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# STARS AND STRIPES® GUAM

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FREE

## Hail to the chief



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Chief Gunner's Mate Peter J. Lussier, assigned to the submarine tender USS Frank Cable, receives his chief petty officer combination cover during a pinning ceremony at Naval Base Guam on Sept. 13. Photo by MC1 Billy Ho, U.S. Navy

## 9/11 drew new Navy chief to medical service

BY LT.J.G. MEAGAN MORRISON  
COMMANDER, SUBMARINE SQUADRON 15

SANTA RITA – Where America's day begins in Guam, a new day began for 29 first class petty officers and one technical sergeant as they were promoted to the rank of chief petty officer at the Naval Base Guam Big Screen Theater on Sept. 13.

The ceremony came to a start as the sailors and airman marched onto the stage singing Anchors Aweigh. They posted on the stage and faced the crowd.

Each of their collars were empty as they awaited to wear the rank of chief petty officer.

One sailor amongst the faces selected to wear the rank of chief petty officer was Hospital

“I thought to myself ‘I want to be there and be a part of the teams of EMTs and doctors that were there to help those people and save lives [during 9/11].’”

– Hospital Corpsman 1st Class, Rey Pablo Reyes

that his determination would mean that one day he would be wearing the golden anchors.

“I had no idea as to how far I would get in the Navy,” said Reyes. “All I knew was that I wanted to test my limits and see where it would take me as I was helping others.”

Reyes was introduced into the medical field at a young age and it created a strong desire for him to aid others.

“I grew up in the Philippines

Corpsman 1st Class Rey Pablo Reyes, assigned to Commander, Submarine Squadron Fifteen, from Polillo Island, Philippines.

Looking back at his 13 years in the Navy, Reyes never knew

SEE CHIEF ON PAGE 2



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# CHIEF: Navy offered him stability

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

where my father was a local physician," said Reyes. "He was an inspiration for me to look outside of my own circle and touch the lives of those around me."

One event in history changed the lives of many and had a lasting effect on Reyes setting his mind on joining the medical field.

"I remember being in my high school English literature class in Queens, New York," remembered Reyes. "My teacher was distracted and stopped in the middle of her lesson. Her attention was focused on the classroom windows. We all turned to see smoke clouds outside. That's when we learned that two planes were hijacked by terrorists and flown into the twin towers."

Hundreds of first responders were on the scene to help that fateful day in New York on Sept. 11, 2001, that killed nearly 3,000 people at the place known as ground zero.

"I thought to myself 'I want to be there and be a part of the teams of EMTs and doctors that were there to help those people and save lives,'" recalled Reyes. "I knew I needed to be in the medical field from then on."

Reyes found a place to put his skills to the test when he enlisted into the Navy just like his brother.



**I want to be able to earn my anchors every day and be proud of the chief I will become.**

— Chief Hospital Corpsman  
Rey Pablo Reyes

Reyes is fitted for his service dress blue uniform by Clarita Santa Maria, a Navy Exchange fabric worker, ahead of his pinning ceremony.

Photo by MC2 Kelsey J. Hockenberger, U.S. Navy

"I wanted the same stability that the Navy gave to my brother, so I decided to join as a corpsman and be the medical professional that I've always wanted to be," said Reyes. "I wouldn't take anything less than corpsman."

Reyes didn't see himself as

becoming a chief in his career, but through determination and pushing his limits, he was able to be selected as one of the few to wear the chief anchors.

"I've always taken the jobs that were mentally and physically challenging because that's

where I could help the most," said Reyes. "My mind wasn't set on making rank in my career. It was always about what I could do for others. To my surprise, I am here today gaining a new rank and leadership in the Navy."

To conclude the ceremony, Reyes along with 28 Sailors and one Airman lined the stage to be presented as U.S. Navy chief petty officers.

"This is just the beginning of the challenge for me," said Reyes. "It's about being humble, being a leader and paving the way for the newest generation of Sailors to come. I want to be able to earn my anchors every day and be proud of the chief I will become."

CSS-15 is located at Polaris Point, Naval Base Guam in Piti, Guam, and consists of four Los Angeles-class fast attack submarines. The squadron staff is responsible for providing training, material and personnel readiness support to these commands. Also based out of Naval Base Guam are submarine tenders USS Frank Cable and USS Emory S. Land. The submarines and tenders are maintained as part of the U.S. Navy's forward-deployed submarine force and are readily capable of meeting global operational requirements.

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Photo by PO2 Kelsey Hockenberger,  
Commander, Submarine Squadron 15

# Face of the deep

*"As a member of the squadron's Performance Monitoring Team, I am always on my toes and constantly learning things about my job and outside of my field of expertise. It creates a team that's always ready to support the mission of the submarine fleet by assisting with maintenance and repairs from our subject matter experts."*

– Fire Control Technician 2nd Class Patrick Trevino,  
Submarine Squadron 15



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# Guam sailors don their anchors

BY PO2 JASEN MORENOGARCIA  
COMMANDERTASK FORCE 75

SANTA RITA – Sailors assigned to Navy Expeditionary Forces Command Pacific units in Guam joined the more than 30 Sailors to accept the rank and responsibilities of chief petty officer, during a pinning ceremony at the Big Screen Theater onboard Naval Base Guam, Sept. 13.

NEFCPAC units joining the Joint Region Marianas CPO season included Commander, Task Force 75, 30th Naval Construction Regiment, Explosive

Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 5 and Coastal Riverine Group 1 Det. Guam.

“During the past six weeks we trained and tested the new chief selectees,” said Chief Electronics Technician Michael Lewis, the season leader for the Joint Region Marianas chief initiation, fiscal year 2020 season. “It was great to share our experiences with them and help them get ready for the added stress and challenges they will face as chiefs.”

The ceremony was the culmination of an intense six-week training period which began Aug. 1, the day CPO advancement



Senior Chief Mass Communication Specialist Brock Taylor places a chief cover on Chief Engineman Derick Hernandez during a chief pinning ceremony.

Photos by MC1 Billy Ho, U.S. Navy

results were released. Throughout the training, senior leaders introduced the CPO selectees to a set of challenges that were designed to strengthen their leadership and mentoring abilities.

“Balancing work and the chief season was difficult,” said

newly pinned Chief Engineman Derick Hernandez. “Some of us were part of the planning and execution of one of the many major exercises that took place during the season. As a result, we had to reschedule chief select trainings because our mission always comes first.”

The ceremony’s guest speaker, NEFCPAC’s Command Master Chief Rick Straney, who has been a part of the chief’s mess for 18 years, said the chiefs going through this season are some of the sharpest the Navy



Chief petty officers bow their heads for an invocation during a chief petty officer pinning ceremony at Naval Base Guam.

has to offer.

“We made true chief petty officers this year here in Guam and all over our Navy. They are tougher and more prepared to lead Sailors and will be more resilient if asked to fight than when they started this process,” Straney said.

Hernandez also mentioned that working alongside selectees of different types of commands was challenging at first due to the differences on the way that everyone operates, which forced them to set aside differences and work together to accomplish the tasks given to them.

“At the beginning I was afraid of the process, but I have grown to appreciate my peers, juniors and seniors even more,” said Hernandez. “Knowing that they helped me get to where I am now, inspires me to become even better. I still get to do my job, but now I get to mentor future chiefs.”

As an organization, NEFCPAC executes operational command and control of assigned and attached Navy Expeditionary Combat Forces in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations and serves as the core Navy battle staff for crisis response and major combat operations.

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File photo



## Be safe when hiking on Guam

BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS ADARIUS PETTY,  
36TH WING

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE – Hiking is a popular activity on Guam, but before venturing off to find a trail, there are several safety precautions for hikers to remember.

“Hiking is one of the top activities in Guam with numerous hikes available all year round on the island with various difficulty levels,” said Tech. Sgt. Lawrence Robinson, 36th Wing Safety ground safety technician. “All hikers should become familiar with the trails and make the appropriate preparations as most hikes can vary vastly.”

Some of the common hazards involved with hiking include falls, sunburns, dehydration, overexertion, unfamiliar bodies of water and interactions with wild animals.

Wearing the right clothing

**For more information about hiking safety, contact the 36th Wing Safety office at 366-SAFE (7233).**

is one of the essentials of staying safe while hiking; knowing what to wear trothing through the jungle of Guam can be helpful, Robinson said. Wearing long-sleeved outer garments and pants can protect the skin and wearing swimming attire under the outer layer gives hikers the option to remove the long sleeved gear if they start to overheat on the trail.

Sunblock should be applied as early as possible, ideally before getting dressed for the hike, he said. The longer the sunblock has been on the skin, the more it can be absorbed and the more effective it becomes.

Here are some more tips from the 36th Wing Safety Office so hikers can enjoy everything the great outdoors on Guam has to offer:

- Plan ahead and learn about the area
- Wear the proper gear (i.e., bright colored clothing, hiking boot/shoes, etc.)
- Pack light and only take what is needed
- Pack insect repellent and sunscreen so it can repelled as necessary
- Hydrate prior to and during activities
- Don't drink alcohol while drinking
- Know limitations while hiking and don't overdo it
- Stay on marked trails to prevent becoming lost
- Avoid hiking alone, take a wingman.
- Hike with someone who is familiar with the area
- Let others know your hiking location to include departure and return times
- Check the weather and prepare for the worst
- Know how to get help in an emergency and don't rely on cell phones
- Exercise caution when hiking near wild animals; don't bother the wildlife

## Boonie Stomps Guam

Boonie Stompers GUAM

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY GUAM BOONIE STOMPERS



Lower Sigua Falls

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

### For more information:

[www.facebook.com/GuamBoonieStompersInc](http://www.facebook.com/GuamBoonieStompersInc)  
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**Sept. 28  
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**Special conditions:** Steep slopes up and down, sword grass, little shade, climbing with a rope, and a long hike.

**Oct. 5  
Lower Sigua Falls**

**Difficult  
5 hours for 5 miles**

We trek over the hills of central Guam to the island's most iconic and picturesque waterfall, with the best swim hole on the island and good jumping and swimming. We'll also take the short side trip to Hidden Falls.

**Bring:** 3 quarts water, good shoes, gloves, sun screen, sunglasses, insect repellent, lunch, and camera.

**Special conditions:** Sword grass, very steep slopes and ropes, little shade, and a long hike.

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

**Stomp Tip:**

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

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



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# GET TO KNOW GUAM

A VILLAGE PROFILE COURTESY OF GUAMPEDIA

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

## Hagåtña .....Timeless as blood itself.....



Plaza de España. North East Side of the Chocolate House and Garden. Photo by Burt Sardoma Jr., Guampedia

BY MICHAEL R. CLEMENT JR.,  
GUAMPEDIA

**H**agåtña is derived from the word “*haga*” meaning blood. It is believed that this village came about due to the bloodlines of the families that established the village.

### Village history

Carbon dating indicates that the village was inhabited 2,630 years ago and possibly as long as 3,020 years ago. These dates indicate that Hagåtña was settled prior to the appearance of Latte, stone pillars and cup-shaped capstones, approximately 1,100 years ago. Little is known about the village during this time.

Ferdinand Magellan made landfall on Guam March 6, 1521 but it was not until 1565 that Miguel Lopez de Legazpi claimed the Mariana Islands for Spain. The Galleon trade between Acapulco and Manila was established shortly after Legazpi's arrival in Manila and passed regularly through the “Ladrone

Islands.” Between Magellan’s visit and 1602, approximately seventy-four ships with as many as 300 people aboard passed through the islands, usually between Guam and Rota. The islanders began to anticipate the arrival of the ships and set out in their swift canoes to trade water and produce for iron.

During this period it is known that outsiders lived among the Chamorro people for long periods of time although there is scant information about the village of Hagåtña.

#### Whalers, pirates and traders

Until 1815 Spanish Galleons plied the waters between Rota and Guam conducting trade between Manila and Acapulco. At least thirty-three other non-Spanish ships are documented to have had contact with the islands during this same period. They were usually whalers, pirates preying on the Galleons, or traders.

Few detailed accounts of the village are known prior to the arrival of the Catholic mission headed by Father Diego Luis de San Vitores in 1668. San Vitores is credited with establishing the Catholic Church in the Mariana Islands. Shortly after



arriving on the island of Guam, he renamed the village of Hagåtña, “San Ignacio de Agadña,” in honor of his holy father and patriarch.

At that time Hagåtña was reported to be the island’s principal village. It is estimated that 1,000 people lived in the village that reportedly had 203 dwellings; fifty-three upper class homes and one hundred and fifty other dwellings that belonged to lower caste residents “who had no part of the affairs of Agadña.”

San Vitores was initially welcomed by the island’s nobles, notably the principal Chief of Hagåtña, Chief Quipuha (Kepuha). In appreciation of his graciousness, Chief Quipuha was the first adult Chamorro to be baptized and was renamed Juan in honor of Saint John the Baptist, the patron saint of the island. Don Juan Quipuha as he was then called, is reported to have donated land in Hagåtña for the construction of the first Catholic Church and the house of the Society of Jesus. Upon his passing, he was buried beneath the altar of the Church. Some historians believe that the Dulce Nombre de Maria Cathedral Basilica was built on the site of this first Catholic Church.

Some have questioned the reason why the mission was established in Hagåtña. Father Francisco Garcia who chronicled San Vitores life in 1683 states that Father San Vitores was called back to Hagåtña after visiting several villages on the island when the:

*Nobles made it a point of honor that he live in their village. After all, the superior of all the fathers should live in the principal village. According to Garcia, Father San Vitores was not happy with this*



Plaza de España Photo by Guampedia



**situation but made the best of it saying, 'I am not a prisoner here without consolation, obeying the divine disposition of affairs as if it were the most glorious of missions.' Garcia said, 'But what the devil planned in order to block the spread of the Faith, the Lord used as a means to establish it more solidly. He [San Vitores] made Agadña the stronghold for Christianity in the islands, with a church and a house of the Society of Jesus.'**

Violence erupted within a few months of the arrival of San Vitores due to growing opposition to the missionaries' teachings, which clashed with the traditional practices of the Chamorros. Sporadic fighting on Guam continued for sixteen years with a final major uprising in 1684 when the hostile Chamorro faction tried unsuccessfully to drive the Spanish out once and for all, though uprisings continued in the northern Marianas until 1695. Spanish troops aided by newly baptized Catholic Chamorros were finally able to subdue resistance to the establishment of Guam as a Spanish colony.

#### From Spanish hands to American

During this time, Hagåtña remained the principal village of the island and eventually became the seat of the Spanish government. In 1687 it was formally named as a city and began to take on the characteristics of a Spanish capital. Hagåtña remained the seat of the Spanish government in the Mariana Islands until June of 1898 when Governor Juan Marina, his Spanish officers and military personnel surrendered their arms to Captain Henry Glass of the USS Charleston and boarded the ship as prisoners of war. All Spanish flags on the island were confiscated and the Americans departed without leaving a single American soldier on the island.

A little over a year later, the first regularly appointed American military governor, Richard P. Leary, arrived on Guam. While Governor Leary lived on board the ship for three months while the governor's residence was being renovated, his aide William Safford took up residence in Hagåtña and in effect was the acting or Lieutenant Governor of Guam. Safford, a naturalist, kept a journal of his year-long residence on the island that provides detailed descriptions of the village of Hagåtña.

Arriving for the first time in the village of Hagåtña he observed:

*Several streets diverging from the entrance to the town, more or less in the direction parallel to the beach and to the cliffs back of the town. Everything clean and tidy; best houses of masonry with tiled roofs, others of frame or bamboo thatched with coconut leaves or Nipa palm. All of them raised from the ground. Reached the Plaza de Magallanes, upon which face the Palace or Government House, and other public buildings including the Tribunal. Behind the Palace rises the steep escarpment of a plateau on the brink of which is an old fort and powder magazine now used as a signal station; on the west side of the plaza are the Public Treasury and the barracks of the native troops; on the east side the church, the palace and government store house are on the south side; and the tribunal and several private dwellings on the north side.*

Between 1899 and 1941 Hagåtña became the seat of the American naval government. During this time improvements were made to the village and a new hospital was built. Entertainment centered around

the Plaza de España, the old Spanish seat of government in the center of the village. The population of the village steadily grew from 7,432 in 1920 to more than 10,000 in 1940.

#### Japanese takeover

On December 8, 1941 World War II came to Guam. By December 10th the island was officially claimed by Japan and Hagåtña was renamed Akashi-shi. Akashi-shi became the headquarters of the Japanese administration. The Japanese occupation lasted about two and a half years.

American bombardment to retake the island began on June 16 and lasted for three weeks. Systematic bombardment began on July 8th. Hagåtña sustained major damage during this time. More than 1,200 homes were destroyed in addition to many public and private buildings. Numerous structures of historical significance also sustained major damage or were destroyed.

#### Post-war rebuilding

Post war was a time of rebuilding. Hagåtña again became the capital city of the U.S. Territory of Guam. The rubble from the war was bulldozed into the sea to form the Paseo de Susanna. The federal government, and later the government of Guam condemned large tracts of land and redrew property lots in the village essentially redistributing villages resources. In some cases this action left original landowners without any property in the village. The village population plummeted from 10,004 in 1940 to only 800 in 1950, a ninety-two percent decrease.

By 1960 the population had grown to 1,642. The village reported the second highest median family income on the island with the largest group of workers engaged in wholesale or retail trades, professional services or public administration.

In 1962 a mandatory security clearance required of visitors to the island was lifted. The security clearance had been in place for twenty-one years and restricted entry to many including U.S. citizens. The lifting of this security requirement brought about significant change to the island and the village of Hagåtña. While Hagåtña had always been the center of government and commerce on the island, the new tourism industry shifted the focus from Hagåtña to Tumon. The island experienced a building boom as well as an increased presence of military personnel due to America's entry into the Vietnam War. The population of Hagåtña grew to 2,119 by 1970 with the largest group of workers engaged as craftsmen and carpenters while the wholesale and retail trades reported 175 less workers than in 1960.

By 1980 the village population had shrunk to 896, climbing back to 1,100 by the year 2000.

A cultural revival in the 1990s spurred the renaming of the village to its traditional name, Hagåtña. Today the village remains the seat of the island's government as well as a center of commerce and trade. The village's residential population is only a shadow of its former self. This fact combined with its significant historical and cultural heritage have fueled a movement to revitalize the island's capital city. A master plan has been developed by the Hagåtña Restoration and Redevelopment Authority to revitalize, preserve and protect the heritage and economic vitality of Guam's capital city.

## This village at a glance

- **Population:** As of the 2010 US Census, the village population was 1,051.
- **Village officials:** Th John A. Cruz, Mayor, 2005-Present; Felix F. Ungacta, Commissioner/Mayor, 1981-2005; Thomas F. Mendiola, Commissioner, 1973-1981; Lucas L. San Nicolas, Commissioner, 1962-1973; Juan D. Perez, Commissioner, 1952-1962; Antonio Suarez, Commissioner, 1918-1930; Joaquin Cruz Perez, Commissioner, 1894-1899; Vicente dela Cruz, Deputy Commissioner, (no date provided); Lorenzo Franquez, Deputy Commissioner, 1930; Lucas de Castro, Deputy Commissioner, (no date provided); Jesus de Rivera, Deputy Commissioner, (no date provided); Antonio Guerrero, Deputy Commissioner, 1832-1834 (Courtesy of Konsehelon Mahot Guåhan/the Mayor's Council of Guam).
- **Village description:** Hagåtña, located in central Guam, is nestled between Agana Bay and the cliffs of Agana Heights. It is considered the first European city in the Pacific because of the early colonization of the Marianas, as compared to the rest of the Pacific. It was declared a city by a Spanish royal decree March 30, 1686 as the capital of the Marianas, the residence of the Spanish governor and the site of the garrison.
- Guam's main roadway, Marine Corps Drive, runs through the village from east to west. Another major artery, Route 4, dissects the village from the shoreline to the central part of the island, running east. Hagåtña borders the village of Tamuning in the east and Asan to the west.
- The capital of Guam, Hagåtña is the seat of the island's three branches of government: Judicial, Legislative, and Executive as well as the religious center for the Catholic Church. It is also home to numerous commercial activities including legal offices, banks, department/variety stores, insurance, technical and professional services and restaurants.
- The cultural resources of the village are significant being home to a large number of Guam's historical sites. The Hagåtña boat basin (formally known as the Gregorio D. Perez Marina), the Guam Public Library (formally the Nieves M. Flores Memorial Library) and numerous public facilities are also located within the village.
- As opposed to the island's historical past, Hagåtña is currently one of the least populated villages on the island. Residential homes primarily are located below the cliff at the western portion of the village.
- By Konsehelon Mahot Guåhan/ the Mayor's Council of Guam



Japanese World War II Caves Photo by Guampedia

SEE VILLAGE ON PAGE 10



Left: Plaza de Espana. Exterior north side the arches of the Almacen and wall. Photo by Burt Sardoma Jr., Guampedia Right: Latte Stone Park Photo by Guampedia

# VILLAGE: The Guam Museum a highlight

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

## Historical



Senator Angel Leon Guerrero Santos Memorial Park Photo by Guampedia

### Senator Angel Leon Guerrero Santos Memorial Park/Latte Stone Park

This park was originally established during the administration of US appointed Governor Ford Quint Elvidge (1953-1956). The park was renamed the Senator Angel Leon Guerrero Santos Latte Memorial Park in 2005 in honor of the Guam Legislature senator's efforts on behalf of the Chamorro people. Santos was a Chamorro rights activist and founding member of Nasion Chamoru, an indigenous activist group.

The park contains eight latte (stone pillars with capstones) transferred by the military from their original locations in the Me'pu and Fena regions in the southern interior of Guam as new military bases were being built in these locations.

### Japanese World War II Caves

These caves, located at the base of the cliff line, were man-made with forced labor during the Japanese occupation during World War II. They were used for storage of supplies and shelter. One cave entrance is located directly behind the Latte Stone site at the Senator Angel Leon Guerrero Santos Latte

Memorial Park.



Lujan House Photo by Guampedia

### Lujan House

Also known as the Guam Institute, the Lujan House is one of the few remaining pre-World War II houses in Hagåtña. The house was built in 1911 by Jose Pangelinan Lujan and was first used as a residence. In 1928 the Guam Institute, founded by Nieves M. Flores in 1922, moved to the Lujan House. Students paid a monthly fee of \$1.00 in order to attend this private school. Among the many notable leaders that graduated from this school were Governor Ricardo J. Bordallo, Bishop Felixberto C. Flores and Judge Cristobal Duenas. The school was forced to close when the Japanese invaded the island in December of 1941. The Guam Institute was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on October 6, 1977.

### Plaza de España

The Plaza de España was the location of the Governor's Palace during the Spanish occupation. Academics speculate that the plaza was established at its current location after a typhoon in 1693 destroyed Fort Santa María de Guadalupe, where the governor's residence had been located since 1683. The Governor's Palace served as the seat of government

for both the Spanish and the first U.S. Naval Government. Most of the palace was destroyed by the shelling of Hagåtña during the retaking of Guam in World War II.

The historical structures of the Plaza de España that have survived until the 21st century include:

- The Garden House, which was built around 1736. Prior to World War II, it was used as storage shed to house garden tools for the Plaza de España. In 1954, the Guam Women's Club, at the request of Governor Elvidge, re-established and staffed the Guam Museum within the Garden House, though it has since closed. The original Museum had been bombed during World War II.
- The Azotea and inner court are the only visible structure left of the Spanish palace. In 1933 the U.S. Naval Government built a tiered tin roof over the Azotea, which was originally an open terrace.
- The Chocolate House functioned as a merienda place, where the Spanish and American administrators of Guam and their families entertained, serving morning and afternoon beverages and pastries. The Chocolate House contains two of the oldest Spanish coat of arms on Guam. One is made from soft greenstone dated 1879; the other made of marble is dated 1895.
- The Almacen (Warehouse) Arches and Almacen flagstone floors — The remains of the former entrance to the palace warehouse, which later became an arsenal, and segments of the original floors are still present.
- The ruins of the walls built during Governor Muro's administration, including the more than nine-foot walls behind the Azotea and the low walls behind the Plaza de España ruins, also remain standing. The Plaza was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on May 1, 1974.

### Dulce Nombre de María Cathedral-Basilica

The Cathedral-Basilica rests on the site of the



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Dulce Nombre de Maria Cathedral-Basilica Photo by Guampedia

first Roman Catholic mission in the Mariana Islands. Chamorros constructed the original wooden thatched chapel in 1669-1670 under the direction of Padre Diego Luís de San Vitores on lands granted by Chief Quipuha of Hagåtña. The Chamorro nobility initially welcomed San Vitores and his fellow priests. The chief of one of the mountain villages complained about letting strangers live in their land, but upon learning that the men were padres, he invited them to his village. Chief Quipuha was the first adult to be baptized, followed by all of the nobles of Hagåtña. Don Juan Quipuha, as he was called after he became a Christian, was the first to be buried beneath the church.

Significant dates/events in the history of the building of the Cathedral-Basilica are:

- In 1705 through 1709, Governor Manuel Argüelles y Valdés built a church of three naves in Hagåtña using blocks of coral from the sea.
- In 1862, Father Aniceto Ibanez constructed a beautiful chapel to the side of the existing church.
- In 1772, French Commander, Crozet described the church as a “beautiful church of red brick and tile.”
- In 1912, the Iglesia de Dulce Nombre de Maria was designated a Cathedral. This structure survived until World War II when it was destroyed during the shelling of Hagåtña in preparation for

the American invasion.

- In 1958, the present building was completed.
- In 1981, Pope John Paul II elevated the Cathedral to a minor Basilica.
- In 1998, the church underwent major renovations to include a museum gallery featuring exhibits of Guam history and culture and a gift shop.

One of the principal features of the Cathedral-Basilica is the statue of Santa Marian Kamalen. A fisherman off Cocos Island, Malessa in the late seventeenth century, discovered the statue. It is believed that the statue, the patron saint of the Mariana Islands, washed up on the shores of Malessa (Merizo) in spite of its great weight.

By the mid 1800s, it was transferred and permanently housed at the Iglesia de Dulce Nombre de Maria.

#### Santo Papa as Juan Pablo Dos Monument

This bronze statue commemorates the 1981 visit by Pope John Paul II to Guam. This was the first papal visit to the island. The statue stands on a median on Chalan Santo Papa Juan Pablo Dos Street, named in his honor. It is the location where he held an outdoor Mass in February 1981. The bronze statue originally rotated one full turn every twelve hours though the motor is not working anymore.

#### Spanish Bridge

This stone bridge, also known as Tollai Acho (stone bridge in Chamorro), was built around 1800 during the Spanish administration of Governor Manuel Muro and named after San Antonio de Padua. The bridge spanned the Hagåtña River, whose course was greatly changed after World War II when Hagåtña was rebuilt. On the south side of the bridge is a bronze statue of La Sirena, Guam's legendary mermaid.

The single span, arched bridge with stone abutments is located at Aspinall Street and Route 1. The bridge originally connected the districts of San

Ignacio and Bilibic. The bridge was damaged during World War II and finally restored in 1966 with concrete. The bridge was listed on the National Register of Historic Sites on September 6, 1974.

#### Guam Museum

The Guam Museum, located at Skinner Plaza in the heart of Hagåtña, Guam, is a government of Guam owned museum focused on the history of Guam. Its official name is Senator Antonio M. Palomo Guam Museum and Educational Facility.

The Guam Museum, opened in 2016, reflects the diversity, creativity, and resilience of Guam and the Mariana Islands. It is hoped to encourage people to engage in dialogue, to share multiple perspectives and experiences, and debate issues that concern us all today.

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Santo Papa as Juan Pablo Dos Monument Photo by Guampedia

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# Guam folktale

BY TANYA M. CHAMPA CO MENDIOLA,  
GUAMPEDIA

## God of the underworld

Chaife was the god of the underworld, according to one Guam legend. He was a blacksmith creator who controlled the wind, water and fire. Chaife lived in a volcanic mountain called Sasalåguan (meaning "hell" in Chamorro) where he created souls, or spirits, forging them from fire. Chaife used the souls he created as slaves and tortured them endlessly. People who died violent deaths were sent back to Chaife's home, where he cooked them in a cauldron which he continually stirred.

### Children of the earth

Chaife was the god of the underworld. He controlled the wind, water and fire. Chaife lived in Sasalåguan where he created souls, or spirits, forging them from fire. Chaife used the souls he created as slaves and tortured them endlessly. People who died violent deaths were sent back to Chaife's home, where he cooked them in a cauldron which he continually stirred.

One day as Chaife hurriedly created a new soul, he made the fire too hot and it exploded. Sparks, rock and ash spewed out of Sasalåguan, allowing one of the tortured souls to escape. The soul fell to earth, landing in a bay on Guahan near the present-day southern village of Humåtak (Umatac). The soul that escaped turned into a rock as it touched the ocean waters.

Over time, weathered by water and wind, the rock formation softened and eventually

ly became a man, the first Chamorro. The man saw how beautiful it was to be alive and enjoyed the paradise he found, but grew weary of the solitude.

He took red clay and mixed it with water, and began to form human figures, both men and women. He gave the figures souls by heating them with the



Chaife. Illustration by Raph Unpingco

rays of the sun. His creation, the first people, he called, the "children of the earth."

Meanwhile, in Sasalåguan, Chaife finally gained control over the fire. He counted his souls but saw that one was missing. When Chaife realized that one of the souls had escaped during the explosion, he was angry and searched for the soul to destroy it.

After many days of looking,

continued to pursue the escaped soul with more determination. But unbeknownst to Chaife, the soul had already turned himself back into a rock. That rock is believed to be in Fouha Bay near Humåtak (Umatac).

Realizing he had no power over the souls created by the sun, Chaife returned to Sasalåguan.

### Chamorro creation myth

There is another Chamorro creation myth that was known long before Chaife. It is the story of the creation of the universe where supernatural siblings, a brother and sister, Puntan and Fu'una created the earth and all its people. Puntan asked his sister to use parts of his body to create the world, and when the tasks were completed, Fu'una threw herself to the newly created earth and turned into a rock at Fuoha Bay, and the peoples of the earth were borne from the rock formation.

### Symbolism

Legends are meant to espouse and enforce values of society and culture. This fable of the blacksmith creator is also a way to explain natural phenomena such as tidal waves and typhoons. The legend also shows a central tenet of Chamorro culture; interdependence. In this case, the interconnectedness between humans and nature.

Additionally, this story supports the ancient Chamorro philosophy of animism – the belief that animate and inanimate objects have spirits as presented in their reverence of nature or the natural world, but also the spirits or souls of deceased ancestors.

Furthermore, the legend of Chaife may reflect the impact of Spanish colonialism which expanded from the latter half of the 17th century to the dusk of the 19th century on Guam and throughout the Mariana Islands. Guam historians proffer that the concepts or practices of murder, hell and blacksmithing were not part of the ancient Chamorro culture or society but were rather introduced during the island's Spanish rule. The child's wiliness – outwitting those in power – is also a prevalent theme in the folklore of colonized societies.

Mt. Sasalaguan is the name of an actual mountain in southern Guam near the village of Maesso' (Merizo).

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HONDA	RIDGELINE	2013	50170	5FPYK1F28DB017753	BLUE	\$19,995	AUTOMATIC
TOYOTA	4RUNNER	2012	64291	JTEZU5JR3C5040940	BLACK	\$19,995	AUTOMATIC
TOYOTA	TACOMA	2015	90690	5TFJX4CN4FX061690	BLACK	\$17,995	AUTOMATIC
FORD	F150	2013	58520	1FTEX1CM6DFB62997	SILVER	\$15,995	AUTOMATIC
CHEVROLET	SILVERADO	2010	116341	3GCRCEA0AG142311	BLACK	\$14,995	AUTOMATIC
LEXUS	ES350	2013	62710	JTHBK1GG4D2008459	BLACK	\$13,495	AUTOMATIC
TOYOTA	4RUNNER	2008	107399	JTEBU14RX8K018318	BLACK	\$11,995	AUTOMATIC
TOYOTA	PRIUS-C	2015	43650	JTDKDTB3XF1086443	RED	\$10,995	AUTOMATIC
CHEVROLET	MALIBU LT	2015	64856	1G11C5SL8FF255848	MAROON	\$10,995	AUTOMATIC
CHEVROLET	SILVERADO 1500	2006	45076	1GCEC1Z76Z238458	BLACK	\$10,995	AUTOMATIC
CHEVROLET	COLORADO	2010	51053	1GCDSCB90A8110039	BLACK	\$9,995	AUTOMATIC
KIA	FORTE	2014	95826	KNAFK4A67E5078216	GRAY	\$7,995	AUTOMATIC
HYUNDAI	GENESIS 3.8	2009	39917	KMHGC46E19U049967	SILVER	\$6,995	AUTOMATIC
CHEVROLET	SILVERADO 1500 REG CAB 4X4	2010	36723	1GCPKPEA1AZ210039	WHITE	\$6,995	AUTOMATIC
HONDA	CIVIC	2010	116300	19XFA1F57AE032016	BROWN	\$5,995	AUTOMATIC
DODGE	DURANGO	2008	91449	1D8HB48218F112262	BEIGE	\$5,995	AUTOMATIC
HYUNDAI	ELANTRA	2011	119514	KMHDH4AE0BU124949	RED	\$5,995	AUTOMATIC
TOYOTA	RAV4	2008	168287	JTMZD35V685093624	WHITE	\$5,995	AUTOMATIC
LEXUS	GS 300	2006	119568	JTHBH96S365006786	BEIGE	\$4,995	AUTOMATIC
KIA	FORTE	2013	72867	KNAFU4A24D5707906	SILVER	\$4,995	AUTOMATIC
CHRYSLER	PT CRUISER	2002	76021	3C8FY68B22T252882	BLUE	\$3,995	AUTOMATIC
TOYOTA	CAMRY	2004	63042	JTDBE32K140299644	GREEN	\$3,995	AUTOMATIC
MERCEDES-BENZ	E320	2001	165511	WDBJF82J91X058316	BEIGE	\$3,995	AUTOMATIC
BMW	3 SERIES 323i	2000	159045	WBAAM3349YFP78263	BLUE	\$2,995	AUTOMATIC
NISSAN	FRONTIER KING CAB	1998	157988	1N6DD26S3WC355100	BLUE	\$2,495	AUTOMATIC
TOYOTA	ECHO	2000	121980	JTDBT123XY0011290	GREEN	\$1,995	AUTOMATIC
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## Annual United Pull a success

UNITED AIRLINES

**U**nited Airlines announced the winners of its 14th Annual United Plane Pull — “Towing the Line to Save Lives” on Saturday, September 14, 2019, at the United hangar in Tiyan.

Thirty-two teams registered to tow the line in the fight against cancer. This year’s event raised more than \$20,000, which directly and equally benefitted Plane Pull beneficiaries American Cancer Society and Guam Cancer Care. The annual Plane Pull event, which is organized and sponsored by United employees, has attracted more than 12,000 participants throughout the past 14 years and has raised close to \$360,000 for local charities.

This year, twenty media representatives from twelve different outlets joined forces to tow the line to save lives for the first

time. Together, the media team raised more than \$1,250 to contribute to the cause.

Sam Shinohara, United’s managing director of airport operations Asia/Pacific said, “Plane Pull brings the best of our community together to raise funds for the fight against cancer. I’d like to thank each of the teams who came out strong in support of our Cancer Warriors and Survivors, American Cancer Society and Guam Cancer Care. We’re also proud to have our media partners participate in this year’s event and we hope to continue to have a media team for future events. Plane Pull continues to grow through the generosity and commitment of our island community. Thank you to our Plane Pull committee and the nearly 1,000 United employees who organized and put on this incredible event”

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# What does America have against vacation?

BY HANNAH SAMPSON,  
THE WASHINGTON POST

**A**s summer-getaway season draws to a close, it's time to face a tough reality: America is not a great vacation nation.

In fact, one report goes so far as to call the United States a "no-vacation nation," thanks to the paltry (well, nonexistent) amount of paid vacation time mandated by federal law compared with other well-off countries.

According to the study from Center for Economic and Policy Research, the European Union requires member countries to grant workers at least 20 working days of paid vacation. But many nations go well above that number, and some offer a heap of paid holidays to boot. France, for example, requires at least 30 paid workdays off, not including paid holidays, while the United Kingdom mandates 28, followed by Austria, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Spain and Sweden at 25.

The United States, on the other hand — on the very worst hand — mandates no paid vacation or paid holidays. Zero days. It's the only country in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, a group of 36 of the world's wealthiest nations, that doesn't require employers to give workers annual paid leave, according to the Center for Economic and Policy

**Every year, several studies come out to prove just how bad things have gotten for vacations in the United States. Here are some findings:**

- More than half of U.S. workers — 54 percent — reported feeling guilty about taking vacation time either sometimes, often or always, according to a survey of more than 2,000 full-time workers by TurnKey Vacation Rentals.
- Americans left 768 million days of paid time off unused last year, according to research released by the U.S. Travel Association. The study found that 55 percent of Americans did not use all of their paid vacation time. Of the time they took, U.S. workers used nine days to travel.
- More than half of Americans did not take a leisure trip of more than four nights over the past year, according to a report from Allianz Global Assistance. The travel insurance company said millennials were leading the so-called micro-cation trend, with 72 percent taking at least one trip of fewer than five nights. Nearly 20 percent of those surveyed in May said their longest trip in the past year was three to four nights long. The same survey found that 28 percent of Americans did not take a leisure trip of any length.
- According to TurnKey's survey, 70 percent of respondents admitted to checking in with their workplace from vacation at least occasionally.

Research. That leaves 23 percent of Americans with no paid vacation and 22 percent without paid holidays.

"I see that as part of a whole set of benefits that people have in other countries but they

generally don't have here," says Dean Baker, a senior economist at the policy group, which published the No-Vacation Nation report in May.

That's not to say employers don't offer vacation. According to the report, employers are granting paid vacation to 90 percent of full-time workers this year and 40 percent of part-time workers. But what might be shocking: Even when Americans get paid time off, they don't use it all. And when they do use their days — it may not come as a surprise to learn — many of them fail to leave work fully behind.

Vacation might not even be an option for many in the United States, whether they can't afford to lose wages or have to prioritize other spending ahead of leisure. The top barrier to taking a vacation is cost, says David Huether, senior vice president of research for the U.S. Travel Association. After that, he said difficulty getting away from work and dealing with the hassles of air travel stand between Americans and vacation.

Still, there might be some positive movement. According to the association, Americans used an average of 17.4 days of paid time off last year, up slightly from 17.2 percent in 2017. That's based on a survey of more than 1,000 adult workers who work more than 35 hours a week and get paid time off from their jobs.



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## The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

### ACROSS

1 Spring bloomer

6 Egyptian fertility goddess

10 "A Boy Named Sue" singer

14 Make happy

15 "Breaking Bad" drug

16 Not had by

17 Any "Friends" airing, now

18 Look closely

19 Big name in

beauty products

20 Academic period

21 Lenient

23 Month of showers

25 Kind of crew

26 Shiny fabric

28 Furniture wood

30 Rust, e.g.

32 Concert venue

36 Gun, as an engine

37 Topographic map feature

39 Soaking spot

40 President—

42 Many-limbed bug

44 \_\_\_ as rain

46 Castle feature

47 Like some volcanoes

50 Exorcist's target

51 Rafter's quest

54 Walk in water

57 Arial, for one

58 Joint ailment

59 Let have

60 Strongly suggest

61 Henry VIII's second or fourth

62 Dig

63 Sinister look

64 Age, as tires

65 Clothesline alternative

66 Briefly unknown?

67 Narrow margin

68 Forever

### DOWN

2 Helm position

3 Written account

4 Perplexed

5 Kyoto cash

6 Motivate

7 Clairvoyant

8 Anagram for "time"

9 Seafood staple

10 Six Flags sight

11 Blacksmith's block

12 Potbelly, for one

13 Beehive product

21 Old Ford

22 Sunroom

24 Nuclear adjective

26 Like some losers

27 Figure skater's jump

28 Sacred choral piece

29 Briefly unknown?

31 Narrow margin

33 Forever

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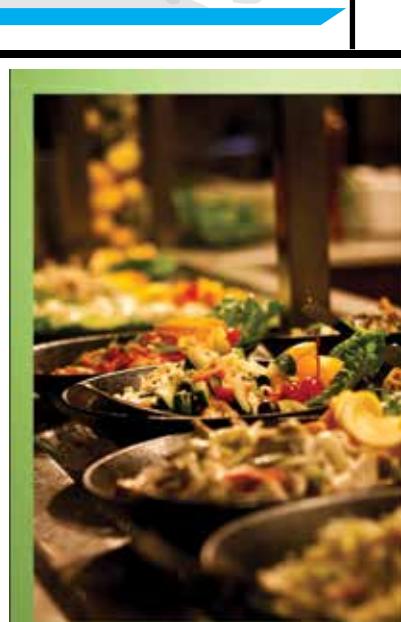
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50 Ward off  
52 Five-star  
53 Fish for a sandwich  
55 Bird of peace  
56 Big jug  
59 Make sense, with "up"  
49 Hint

### Answers to Last Week's Crossword:

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

2 Helm position  
3 Written account  
4 Perplexed  
5 Kyoto cash  
6 Motivate  
7 Clairvoyant  
8 Anagram for "time"  
9 Seafood staple  
10 Six Flags sight  
11 Blacksmith's block  
12 Potbelly, for one  
13 Beehive product  
21 Old Ford  
22 Sunroom  
24 Nuclear adjective  
26 Like some losers  
27 Figure skater's jump  
28 Sacred choral piece  
29 Briefly unknown?  
DOWN  
1 Sassy



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GUAM EDITION

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2019



## State-of-the-art

US dedicates new \$275M  
Camp Humphreys' hospital

Page 2

Top: The Brian D. Allgood Army Community Hospital is scheduled to officially open on Nov. 15 at Camp Humphreys, South Korea. Right: The new hospital features four state-of-the-art operating rooms.

PHOTOS BY MATTHEW KEELER/Stars and Stripes



## COVER STORY

# After long wait, US military dedicates hospital

By KIM GAMEL  
*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — After years of delays, the U.S. military held a ribbon-cutting ceremony Sept. 20 for a new, \$275 million hospital, marking a turning point in the relocation of most American forces to this expanded base south of Seoul.

The opening of the 68-bed Brian D. Allgood Army Community Hospital, also known as BAACH, allows its namesake facility on Yongsan Garrison in Seoul to close. The new hospital, which had already offered outpatient services, will officially open for inpatients on Nov. 15.

The U.S. military broke ground for the hospital and ambulatory care center in November 2012 on land that had been used for helicopter hangars. But construction problems and quality control issues filled the years that followed, as the South Korean contractor Samsung C&T Corp. struggled to meet rigid U.S. standards.

The final product offers improvements over the Yongsan facility, including a urology and pulmonology department, single-patient rooms, a new MRI and a robotic surgical system, officials said. It also has increased social and spiritual space.

"This environmentally friendly state-of-the-art complex was constructed to keep pace with the growth of Camp Humphreys," Brig. Gen. Jack Davis, deputy commander of the Regional Health Command-Pacific, said during the dedication ceremony.

It will also eliminate the need for servicemembers and their families to commute to Seoul, about 55 miles north of Humphreys, for many medical services including childbirth and behavioral health care.

The South Koreans spent \$225 million on the construction of the hospital, while the Americans spent about \$50 million on equipping the facility, according to David Fortune, who has overseen the project for the deputy regional program manager for the Army's health facility planning agency.

He said 96% of the equipment is new because the items at Yongsan were too old to continue using.

The Yongsan facility is due to close on Oct. 1, but officials have moved to fill the vacuum by increasing medical staff at the nearby Osan Air Base and other installations until the Nov. 15 opening date.

Americans also can go to South Korean hospitals, which often have partnerships with the military to provide English-speaking services.

The hospital, like the Yongsan facility, was named for Col. Brian D. Allgood, a former hospital commander who was killed with 11 other troops when their helicopter was shot down in 2007 in Iraq. His mother, widow



PHOTOS BY MATTHEW KEELER/Stars and Stripes

**Above:** A new MRI machine is still wrapped in protective plastic during final preparations at Brian D. Allgood Army Community Hospital on Camp Humphreys, South Korea, on Sept. 16. A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the hospital was held Friday. **Below:** A labor and delivery room at the new hospital.



and other relatives and friends attended the ceremony.

"This structure stands as a tribute to Col. Allgood's desire to provide the best health care to those who serve here on the

Korean Peninsula," said Ricardo Alcantara, who served alongside Allgood.

It's one of the last major facilities to open on Humphreys, which has grown to a population

of more than 32,000 people after U.S. Forces Korea and other commands moved their headquarters there from Yongsan and other bases closer to the border with North Korea as part of a

2004 agreement with the South. South Korea has funded most of the nearly \$11 billion construction on the base.

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## VETERANS

# With muleskinner's death, only 9 famed Marauders remain

By WYATT OLSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

At age 98 and living his last days in a hospice facility in northern Michigan, Henry C. Smith wanted to set the Army's record straight on what happened 75 years ago in the jungles of Burma.

Former Sgt. Smith — a member of the famed Merrill's Marauders that waged guerrilla warfare on the occupying Japanese — was leading an intelligence and reconnaissance patrol of roughly a dozen men in April 1944.

They chanced upon an enemy patrol perhaps 20 times their size, and the Marauders fought it out for several days before running out of ammunition.

The five surviving Marauders were captured and "subjected to beatings, humiliation and starvation," according to the citation accompanying the Silver Star that Smith was awarded by the unit's namesake, Brig. Gen. Frank Merrill.

Smith, however, tricked one of his captors into untying the ropes binding him, and the 21-year-old soldier overpowered and killed him. He then single-handedly killed eight other guards before releasing the other U.S. prisoners and escaping into the jungle, the Silver Star citation states.

But it wasn't eight, Smith told Wes Goldman, a former Army Ranger who befriended the old veteran in the months before his death on Aug. 5.

"I don't think they're telling the truth about that," Smith told Goldman. "I think they're exaggerating. I think I only killed five guys."

On Sept. 21, Smith's cremated remains were buried in a cemetery near the tiny town of Irons, Mich., where he'd lived before being hospitalized with cancer. A "celebration of life" will be held later at Oak Grove Tavern, according to his obituary.

"Henry was a local moonshiner and friend to all," the obituary said.

He leaves behind no surviving family, having never married or had any children. He has no living siblings.

With Smith's death, only nine veterans of Merrill's Marauders are known to be living, said Jonnie Melillo Clasen, whose father, Vincent Melillo, was a Marauder who died in 2015.

Descendants of the unit are urging lawmakers to award Merrill's Marauders the Congressional Gold Medal.

Officially designated the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional), the Marauders' roughly 3,000 men used mobility and surprise to compensate for the

far greater numbers of Japanese troops they fought beginning in early 1944.

In the unit's final assault that began in May 1944, the soldiers marched a grueling 60 miles over the Kumon Mountain range to the town of Myitkyina. There, the Marauders — winnowed to a force of just 1,300 men by disease, malnutrition and casualties — attacked and seized the town's crucial airfield.

It was not until August that the badly depleted Marauder force, joined by Chinese troops, finally took the town of Myitkyina. The 5307th was disbanded just days after that conquest.

Marauder veterans organized reunions for decades, and when they became too old to do so, their children organized Merrill's Marauder's Proud Descendants to help them stay connected.

That group deactivated in 2016, which meant no more news and updates would be sent to the veterans and their families, Clasen said. As Veteran's Day neared that year, she decided to send care packages to all living survivors to let them know they had not been forgotten.

After three months of research, she determined 28 remained alive — although in the following years she discovered a few she had missed. She attempted to contact each of them by phone.

"Henry Smith was one of the Marauders I talked to," Clasen said. "He was adorable. He was very funny."

"He said, 'I'm just an old muleskinner in a wheelchair and I live alone. If you call me and keep on calling and I don't answer, that means I've gone on. But while you're calling around, if you find another muleskinner out there, I sure would like to talk to him.'"

The muleskinner's job was to feed, pack and cajole the unit's mules, which were the primary way to move supplies, radios and weapons around the jungles of Burma.

Goldman, whose wife works at the nursing home that provided Smith's hospice care, said the old veteran preferred talking about his working years at an auto plant in Grand Rapids rather

**'I don't think they're telling the truth about that. I think they're exaggerating. I think I only killed five guys.'**

**Henry C. Smith**  
Merrill's Marauders

Descendants to help them stay connected.



Photos by Jonnie Melillo Clasen

On his 98th birthday, May 20, Silver Star recipient Henry C. Smith poses with former Army Rangers Jose Mortenson, left, and Wes Goldman in Traverse City, Mich. Smith died on Aug. 5.



Smith, left, stands beside his brother in an undated photo taken during World War II.

than about the war.

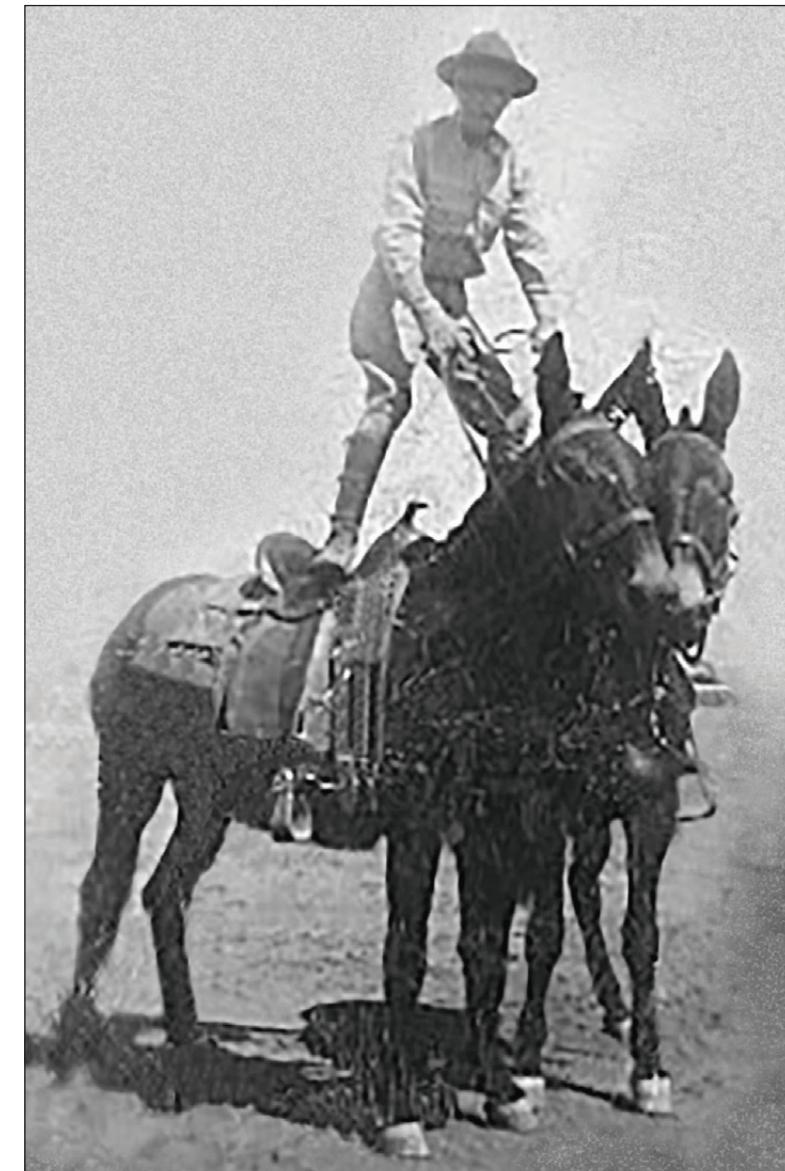
Getting him to talk about World War II was "like pulling teeth," he said, but as time went on, Smith grew more comfortable talking with the former member of the Army Rangers, which traces its lineage to the Marauders.

"He told me they started out with 200 mules in his group, and by the time it was over there were five mules left," Goldman said.

"They didn't have any place to hide during the firefights, and airbursts from Japanese took out the mules because they didn't have a place to get down."

"After they got killed, they tended to become food."

Smith told him of the Marauders sailing for India in fall 1943 when a U-boat torpedoed and sank one of the ships in the Arabian Sea.



Smith stands astride two mules during World War II.

Smith lost friends on the ship, and the unit lost a good many mules.

He received a Purple Heart for wounds to his wrist and forehead while in the jungle.

"He was very modest, very

humble. He didn't necessarily think he did anything all that special," Goldman said.

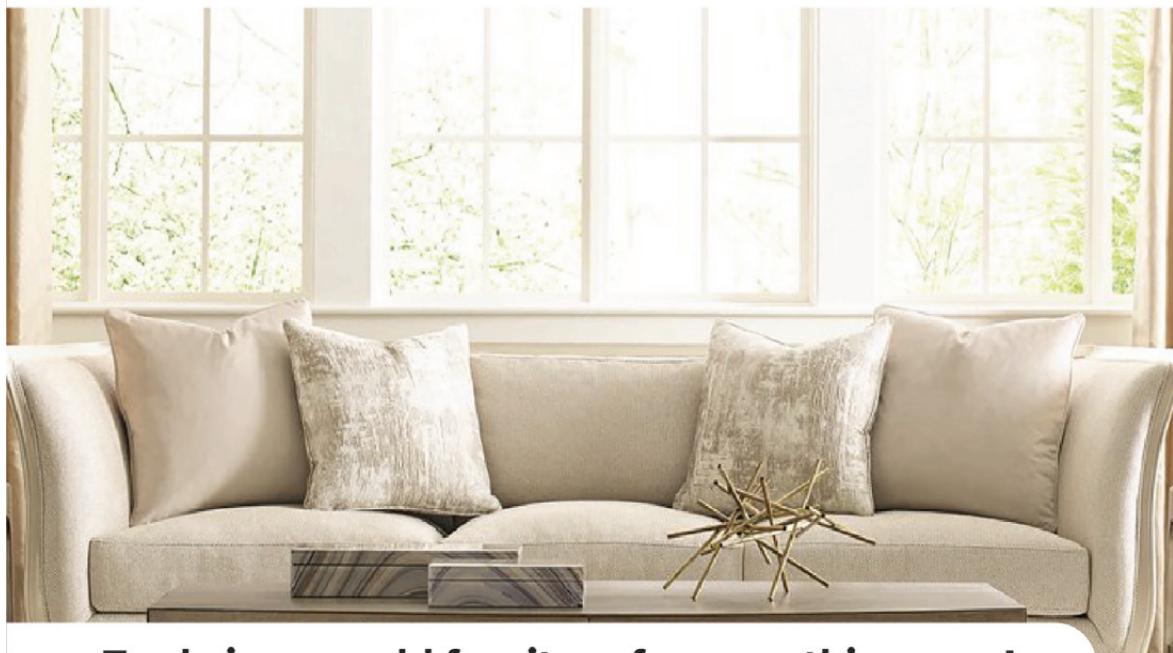
With a chuckle, he added, "I disagreed with him."

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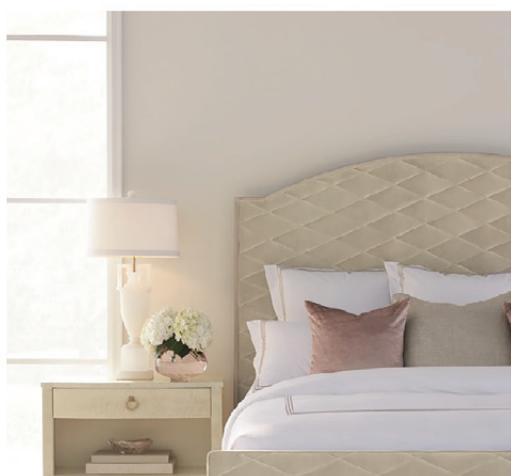
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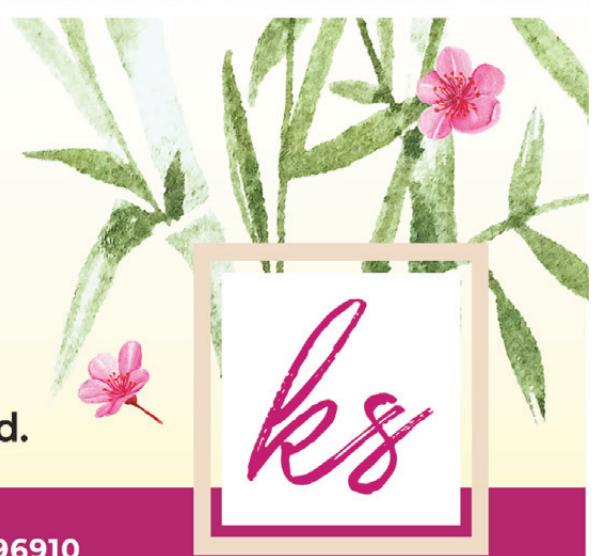
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## MILITARY

# Military targeted online for ‘romance scams’

By NIKKI WENTLING  
Stars and Stripes

For Staff Sgt. Sherri Vlastuin, Instagram popularity came quickly — and at a price.

Vlastuin, 26, has used the social media network since 2013 to document her life as an Army combat medic at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri, her home state. One post — a selfie after her graduation from Air Assault School two years ago — suddenly elevated her page. She has amassed 36,500 followers and is known as an “influencer,” someone who’s established credibility and a high level of engagement online.

She posts about her hikes in Arkansas and Utah, her goldendoodle, workouts and duck-hunting trips, and she’s often wearing American flag apparel, Trump regalia or her Army uniform.

Many of those photos have been used by scammers to create imitation profiles to lure unsuspecting people into “romance scams” — a problem on social media platforms, particularly for American servicemembers.

Romance scams are part of a new 200-page report released Sept. 17 by Vietnam Veterans of America, which has spent the past two years on a study of online trolls and their tendency to target veterans and servicemembers.

Scammers use Vlastuin’s image — and sometimes her name — to develop relationships with Instagram and Facebook users. After being duped, some of them have tracked down Vlastuin’s authentic account and told her they’d been tricked into sending money.

Some expect her to repay them, others seek the same relationship with her that they believed they had with the imposter.

She said she has reported hundreds of the fake accounts to Instagram and Facebook, but they continue to multiply.

“It’s unstoppable,” Vlastuin said. “No matter how many times I report them, I’m barely making a dent.”

## Leveraging America’s trust

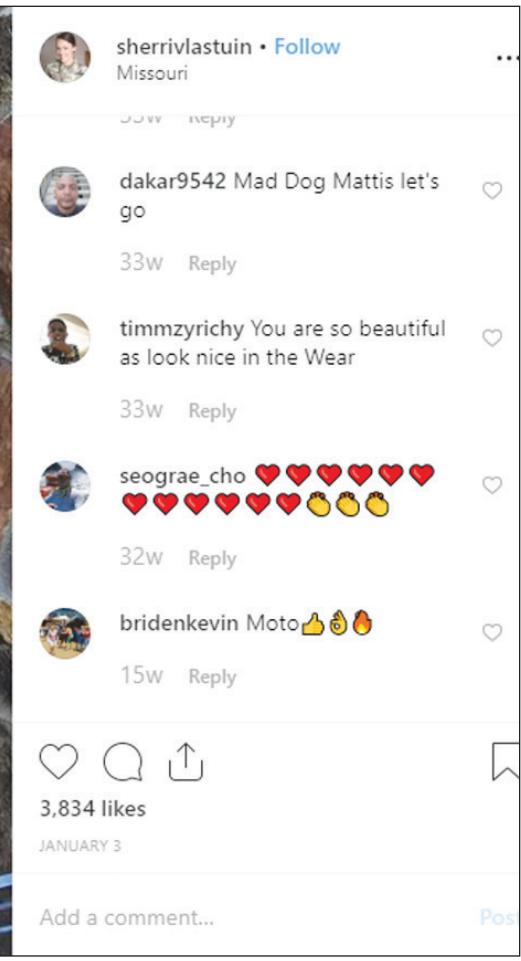
Vietnam Veterans of America, a congressionally chartered veterans organization, sent its report, “An Investigation into Foreign Entities Who are Targeting Servicemembers and Veterans Online,” to lawmakers Sept. 18. Kristofer Goldsmith, an Iraq War veteran who compiled the study for VVA, planned to share printed copies around Capitol Hill.

The overall goal, he said, is to keep servicemembers, veterans and their families safe in cyber environments. The report urges social media networks and federal law enforcement, with support from Congress, to put more focus and resources toward stopping romance scams.

“The way these foreign entities are abusing the veterans’ population and abusing the trust that people have in us — it’s going to weaken [veterans organizations], veterans at large in the United States,” he told Stars and Stripes.

Researchers with Oxford’s Project on Computational Propaganda reported in 2017 that trolls and bots targeted military personnel and veterans with propaganda, conspiracies and hyperpartisan political content during the 2016 presidential election. Veterans and servicemembers are seen as “potentially influential voters and community leaders” because of the trust the public places in them, the study states.

Scammers tend to pose as veterans and servicemembers in romance scams for



**Vlastuin wants to use social media to inspire young women, but cybercriminals using her photos to engage in “romance scams” have made Vlastuin consider deleting her online presence.**

the same reason, Goldsmith said.

“The American people are generally trusting of servicemembers,” he said. “They’re taking advantage of America’s trust in us.”

In addition, military service can be used as an excuse for scammers’ connectivity issues, the timing of their messages and delayed responses, the VVA report states. Many of the cybercrimes tend to originate from Nigeria by a group of scammers who call themselves the “Yahoo Boys.”

The New York Times, citing the FBI, reported there were nearly 18,500 complaints last year from victims of romance scams, with losses exceeding \$362 million. The FBI told the Times that the bureau investigates only a fraction of those reports because the amounts lost — typically a few thousand dollars — are too low.

## Reporting the imitators

When her profile first became popular, Vlastuin would find accounts using her name and photos, take screenshots and report them to Facebook and Instagram. As her online status grew, fighting the imitation accounts quickly became a full-time job.

“It would be a big deal to me,” Vlastuin said. “But I would go through them, and after a few hundred of these screenshots, I was like, ‘What am I doing? This is crazy.’”

**SEE PAGE 14**

Even estimating the number of accounts she’s reported would be difficult, Vlastuin said. She guessed it was about 500 accounts between both social media networks. Sometimes it would take weeks or longer than a month, but typically Instagram and Facebook responded by removing the accounts, she said.

Vlastuin has mostly given up reporting them now.

People who have been tricked by the imposter accounts continue to contact Vlastuin daily. About 75% of them figured out they were being scammed before sending money, Vlastuin said.

In one message she received last month, an Instagram user told her, “Your Instagram image is being abused. I am also the one who almost suffered.”

She previously replied to each person who messaged her, apologizing they were tricked. Sometimes, though, they would want the same relationship with her that they had developed with the scammer.

“It’s kind of hard, trying to explain to them that I don’t owe them anything,” Vlastuin said. “I say, ‘I’m sorry. I understand you’re a victim in all of this, but so am I.’”

Vlastuin has notified her unit and her Judge Advocate General officer about the problem, but no one has been able to do anything, she said.

The U.S. military is aware of the problem of cybercriminals posing as servicemembers in romance scams. Kim Joiner, a deputy assistant to the secretary of defense, told The New York Times her team works with Facebook to remove

imposters.

“The problem is identifying them,” Joiner told the Times. “Once we identify them, I’m very satisfied with how Facebook reacts.”

Pretending to be another person is against Facebook’s community standards and Instagram’s terms of use. Facebook, which owns both social media networks, has recognized that servicemembers and veterans are more likely than other users to be targets of impersonations.

The company works with the Department of Defense, as well as Blue Star Families and USAA, to help generate awareness about the issue and offer tips on identifying and reporting imposter accounts.

A Facebook spokesman said the social media network is also developing a new detection tool that would spot and remove accounts that look like some of the most frequently impersonated servicemembers and veterans, but the tool is still in the early stages of testing.

“Imposter accounts affect real people, and we remove these accounts when we discover them,” the spokesman said.

“We’ve invested heavily in strengthening our technology to keep them off our services and we work with law enforcement to prosecute scammers. That job is not finished, and we are committed to sharing our progress.”

## Weakening perception

The issue has received attention from Capitol Hill.

Rep. Adam Kinzinger, R-Ill., an Iraq War veteran and lieutenant colonel in the Air National Guard, is battling his own imposter accounts. He sent a letter to Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg in July, calling his attention to cybercriminals posing as servicemembers.

**SEE PAGE 6**

**‘I want to be there for young girls who want a role model, and I want to motivate people.’**

**Sherri Vlastuin**  
Army combat medic and Instagram influencer

## MILITARY

# Special Forces' tiger stripes make a return

BY CHAD GARLAND  
*Stars and Stripes*

A tiger stripe uniform like the one John Wayne wore in the 1968 film "The Green Berets" is making something of a comeback among today's Green Berets.

Members of 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), known as Legionnaires, were photographed last month during a training exercise with the 101st Airborne Division wearing the Vietnam War-era camouflage with teal blue Special Forces arrowhead insignia patch and tab, and black-and-yellow Airborne and Ranger tabs on their sleeves. — called the tiger stripe uniform.

"These uniforms were non-standard in nature, which demonstrates the uniqueness of U.S. Army Special Forces and their mission," said Lt. Col. Loren Bymer, U.S. Army Special Operations Command spokesman.

In "The Green Berets," Wayne wore the tiger stripe uniform and a beret bearing 5th Special Forces Group flash.

The jungle camouflage pattern of black stripes on swaths of green, brown and khaki was unofficially adopted from the Vietnamese military by U.S. advisers

and became widely used during the war by elite units such as the Special Forces, who organized and trained indigenous partner forces and accompanied them into combat.

A team of 11 Legionnaires wore similar uniforms in August when they trained cavalry soldiers from the 101st Airborne Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team as a "partner force" for two weeks on mission planning, combat maneuvers and casualty care at Fort Campbell, Ky., where both units are based, 5th Group said last month in a statement.

"Using these uniforms in a training exercise helps inform and educate other non-[special operations] units about different aspects of the culture," Bymer said. "Additionally, this speaks to honor the legacy of Green Berets in Vietnam."

Shortly after 5th Group was activated in September 1961, it began sending elements to South Vietnam, where they trained and led local forces in reconnaissance and direct-action missions, a history on USASOC's website states.

It was among the small-



IMAN BROADY-CHIN/U.S. Army

**Green Berets, who are sporting tiger stripe uniforms like those worn by Special Forces soldiers in the Vietnam War, instruct soldiers of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team on vehicle clearing procedures during an exercise on Fort Campbell, on Aug. 14.**

est units in the conflict, but its soldiers were some of the most decorated. Eighteen were awarded the Medal of Honor, nine posthumously, making up the bulk of the 25 Green Berets who have received the Medal of Honor, a list on the website shows.

The Legion was also the first U.S. unit deployed to Afghanistan as part of the 2001 invasion that toppled the Taliban government in the wake of the 9/11 attacks.

In last month's exercise, days and nights of realistic training scenarios culminated in a raid on

an enemy encampment, which had reconnaissance squads living in the woods for several days with nothing but what they carried in, the 5th Group statement said.

"Being able to be taught by Special Forces, how they do things, how they do it successfully and us being able to transfer that onto the battlefield is pretty great," Spc. Jamie McFerren, a machine gunner with C Troop, 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment, was quoted as saying in the statement.

Officials are considering use

of the tiger stripe uniform for more special events, Bymer said. One such opportunity would be the group's annual reunion week — the 58th such event wraps up this weekend at Fort Campbell, but an official there said the uniform was not being worn this year.

"Going back is one way to demonstrate the uniqueness (of the mission and culture)," Bymer said.

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## FROM PAGE 5

"I am increasingly concerned by the prevalence of so-called 'romance scams' initiated or perpetrated via Facebook," Kinzinger wrote. "I am particularly concerned with the pernicious efforts to impersonate current or former military personnel to gain the trust of unsuspecting users and ultimately convince them to transfer money."

Besides financial harm on behalf of those tricked into sending money, the impersonated servicemembers are victims of stolen identities and stolen valor, Kinzinger wrote.

At times, the situation is embarrassing for Vlastuin. When people she knows search for her

online, hundreds of pages appear, some of them with sexual or other explicit descriptions.

"They look at it, and it has inappropriate stuff on it, and it's just kind of embarrassing to think somebody would think that was me," she said. "I've found multiple profiles where people I know were following that profile and not my real one. They probably think that's me posting."

Goldsmith predicts more dangerous outcomes — the potential to weaken the national perception of veterans and servicemembers.

"If every time you get a friend request from someone wearing a uniform your assumption is that they're a foreign entity, that's not

good for anyone," he said.

Quitting social media and deleting her Instagram page often occurs to Vlastuin, especially because of the effects on her friends and family. Cybercriminals will use photos and stories of her mother, her niece and her friends. She's stopped including other people in her posts.

Every time she creates a post, Vlastuin wonders whether it has any value other than being used to impersonate her.

She hopes to use her account, and her large number of followers, to inspire young women.

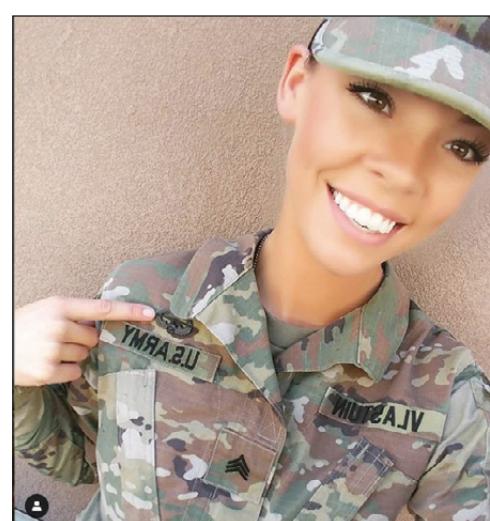
In the message accompanying her post about graduating Air Assault School — the one that skyrocketed her Instagram

fame — Vlastuin wrote, "I never thought that I would attempt this school, simply because I didn't think I was physically capable of getting past even the first day and because I am absolutely terrified of failure. Looking back, I can't help but wonder how many times this fear has held me back from things I could have potentially been great at. Luckily for me, I had people push me outside of my comfort zone and I ended up at the Ft. Hood Air Assault School. The last 10 days have been physically and mentally challenging, but extremely rewarding. Not just because of the badge itself, but because of what I learned about myself and the new found confidence that I am capable of."

"I want to be there for young girls who want a role model, and I want to motivate people," Vlastuin told Stars and Stripes. "I don't feel like I'm accomplishing that with the way it's going right now. It seems like I'm posting a picture just for it to be stolen."

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INSTAGRAM

**This post in 2017 by Sherri Vlastuin, an Army combat medic based at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri, skyrocketed her presence on Instagram. Because of her popularity, cybercriminals have used her name and image to pose as an American servicemember and engage in "romance scams."**

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