tweed survived the war, thanks to the dozens of people who harbored him during the 30-month occupation period.

Krump, Jones and Yablonsky were discovered in the Manengon area in September 1942 and were beheaded by the Japanese. Later, Tyson and Johnston were found and shot in Machananao.

But it was Tweed that was a thorn in the side of the

Japanese ... and the Chamorros.

To both Japanese and Chamorros, Tweed represented the United States, but in vastly different perspectives. To the Japanese, he was a threat and a sore point in their desire to extinguish the influences of America upon Guam.



George Tweed

To Chamorros, Tweed could be seen two ways. In one perspective, he did indeed represent the United States; his presence and continued existence symbolized hope in America's return to Guam. As a result, many people aided him to evade capture by members of the Minseibu, the policemen and investigators of the Japanese naval militia charged with civilian affairs on Guam. Those who felt this way cited a responsibility to the United States in helping Tweed keep his freedom.

The second perspective was less kind: Tweed was willing to allow Chamorros to suffer and die as he lived in freedom in the jungles of Guam. Those of this second view note, in their opinion,

Tweed's lackadaisical attitude in staying hidden, often looking for better shelter and sometimes for female companionship.

Authorities tried all through the occupation to arrest the Navy radioman. Questioning many, torturing some, Japanese authorities did indeed execute people, using Tweed as a rationale.

As U.S. forces approached Guam, the efforts to capture him intensified. Among those executed just prior to the July 21 liberation was the popular Catholic priest, the Rev. Jesus Baza Duenas.

Despite the brutalities inflicted upon the local populace, the secret of Tweed was kept just that ... a secret. All Japanese efforts to capture him failed.

Tweed, who was then living in a cave overlooking the northwest coast of Guam, eventually signaled a Navy destroyer, the McCall, which was shelling the island prior to the July 21 invasion. Picked up by a small boat from the ship on July 10, Tweed was probably the first person in Guam to be actually liberated from the Japanese occupation by U.S. forces.

*Marine endures war in POW camp*

BY RAJ SOOD,  
WAR IN THE PACIFIC NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK

World War II was an experience that shattered lives around the globe, leaving few countries little affected by the conflict. History was unfolding before people's eyes everywhere.

But retired Marine Brig. General Charles S. Todd saw little of World War II. For him, World War II was a prisoner-of-war camp in Japan. Todd was among the American military and civilian personnel taken from Guam in January 1942 after the Japanese invasion of the island.

The Japanese occupation of Guam overturned Todd's world. He and his wife Marcelline, and their child, loved their life on Guam. He had come to the island in 1939 after 18 months of duty at sea, and he and his wife lived in a home between Piti and Asan.

Todd served as the aide to naval Governor George McMillin, was named by the governor as chief of police, and was also part of the naval justice system. "I was wearing three hats," he said.

Assisting him in the police department were Juan Roberto, Adolfo C. Sgambelluri and Juan Taitano; Todd described his staff and those men as "outstanding," and the crime rate as practically nil.

When Japanese planes attacked Guam on Dec. 8, 1941, (the same day as Pearl Harbor because of the International Date line), McMillin ordered Todd to imprison Japanese residents of the island. "He said, 'Charlie, round up all these Japanese (local residents), put them in the jail and turn all the other prisoners loose,' which I did."

Later, as the Japanese sent aircraft to strafe and bomb the island prior to a troop landing, explosions rocked the jail, causing some distress to the prisoners inside. "Some of the bombs fell close to the jail - didn't hit them, but jarred the building. They were not very happy about that. Anyway, I had a hard time when they were finally released. After that, I was taken prisoner, of course."

After Gov. McMillin surrendered Guam, all Americans, military or civilian, and some Spanish clergy, notably Guam Bishop Miguel Olano, were imprisoned. Todd's wife and child, however, had already left Guam and were in the United States at war's beginning.

On Jan. 10, 1942, the prisoners were taken to Piti to board the Argentina Maru. "Who can forget that day?" Todd said. He and the 500 or so prisoners from Guam were transferred to camps in Kobe, Japan to be prisoners of war.

"It was cold there, and those of us taken from Guam had no warm clothes, not until the fall of Singapore (in February 1942) when we were brought captured British



Japanese Governor Homura, third from left on bottom row, and other officials pose with students graduating from a teacher-training program. The eight month-long training was held in Agaña, with students staying in a dormitory, said Francisca Quintanilla Franquez, fourth from left, second row, and Dinang Atoigue Manibusan, to her left. Teachers were strict, but fair and very good, they said. Second row, left to right, are Ana S.N. Ofeciar, Maria Sablan Perez, Maria Garrido Taitano, Franquez, Manibusan, Teresita Perez Salas, Agnes Carbullido Tabor, Lois Charfauros Muna, Lourdes L.G. Toves, Maria Castro Ada, Maria Perez San Nicolas. Top, left to right, Edward Camacho, Antonio Charfauros, Alejo Quinata, Jose Rosario, Tomas Mendiola, Sabino Flores, Juan Tenorio, Jose Mafnas, Vicente Diaz, and Jesus Torres. Photo courtesy of War in the Pacific National Historic Park

uniforms. These uniforms were odd sizes - none of them fit, but at least they kept us warm."

The prisoners were made to work. Officers spent their time caring for a garden, and others were conscripted to load food from one train to another. But the prisoners took advantage of the situation - they were able to take some of the food being transferred from train to train. "That, along with what we grew in the garden, helped our chow," Todd said.

About news of the war, the POWs were able to obtain some, at least the Japanese views of the conflict. "The Japanese civilian labor used to carry newspapers which our people would snag. We had a person who knew Japanese and he would translate for us," Todd said.

But there were some rough times for Todd and the POWs. "They gave us a bad time when (Army Air Force Lt. Col. James) Doolittle took off from a carrier and flew over Japan." On April 18, 1942, just months after Pearl Harbor, Doolittle led a raid of B-25 bombers on Tokyo and other cities.

"It shook them up. Their mood changed drastically for awhile. They were mean, real mean. That was even

before the B-29 raids started (in 1944)."

As the war's momentum switched to the Allies, conditions for the POWs worsened. "When things really started going badly for them, it got worse for us too. A few times they lined us up facing their soldiers with fixed bayonets. We thought that was it, but for some reason they changed their minds."

In August 1945, the Japanese began to rant about "the inhuman bomb," the retired general said. Todd and the POWs did not have any knowledge of the atom bomb, so they believed that this "inhuman bomb" was some kind of gas. "We had no idea."

A few days after the atomic bomb, the camp commander gathered all the internees together. "He told us that Japan had quit fighting in the interest of world peace," Todd said.

The men, after more than four years of imprisonment, would be repatriated to a world so greatly changed by a war of which they saw so little.

SEE LIBERATORS MEET THE LIBERATED  
ON PAGE 12



## A LOOK BACK IN HISTORY

# *Liberators meet the liberated*

BY PAUL J. BORJA,  
WAR IN THE PACIFIC NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK

The Liberation of Guam was a matter of military necessity. Its people and their suffering aside, Guam was seen as a naval and air base from which to bomb Japan and supply the force needed to subdue the enemy.

But in Guam, the Marine in the jungle and the soldier in the trenches discovered something very special - that his effort was recognized and that he actually made a difference in people's lives.

Marine Cpl. Maury T. Williams, Jr., a reconnaissance scout for the 21st Marines, and Wesley T. Bush, of the 22nd Marines, both recall their experience in meeting Guamanians during the battle to recapture Guam.

For Bush, who wrote to the Guam Veterans Affairs Office asking for information on 50th anniversary activities, he first met with local people when his unit was relieved and he and his fellow Marines were moving back toward more secure areas.

"We had battled continuously for 14 days, then got a rest. As we marched to the rear, we went through an area where the lovely people of Guam had been gathered. The youngsters ran alongside of us holding on to our rifles. Old men held our hands and the women cried and cheered and patted our backs. All the hardship and misery and wounds we had suffered melted away at that moment and I said to myself, 'It has been worth it all.' I will never forget how grateful the people were."

Bush's unit was to fight in Okinawa but would return to Guam, where he would meet and befriend a local family. Invited to a party by the family, Bush would experience something he never experienced before - tuba, the fermented, and yes, alcoholic product of the coconut tree. The aftermath of the party was predictable.

"I made friends with a family named Cruz. They did my



laundry and once, graciously invited us to their humble home, where the father plied us with something called TUBA and we tried to find our way back to camp."

Williams was also affected by the emotions of the people as they passed his unit in Agana where he and his comrades had been assigned positions. Moving to the rear of the battle, Chamorros would walk past the positions held by Williams and other Marines.

"They (the people) were understandably quite emotional as they approached, considering their months of oppression under the Japanese, and nearly all had tears streaming down their faces. Many were on foot but some came in the trucks that had been dispatched to a pickup point a short distance ahead."

"But one large group, being brought through the lines in the back end of a six-by-six truck, were singing a song that must have been composed during the occupation. Their words expressed their love of America and Americans, including a line that said something like, 'Thank you, Uncle Sam.' I noticed that those people were not the only ones having tears streaming down their cheeks that day," wrote Williams, the Marine from Memphis.

SEE SGAMBELLURI'S SECRET LIFE  
ON PAGE 14 ►



As the battle for Guam advanced from the beachheads and the concentration camps were liberated, people began traveling from the camps or their jungle hideouts to safety behind the front lines. Above, boys on carabaos and on foot are part of the stream of people fleeing the fighting between the Japanese and American forces. Photo and Illustration courtesy of War in the Pacific National Historic Park

### February 19 – March 16, 1944

The siege of Iwo Jima nearly takes a month to complete. The volcanic isle leaves behind a legacy written in blood by the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Marine Divisions: U.S. casualties are 6,800 dead, 20,000 wounded. There are practically no survivors of the 21,000 Japanese defenders.

### April 1 – June 22, 1944

With American forces nearing the Japanese home islands, the Japanese up the ante at Okinawa. Kamikazes spearhead the defense of the homeland, and nearly 2,000 soar to attack the U.S. fleet supporting the invasion force. It is bloody at battle's end: 12,500 American troops and 110,000 Japanese dead.

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## A LOOK BACK IN HISTORY

*Sgambelluri's secret life*

COMPILED BY RAJ SOOD,  
WAR IN THE PACIFIC NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK

**H**e must have been a unique man and quite a character, the late Adolfo Camacho Sgambelluri.

The son of a Navy man, Sgambelluri was a policeman in pre-war Guam and then a police official for the Japanese occupation authorities, a role which did not endear him to island residents.

Nevertheless, his record as a policeman and then as an investigator was sterling in pre-war Guam, and his abilities must have appealed to the efficiency-conscious Japanese authorities during the occupation.

Marine Capt. Charles S. Todd, the chief of police of Guam when World War II erupted, said Sgambelluri and fellow policemen Juan Taitano and Juan Roberto were "outstanding" staff. "Roberto and Sgambelluri were the detectives who investigated all the incidents involving the local people, and I don't recall their leaving any case unclear. They were feared, but highly respected. In many instances, they assisted in other cases involving naval personnel and their dependents," Todd said.

The chief also tasked Sgambelluri with responsibilities that helped the policeman develop skills that would prove invaluable to American officials in the post-war period. "...they were also assigned as intelligence officers collecting information considered adverse to the military and United States government. They collected information and prepared profiles on all Japanese, German and other foreigners considered not friendly to the United States," Todd said.

During the Japanese occupation, Sgambelluri



In a camp in Guam, prisoners of war bow their heads as they hear a radio broadcast of Japanese Emperor Hirohito announcing the surrender of Japan in World War II. Photo courtesy of War in the Pacific National Historic Park

was a policeman of sorts, acting as a liaison between island residents and military authorities. His work brought him into close contact with Japanese officials. As a result, he was able to warn Chamorros about investigations and searches. The policeman

was invaluable in particular in helping people move George Tweed, the sailor who was able to evade Japanese authorities for the 31 months of the occupation, whenever officials intensified efforts to locate the Navy man.

After the Liberation, Sgambelluri was incarcerated along with others accused of aiding or sympathizing with the Japanese. Because of that, he carried a certain stigma and his arrest was viewed by some as justice.

However, his incarceration was voluntary. Sgambelluri asked to be put in the stockade and, using the skills he gained while as an intelligence officer in pre-war Guam, he was able to obtain information that assisted prosecutors in their cases against people accused of war crimes and of assistance to the enemy.

His efforts, not only during the post-war era but also during the occupation when he helped circumvent Japanese investigations of Chamorros and their activities, were recognized and lauded by U.S. officials, including USMC Maj. General Henry L. Larson, Island Commander in the time immediately after Liberation, and Col. Teller Ammons, U.S. Army Judge Advocate, Military Commission of Guam.

"I personally appreciate all the assistance you have given, and you have rendered an exceedingly patriotic service to your people on Guam and the Government of the United States. Now I am sure you have a complete satisfaction that you served in the best interests of the people of Guam," Ammons wrote Sgambelluri.

Once jeered as an enemy sympathizer, Sgambelluri died at age 73 on Dec. 12, 1985, and he was buried with honors for outstanding service to his country.



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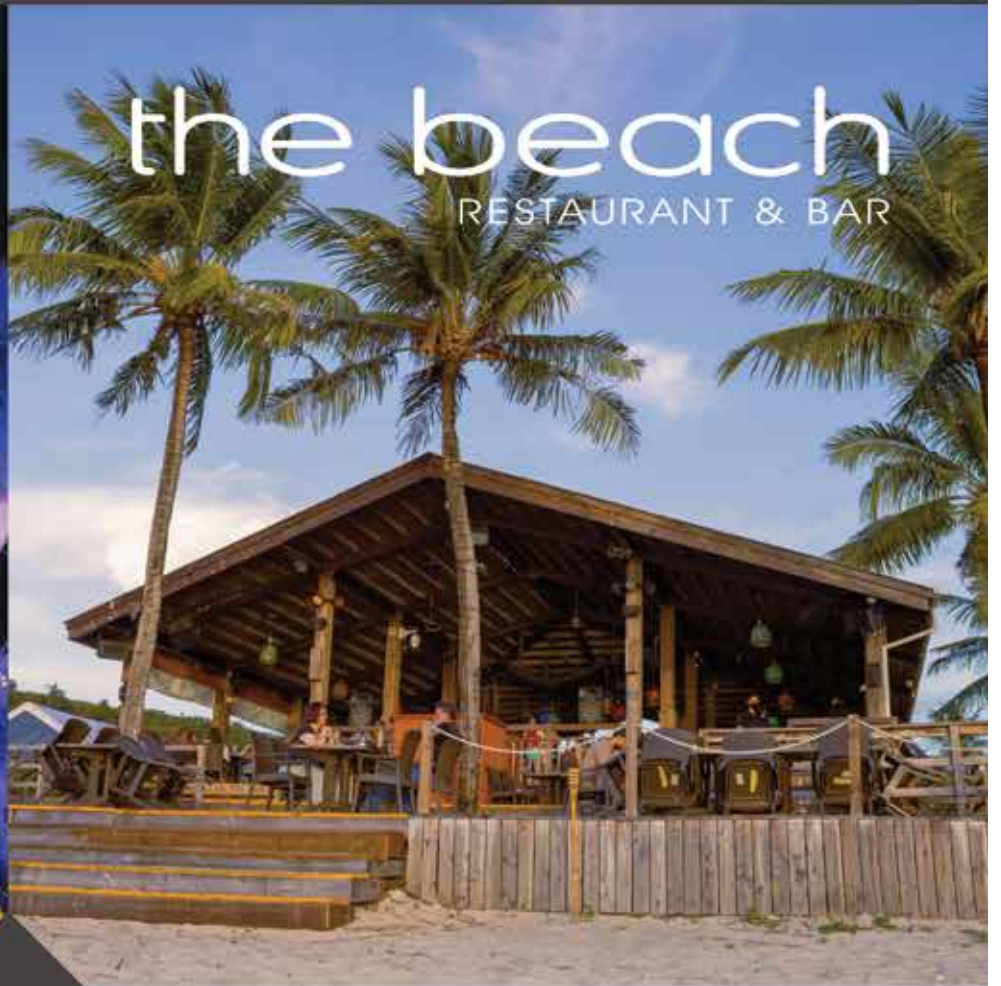
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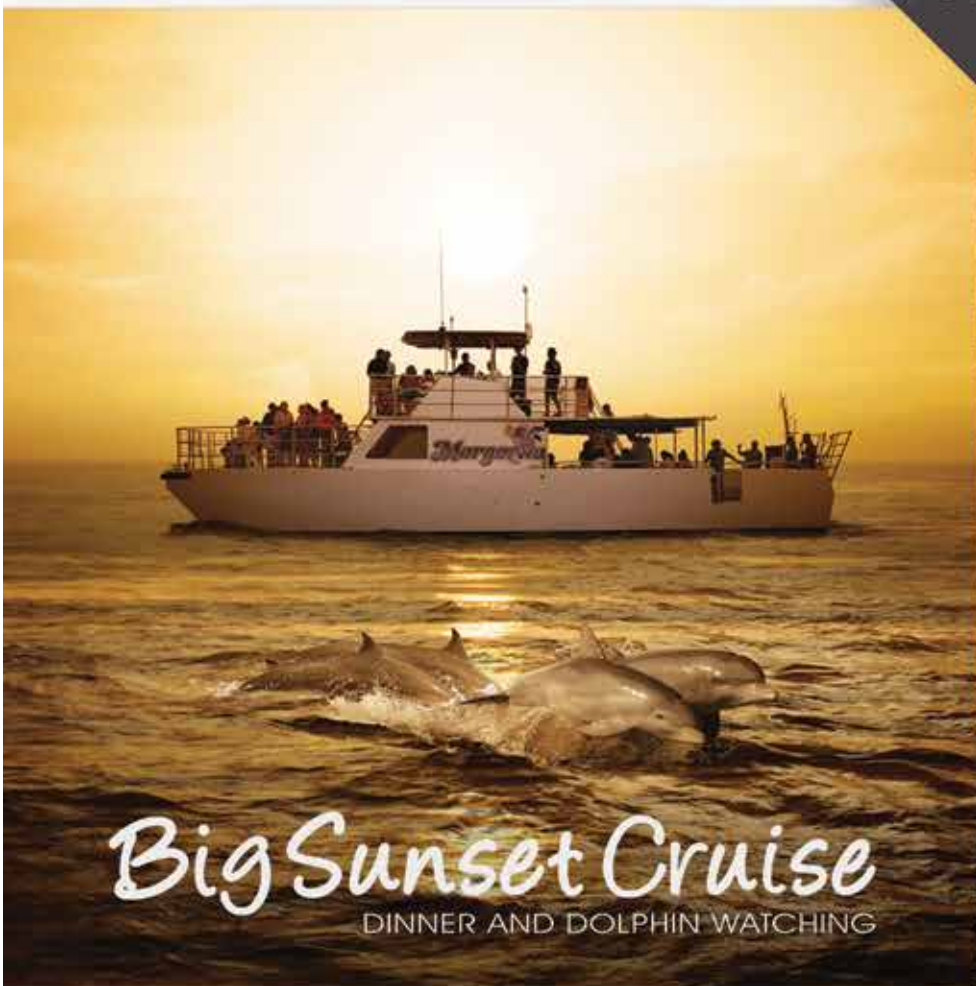


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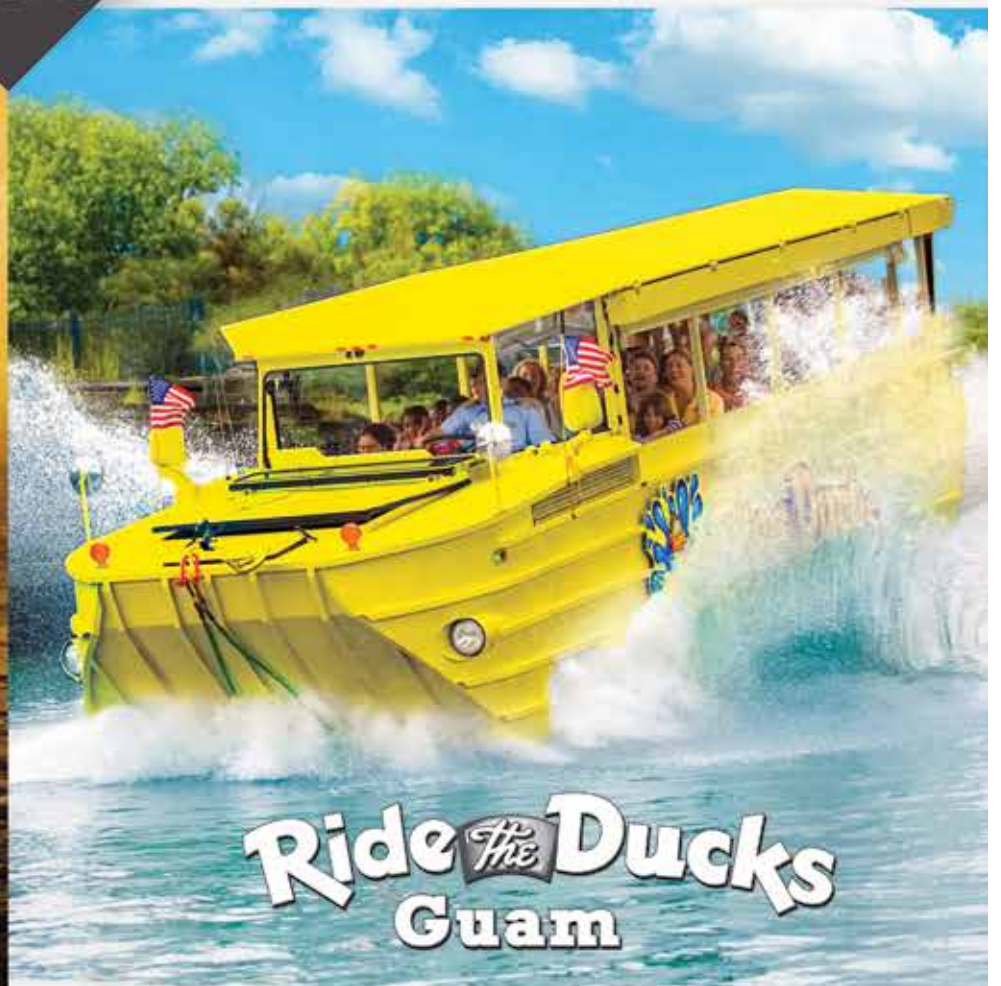


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The author's daughter, Christina, and his sisters, Rachel Briley, left, and Gina Space, float through Hillsborough River State Park outside Tampa in 2017.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
JOHN BRILEY,  
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

**T**wo years before we had kids, my wife, Cathleen, and I were on the Big Island of Hawaii, where we met a 25-year-old Colorado man and his partner, both of whom seemed relaxed, happy and sane as their toddler ran roughshod in the jungly vegetation between a rainforest hiking trail and the beach. Because I saw children in my future but dreaded the lifestyle shift they would bring, I asked this guy how he was managing it.

"If he sleeps when he needs to and eats when he wants to, we can bring him anywhere," he replied. "So we get to do pretty much what we want, and everyone's usually happy."

Over the intervening years, during which Cathleen and I had two kids and dragged them along on a suite of outdoor adventures, we discovered that getting our children into natural environs indeed benefits us all.

Numerous studies support our experience, finding that time in nature reduces stress and negative thoughts and correlates with higher self-reported happiness among adults and children.

That makes sense, says Patricia Hasbach, a psychotherapist in Eugene, Ore., author of "Grounded: A Guided Journal to Help You Reconnect with the Power of Nature-and Yourself." "We evolved as part of the natural world, but at this time in our history, we have never been more removed from it," she says, with about 80% of Americans living in urban environs and our society-wide dependence on technology. "It's all very primal, . . . and we need this re-engagement with the natural world."

I never analyzed it to that degree, but I knew that I was happiest when out in the wild and that I wanted to share that transcendental joy with my family. Here are some tips

gleaned from my 13 years of trying to shape outdoor-loving kid travelers.

### Start early

Toting infants and toddlers outdoors is as much about sustaining your own outdoor travel cadence as it is about engendering a love of nature in them. Because if you start using your spawn as an excuse to loll around sidewalk cafes, malls or (gasp!) your house, you might forever lose your mojo.

Admittedly, dragging tiny humans outside for extended time entails Eagle Scout-level planning - diaper bag, nap time, snacks, toys - which makes it wise to . . .

### Start local

The path to 1,000 awesome trips starts within reach of the panic button. Which is to say, when your baby still has that shiny new maternity-ward smell, get your nature reps nearby. For us,

that meant walks in Rock Creek and Great Falls parks, during which we realized that Colorado Man was right: Babies have very simple needs.

Thus emboldened, when Kai was 5 weeks old, we slung him out to southern Arizona, where we cradled his tiny mass on numerous hikes, including one into the depths of Kartchner Caverns. Over the ensuing years, Kai, now 13, and his sister, Christina, 10, have dug in (and surely eaten) sands from such disparate locations as Cape Hatteras to St. Martin, hiked and skied all over the country, surfed waves in Hawaii, and biked, canoed, caved and rock-scrambled throughout the Mid-Atlantic.

They might not vote to repeat it all, namely the 2010 camping trip to a music festival outside Cumberland, Md., when hurricane-force winds and hail drove

Cathleen and Kai into a sponsor's RV for refuge. Or the time 5-year-old Christina rocketed down a natural water-slide in a Shenandoah streambed, lost her footing and disappeared around a blind corner. (By the grace of Mother Nature, she landed in another pool, unscathed, just after I lost sight of her.)

I shudder every time I recall that episode, but, as Hasbach says: "Our species has always been adventurers and risk-takers. That's part of our deep memory, and when young people don't get those opportunities to have close calls in the wild, they're going to seek other channels of risk: drugs, promiscuity and other things. If a kid falls out of a tree and breaks an arm, it can be set. But what if the kid never gets to be in a tree? What are we missing?"

Still, it can be tough to pry children away from sedentary entertainment, which is why you must . . .

or  
at least not  
hate

### Think like a kid

Maxims such as "We'll all feel better after we do this," "No pain, no gain!" and "GET IN THE CAR THIS INSTANT SO WE CAN GO HAVE FUN!" don't resonate well with the under-10 set.

One tactic: Channel your inner child. On an early-pandemic Saturday, as Kai and Christina were upending our living room in a medieval battle and fiercely resisting our plans for a hike, Cathleen suggested relocating the drama to the evil lord's fortress - in George Washington and Jefferson National Forests. By midday, armed with foam axes, plastic swords and a convoluted storyline, we were powering through an eight-mile tromp with nary a complaint.

When all else fails, invite their friends. Kids would rather crawl across broken glass in a vacant lot with their friends than ski in Aspen, Colo., alone, so recruit accordingly. And once you're out there . . .

### Don't push it too hard

My cousin Timmy, a former ski patroller in Utah, recounts the time he led his 4-year-old son, Griffin, down a double-black-diamond run after Griffin had successfully skied a couple of single-black-diamonds.

"I knew he had the skill to ski it, but he just freaked out," Timmy said. "I had to carry him down. He refused to ski for three years after that." Although now, Griffin, at age 16, is a world-class competitor in the grueling sport of ski mountaineering, so make of that what you will.

In general, it's best to open the door to



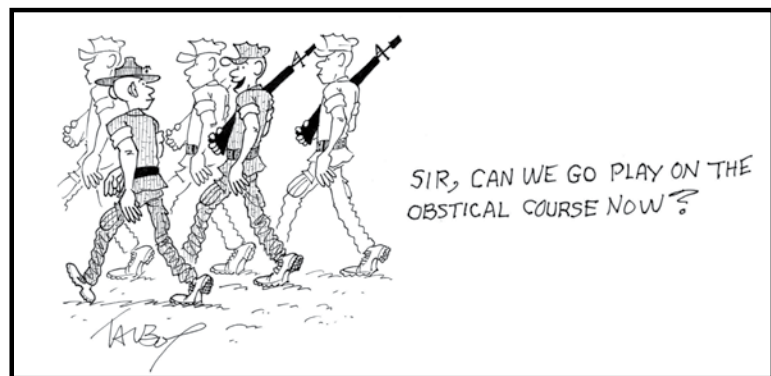
Kai and Christina - then 5 and 2 - take a break from canoeing below Offutt Island on the Potomac River in 2014.







# COMICS CORNER



– by Daryl Talbot

## GSA in Guam

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

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



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](mailto:brandy.untalan@gsa.gov).

Check Out GSA's Guam Catalog!

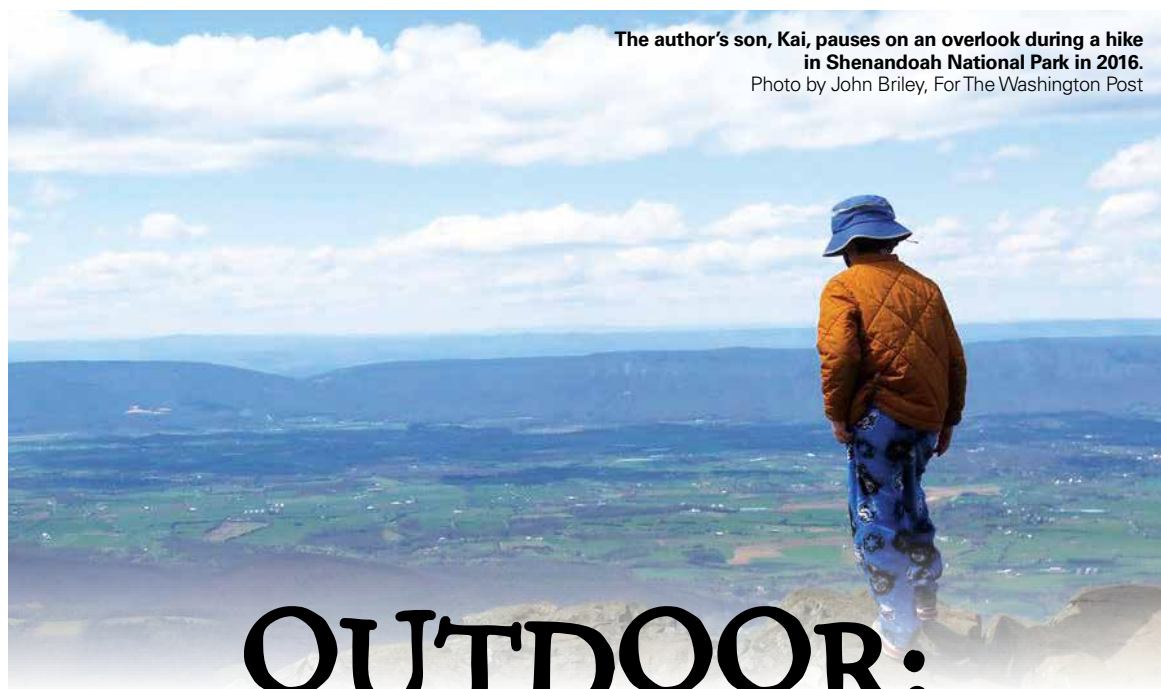


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The author's son, Kai, pauses on an overlook during a hike in Shenandoah National Park in 2016.  
Photo by John Briley, For The Washington Post



# OUTDOOR: Stay positive with kids

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

But definitely push it

possibility and let the child determine the intensity level. Have patience, grasshopper: They'll ramp it up soon enough.

Children are factory-set for adversity, insulated with fast-healing bodies and an innate sense of adventure and danger.

"Things rarely go as planned out in the wild," Hasbach says. "So kids have to learn flexibility, problem-solving, resilience, and all those things contribute to self-confidence."

A couple of years ago, we found ourselves pedaling mountain bikes up a seemingly endless Appalachian fire road, and the long, flowy, downhill trail we'd heard about was nowhere in sight. With a mutiny brewing, I recalled the Navy SEAL tactic of assessing a big challenge as a series of smaller ones.

"If we make it around that next bend, it'll get easier," I lied to Christina. (Cathleen, with far more sincerity, promised her a cookie.) When the next bend, and the three after it, revealed only more uphill and Christina summoned curses upon my soul, I pushed both of our bikes while singing show tunes with her until we crested the ridge and rolled, to her audible woo-hoos, down a laurel-lined, three-mile trail and back to our campsite.

**Never show you're worried - especially when you are**

Lost in the Adirondacks? Out of water in the desert? Fighting upriver in a canoe as a thunderstorm bears down on the gorge? Been there, and even as the hair on my neck sprang to attention, I managed a cheery, all-in-a-day's-fun demeanor. Ask my children for the first rule of adventuring, and you'll hear, in two-part harmony: "Never panic."

What matters most to children is the same thing that matters to us: sharing invigorating experiences with the people we love. And for that, I have yet to find anything that measures up to the outdoors. One day way too soon, Cathleen and I will be excluded from many of our children's adventures. But until then, they're stuck with us, somewhere outdoors, living wild.

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



### Summer (tortie kitten)

This beautiful kitten is estimated to be about 8 weeks old. Summer is such a loving kitten. Who loves snuggling up with her kennel mate. She will definitely make any family happy with her friendly and loving personality.

We have an adoption special on the kittens and adult cats for the whole month of June.

Call G.A.I.N. (Guam Animals In Need) Animal Shelter in Yigo at 653-4246 or visit [www.guamanimals.org](http://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.







# Boonie Stomps Guam

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY  
GUAM BOONIE STOMPERS



Tinechong Falls

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



## For more information:

[www.facebook.com/GuamBoonieStompersInc](http://www.facebook.com/GuamBoonieStompersInc)

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.

**June 25** *Double Difficult*  
**Tinechong Falls (Brittany's Falls)** *5 hours for 5 miles*

We travel to the very center of Guam to explore a 20 ft waterfall with a very deep freshwater swimming hole and fun jump.

**Bring:** 4 liters water, hiking boots, gloves, sun screen, insect repellent, lunch, and camera.

**Special Conditions:** Sword grass, river crossing, rope climb, and a muddy swamp.

**Parking Location:** Google Maps or Apple Maps: 13.35321, 144.74787 (Side of the road - 4A)

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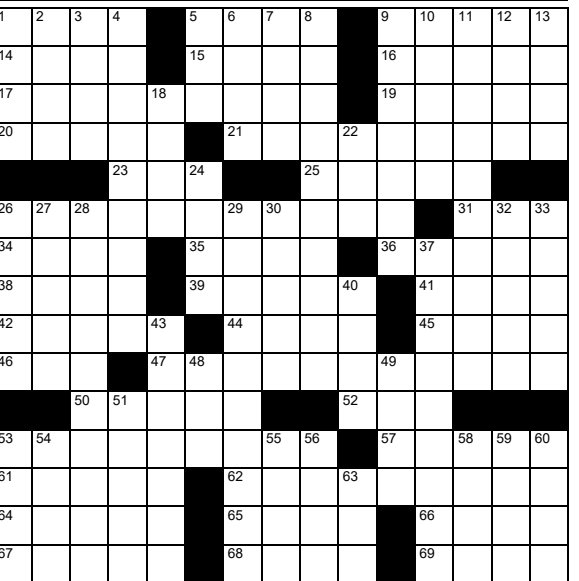
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## Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

### ACROSS

- Kitchen bag brand
- Elvis, once
- Partially melted snow
- \_\_\_ of passage
- "Fame" singer
- River craft
- Kind of triangle
- Enthusiasm
- Rhino relative
- Mediate
- Doublemint, e.g.
- Grinder
- Done secretly
- That \_\_\_ then...
- Caesar's 66
- Glowing sign
- Talk bad about
- Actress \_\_\_ Rachel Wood
- "The Lost City" actor
- Sgt. Snorkel's dog
- Gymnastic apparatus
- Overfill
- Hospital fluids
- Hobby shop buy
- Fried foods are high in it
- Gather bit by bit
- Chop down
- Knight's garb
- Academy in Maryland
- "Stormy Weather" singer
- Symbol of biblical wrath
- Church leader
- Green shade
- Sicilian volcano
- Like an untended garden
- "NFL Live" carrier
- Coral formation



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- Middle child on "The Simpsons"
- Perched on
- Burke sitcom, "\_\_\_ Women"
- Bar stock
- "Melting Watch" artist
- "Working Girl" character Trask
- Like some changes
- Color in a Hawthorne title
- Cocoon contents
- Submerged
- Very shortly
- \_\_\_ and now
- Caked deposit
- Long, long time
- Base or case closer
- Counter worker
- One more than 34-across
- On the cutting edge
- Like some temperatures
- Wreck beyond repair
- Jetsons' dog
- Sand bar
- Scented splash
- Fit together
- Overlook's offering
- Holiday entree, often
- Till stack
- Like some jackets
- Tobacco wad
- Place for an ace
- Bearded flower
- Walk unevenly
- Go to the polls
- "Green Gables" girl
- Plant part
- Restroom sign

### Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

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## Stripes Sports Trivia

In 1986, Argentina edged out West Germany, 3-2, to win the World Cup in front of more than 100,000 fans in Mexico City. It's the last time Argentina won the Cup and it's most known for Argentina's quarterfinal match with England, which featured the "Hand of God Goal." Who scored this famous goal?

Answer

Diego Maradona

## SUDOKU

Difficulty: Easy

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

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Edited by Margie E. Burke

### HOW TO SOLVE:

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

Answer to Previous Sudoku:

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

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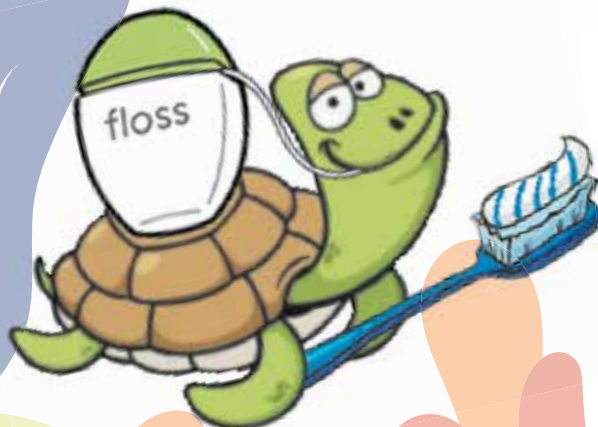
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# Healthy Living

A medical guide for military community members visiting South Korea

June 2022

■ Make Daejeon your next destination in Korea!  
- PAGES 2-3

■ Gasan Digital Complex more than just a health center  
- PAGES 2-3

■ The wonders of Busanjin's Seomyeon Medical Street  
- PAGE 4

■ U-MEDI: Consulting for your medical benefits  
- PAGE 4



## U-MEDI'S HEALTHY APPROACH

Company connects you with top healthcare destinations in South Korea

U-MEDI

For those of you living on Guam, you know first-hand the island is a tropical paradise. We at U-MEDI want to introduce you to another piece of paradise, one where your medical needs are taken care of by some of the top doctors in the world while you also enjoy the sights, sounds and culture of beautiful South Korea.

U-MEDI is a medical tourism company that assists foreigners in accessing healthcare in South Korea. U-MEDI provides united medical services to foreigners who are sick or pursuing beauty and wellness care. U-MEDI will find a doctor specializing in a patient's health needs, support transportation to the hospital, and work with patients to ensure medical expenses are paid. But most

*"I've been here for three years but I've never felt so good about doing something for myself. I'm glad I came on a U-MEDI tour. Thank you so much for being an awesome host."*

- Bonita Hunter, U.S. DOD civilian

importantly, UMEDI is there to provide assistance and help educate patients on the health care process as needed.

It is important to know that U-MEDI is an official registered company approved by U.S. Forces Korea and provides assistance to those in the U.S. military community stationed in South Korea seeking medical services. U-MEDI also has a global program where military members and DOD civilians can receive Korean medical services while on vacation in Korea. U-MEDI has secured public

confidence through cooperation with local governments throughout the country, with a nationwide network of more than 1,000 hospitals and clinics.

U-MEDI regularly works with different levels of Korean government who want to show off their medical and tourism infrastructure to foreigners living, working or traveling in Korea. At no cost to you! Packages usually include transportation, hotel, dining, tourism/culture guides and, of course, complimentary medical care and checkups at some of

the nation's most prestigious medical institutions! Contact us today to become a free U-MEDI Friend!

At U-MEDI, it's all about getting you the best health care possible. Whether it's cancer related or you want to remove a tattoo or do some other type of cosmetic surgery, we'll here to help you with all your needs. Take a look at Page 4 for more about what we can do for you!

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DAEJEON TOURISM ORGANIZATION

In the heart of Korea, there is a particular city that is at the forefront of science and technology. Daejeon, meaning “broad field,” was the first city in Korea to hold the World Expo in 1993, signaling its emergence as a city of science.

The ‘93 Daejeon Expo’, which showcased the latest science and technology at the time, such as electric vehicles, solar cell vehicles, and artificial intelligence robots, attracted 14.5 million visitors. A bio company located in Daedeok Innopolis, a domestic birthplace of science and technology, has developed and exported COVID-19 diagnostic kits around the world. Various forms of research and new technologies are being developed for human health. In addition, Daejeon, home to over 2,000 medical institutions equipped with excellent medical staff and advanced equipment, is an ideal medical tourism destination with premium health checkups for foreign patients and wellness tourism resources.



### Premium health checkup

Sun Hospital, which first set out to care for the health of patients and citizens with the utmost sincerity and upholding the mission of “providing the best care, without limits, at all times to everyone who visits us,” started as a 20-bed orthopedic surgery clinic in 1966. It has grown into a general hospital with 13 medical centers, 34 departments, and 200 professional medical staff members. The International Medical Examination Center of Sun Hospital was the first health examination center in the world to be certified by the International Medical Institution Evaluation Committee (JCI), which can only be obtained by passing all 1,200 evaluation items. After being selected as a leading hospital for overseas patient care by the Ministry of Health and Welfare, more than 5,000 foreign patients now visit Sun



Sun Healthcare International



Daejeon Night View

# Daejeon ideal medical

Hospital every year.

The screening program of the International Examination Center is divided into three main aspects. Basic examination consisting of essential items for early detection of adult diseases and cancer, and 7 major cancers including brain, heart, digestive, lung, and gynecological cancer. In a ward dedicated to 5-star hotel-level examinations, one-on-one coordinators provide the highest level of check-up programs, including overnight check-ups.

Equipped with as many as 219 forms of advanced medical equipment, the Rhythmia Mapping System, a state-of-the-art atrial fibrillation treatment device, was officially introduced for the first time in Korea, allowing for more precise examinations at a rate of 25 times more than the previous system. Through collaborative treatment of specialists in each field, not only can an accurate diagnosis be made by assessing the result of the examination, but if there is any abnormality after the exam, it is possible to receive medical care immediately after consultation. The Cancer Center is located right next to the International Screening Center, providing a ‘one-stop’ service from diagnosis to treatment, as well as cooperation between screening and cancer centers.

### Special concierge service for foreigners

As a concierge service, a one-on-one dedicated service is provided by an international medical team (capable of speaking English, Chinese, Russian, Mongolian and more) composed of local coordinators to facilitate the communication and convenience of foreign patients. In addition, we

are operating a service that picks up medical tourists who have arrived at the hospital by using a limousine, and reserves hotel rooms near the hospital and a tour guide to Daejeon if you wish to have tour information during your stay.



### Expo media facade

The Hanbit Tower, a symbol tower of the 93 Daejeon Expo and an iconic landmark of Daejeon, is being newly illuminated as a media façade.”Media façade,” meaning “media” and the building’s “façade,” refers to the projection of content imagery onto the building. You can enjoy a beautiful night view every evening with colorful imagery and sounds on the 38.5-meter high outer wall of the Hanbit Pagoda with a floor width of 22.5 meters. Hanbit Plaza, built on 13,840 square meters in front of the Hanbit

# Gasam Digital Complex more than just a health center



U-MEDI



Nestled between Incheon and Seoul, you can find Gasam Digital Complex, a booming urban landscape that is blending venture and R&D companies with one of Seoul’s newest fashion meccas.

At the heart of all this activity is Sojunghan Health Promotion Center, known for its state-of-the-art medical examination system where both Koreans and expats can receive comprehensive consultations and full-body checkups, which can even include MRI, CT scans, endoscopy/colonoscopy and ultrasounds if necessary! The specializations don’t stop there, however, as they also have an on-site dental clinic skincare clinic and can even offer specialized examinations geared to cancer screening, spinal diseases, diabetes, thyroid, cardiovascular and even issues related to adolescent health and stress levels!

As the health examinations at Sojunghan can vary according to need, you can often expect to spend anywhere from 2-4 hours going over everything. With that in mind, we recommend scheduling a morning or afternoon in the Gasam Digital area, and to make it worth your while, we’ve also picked out some great places to visit before or after your examination.

장진석  
CHANG JIN SEOK, CEO





Healing spot for walking barefoot



# cal tour destination

Tower, is a setting where you can marvel at the romance of the city with colorful lights and rhythmic music fountains every night.



## Daejeon Shinsegae Art & Science

Daejeon Shinsegae Art & Science, a cultural complex, is located on the site where the 1993 Daejeon Expo was held. Unlike existing department stores, where shopping is the main focus, this is a complex where you can experience art, culture and science altogether. On weekdays and weekends, citizens and tourists visit continuously.

Like Daejeon, the city of science, Daejeon Shinsegae Art & Science features a science center, NEXPERIUM, where you can experience various aspects of science. It is a space developed and produced by researchers at KAIST, which fosters scientific talents in Korea, and consists of

the themes of future science fields, such as robots, bio, and space. In the Science Museum, you can experience how robots are actually made, and you can also view exhibits about robots that will dramatically change human life, artificial intelligence technology that is based on them, and artificial satellites for observing extraterrestrial planets and exploring space. It is a space to stimulate interest in science among children. One way of achieving this is from wearing a device provided at the entrance. While viewing the exhibit, an artificial intelligence algorithm automatically analyzes the visitor's behavior and suggests a path suitable for their field of interest.

The Art Space 193, a gallery on the 42nd floor of the 193m high Expo Tower that symbolizes the 1993 Daejeon Expo, features an observatory offering a panoramic view of Daejeon and works by world-famous installation artist Olafur Eliasson. The aquarium on the first basement floor is adorned with media art that tells the story of Poseidon, the god of the sea according to Greek mythology. You can also see a 2,500-ton main tank and a digital image panorama on the ceiling. Through expansive media wall art and holograms, you can experience various forms of sealife.

## Healing spot for walking barefoot

A little distance from the city center is a serene and calm natural space. Gyejoksan Mountain, which was named as such because the shape of the mountain is "shaped similar to a chicken's foot," is located in Daejeon. When you get to the foot of the mountain, you can easily see people walking barefoot on the road and washing away the ocher

soil from their feet at a foot wash. It may feel awkward as there are not many opportunities to walk barefoot outdoors, but at this place where you can walk barefoot on the 14.5-kilometer long Hwangtoji Road, everyone, regardless of age or gender, willingly takes off their socks and places their feet on the loess beneath them. With every step, soft and moist ocher embraces your feet, and the soles of your feet can sense some stimulation, making you feel like you are receiving a foot massage. The trees that stretch high overhead release phytoncide, and the sound of leaves rustling whenever the wind blows, along with the sound of the chirping of birds, seems to help wash away the fatigue and stress of the city.



## Relaxation for mind and body

Daecheongho Lake, where you can enjoy the beautiful changes of the four seasons, is the third-largest lake in Korea. You can find 21 trekking courses around the lake, where you can walk while taking in the pleasant views from both sides. While doing so, you can enjoy viewing historical relics and partaking in various experiences, food, and seasonal festivals, allowing you to experience the healing of both mind and body while being with nature. Doume Village located next to Daecheong Lake, is a representative rural experience village that boasts beautiful scenery, including cherry blossoms forming a tunnel every April. You can experience the production process of wild plant enzymes made from 30 different ingredients, the harvesting of agricultural products, making of local food, and experiencing traditional culture. Haneulgang Atelier, run by a potter in Doume Village, is a place of healing where you can ease your mind while making pottery. You can experience the taste and style of Korea while drinking traditional tea and strolling around the cutely decorated village.

### Getting here

First, let's talk about getting to the area. Gasan Digital Complex Subway Station is on Seoul Subway Lines 1 and 7 and if coming directly out of Exit 3, you'll eventually find Daeryung Post Tower on the right side with Sojunghan located on the 3rd floor. But as we want to make sure you get there safely without any hassle, we strongly advise for you to contact us at U-MEDI before you go so we can guide you better and help plan your Gasan itinerary.

### Cafe visit

Whether you opt to go for coffee before or after your exam, if you are a cafe buff you'll love the relaxing space of Inc Coffee (127-20, Gasan Digital 2-ro, Geumcheon-gu, Seoul) and its rooftop space and indoor courtyard. Drinks include African drip coffee, lattes, cold brews and even affogatos. For non-coffee drinks, they also feature lemonade, tea lattes and chamomile variations.

Baked goods and ice cream can also be ordered. Inc Coffee can be found if coming out of Exit 6 of the area's subway station, making a sharp left to walk alongside the subway line and heading towards the river. You'll eventually see the entrance on the right.



### Korean Lunch/Dinner visit

One of our fave places to eat in the area for Korean food is Sillim Chuncheon House (신림춘천집, 17-23, Digital-ro 32na-gil, Guro-gu, Seoul). One of the best dakgalbi (spicy stir-fried chicken) experiences you can expect while in Korea! Be sure to order the cheese dakgalbi and drool at the river of cheese running through it! Sillim Chuncheon House is about a 15-minute walk east of Sojunghan, but definitely worth the taxi or drive. Or take the subway to Line 2's Guro Digital Complex Station and walk south of Exit 3 to find it. And within walking distance of E-mart's Guro branch, so you can fit in some grocery shopping if you want. If driving, leave the car parked in the parking lot and walk over to have lunch!



### International Lunch/Dinner visit

Not fussy with spicy food or looking for some international cuisine? Try Delhi Curry (7th floor, Hyundai City Outlet Gasan Branch, 9 Digital-ro 10-gil, Geumcheon-gu, Seoul) in the fashion backstreets behind Sojunghan! Its Apgujeong location was one of the first curry restaurants to open in Korea and since built its reputation to expand throughout Seoul.



### Shopping visit

Don't forget to pop into some of the area's famous shopping outlets before you head back home! Specifically, you can find loads of shopping discoveries at Lotte Outlet and Mario Outlet, located just down from Sojunghan's building!



And remember, be sure to contact U-MEDI before planning your medical tourism visit to the Gasan Digital Complex area to make sure everything goes according to plan and you make the most out of our experience! <http://u-medi.com>

## Sojunghan Medicare Center

TEL.: 02-6371-8000

FAX: 02-6371-9000

WEBSITE: [www.sojunghealth.com](http://www.sojunghealth.com)

ADDRESS: 3rd Floor, Daeryung Post-Tower 5, Digital-ro 9-gil 68, Geumchun-gu, Seoul





busanjin

# The wonders of Busanjin's Seomyeon Medical Street



SMS  
KOREA

BUSANJINGU

**S**eomyeon Medical Street, located in Busanjin-gu, the center of Busan Metropolitan City and iconic maritime capital of Korea.

Seomyeon Medical Street, which took form naturally as medical institutions began to gather around Seomyeon Rotary, is now located within a 500m radius of Seomyeon Subway Station, where as many as 370 various medical institutions such as dermatology, plastic surgery, dentistry, and ophthalmology

are concentrated. This concentration of medical technology is unlike anything else in the world. Thousands of foreign tourists visit Seomyeon Medical Street every year for medical services.

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ALEXANDER RIEDEL/Stars and Stripes

Sgt. 1st Class Joshua De Palma, a scout platoon sergeant with 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, moves a Project Origin robotic combat vehicle at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Hohenfels, Germany, on June 8. Project Origin unmanned ground vehicles were tested and demonstrated during exercise Combined Resolve 17.

## Robotic combat

Army brings unmanned ground vehicle closer to battlefield during testing in Germany **Page 2**



## COVER STORY

# Unmanned combat vehicle gets field test

BY ALEXANDER RIEDEL  
*Stars and Stripes*

HOHENFELS, Germany — The new robotic ground vehicle called Project Origin made its multinational debut at a training exercise with more than 5,000 troops from across Europe.

The unmanned vehicle is being used at the Army's Joint Multinational Readiness Center for Combined Resolve 17, a recurring exercise designed to test the ability of troops to operate effectively in a complex battlespace with ground, air and cyber assets, according to the Army.

"We came out so we could expose the vehicle to multinational partners and U.S. forces," said Todd Willert, a leader of the Origin program. "We do that so soldiers not only see the capability, but so they can fight and defend against it. Across the world, armies are developing robotic platforms with lethal payloads. We as a coalition need to know how to fight against that."

About the size of a small car and equipped with an electric engine and four axles, the Origin moves through the terrain without a driver on board and features sensors and attachment kits with an M240 machine gun, .50-caliber mounted weapons and anti-armor Javelin missiles.

During the exercise's open combat portion, soldiers coordinate, maneuver and execute freely within a more than 61 square mile training ground, or "the box." The Origin vehicle was used by soldiers of 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, to challenge conventional operating plans and train on how to react to autonomous military vehicles in combat, said Sgt. 1st Class Joshua De Palma, a scout platoon sergeant with the unit.

"We used the weapons-capable platform in various ways, from traditional reconnaissance to attack and harass enemy troops and to test their defenses," De Palma said during a presentation on the exercise grounds. "It was interesting to see troops react to seeing it for the first time in simulated combat. They didn't know what they were dealing with."

Combined Resolve 17 is a major test of the combat capability of the Army's 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry

Division, which deployed to Germany in February as Russia launched its invasion into Ukraine.

The Fort Stewart, Ga., soldiers were joined in the training by troops from Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Italy, Kosovo, Lithuania, Moldova, North Macedonia and Poland.

During one of the simulated assaults, radio traffic between some troops accentuated how they were surprised by the Origin, Willert said.

"We heard one of the soldiers say, 'It's not human!'" he said. "They are fighting something that doesn't eat, doesn't sleep and they need to figure out how to fight that with new tactics."

Much like unmanned drones operated by the Air Force, the Project Origin vehicles require a remote driver and a sensor or weapons operator. Origin is controlled remotely by a specialist with chest-mounted control units that look like rugged template computers paired with joystick controllers.

The resemblance to consumer technology is not lost on the developers and its intuitive handling is part of the design, Willert said.

"Working with the young soldiers here has been absolutely great," he said. "They are very adaptive to the technology and take to it very quickly."

The vehicles can also be controlled by sight and a wireless handheld joystick — or with a carabiner-attached tether kit that allows the fully loaded vehicle to follow a single marching soldier effortlessly in the field with a clip to their belt. The Origin can also move using pre-programmed waypoints.

The vehicles are a prototype creation of the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command's Ground Vehicle Systems Center in Warren, Mich., the military's research and development facility for advanced technology in ground systems.

Project Origin has been making its rounds, and changes are made to the vehicle after each exercise brings new feedback from soldiers in the field, including most recently with 1st Special Forces Group at Dugway Proving Ground, Utah.



PHOTOS BY ALEXANDER RIEDEL/Stars and Stripes

**A Project Origin robotic combat vehicle fires .50-caliber weapon simulation rounds during a concept demonstration at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Hohenfels, Germany, on June 8.**

"The vehicle can nearly go anywhere," Willert said. "We've tested it in the desert, in the snow, in the jungle. Germany's terrain is also incredibly challenging and a good testing ground as well. It's got forests, steep hills, mud and narrow trails and we wanted to see how the vehicle and the software does in this environment."

By bringing the vehicle into the field for hands-on testing by troops, Willert said it allows his team of engineers to use feedback on technology and vehicle capabilities to help build successive prototypes.

Origin vehicles being demonstrated now offer a variety of modular attachment kits that transform its functions. It includes various camera sensors that enable remote operators to have 360-degree awareness all around the vehicle and map the area around the vehicle to avoid obstacles, Willert said.

When more visibility is needed, a mast-mounted camera can be extended above the Origin, or a tethered drone can be used to get an aerial view of its surroundings — launched and powered from the vehicle without human hands.

"Everything on the vehicle has been soldier approved and put on because they've asked for it," Willert said. "Robots will never replace soldiers. They augment them and it gives them increased capabilities."

But the robot vehicle offers more than guns.

During maritime operations, an attachment kit can allow the vehicle to become fully amphibious. A remotely operated trailer hitch enables it to tow and drop loads in the field, and a backhoe attachment turns it into a construction vehicle.

A full-sized smoke machine can provide enough smoke to



**A soldier looks sits in the driver's seat of an autonomous transport vehicle during a demonstration. The vehicle can be programmed to drive on its own.**



**A Czech, Bosnia and Herzegovina and U.S. Army soldier guard a forward-positioned command post during exercise Combined Resolve.**

cover a football field under the right wind conditions, concealing and obscuring troop movements from enemy fire.

"The vehicle has been a lot of fun, is easy to use and brings great capabilities to the fight," said Spc. Christopher Gerlach, a scout with the 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment. "It provides a lot of smoke cover quickly and allows us to carry heavier weap-

ons and equipment to the fight, which puts us at an advantage."

After Combined Resolve 17 concludes June 19, the Origin will continue training operations in Germany at Grafenwoehr Training Area, where they will undergo capabilities and live-fire training.

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## MILITARY

# NATO plans to expand, but no permanent bases

By JOHN VANDIVER  
*Stars and Stripes*

The U.S.-led NATO alliance will adopt a plan in a matter of weeks to send more weaponry and combat units to its eastern flank, but the strategy appears to fall short of fulfilling some allies' wishes for new installations filled with permanently based troops.

At the conclusion of a defense ministers meeting in Brussels June 16, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg outlined some of the moves he expects to be approved when heads of state meet in Madrid later this month.

The new force model builds on the troop deployment concepts implemented in recent years to guard against Russian aggression. But it's still unclear how much of NATO's expanded mission in the east will be filled by American ground forces.

Germany and the United Kingdom, among others, have said they intend to increase deployments to the eastern reaches of NATO.

"We heard several allies indicating that they will provide new national announcements to contribute to the new force model," Stoltenberg said. "I'm certain that they will make the announcements well ahead of the NATO summit in two weeks' time."

Citing three NATO diplomats, Reuters reported that many members, including Britain and the United States, do not favor permanent new bases in the Baltics. The reason: they would cost billions of dollars and be hard to sustain.



U.S. NAVY

**A U.S. Marine assigned to the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit trains with NATO allies in Ustka, Poland, earlier this month. The U.S.-led NATO alliance is expected to adopt a plan to send more weaponry and combat units to defend its eastern flank.**

"The new force model also consists of many different elements, but when it comes to the land component, and especially in the eastern part of the alliance, we speak about mainly three pillars," Stoltenberg said.

The first pillar is a larger forward-based

presence with more combat-ready formations and command-and-control capabilities.

The second is more pre-positioned equipment, such as armor and ammunition. And the third involves troops who are assigned to train in and defend specific

territory, Stoltenberg said.

However, he did not mention construction of permanent bases with allied forces assigned to them. Eastern allies such as Poland and the Baltic states have made repeated calls for a more robust NATO military presence in their countries.

Even before Russia's full-fledged invasion of Ukraine in February, NATO had multinational battlegroups operating in the Baltics and Poland to shore up defenses.

And in the aftermath of Russia's invasion, allies have doubled the number of battlegroups, with units now operating in eight countries.

The concept of "preassigned forces" means that units from specific allied countries will focus on specific areas. Some will be deployed forward, while others will remain in their home country "but (be) ready to move quickly if needed," Stoltenberg said.

Before the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, there were 80,000 U.S. troops in Europe, about 65,000 of whom are permanently based on the Continent. The number of American troops in Europe now stands at just over 100,000 because of additional rotations.

Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Mark Milley has said he favors a rotational model going forward rather than the addition of large numbers of new, permanently based troops in Europe.

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## New Air Force commander on Guam urges readiness for a conflict with China

By SETH ROBSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

The U.S. military must prepare to fight decisively if China challenges America, its allies or partners, the new commander of Andersen Air Force Base on Guam told troops moments after stepping into the job.

Brig. Gen. Paul Birch took command of Andersen's 36th Wing from Brig. Gen. Jeremy Sloane earlier this month during a ceremony in a hangar at Andersen that was live-streamed on Facebook.

Birch, a former Pentagon strategic planning chief, pinned on his first star March 2. He told airmen he looks forward to working with them, as well as troops from other branches and allied militaries, to increase Andersen's capabilities.

"We have to get it right now, right here because of the world's situation," he said.

U.S. allies in Europe have been focused on Russia's invasion of Ukraine since February. Meanwhile, North Korea has been conducting regular missile tests and Chinese planes have been buzzing Taiwan.

**"We need to enhance our ... readiness and lethality in such a way that deters our adversary today and also postures us to fight decisively ..."**

Brig. Gen. Paul Birch

"The threat is relentless," Birch said. "We need to enhance our ... readiness and lethality in such a way that deters our adversary today and also postures us to fight decisively should that adversary — China — make a strategic miscalculation and elect to take on the United States, its allies or its partners."

Birch, who graduated from the Air Force Academy in 1996 and received a master's degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1998, took command during Valiant Shield. The biennial exercise on and near Guam involved two aircraft carriers, 15 surface ships, more than 200 aircraft and an estimated 13,000 personnel.

The exercise and others like it aren't just building troops' skills, he said.

"They also signify our resolve to our global commitments," he said. "Our methods of command and control must be the golden braid that holds together the substance of operational war-fighting capability even when it is stressed in the most demanding conditions of high-end conflict and a near-peer fight."

Service members on Guam can contribute to the mission in ways that are possible in a free country out of the shadow of tyranny and autocracy, Birch said.

Sloane, who received the Distinguished Service Medal for his command of the wing since July 2020, praised airmen for their efforts to continue the mission during the coronavirus pandemic and noted "the pacing threat just over the horizon."

Sloane was set to retire from



EMILY SAXTON/U.S. Air Force

**Air Force Brig. Gen. Paul Birch salutes after taking command of the 36th Wing at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, on June 10.**

the Air Force and will be moving to Alabama with his family, the service said in a news release.

The 36th Wing is the key for security in the region, 11th Air Force commander Lt. Gen. David Krumm told the troops during the ceremony.

China has been ignoring international norms, borders and sovereignty for years. It wants to

replace the international system that undermines a peaceful and prosperous Indo-Pacific, Krumm said.

"Today a free and open Indo-Pacific is under threat by China," he said. "China only recognizes its own self-interest."

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## MILITARY

# Renovated Tokyo terminal ready for military travelers

By SETH ROBSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Passengers waiting for flights at this airlift hub in western Tokyo have a new panoramic view of warplanes on the flight line thanks to a \$27.5 million terminal renovation.

The Yokota Passenger Terminal, which reopened June 13 after a yearlong refurbishment, includes a wall of windows facing a runway where C-130J Super Hercules airlifters, CV-22 Osprey tiltrotors, F-16 Fighting Falcons and various other aircraft take off and land daily.

“The coolest things are the windows up here in front where there used to just be a wall,” 730th Air Mobility Squadron logistics and readiness officer Capt. Cody Byford said during a tour of the facility. “Now we have that perspective for our customers to be able to look out at the flight line.”

The windows fill the terminal

with natural light that falls on interior walls decorated with pink sakura, or cherry blossoms, red autumn leaves and an illustration of nearby Mount Fuji.

Passengers moving to and from aircraft walk through one of two massive red steel torii — symbolic gates in Japan’s Shinto religion — on the runway side of the terminal.

The renovation tripled the terminal’s seating capacity to 1,500 passengers and doubled the number of check-in counters from three to six. A new conveyor belt moves bags that before the renovation were handled solely by airmen, Byford said.

Folding glass doors allow staff to adjust the size of the area where passengers wait after security checks, said Byford, 27, of Round Rock, Texas.

More than 100 workers and 11 subcontracting companies completed the renovation in 186,977 man-hours, the Air Force said in a news release.



SETH ROBSON / Stars and Stripes

**Air Force Capt. Cody Byford, 730th Air Mobility Squadron logistics and readiness officer at Yokota Air Base, Japan, stands before a torii, part of a \$27.5 million renovation of the Yokota Passenger Terminal on June 16.**

The new terminal will also feature an Army and Air Force Exchange Service cafe, Byford said.

The terminal, in operation since 1969, caters to passengers and handles luggage on the Patriot Express, which flies Boeing 767 jets between air bases in Japan, South Korea and Seattle.

However, it can handle passengers from any type of aircraft that arrives or departs from

Yokota, and it’s a way station for passengers going to destinations in the Indo-Pacific region such as Singapore or Diego Garcia.

On any given day the terminal might be filled with troops in uniform, family members or veterans flying on a space availability, or Space A, status.

During the height of the coronavirus pandemic, Patriot Express missions increased by 300%, with an additional 70,000

Patriot Express passengers traveling through the terminal in 2021 when compared to the previous year, according to the Air Force news release.

During the renovation passengers arriving or leaving Yokota were moved through a prefabricated buildings beside the old terminal.

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## New patch authorized for US Army Japan soldiers

By SETH ROBSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP ZAMA, Japan — The commander of U.S. Army Japan has authorized his soldiers to wear a new patch symbolizing their alliance with America’s Far East ally.

Hundreds of troops at the home of U.S. Army Japan in Kanagawa prefecture put on the rectangular patches depicting combined U.S. and Japanese flags during a formation last week.

Five thousand U.S. soldiers spread across 17 bases in Japan are authorized to wear the patches, U.S. Army Japan commander Maj. Gen. Joel Vowell said after attaching patches with fabric fasteners on several troops during the formation.

Soldiers in Japan work in a variety of fields doing everything from special operations to military intelligence, but all are focused on building relationships with their Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force counterparts, Vowell said.

“It’s a recognition that everybody belongs to that mission,” he said of the new patch.

About 200 Japanese soldiers



SETH ROBSON / Stars and Stripes

**The new patch combines the U.S. and Japanese flags.**

assigned to Camp Zama are also authorized to wear the patch, he said.

One of those sporting the new emblem on his shoulder was Staff Sgt. Christopher Williams, 31, of Olympia, Wash., a bass player in the U.S. Army Japan band.

The new patch is as special to Williams as the Screaming Eagle badge he wears to signify his service in the 101st Airborne Division, his first unit, he said.

Soldiers assigned to U.S. Army Japan continue to wear the patch that features a depiction of Mount Fuji.

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## Air Force Aid Society’s new online process being tested at 9 bases

By JENNIFER H. SVAN  
*Stars and Stripes*

The process of applying for Air Force Aid Society grants and loans is moving entirely online at nine Air Force bases, which are taking part in a pilot program preceding the full rollout across the service.

The change should make it more convenient for airmen and their families to request emergency financial assistance as well as speed up the payment process, said officials at Ramstein Air Base in Germany, one of two participating bases in Europe. The other is RAF Mildenhall in England, while the Asia-Pacific region’s trial run is happening at Japan’s Kadena Air Base.

The remaining participants are stateside. They are Lackland, Randolph, Travis, Barksdale, Langley and Seymour Johnson Air Force bases. The assistance application can be found at <https://portal.afas.org>.

The selected locations will help identify any problems with the system in the run-up to the full launch, said Angie Fields, a community readiness consultant at Ramstein’s Military and Family Readiness Center, formerly the Air Force and Family Readiness Center.

“No more coming into the office to schedule an appointment to complete paperwork,” she said.

With the new system, applicants upload all their required documents online and work directly with someone at Air Force Aid Society headquarters in Arlington, Va., answering any questions that may arise about their applica-

tion.

Once an application is approved, the money will be directly deposited, Fields said.

Airmen can complete an application on their own time rather than having to make trips to the readiness center during the duty day, said Megan Ramirez, a lead workplace specialist at Ramstein’s center.

The Air Force Aid Society will have people on hand to answer questions during work hours at the test bases, including overseas. Ramstein applicants are encouraged to call the readiness center beforehand for guidance, Fields said.

The Air Force Aid Society was created in 1942 as a nonprofit organization. It’s considered the official charity of the U.S. Air Force, providing no-interest loans or grants for unexpected emergency financial needs, such as medical bills, car repairs, funeral expenses or veterinary care for pets, to name a few examples.

Active-duty Air Force and Space Force personnel, Air Force Guardsmen and reservists as well as retirees, surviving spouses and family members are eligible to apply, as are the dependents of deceased personnel who died on active duty or while retired.

The readiness center at Ramstein also has a personal financial counselor to advise airmen on budgeting, investing and other financial topics, Ramirez said.

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## MILITARY

# Patriot missiles down drone target from Palau

BY SETH ROBSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

A U.S. Army Patriot missile defense system and an Air Force F-35A Lightning II aircraft combined to shoot down a dummy cruise missile over the Pacific, according to an Army spokesman.

The drill marked the first time a Patriot system had been fired from the island nation of Palau, and the first time a Patriot had combined with a stealth fighter for a live-fire drill outside of testing in the U.S., according to Maj. Nicholas Chopp, a spokesman for the Hawaii-based 94th Air and Missile Defense Command.

"The launch occurred as planned, with a successful intercept of a simulated cruise missile target at approximately 10:00 a.m. local time," Chopp said in an email from Palau on June 15.

Two PAC-2 Patriot interceptors engaged the target, which was launched from Palau and travelled out to sea before turning 180 degrees and flying back toward the island, he said.

"The target was a cruise missile surrogate target — basically a drone built to look and perform like a cruise missile," Chopp said by phone later that day.

The target was shot down just over 20 miles from the island at an altitude of 10,000 feet using radar data provided by an F-35A assigned to the 354th Air Expeditionary Wing, which also launched from Palau, Chopp said.

Okinawa-based soldiers from 1st Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery Battalion operated the Patriot system on the island, he said.

Patriots have engaged targets using data

from Navy destroyers equipped with the Aegis Combat System, but the Palau drill was the first time they had worked with an F-35A, he said.

"The ability to extend the range that Patriot can detect and engage threats provides an entirely new capability to the joint force and increases our ability to defend a free and open Indo-Pacific," he said.

The live-fire exercise was part of this month's Valiant Shield drills involving 15 surface warships, including a pair of U.S. aircraft carriers, as well as approximately 200 aircraft and 13,000 service members, Chopp said.

The Navy moved the Patriot system to Palau, the Air Force brought the PAC-2 interceptors by Air Force C-17 Globemaster III aircraft and the Marine Corps provided engineering and integration support, he said.

Three F-35As have been operating on Palau during Valiant Shield, which wrapped up June 17, the Air Force said in a news release.

"We're here to promote a free and open Indo-Pacific region and operating out of Palau makes it possible to accomplish that goal," 356th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron F-35A pilot 1st Lt. Joshua "Super" Novick said in the release.

"We have a great relationship with Palau so it's awesome to be able to come here and work with them to build our relationship with one of our allies in the region."

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U.S. ARMY

A Patriot PAC-2 interceptor launches from Palau on its way to shoot down a dummy cruise missile June 15. The drill marked the first time a Patriot system had combined with a stealth fighter for a live-fire drill outside of testing in the U.S., an Army spokesman said.

## Military postal system to end mail privileges for overseas retirees

BY DAVID CHOI  
*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — Military retirees, Red Cross workers and some government employees living and working overseas will lose access to the military mail service starting Aug. 24, a postal service superintendent said.

The Defense Department in May directed the Military Postal Service Agency to end service for those customers, James Groff, the postal superintendent at Camp Humphreys, told Stars and Stripes by phone. He said he did not know what categories of government employees would also be affected.

The change is scheduled to affect all Air/Army Post Office, or APO, and Fleet Post Office, or FPO, addresses worldwide.

Groff said his office received notice of the looming changes earlier this month and that the guidance could still change.

Meanwhile, the reaction in the military postal service community, which employs dozens of military retirees, has been



DAVID R. KRIGBAUM/U.S. Navy

Petty Officer 3rd Class Richard Reddick scans and sorts mail at the Navy post office at Kadena Air Base, Japan, in December. The military postal system plans to end mail privileges for overseas military retirees beginning Aug. 24.

fierce, he said.

"There's other retirees that are affected all over the place,"

Groff said. "I spoke to one retiree, and you wouldn't want to quote the language he used."

The overseas military post offices provide mail service for service members, civilian De-

fense Department employees and some contractors. Groff said he was unaware of any changes to service for those people. Mail sent to U.S. military bases overseas is handled exclusively by the U.S. Postal Service, which charges domestic postage rates regardless of its destination.

Sunsetting mail privileges for overseas military retirees would force many of them to rely on their host nation postal services for their mail delivery. Some overseas retirees, for example, rely on the military mail service to provide timely delivery of medications from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The Military Postal Service Agency, an extension of the Postal Service, was created in 1980 to consolidate postal operations from all military services, according to the U.S. Postal Service handbook.

The agency operates in 63 countries and on 626 ships.

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PACIFIC

# Taiwan officials join group at military forum

By ALEX WILSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP KISARAZU, Japan — Scores of military officials representing 19 countries, including Taiwan, concluded a four-day conference last week intended to build partnerships among nations concerned with an increasingly aggressive climate in the Indo-Pacific.

The Pacific Amphibious Leaders Symposium '22 was hosted by the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force and the U.S. Marine Corps. Throughout the week, the participants discussed the state of affairs in the region, amphibious strategies and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, among other topics.

Along with armed forces representatives from Thailand, South Korea, Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom and France, a discreet contingent of Taiwanese representatives were also present as unofficial observers. A Japan Ground Self-Defense Force officer confirmed the Taiwanese representatives were present but declined to identify them by name.

The amphibious leader symposium, now in its eighth year, may not rank as a marquee event compared to headline international summits, but it remains



Maj. Gen. Jay Bargeron, left, commander of 3rd Marine Division, speaks with Taiwanese delegates during the Pacific Amphibious Leaders Symposium '22 at Camp Kisarazu, Japan, on June 16.

relevant, according to James Brown, an international affairs expert at Temple University's Japan campus.

The Taiwanese have attended previous amphibious symposiums but their presence this year renders it "all the more significant," Brown said by email to Stars and Stripes.

"[This] puts PALS in the category of forums where the United States, Japan and others can engage productively with the Taiwanese side in a quasi-official way," he said.

The symposium convened just after the Shangri-La Dialogue, an annual Asian defense summit in Singapore, where increasing

tension around Taiwan was a cardinal topic.

U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin on June 11 warned of "growing coercion" by China, including "a steady increase in provocative and destabilizing military activity near Taiwan."

The following day, China's Minister of National Defense Wei Fenghe said Beijing would fight to prevent self-governed Taiwan from going its own way. "We will fight at all costs. And we will fight to the very end. This is the only choice for China," he said.

The U.S. "One China" policy officially acknowledges Beijing's view that it has sovereignty over Taiwan, but also considers Taiwan's status as unsettled. China considers Taiwan a breakaway province that must be politically reunited with the mainland, by force if necessary.

While almost every participant at the amphibious leaders conference wore their nation's uniform, the Taiwanese delegates dressed as civilians. A spokesperson for the Marine Corps did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the Taiwan delegation's presence.

However, the Taipei Times newspaper identified Rear Admiral Chang Shih-hsing, commander of the Taiwan navy's

151st Amphibious Fleet, as a delegate, along with unidentified officers from Taiwan's navy and marines, according to a report.

Brown said the attendance by British and French representatives was also worth noting.

"This fits with Japan's ambition to encourage European countries to play a more prominent role in upholding security in East Asia," he said.

Lt. Gen. Steven Rudder, commander of U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific, and Gen. Yoshitake Yoshida, chief of staff for Japan's Ground Self-Defense Force, at a news conference said the symposium's primary goals are to build partnerships and uphold a "rules-based" order in the region.

"The security environment is rapidly changing; this is why you'll hear Gen. Yoshida and all the participants we had here this week say that the relationships and the interoperability with allies and partners is oh-so-critical," Rudder said. "We continue to advocate as a group for a free and open Indo-Pacific, international law and all the things that go into a rule-based relationship."

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## US sailors in Japan honored for April traffic crash rescue

By JUAN KING  
*Stars and Stripes*

A pair of sailors at Misawa Air Base, Japan, were recognized recently for rescuing a local motorist in danger of suffocating in April.

Petty Officer 1st Class Andre Griffith, 29, and Petty Officer 2nd Class Ryan Sorrem, 26, received letters of appreciation and recognition earlier this month from the Hachinohe Fire Department for their actions April 17.

The two sailors rescued a Japanese driver who had crashed into a light pole that day in Oirase Town, about 8 miles south of the air base in northeastern Japan.

Griffith, a Navy electronics technician originally from Sunrise, Fla., heard what sounded like an explosion from the second-story window of his house in town and saw a fireball near his backyard, he told Stars and Stripes in a Facebook message. Griffith has since relocated to another duty station.

"My first thought was that whoever was in that car would need my help," Griffith said.

Sorrem, a gunner's mate from Wyoming, Minn., who works with the Naval security forces at the base, said he also heard the explosion as he grabbed a soda from a vending machine outside his off-

base home, he told Stars and Stripes in an email. He said he was the first on the scene. Griffith was not far behind.

"It was pretty scary to see first-hand," Griffith said. "But I rushed down and saw [Sorrem] there who was the only one doing anything, so I knew I had to help as well."

The driver, who was not wearing a seatbelt, was left unconscious after the impact, with a minor laceration to his head from hitting the windshield, Griffith said. The driver's foot was still on the gas pedal, Sorrem said. They both saw the door was locked and the car was filling with black smoke.

"My immediate reaction was not so much on the fire, but on removing the individual from the car as the interior was filling with smoke and unknown fluids were leaking from the vehicle," Sorrem said.

The driver regained consciousness and unlocked the door, allowing Sorrem to cut the engine, Griffith said.

Not knowing the extent of the driver's injuries, the two sailors cautiously removed him from the vehicle, they said. They immediately got him a safe distance from the car, administered first aid and stabilized him until the paramedics arrived.

Some local Japanese assisted and



U.S. Forces Japan

Petty Officer 1st Class Andre Griffith, 29, left, and Petty Officer 2nd Class Ryan Sorrem, 26, hold letters of appreciation from the Hachinohe, Japan, Fire Department for saving a driver trapped in a car in April.

called the police. Another grabbed a fire extinguisher to attempt to put out some of the fire, Sorrem said.

He said he felt his training as a first responder helped him recognize the situation and act. "I feel honored that the local fire department thanked me," he said.

Griffith said they took the right action,

but sees no need to boast about it.

"I don't think [Sorrem] and I did anything special to be honest," he said. "I'd like to think that anyone else that was in that situation would have done the same."

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## MILITARY

# Senate OKs bill to help vets exposed to burn pits

By SARA SAMORA

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Senate passed historic legislation that would expand eligibility for health care and benefits to veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxins.

The bill, which is called the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022, or PACT Act, passed by a vote of 84 to 14. Sens. Steve Daines, R-Mont., and Roger Wicker, R-Miss., did not vote.

Daines was unable to vote due to the flood crisis in Montana. The senator is in his home state assessing the damage with federal emergency officials. Wicker was unable to vote because he tested positive for the coronavirus.

The legislation will now return to the House for that chamber's approval.

"For hundreds of thousands of veterans, generations of our all-volunteer military and their families, this bill is putting us on a path to finally recognizing the toxic wounds of war," Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Jon Tester, D-Mont., said during a news conference amid the vote. "This bill is the legislation we envisioned when we set out to right the wrongs to our toxic-exposed veterans, and I'm grateful to ranking [Republican] member [of Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee] Jerry Moran, our committee colleagues, veterans service organizations, veterans' advocates, and the Biden administration for making this possible. Our men and

women in uniform held up their end of the bargain, and I'm proud we're holding up ours."

Tester and Moran introduced the PACT Act in May. The senators called the legislation historic and said the bill will provide long overdue health care services and benefits for all veterans exposed to toxins.

The PACT Act seeks to provide an easy path to health care and benefits for veterans who served near open-air burn pits, which were used throughout the 1990s and the post-9/11 wars to burn garbage, jet fuel and other materials. Veterans diagnosed with cancer, respiratory issues and lung disease at young ages have blamed exposure to the toxic fumes from these pits, but the Department of Veterans Affairs contended for years that there wasn't sufficient evidence to support their claims.

The bill also would improve the VA's workforce and claims processing to speed up efforts to meet the needs of veterans and establish 31 new VA health care facilities in 19 states. Additionally, the bill would expand health care eligibility to post-9/11 combat veterans and add 23 conditions related to burn pits and other toxic exposures to the VA's list of service presumptions. It will also expand the list of presumptions related to Agent Orange exposure to include Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Guam, American Samoa and Johnston Atoll, strengthen federal research on toxic exposure, and improve the VA's resources and training.

"As a nation, we recognize the

physical, obvious wounds of war," said Moran, who represents Kansas. "We are improving our ability to recognize and treat the mental wounds of war, though we still have a long way to go. No longer can we ignore the wounds of war from toxic exposures. Veterans suffering from toxic exposures have been relying on a broken system cobbled together through decades of patchwork fixes that often leaves them without health care or benefits."

In March, senators began negotiating a measure aimed at expanding eligibility for health care and benefits to millions of veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxins. The Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs discussed the PACT Act, which passed through the House in early March, but the legislation was at odds with a Senate strategy to address the problem of toxic exposure health care.

House lawmakers proposed a major reform bill, but senators opted for a more incremental approach to the issue. In February, the Senate passed the Health Care for Burn Pit Veterans Act, which would expand health care to veterans but doesn't address other benefits. The sponsors of the bill insisted the measure is just a first step in a three-phase approach that would add more benefits incrementally.

The House version of the PACT Act would increase spending by about \$318 billion during the next decade, according to estimates from the Congressional Budget Office.



John Tester

**Sgt. 1st Class Heath Robinson's mother-in-law, Susan Zeier, wearing Robinson's Army jacket, speaks at the Capitol. Robinson died in 2020 following a battle with lung cancer blamed on burn pits.**

"A few months ago, the House of Representatives took the historic first step of passing my Honoring Our PACT Act, and moved closer to delivering the most comprehensive legislation to date to treat toxic exposure as a cost of war," said Rep. Mark Takano, D-Calif., chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. "I am thrilled that the Senate has now done its part by passing my bill with some additional revisions to benefit veterans."

The bill is named for Sgt. 1st Class Heath Robinson, who was diagnosed with a rare autoimmune disorder and lung cancer after serving with the Army National Guard in Kosovo and Iraq, where he experienced prolonged exposure to burn pits. He died in 2020.

Robinson's mother-in-law, Susan Zeier, spoke at the news conference that also featured veteran advocates and some senators. Zeier said she began wearing Robinson's Army jacket after Rosie Torres, co-founder of the advocacy group Burn Pits 360,

said family members of the 9/11 first responders gained momentum pushing for legislation to help them after they began wearing firefighter and police jackets.

"I've been wearing this since about summer 2018 and today, with this bill passing the Senate, I think it's time to retire it," she said. "I no longer have to carry Heath on my shoulders, while I'm advocating for all the other veterans out there who are sick and dying. And we aren't concerned that this bill isn't going to pass the House because we know it will, so I'm considering it done today."

Comedian Jon Stewart, who has worked as an advocate for veterans on this issue, said the real work will begin once the bill becomes law.

"This doesn't solve anybody's problem, it just removes the burden from their fight that never should have been there in the first place," he said.

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## US, Asian allies prepare missile defense drill to counter N. Korean launches

By DAVID CHOI

Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — The U.S., South Korea and Japan are rehearsing their ballistic missile defense this summer following a record number of demonstrations by North Korea this year of its missile capability.

The three nations will hold missile detection and tracking drills sometime during or after this year's Rim of the Pacific, the world's largest maritime military exercise, South Korean Defense Ministry deputy spokesman Moon Hong Sik said during a press briefing.

Moon did not specify the dates for the missile drill, but South Korean news agencies reported it would be held in August. The biennial Rim of the Pacific exercise, or RIMPAC, is scheduled to be held in Hawaii and California and off their coasts June 29 to Aug. 4.

RIMPAC will also include military forc-



IAN COTTER/ U.S. Navy

**U.S. and South Korean ships steam in formation earlier this month.**

es from 23 other nations: Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Denmark, Ecuador, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Israel, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Peru, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga and the United Kingdom.

The "growing nuclear and missile threats" from North Korea require the three-nation defense drill, Moon said.

North Korea conducted an annual record of 17 rounds of missile tests so far this year, including its most recent launch of eight short-range missiles June 5.

Navies from the three partners conducted similar drills in 2016 when their warships tested their Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense Systems off Hawaii's coast.

U.S. and South Korean officials warned in recent weeks that the communist North

is preparing an imminent nuclear test.

Such a test "will be met with a united and firm response from our alliance and the international community," South Korean Foreign Minister Park Jin said during a press conference with Secretary of State Antony Blinken on June 14.

Blinken urged North Korea to "engage in serious and sustained diplomacy" and said the U.S. was still willing to negotiate with North Korean Kim Jong Un without preconditions.

"I can say simply ... that we're preparing for all contingencies, again in very close coordination with others, notably with [South Korea] and with Japan," Blinken said during the press conference. "And we are prepared to make both short and longer-term adjustments to our military posture, as appropriate."

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## MILITARY

# IG to review new soldier experience to curb early exits

By **ROSE L. THAYER**  
*Stars and Stripes*

Investigators for the Army inspector general will spend the rest of the year reviewing the experience of the service's newest recruits and why some want to leave the military before their first enlistment ends.

Teams began visiting 38 bases in March to inspect the new soldier experience, from recruits arriving at basic training to troops shipping out to their first duty assignment, Army officials said.

"The New Soldier Experience Inspection differs from any other inspections conducted because it is a comprehensive look at all the systems that support the civilian to military transition and our first-term soldiers," said Lt. Gen. Donna W. Martin, the Army's inspector general. "We really have to get their initial experience in our Army right."

Nearly 30% of soldiers leave the Army within their first 36 months, according to a 2020 Rand Corp. report titled "Predicting 36-Month Attrition in the U.S. Military." By comparison, the Marines lose about 18.5%, according to the same report. Data analyzed in the report came from fiscal years 2002

through 2013.

To prevent soldiers from dropping out of service, the report suggested the services "focus on recruits during their times of greatest risk," which for the Army begins to increase and outpace the other services at approximately the sixth month.

The inspection could take up to a year to complete and it began at Fort Sill, Okla., according to the IG, an office meant to provide oversight and unbiased advice through inspections, assistance and training. Inspectors will interview leaders, trainers, basic-training facilitators, medical personnel and soldiers to review processes and programs associated with the new soldier experience.

Inspectors will also interview those trainees who leave the Army before completing their initial enlistments.

Losing soldiers during their first term of enlistment also costs the Army the money that it invested in recruiting and training the soldier — about \$500 million a year, according to the RAND report.

"It is, therefore, important to every service to be able to identify and recruit individuals who are most likely to serve the entirety of their first term while also being



U.S. Army

**Trainees report for their first day of One Station Unit Training on Harmony Church at Fort Benning, Ga. The experience of the Army's newest recruits will be reviewed by investigators for the Army inspector general this year.**

of sufficiently high quality to ensure the readiness of an all-volunteer force," the report said.

During the coronavirus pandemic, however, which began about a year after RAND conducted its research, the Army's basic training attrition rate dropped from 10.8% in fiscal year 2020 to 5.5% in 2021.

The Army credited its improved graduation rates to improving the ratio of drill instructors to trainees during basic training.

During the inspection, IG teams will examine all aspects of training, mentoring, caring for and integrating first-term soldiers, Hagan said. That will include Military Entrance Processing Stations, in-processing, training, advanced training, sponsorship, transition to permanent duty stations, command climate issues, quality of life, medical care, housing and administrative matters.

Since beginning the inspection in March, teams have already visited Fort Carson, Colo.; Fort Riley, Kan.; Fort Polk, La.; Fort Rucker, Ala.; Fort Gordon, Fort Benning and Fort Stewart, Ga.; Joint Base San Antonio and Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.; Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., and Fort Lee, Va.

Three of the remaining stops will be at overseas locations, Hagan said.

During the visits, the IG teams observe training events, administer surveys and hold sensing sessions and town hall meetings. They also tour various facilities such as housing, barracks, medical and food service at each visit.

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## ICE to consider military service in immigration enforcement cases

By **SARA SAMORA**  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — Veterans who are not American citizens and are detained by law enforcement officials will now have their U.S. military service considered before they are deported, according to a new directive from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency.

"ICE values the incredible contributions of noncitizens who have served in the U.S. military," ICE Acting Director Tae D. Johnson said. "Through this directive, ICE will consider U.S. military service by a noncitizen or their immediate family mem-

bers when determining whether to take civil immigration enforcement decisions against a non-citizen."

ICE and U.S. Border Patrol officials must now ask a non-citizen whether they have served in the U.S. military, including the National Guard and Reserve, or whether they have immediate family members who have served, before deciding whether they should detain, deport or release that person.

ICE officials are required to consider a veteran's employment history, health, community service, deployments to war zones, military decorations, and years in

service. However, a 2019 report by the Government Accountability Office found ICE didn't follow those policies. Department of Homeland Security agents told the GAO that they were unaware of the policies and didn't distinguish between veterans and nonveterans. Thus, ICE did not track how many veterans were deported or whether their military service was considered before being deported. ICE is a federal law enforcement agency within the Department of Homeland Security.

ICE officials said the new directive would establish the practice as an official agency policy

and improve its training, tracking and reporting requirements. ICE also will be required to develop and carry out a data system to keep track of noncitizen service members and veterans while respecting their civil liberties and privacy interests.

"We are pleased that ICE has formalized its policy to consider military service prior to taking civil immigration enforcement actions, and that the policy applies to immediate family members as well," said Mario Marquez, director of national security division of The American Legion. "However, the lack of consideration given to veterans in the past has contributed to the unnecessary deportation of many immigrant veterans."

The policy is part of a joint initiative by the departments of Homeland Security, Veterans Affairs and Defense launched last July. The Immigrant Military Members and Veterans Initiative supports noncitizen U.S. service members, veterans and their immediate family members.

For the VA's part, the agency works with Homeland Security and others to identify deported veterans and assist them with the

benefits that they might be eligible to receive.

One of the initiative's primary focuses is recognizing a non-citizen's military service and tracking the outcomes of all military-associated cases, according to Debra Rogers, director of the Immigrant Military Members and Veterans Initiative. Rogers was set to testify in May before a House subcommittee hearing on immigration and citizenship, but the hearing was postponed.

In February, the VA, Defense Department and Homeland Security launched two online resources through the Immigrant Military Members and Veterans Initiative. One is a one-stop resource center that consolidates resources and forms from Homeland Security, the VA, Defense Department, and other agencies for noncitizen service members or veterans and their families.

The other resource is a portal on Homeland Security's website that allows deported veterans to contact the agency for help with their questions or issues regarding their return to the U.S. or VA benefits.

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