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PACFLT visits Guam, thanks Sailors

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The commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet met with Sailors on Guam during a visit March 4.

Adm. Patrick Walsh thanked Sailors and leadership of Maritime Expeditionary Security Squadron (MSRON) 7, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit (EODMU) 5 and Helicopter Sea Combat

Brief: Adm. Patrick Walsh, right, Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, listens to a brief by Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician 1st Class (EWS/AW) Ryan Giffilan, of Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit (EODMU) 5, about deployments and operations performed overseas during a visit to Guam March 4. Also pictured in the foreground is the command's Talon robot, which EODMU 5 uses to investigate and handle improvised explosive devices. (U.S. Navy photo by Jesse Leon Guerrero)



Squadron (HSC) 25 for their continued service.

Master-at-Arms 2nd Class (EXW) Michael Steffon, of MSRON 7, said Walsh's visit motivated him and his shipmates to continue to meet their squadron's mission.

"It's good to know that he knows exactly what we're doing," Steffon said. "He sees the outcome of our hard work everyday and it reassures us that we're doing a good job."

Master-at-Arms 2nd Class (EXW) Jermaine Foreste, with MSRON-7, was leading a classroom training when Walsh arrived to observe and speak to the Sailors. Foreste said he appreciated Walsh's words of advice and encouragement.

"He's very interested in what we do here and he's interested in the Sailors that do the job here at this command," Foreste said.

Sailors at EODMU-5 took the opportunity to brief Walsh about

See PACFLT, page 11

Remembering Iwo Jima and its importance to airpower

By Capt. Timothy Lundberg

36th Wing Public Affairs

From March 1 through March 4, more than 120 retirees, veterans and their families visited Andersen Air Force Base as part of their trip to Iwo Jima in remembrance of the 65th anniversary of the battle there.

While on Andersen Air Force Base these visitors learned about the history of Andersen AFB and received briefings on the aircraft deployed here that are part of U.S. Pacific Command's Continuous Bomber Presence and Theatre Security Package.

These veterans of Iwo Jima also visited U.S. Naval Base Guam and other historic sites on Guam prior to travelling to Iwo Jima on March 3.

On Feb. 19, 1945, 30,000 Marines splashed ashore on the small volcanic island of Iwo Jima in the central Pacific as part of Operation Detachment. After four days

of fighting, a patrol reached the peak of Mount Suribachi, where it planted a U.S. flag in an iconic scene captured by photographers. However, these images hardly reflected the end of the battle. Iwo Jima would not be secure until March 26. Almost all of the 21,000 Japanese defenders elected to die rather than surrender. Rooting them out cost more than 6,800 American dead and 20,000 wounded, making this the costliest battle in the history of the U.S. Marine Corps.

Located slightly northwest of the aerial midpoint between Tokyo and Saipan, Iwo Jima's airfields in Japanese hands constituted a serious annoyance to the newly launched long range bombardment of Japan by the 20th Air Force from the Mariana Islands in late 1944 and early 1945. Japanese interceptors from Iwo Jima and Pagan Island forced the B-29 Superfortresses to make long detours on their way to the

Japanese islands as well as on their return trip to Saipan Island and the other recently won bomber bases in the Northern Mariana Islands. Superfortresses enroute to Japan routinely flew a dogleg-course around the island increasing the already extended distances they were forced to cover. Despite the dogleg, there were no hiding the giant aircraft formations of very heavy bombers from radar surveillance and Iwo Jima gave the home Japanese Islands time to prepare for the

See IWO JIMA, page 12

Airpower: "MY GIRL," a P-51, takes off from Iwo Jima. From this hard-won base U.S. Air Force fighters escorted the B-29's on bombing missions to Japan, and also attacked the Empire on their own. Image was used in the book, "Third Report of the C.G. of the A.A.F. to the Secretary of War" in 1945. (U.S. Air Force photo)



INSIDE

- Marine Corps band plays on Guam, page 2
- Seabees celebrate 68th anniversary, page 5



5-5-4 Wins Award
554th RED HORSE Squadron wins prestigious AF award.

SEE PAGE 3



Women's History Month
Airmen and Sailors celebrate the contributions of women.

SEE PAGES 6 & 7



Top Performer
HM2 Pante

PAGE 3

PACFLT: Sailors appreciate visit

Continued from Page 1

their equipment, safety gear and past deployments.

Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician 1st Class (EWS/SW) Ryan Gilfillan, with EODMU-5, said he appreciates Walsh's interest in the Sailors and the work they do to carry out the mission.

"It's always good when people take an interest in what we do, especially people in the upper echelon of the Navy like Adm. Walsh," he said. "We put a lot into those displays and he seemed to appreciate the time we put into it."

U.S. Pacific Fleet, the world's largest fleet command, encompasses 100 million square miles, more than half the Earth's surface, from the West Coast of the United States to the eastern shore of Africa. The Pacific Fleet consists of approximately 180 ships, 1,500 aircraft and 125,000 Sailors, Marines and civilians.



Greeting: Adm. Patrick Walsh, right, Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, is greeted by Master Chief Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician (EWS/SW) Bill Lee, left, command master chief of Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit (EODMU) 5, during a visit to Guam March 4. Also pictured is Lt. Cmdr. Evan Colbert, center, executive officer of EODMU 5. (U.S. Navy photo by Jesse Leon Guerrero)



Responsibilities: Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician 2nd Class (EWS) Daniel Smith, right, of Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit (EODMU) 5, talks about his responsibilities at the command and gear, such as bomb suits, to Adm. Patrick Walsh, Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, during a visit to Guam March 4. (U.S. Navy photo by Jesse Leon Guerrero)

Officers of the year remember Blue Jacket past

By Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Samantha Crosson

USS Frank Cable (AS 40)

Officers are easy to recognize in the military. They are the men and women who command a salute, the ones wearing the pressed khaki uniforms and, most importantly, the people enlisted Sailors look up to for guidance.

Two junior officers in Submarine Squadron 15 have pulled what they have learned from being prior enlisted Sailors to become outstanding officers and earned the title of Junior Officer of the Year.

Lt. j.g. Theodosius Soiles, machinery repair officer on USS Frank Cable (AS 40), says being prior enlisted has helped him become a bet-

ter officer. Soiles cracks an endearing smile and leans back in his chair as he remembers a time when he was a chief electrician's mate. After nine years of enlisted service, Soiles has taken his experiences as an enlisted Sailor and applied them to his career as an officer.

"Being prior enlisted helps you understand the inner workings of a division. You can see the checks and balance system working within a group of people," Soiles said. "There is a leadership process that is important to follow on the enlisted side of the house."

Lt. j.g. John D. Kinman, Damage Control Assistant and Assistant Engineer on USS Buffalo (SSN 715), also agrees that being prior enlisted has made him excel as an officer. Prior to being commissioned as an officer, Kinman was a ma-

chinist's mate first class.

"You see both sides of the way everything works," said Kinman with a personality that outshines his polished collar device. "I've done everything from scrubbing decks to running entire divisions. "Sailors look for leadership to pull them out of the hard times, I know I did. So I have a better understanding of what my guys need because I've been there."

Both officers seemed to be honored and proud to be Junior Officers of the Year.

Kinman offers a simple honest approach:

"I just come to work everyday and do the best that I can. My dad taught me that no matter what's going on in life, you come to work and take pride in your job," Kinman said.

Soiles believes the reason he received the award was a team effort.

"I think I was chosen because I am a team player, I have a team-building spirit and take a lot of input from my division and try to listen to everyone," Soiles said.

When asked what the key to being a successful Sailor in the Navy, both officers had the exact same answer, communication.

"The best piece of advice I could give is to set goals and track them," said Kinman. "Communication is the key to making sure everyone is on the same page and working towards the same goals."

Soiles also said that the biggest factor to excelling in the Navy is to communicate with everyone.

"It's not always popular to make a decision and communicate the

thought process so Sailors can see that although it may seem like the hard way to do something, it is the right way," explained Soiles.

Along with earning the title of Junior Officer of the Year, those selected will be traveling to Washington, D.C., to receive the award from Chief of Naval Operations. The recipients will also get the chance to participate in military tours of the nation's capital.

As Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet's only operational submarine tender, Frank Cable readily deploys to ports throughout the Western Pacific to provide services to both submarines and surface ships in the Seventh Fleet area of responsibility. For more information on Frank Cable, visit the ship's Web site at www.cable.navy.mil.

It's the profession of arms, not the regression of arms

By Chief Master Sgt. Atticus C. Smith

388th Fighter Wing Command Chief

As Airmen, nothing is average about our responsibilities. On the global stage, we are responsible for our nation's security, the safety of its citizens and the preservation of its way of life.

To that end, and as stated in the Airman's Creed, we serve as "guardians of freedom and justice." For more than 200 years, this unwavering commitment to freedom and justice forms the bedrock of America and secures her future.

On a much smaller stage but just as important, we are responsible for embodying Air Force culture, being stewards of the profession of arms.

Any Airman, at any unit, is on center stage responsible to uphold our culture; however, I've seen examples where many Airmen have "exited stage right" and their com-

mitment to, or understanding of our culture has deteriorated.

Embodying Air Force culture begins with a feeling deep in one's heart that we are Airmen first and specialists second. Air Force culture is nothing more than all the little things molded together that make us Airmen. Our core values, the Airman's Creed, Air Force history, dress and appearance standards and drill and ceremonies are just a few things that come to mind.

For enlisted Airmen, fulfilling the responsibilities outlined in the enlisted force structure is also a major ingredient of being an Airman. Embodying Air Force culture also entails keeping accurately informed of larger Air Force issues or "hot topics." Airmen must not only stay in tune with what the Air Force considers priorities, but also they must exhibit effective followership by explaining and supporting decisions of our senior leaders; however, not all Airmen do. Something I observed

firsthand.

During an annual awards banquet meeting, committee members were brainstorming fundraising ideas. I was just listening until an NCO mentioned that their unit booster club made good money by having a "buy out of blues Monday" fundraiser.

I couldn't believe what I heard. Who would approve such a thing? Where was the senior NCO, the person who should be intimately committed to the profession of arms, in the decision making process? Even if everyone else was saying yes, somewhere along the way there should have been a senior NCO to say, "No, that is completely against what the Air Force expects and sends the wrong message." I mean really, would anyone in their right mind ask Gen. (Norton) Schwartz or Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Roy if they'd like to partake in such a fundraiser?

After I expressed my discontent,

another Airman mentioned that his unit had a "buy out of (physical training)" fundraiser. Now I was thoroughly disgusted.

What message are we sending? If you promote buying out of something, it immediately implies it's something that isn't cared for. I feel very fortunate to wear my uniform and wouldn't pay a penny to not wear it. I vividly remember how proud I felt when I finally got my blues issued in basic training. I also remember proudly wearing my "Class A's" on my first trip home after Basic Military Training. It's not a hassle for me to wear the uniform; in fact, when I retire I absolutely know that I'll miss the opportunity to do so.

These reflections are just a few ways I answer the question, "Hey Chief, how do you feel about blues Monday?"

Being a professional Airman demands much more than being good at your job. It's accepting a lifestyle

and dedicating a large majority of your time and effort toward representing the profession well. Through word and deed you must commit yourself to the profession of arms, regardless of specialty. The profession of arms is not an "add water and stir" program. We can't "cherry pick" what expectations we live up to, and we surely can't create an environment where our traditions, heritage and culture takes a back seat.

The sooner a person makes the transition from being good at their job to being a good Airman, the sooner they will benefit from the true meaning of military service and being a member of the profession of arms. So, as you stand on center stage, proudly endorse and represent that you're an Airman first and foremost. If you do so, I'll be the first person to give you a standing ovation.

Bring credit and honor to the Air Force and take care of each other in all your actions.

Marine Corps Band performs on Guam

By Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class (SW) Corwin Colbert

Joint Region Edge Staff

The U.S. Marine Corps Battle Color Detachment performed on Guam at the Asan Beach Unit of the War in the Pacific National Historical Park March 7.

The detachment, based at the Marine Barracks in Washington, D.C., toured Iwo Jima for the 65th anniversary of that World War II battle and Okinawa shortly before coming to Guam.

"We were very fortunate to get the approval for them to stop on Guam for the very first time," said

Col. Robert Loynd, director of Marine Forces Pacific Forward to Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Sgt. Joshua Miles, a spokesman for the detachment, started the event by introducing and honoring retired Brig. Gen. Vicente "Ben" Blaz, the highest-ranking Marine from Guam in the nation's history. Blaz also served Guam as its delegate to the U.S. Congress from 1985-1993.

"It has been a love affair between the Marine Corps and Guam since liberation," said Blaz, referring to the liberation of Guam from Japanese occupation during World War II. "As a Marine and son of Guam, this is special."

After briefly addressing the crowd, Blaz swore in more than 30 Marine recruits from Guam and Saipan.

The public witnessed a two-hour show that featured the Color Guard, Drum and Bugle Corps and the Silent Drill Platoon sections of the detachment, which is comprised of nearly 150 of the Marine Corps' specially selected musicians.

The Drum and Bugle Corps performed "Music in Motion 2010," a compilation of six musical arrangements, running the gamut from classic marching favorite, John Philip Sousa's "Stars and Stripes Forever," to "That's Life," which was popularized by Frank Sinatra in the

1960s.

The performance ended with the Silent Drill Platoon, a 24-man rifle platoon, which put on a precision drill exhibition.

"We came to Guam to put on a good show and let everyone here know what the Marine Corps looks like," said Gunnery Sgt. Jeremy Johnson, Silent Drill platoon sergeant. "It is also great to bring the young Marines here to learn about the history of Guam and the Marine Corps."

The crowd gave a standing ovation as the event ended. Vera Mendiola, a resident of Guam, said the performance was great and that seeing the Marines had personal mean-

ing for her.

"My dad was a retired Marine," Mendiola said. "I came here to support him and honor the Marines."

U.S. Sea Cadet Seaman Apprentice Richard Camacho IV, of Sina-jana, said the ceremony reinforces his future plans of joining the military.

"It was a great performance," Camacho said. "The rifle drill team was my favorite. I think they are the sharpest out of all the services. They inspire me to join the Marines."

For more information on the detachment, visit the U.S. Marine Corps Battle Color Detachment Web site at <http://drumcorps.mbw.usmc.mil>.



Honor: Retired Marine Brig. Gen. Vicente "Ben" Blaz speaks to the crowd at the Asan Beach Unit of the War in the Pacific National Historical Park on Guam March 7 before a performance by the U.S. Marine Corps Battle Color Detachment. Blaz is the highest ranking Marine from Guam in the nation's history. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class (SW) Corwin Colbert)

Discipline: Members of the U.S. Marine Corps Battle Color Detachment's Silent Drill Platoon demonstrate their discipline and unique rifle handling ability during a performance at the Asan Beach Unit of the War in the Pacific National Historical Park on Guam March 7. This is the first time the detachment has performed on Guam. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class (SW) Corwin Colbert)



Above: Members of the U.S. Marine Corps Battle Color Detachment's Silent Drill Platoon and Color Guard perform at the Asan Beach Unit of the War in the Pacific National Historical Park on Guam March 7. This is the first time the detachment has performed on Guam. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class (SW) Corwin Colbert)



Left: Drum and Bugle Corps members of the U.S. Marine Corps Battle Color Detachment perform "Music in Motion 2010," a compilation of six musical arrangements, during a performance at the Asan Beach Unit of the War in the Pacific National Historical Park on Guam March 7. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class (SW) Corwin Colbert)

HM2 Pante demonstrates core values

By Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class (SW) Corwin Colbert

Joint Region Edge Staff

Since she joined the Navy eight years ago, Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Sharon-Ivy Pante, leading petty officer of Branch Medical Clinic, Guam, has striven to exemplify the Navy core values of honor, courage and commitment.

"I believe the Navy core values are extremely important," Pante said. "I believe in doing what's right and being committed to everything I am responsible for or do, whether it's my Sailors, the mission or my personal life."

According to her command, she displays honor in the Navy core values as evident in her ability to make honest recommendations, sense of accountability for her professional and personal behavior, and mentorship of those of junior rank. Pante is in charge of manning the clinic and its ancillary services, and she supervises eight military personnel and two civilians. She leads weekly training of staff and assists as needed when they check in and do the initial assessments for patients — mostly military dependents — with minor injuries and illnesses.



"My goal at work is to train and be a positive role model," she said. "I hope my junior guys learn as much as they can and move on in their careers passing on that wisdom and become good leaders some day."

Her commitment is evident in her attitude at work.

"Pante is committed to taking care of her people and patients," said her supervisor Chief Hospital Corpsman (FMF) Dexter Cabral. "She works hard and is very knowledgeable. She enjoys the role of being a leader and not the title. This is why she is a top performer here."

Pante's drive for excellence started in 2002 when she enlisted in the Navy following her father's footsteps.

"I wanted to be like my daddy," said Pante, who hails from Yigo, Guam. "My dad was a first class petty officer and retired in 2003 at [Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25]."

However, her major motivation is her 6-year-old daughter. She said providing her child a future and tools to succeed pushes her to work hard every day.

Regarding her specialty on the job, the former Navy dental technician recalls the reason behind wanting to be in the health field. She said visiting the dentist when she was



Training: Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Sharon-Ivy Pante, center, trains Hospitalman Nathan Steinbacher, left, and Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class (FMF) Michael Rubin at the Branch Medical Clinic on U.S. Naval Base Guam March 4. Pante, the clinic's leading petty officer, is in charge of manning the clinic and its ancillary services, and she supervises eight Sailors and two civilians. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Corwin Colbert)

very young got her attention, and in high school she did her career day at a mental health facility.

"Those memories had a great impact on my decision to affiliate myself with the medical field in the Navy," said Pante, who is currently

majoring in psychology at the University of Maryland. "I enjoy helping people. One day I want to help patients with mental health conditions heal."

Following suit, her two other younger siblings joined the U.S.

Armed Forces, as well. Her brother is a Sailor on USS Frank Cable (AS 40) and her sister is in the Air Force. She is proud of her family and plans to "Stay Navy."

"I am a lifer; I love my job and the Navy," she said

554th RED HORSE wins Air Force award

By Staff Sgt. Derrick Spencer

36th Wing Public Affairs

The 554th RED HORSE Squadron here was the first RED HORSE Squadron to become activated in the Air Force, so it's only right it becomes the first RED HORSE Squadron to win the prestigious Robert H. Curtin Award. Named from the former Air Force director of engineering, the award was given to the 160 person squadron for "best small civil engineering unit in the Air Force."

The competition for the award is based on what type of impact a unit has on its home station, deployed locations and its community involvement.

"It's very special to me to see a

RED HORSE unit win this award, especially one that is so involved not only in their home unit set-up, but the set-up of three other units," said Lt. Col. Anthony Davit, 554th RED HORSE Squadron Commander.

Reigning as Pacific Air Force's number one construction force, the 554th RED HORSE has won the "best of" award at their major command level for the past three years. The added prestige of this year's Air Force level award is most likely due to the fact that last year the 554th deployed outside U.S. Pacific Command's theater for the first time in over 35 years.

Another reason the 554th was singled out from its competitors this year is its \$218 million project on Andersen's historic Northwest field,

the Pacific Air Forces Regional Training Center. The PRTC compound will be used for contingency war-time training for Security Forces, Services, and Civil Engineering Airmen from across the Pacific.

Proving you can do more with less, with a command that has about half the manpower allocation of an average active duty RED HORSE unit, Davit remained humbled when his unit was named "Best in the Air Force."

"The 554th RED HORSE Squadron couldn't have won this [Robert H.] Curtin Award without all the men and women of the 554th," said Davit. "The 554th has a great legacy, and we continue to build on that great legacy to ever improve the 5-5-4!"



Winner: Lt. Col. Anthony Davit, commander of the 554th RED HORSE Squadron, is interviewed outside of vehicle maintenance March 4. Davit's unit was recently awarded the Robert H. Curtin Award for best small civil engineering unit Air Force-wide. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Derrick Spencer)

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Take advantage of all that Guam has to offer

By Master Chief
Paul A. Kingsbury
Command Master Chief
Joint Region Marianas

Hafa Aдай! So you've just arrived for a tour of duty on the island of Guam. You may find yourself overwhelmed or having those feelings of culture shock that come with being stationed at an overseas location. You find yourself wondering how you are going to be able to survive two or three years on a small island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. Or perhaps you're one of those people who looks forward to the excitement, opportunity and experiences an overseas tour can bring.

Regardless of which type you are, being stationed overseas brings its share of challenges but if you're armed with knowledge, you put yourself in a much better position to quickly adapt to island living. Many of you are stationed on operational units with high OPTEMPOs, so it makes it even more important to take advantage of the time you have in port to go out and do something productive.

The reality is that there are only so many things that our MWR/Services programs can do for your quality of life. Ultimately, each one of us has to take ownership for our quality of life and make the best out of what's presented to us.

Once you settle into housing, get your pay straight and check in to your command. I encourage you to get out and experience the culture and island. The faster you do this, the faster you will realize the opportunities that Guam presents.

One of the best advantages Guam offers is its tropical weather. If you're not the outdoors type, this is the place to become one. For starters, the island has more than 20 hiking trails of varying degrees. Called boonie stomping on Guam vice hiking, these adventurous outings will take you over mountains, through volcanic/limestone caves



Kingsbury

and to isolated pounds and waterfalls.

There are also world class fishing, five golf resorts, two golf courses on military property, and dozens of beaches. There is an abundant amount of other water activities, such as diving, snorkeling, surfing, and parasailing to name a few.

Beyond all that, Guam has a huge amount of World War II history dispersed around the entire island. Several National Park Service sites pay homage to civilians and military personnel who died to liberate Guam from Japanese occupation during the war. Come July 21, which is celebrated as Guam's Liberation Day, you will see the entire island community remember the past and more importantly pay tribute to the proud men and women in service. It is an event to look forward to.

If you absolutely cannot fathom going outdoors, there are still plenty of things to do. The island has a range of shopping malls, restaurants, a walk-through aquarium and a museum right outside Naval Base Guam. There are other facilities that offer a glimpse into Guam's cul-

ture. The Chamorro Village in Hagatna for example offers a variety of goods made on Guam to purchase and local food to feast on every Wednesday night. We also have our own USO center in downtown Tumon that offers great hospitality and amenities.

One of our challenges is the high cost of airfare. I'm not going to kid anyone; it is expensive for an individual, not to mention a family of four to fly back stateside. We can all sit around in despair or we can choose to figure out strategies to deal with it. Take time and look for travel specials, learn about Space-A opportunities available from Andersen Air Force Base and venture out. Due to Guam's location, it only takes a few hours to travel to Australia and nearby islands, such as Palau, which is home to the Rock Islands, a great diving destination. Each base has a ticket and tours office that offers travel specials to locales within theater.

Finally, let's not forget about the concept of community and getting together for social events. If you are newly arrived on the island, utilize your sponsor and reach out to

fellow families to learn about what Guam has to offer. If you have been on island a while and you see a new family is here, take time to welcome them, show support and help with the transition.

For the commands here on Guam, make sure you utilize your allotted MWR funds and take some time to bring your command together away from work.

Additionally, one of the best aspects of Guam is the fiestas that recognize the patron saints of each village. During fiestas, all island residents including our military community are invited to partake in the celebration, which feature local foods and cultural entertainment. It is also an opportunity to interact with island residents and learn more about the people and Guam. If you don't know who your sister village is, ask your command's community service coordinator.

I strongly encourage each of you to make the most of your time here on Guam. Get out there and explore what Guam has to offer, I look forward to seeing you out and about on the island. Puedi ha' todu maolek, which means, "Have a nice day."

Travel Fair offers Navy families Micronesian travel information

By Annette Donner
U.S. Naval Base Guam Public Affairs

Military families learned about neighboring Micronesian islands during a travel fair held at the U.S. Naval Base Guam (NBG) community center Feb. 27.

Representatives from the travel offices of Yap, Republic of Palau, Chuuk, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Kosrae, Saipan and Guam shared travel, activity and cultural information about their island destinations.

"We want families to know about the very exciting opportunities that await them in Micronesia," said Capt. Scott Galbreath, NBG commanding officer. "We offered the fair to provide families information that will inspire them to explore island adventures and new cultures."

Navy families were particularly interested in knowing the family activities available to them. Navy spouse, Kim Jasinski, said she learned that Palau offers lagoon

kayaking, dolphin petting and snorkeling in Jellyfish Lake.

"I now know there is plenty for my three children to do if we visit Palau," Jasinski said. "It would be a lifetime experience for them."

Navy spouse Tzipora Steele said Yap sounds very intriguing.

"I like hearing that the people are so family-friendly," Steele said. "That makes me feel very comfortable about travelling there with my children."

According to the Yap travel representative Don Evans, Yap's small, family-oriented community welcomes visiting families. According to Evans, if a visiting family was strolling along one of the famous Yapese stone paths to visit one of the villages, "they'd be welcomed all along the way and the village children would probably invite them to play."

Representatives Elitza Stoilova of Saipan, Brenda Dolan of the Marshall Islands and Grant Ismael of Kosrae all said they were im-

pressed with the in-depth questions asked by Navy families.

"They were really focused on traveling to our islands," Dolan said. "The questions indicated genuine interest in the cultures and traditions of the various islands and a desire to understand how each island is unique."

Stoilova suggested Saipan, Rota and Tinian as economical and convenient family weekend getaways.

Ensign John Sullivan and Lt. j.g. Mary Sly, of USS Frank Cable (AS 40), noted that it's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to visit many different locations nearby.

"I'm newly certified for scuba diving and Chuuk sounds like a fascinating place to begin to hone my diving skills," Sly said.

Guam's travel representatives Felix Reyes and Regina Nedlic suggested Navy families learn more about Guam's culture and provided information about local events.

"Guam has its own unique Chamorro culture, also very wel-



Vacation Shopping: Lt. Cmdr. Stephen Mannino, left, of U.S. Naval Hospital Guam; wife, Jennifer Mannino; and their children ask Chuuk representative Mason Grant about the beauty of Chuuk and the shipwrecks in the Chuuk Lagoon at the Travel Information Fair at U.S. Naval Base Guam community center Feb. 27. Mannino says they want to see and learn as much as possible about the islands while stationed here. (U.S. Navy photo by Annette Donner)

coming and willing to share," Reyes said.

For more information about Micronesia travel visit the individual

island travel office Web pages or contact Tara Rivera at the Navy Morale, Welfare and Recreation Travel, Tours & Tickets at 564-6977 or tara.rivera@fe.navy.mil.

E-FILING tax troubles? Look no further than your address

By Catherine Harrington
36th Wing JA Tax Center

As you may have heard, a local Guam addresses can cause problems when you E-FILE, or electronically file, your federal tax return. Although Guam is an "overseas" assignment for some things, because we have access to U.S. Postal Service delivery, similar to Alaska or Hawaii, APO address are not issued for all military personnel assigned to Guam.

For those service members who live in base housing with a Yigo, Guam, delivery address or who re-

ceive local mail delivery offbase we encounter some issues. Not only do some popular stores not ship to us, but we also face a frustrating situation with filing our federal tax returns.

Unfortunately, servicemembers who use their local Guam addresses run in to three problem areas: One, the member MUST paper file their Federal tax return with the IRS and cannot use E-FILE; two, the member may be disallowed Earned-Income-Credit even if eligible; and three, processing the return, including any refund, is oftentimes delayed.

In fact, when trying to E-FILE

with a local address, you will likely receive a rejection code which states, "Tax returns from the US Possessions of American Samoa, Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands may not be electronically filed." Although paper filing with the IRS is an acceptable option, it takes weeks or months to process your return versus e-filing which usually takes 14 to 21 days from the time the IRS accepts your federal tax return.

Servicemembers who live in unaccompanied housing/dormitories and off-base, without mail delivery, are issued APO addresses. This

personal APO address should allow you to E-FILE your federal tax return while stationed on Guam without these problems.

While the IRS has elected not to issue any concrete guidance on this address issue despite our requests, two other options exist. Military members can use their unit APO address or their home of record continental U.S. Address in order to E-FILE their returns while stationed on Guam. Remember, your E-FILE return can not reflect a Guam address anywhere on the return, including on your W-2s. If your W-2 has been updated with your current Guam address, you

must select the option to leave the address matching the APO address or home of record. Additionally, if you or your spouse received a W2-GU, you MUST paper file. Unfortunately the system is unable to accept these documents electronically.

Please note, whatever address you use on your tax return will be the address the IRS will use to contact you. Therefore, this address must have a person who can forward your important documents quickly.

Should you have any questions, please contact the Andersen Tax Center at 366-4TAX.

Seabees on Guam celebrate 68th anniversary

By Jesse Leon Guerrero

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More than 200 Navy service members and their guests celebrated the Seabees' 68th birthday on Guam March 6.

The event, the Seabee Ball, also celebrated the establishment of the Navy Civil Engineer Corps in 1867 and Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) in 1842, when NAVFAC was known as the Navy Bureau of Yards and Docks.

Rear Adm. Michael Giorgione, Commander, NAVFAC Pacific, attended as guest speaker. Giorgione shared personal stories with the attendees, focusing on the Seabees' "We Build, We Fight" spirit shown through base support for the military and humanitarian assistance performed around the world.

"I think our nation is very fortunate; our world is very fortunate for what you do," Giorgione said. "I hope you're very proud of what you do. I think we're all proud of each other."

The celebration held on Guam began with performances of the national anthem by Builder 1st Class (SCW) William Hillberg and the "Guam Hymn" by Ray Miranda, both from Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas, while Sailors from U.S. Naval Hospital Guam presented colors.

Capt. Peter Lynch, commanding officer of NAVFAC Marianas, praised the Seabees for not only improving facilities in a joint military environment, but for also volunteering in the community such as painting public schools and teaching math to young students.

"Our Seabees serve as great role models through their work for the Navy and in our community," Lynch said. "It's very exciting to see the amount of time our young men and women spend



Ceremony: Rear Adm. Michael Giorgione, right Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Pacific, participates in the the Seabee Ball ceremonial cake-cutting with Capt. Peter Lynch, second from right, commanding officer of NAVFAC Marianas, Master Chief Constructionman Steven Boomer, left, of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1, and Builder Seaman Apprentice John Kilpatrick, of NMCB 1, at Hotel Nikko Guam March 6. Boomer and Kilpatrick participated as the oldest and youngest Sailor, respectively, that attended the event. (U.S. Navy photo by Jesse Leon Guerrero)

with tutoring and mentorship."

Attendees also enjoyed dinner, dancing, and a traditional cake-cutting ceremony led by the oldest and youngest Seabees in attendance.

Culinary Specialist 1st Class (SCW) Ezekiel Wright, of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1, said he was proud to help create the ceremonial cake, which took two weeks of preparation.

"This is my first Seabee Ball

and we're really enjoying it because [Seabees] work hard and play hard," Wright said. "It's a good thing to be here, especially on Guam."

Ensign Kristen Krushinski, of NAVFAC Marianas, provided one of the highlights of the party when she presented the command's 14.9-pound, concrete-filled boot at the front of the stage, while singing the Seabee song along with all of the other attendees. As the newest ensign at

NAVFAC Marianas, Krushinski has had to protect the boot for nearly a year as a part of a long-standing NAVFAC tradition.

"The traditions are great," Krushinski said. "I like partaking in them because there's a little bit of story that goes with each and every one of them."

One of the attendees was Equipment Operator 2nd Class John Baza, a Navy Reservist with NMCB 18, Detachment 0918, the first NMCB group consisting primarily

from Reservists from Guam, which was started in 2007. Baza said he was looking forward to being part of the Seabee's history of service when he deploys to Afghanistan with his fellow Guamanians in several weeks.

"We're just proud to be here tonight, enjoying the Seabee Ball, and enjoying with all our Seabee friends and family," Baza said.

The theme of this year's celebration was "Preserving Our Past, Building Our Future."

Senior Master Sergeant Selectees

By Capt. Timothy Lundberg
36th Wing Public Affairs

Congratulations to the following Senior Master Sergeant Selectees.

From Andersen Air Force Base:

Thomas A. Allen III, 36th Civil Engineering Squadron

Cedric D. Barron, 36th Maintenance Squadron

Michael D. Bohanan, 36th Maintenance Squadron

Chad L. Craig, 554th RED HORSE Squadron

Todd A. Kneisley, 36th Mobility Response Squadron

Shane R. Murray, 36th Security Forces Squadron

Tommy G. Rhodes Jr., 36th Communications Squadron

Kristofor Richardson, 36th Munitions Squadron

William R. Speck, 644th Combat Communications Squadron

Michael W. Yudinsky, Diego Garcia

From the 734 Air Mobility Squadron:

Rhonda Blackstone

Scott M. Mackeller

Deployed-in from Elmendorf AFB, Alaska:

Jeff W. Perdue

Scott Scalafani

Deployed-in from Whiteman Air Force Base:

Gene K. Geren

Deployed-in from Misawa Air Base:

Algernon P. Johnson

Women acknowledged for achievements

By Oyaol Ngirairikl

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Women's achievements and contributions to Guam and the nation were recognized during a Women's History Month proclamation signing ceremony on Guam March 8.

Acting Gov. Mike Cruz signed the proclamation, naming March as National Women's History Month for the island. Dozens of women representing a cross section of the island's military, business, government and civic community, attended the ceremony.

Cruz, who is also a Guam Army National Guard surgeon, recently served in Afghanistan where he watched fellow medical profession-

als, including females, work tirelessly to serve and protect the nation.

"In the variety of conflicts our women have bravely answered the call of duty to fight for the preservation of our way of life both on Guahan and the United States," Cruz said. "Guahan is forever indebted to these patriotic women for their courage and sacrifice to preserve the freedoms we hold so dear."

The recognition of women's contributions began nationally when Congress passed Public Law 97-28, authorizing the week beginning March 7, 1982, as Women's History Week. In 1987, Congress extended the celebration to one month.

The national theme this year is "Writing Women Back into History." The theme was a common

thread for military representatives at the proclamation signing.

From Navy and Air Force to Army, service members said women have contributed to building a great military and nation. Having a month to honor women's achievements will help ensure women in future generations are encouraged to serve the nation in whatever capacity they are most needed.

Lt. Gayle White, a U.S. Naval Base Guam chaplain, said the national and islandwide observation sheds light on the increasing operational and educational opportunities for women in the Navy.

"Women have contributed so much, to not only our homes and families but to our nation over a long period of time and we haven't al-

ways been recognized for what we do and contribute," she said. "It helps motivate other women to step up and to serve the country and to realize the worth they have."

Sgt. Erica Duenas, a Guam Army National Guard Element administrative assistant, said she was proud to be a part of the proclamation signing.

"It's good to have a month dedicated to us in order to award women or recognize women who do the same things men do," she said.

Duenas noted it was only a few decades ago when women in the military were allowed to participate in combat.

"So I'm proud and honored for those women back then," she said. "And me being a female in the mil-

itary now, it's still challenging, but their dedication and hard work so many years ago makes it so much easier for women today to be in the military."

Lt. Col. Margaret Carey, 36th Wing Medical Operations Squadron commander at Andersen Air Force Base, said Women's History Month is a great opportunity for the community to learn more about the talents and hard work that went into building a great nation.

"I think every human being has something to provide to different situations," she said. "And giving each person the opportunity to excel because of the person they are and not because of their race, their

See MARCH, Page 7



Making a Statement: Women representing a cross section of the island's military, business, government and civic community attended a Women's History Month proclamation signing ceremony at Ricardo J. Bordallo Complex at Adelup March 8. Acting Gov. Mike Cruz signed the proclamation, naming March as National Women's History Month for the island. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class (SW) Corwin Colbert)

Women in Military History

Throughout the U.S. Navy's 234 years of history, its female Sailors have steadily integrated into jobs that were once opened only to men.

War of 1812 — The first official record of women at sea is from a U.S. warship log showing women serving as contract nurses.

1917 — Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels announced that the Navy will enlist females on March 17. Most of the 11,000 female yeoman worked in the nation's capital filling a variety of jobs including draftsman, interpreters, couriers, and translators.

1942 — In August, Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES) an all-female division of the Navy is created, two months after the establishment of an all-female auxiliary of the Army, Women's Auxiliary Army Corps (WAAC).

1948 — President Harry Truman signed the Women's Armed Services Integration Act, which approved regular and Reserve component status for women in the military.

1948 — Staff Sgt. Esther Blake became the first woman in the Air Force. She enlisted in the first minute of the first hour of



Commander: On Jan. 28, the Navy announced that Rear Adm. Nora Tyson would be the first female to command a carrier strike group. She will start her new assignment in June. In the photo, Tyson greets children at Seberan Tayor Primary School during a Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) Malaysia 2009 community service project. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communications Specialist 1st Class Michael Moriatis)

the first day regular Air Force duty was authorized for women on July 8.

1976 — Women entered the Army, Air Force, Coast Guard and Naval Academies for the first time.

1978 — Women are first assigned to selected non-combatant ships.

1994 — Congress repealed the combat exclusion law, allowing women to serve on combatant ships and fly com-

batant aircraft.

2008 — Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody became the first female four-star general in military history and also became the first female to lead a major Army command.

2010 — On Jan. 9, Secretary of the Navy Ray Maybus announced that women would be assigned to Ohio-class submarines. The first women are expected to report to subs in 2011.



First in Combat: Lt. Col. Martha McSally stands with her A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft. The colonel is the first female pilot in the Air Force to fly in combat and to serve as a squadron commander of a combat aviation squadron. (U.S. Air Force photo)

Events celebrate women on Guam

By Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class (SW) Corwin Colbert

Joint Region Edge Staff

The Bureau of Women's Affairs, Guam Department of Labor, the Guam Veterans Center and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs are celebrating Women's History Month with activities for all who would like to attend.

On each Tuesday and Wednesday this month at the Guam Capital Investment Corporation building, better known as the GCIC building in Hagatna, there will be workshops available for all women who reserve a seat. Topics include how to prepare a resume and do job interviews; women navigating through the workforce system; and how to start a small business. These classes are open to the public and are free.

"We are trying to promote Women's History Month in these three areas," said Phyllis Topsana, Guam Department of Labor program coordinator. "The purpose is to help women who do not know how to write a resume or is new to

the workforce. We also want to help women who have been out of the workforce for a while."

Finally there will be the 4th Women Veterans Conference themed "Writing Women Back into History" on March 26 at the Outrigger Guam Resort and Spa in Tumon. The conference will host different organizations and institutions to educate retired, Reserve and active-duty veteran women on resources they can use to enhance their lives.

Norma Castillon, a Guam Veterans Center volunteer, helped coordinate the conference.

"In recent years the number of women veterans has increased on Guam," Castillon said. "We want to equip them with tools and information for them to succeed. We also want to build unity among all our women veterans."

For reservations to the workshop, call Phyllis Topsana at 475-7078

For reservations to the veterans conference, call 735-0456 no later than March 24. There is a \$20 fee that includes lunch. Family members are welcomed for veterans who are unable to attend.

March: 'Writing Women Back into History'

Continued from Page 6

creed, or their color is I think where we need to go. And we continue to make great strides on that."

Since joining the U.S. Air Force 18 years ago, Carey said she's seen how women's abilities have helped shape the military.

"I've seen women do a lot of different things. When I came in they weren't allowed to fly fighter jets. And they now have the opportunity to do that," she said. "Secondly, women have been able to do a cross section of many different things in the Air Force."

Lt. Cmdr. Regina Cox, commander of Defense Information System Agency Pacific Guam, has seen a number of changes during her 22-year military career, which have given women the opportunity they deserve to demonstrate their talents, compete for key assignments and

excel to serve in senior ranks.

"I was in the military prior to the combat exclusion law, so there were times when we could not serve in the capacity that we were trained to serve in just because of the congressional ruling," she said. "And now the opportunities for women are endless. I actually just served with the first female fighter pilot who had command of the Navy fighter squadron onboard a carrier. So that was very exciting to see."

Cox said there's one message she would like to see younger generations take to heart during National Women's History Month.

"You can do anything you want in the military, you can go from administrative to medical to being a fighter pilot," she said. "There is nothing that you can't do. If you have the desire, the education is there; take advantage of it and go for it."

Who comes to mind when talking about women's history?

March is Women's History Month. We asked service members on Guam who comes to mind when talking about women who have made a difference.



"Maya Angelou because she's done great things in our history."

—Operations Specialist 2nd Class (SW) Mark Nelson, USNS Alan Shepard (T-AKE 3)



"The person I think of right now is Sarah Palin because she's my role model. I hope she becomes president. She's a strong female role model for women these days."

—Senior Airman Amber Wirgau, 36th Security Forces Squadron



"A former President back in the Philippines. Her name is Corazon Aquino. She was the first female President in the Philippines' history."

—Logistics Specialist 3rd Class (SW) Arvin Quiambao, USS Frank Cable (AS-40)



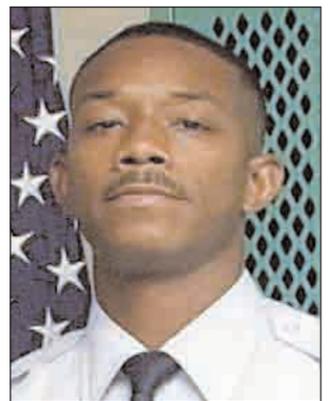
"I think of my grandmother, Dorothy Kinley. She was one of the original WACs [Women's Army Corps]. And when I think about history I think about their contributions to the military, what they've gone through and where they have essentially brought us."

—Tech Sgt Kelly Dipierro, 644th Combat Communications Squadron



"Master Chief [(SW) Joann] Ortloff. She worked at Naval Hospital Guam. She was a very inspirational, strong woman — very supportive and caring. She showed you how in the military it doesn't matter whether or not you are a man or a woman. It just matters whether or not you're dedicated and love your job and you love the people around you."

—Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Marinalyn Hale, U.S. Naval Hospital Guam



"I think about my mother. She raised me and my brother from a very young age by herself. She worked very hard in order to provide us a good home. I guess Women's History month is a big reminder that a lot of women work hard, a lot of women struggle, but they've come so far and this is how we celebrate."

—Tech. Sgt Anthony Augustine, 644 Combat Communications Squadron

DoD removable media use to be allowed, under strict controls

By 36th Wing Public Affairs

New guidelines from U.S. Strategic Command officials allows servicemembers to use "thumb drives" and other flash media to store computer data under specific circumstances.

Strategic Command (STRATCOM) officials banned use of thumb drives and flash media in November 2008, after the use of the media infected a number of Defense Department computer systems. Computers users had to turn to alternative means to transfer data from one machine to another.

Now, the command has lifted the ban on the devices under carefully controlled circumstances, said Navy Vice Adm. Carl V. Mauney, STRATCOM's deputy commander.

The command issued an order Feb. 12 that allows "a return to limited use of removable devices under very specific circumstances and guidelines," Mauney said.

"This is not a return to 'business as usual,'" the admiral emphasized. "There remain strict limitations on using these devices."

Designated approving authority officials, in the Air Force's case the Air Force Space Command Director of Communications and Information, will put out restrictive controls and processes to control the use of removable media.

According to Lt. Col. Jeffrey Sorrell, commander of the 36th Communication Squadron, "we understand that Air Force Space Command is generating guidance that will flow through the other major commands to the bases; however, we have not been given a timeframe on when to expect this guidance."

Units in active operations in

Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere will get priority in implementation of the new guidelines, Mauney said.

"In terms of the mechanics, we've put together several small kits of the equipment that's needed and we'll be transitioning those to people out in the theater — in Afghanistan in particular — to help certain groups facilitate their use," Admiral Mauney explained.

The kits will contain hardware and software to ensure the safe use of removable media, he added, and scans and filters are included in the process.

After extensive testing of mitigation measures, Defense Department officials decided to make the technology available again on a very limited and strictly controlled basis, the admiral said.

"Since the order restricting use of removable media, (the Defense

Department) developed capabilities and processes that allow safe use of these devices," Mauney said. "Removable media use will be limited to mission-essential operations, and only after strict compliance requirements are met."

The order calls on combatant commands, the services and Defense Department agency officials to establish approval authorities for determining whether flash media may be used.

"The commanders and directors can decide that the measures that we're using already meet their needs," Mauney said. "In fact, when we're traveling, ... we look to see how people are doing in moving around their information. People have trained themselves and are able to do it, and are effective and efficient. I think, initially, some will look at this and say they are good

with what they are doing. It's proven, and they may opt not to do this."

The removable media will be a tremendous help in Afghanistan and Iraq, Mauney said.

"We think there will be some ground to be gained there," he added.

Use of the devices under the new guidelines is restricted to operational mission requirements, Mauney said, and only properly inventoried, government-procured and -owned devices will be allowed for use in Defense Department information systems. Servicemembers and civilians will not use personally owned devices on any Defense Department network or in any Defense Department computer, he said.

Computer users also will not use Defense Department thumb drives and flash media on nongovernment

networks or computers without authorization from an approval authority, the admiral said.

Defense Department officials say they're urging all computer users to be responsible and to do the right thing for cyber security. Mauney said the Defense Department has the means and the right to scan the department's computers, and randomly selected users and drives will be subject to periodic auditing.

For personnel assigned to the 36th Wing, Lt. Col. Sorrell wanted to ensure that personnel realize they will receive specific guidance when they are allowed to use removable media, but until then, "the thumb drive ban will continue on Air Force information systems."

If you have any questions regarding this ban, please call the Wing Information Assurance Office at 366-6344/1020.

U.S. Naval Sea Cadets donate to Haiti relief

By Jesse Leon Guerrero

Joint Region Edge Staff
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U.S. Naval Sea Cadet (USNSC) Corps, Region 14-2 Marianas Division donated \$300 to the American Red Cross, Guam Chapter to fund its Haiti relief efforts Feb. 24.

A massive earthquake ripped through Haiti Jan. 12, killing more than 200,000 residents as it demolished homes, offices and other structures. Chita Blaise, chief executive officer for the Guam Chapter, said the sea cadets' donation will help provide basic necessities such as food and water.

"It is such a wonderful opportunity for the young people," Blaise said. "It's nice that they stepped up to the plate and came forward on their own."

Lt. Jeff Brown, commanding of-

ficer for USNSC Corps, Region 14-2 Marianas Division, said the effort resulted from initiative shown by the sea cadets and their instructors. Working in partnership with adult volunteers, family, and friends, the sea cadets raised the funds through a bake sale.

"Their effort and their generosity was outstanding," Brown said.

Brown explained USNSC shapes the cadets' character by following the Navy core values of honor, courage and commitment. They also learn practical maritime skills when they participate in monthly drills.

Marianas Division and Peredo Battalion together make up USNSC Corps, Region 14-2 for Guam and the Western Pacific. They accept students in an age range of 11-17 years old from dif-

ferent schools.

Lt. Cmdr. Cecilio Gonzales, regional director of USNSC Corps, Region 14-2 for Guam and the Western Pacific, said the sea cadets participate as color guard and in other supporting roles at a variety of events every year. Most recently, they served as an honor guard for a reunion of Iwo Jima veterans at Outrigger Guam Resort and Spa March 2.

"Our cadets' personal motto is 'semper fidelis adjutor' or 'always a faithful helper,'" Gonzales said. "This was the motto of the former Naval Station Guam during the Vietnam War era."

For more information about USNSC Corps, visit www.seacadets.org. To participate on Guam, call Lt. Jeff Brown, USNSC Corps, at 727-2675 or e-mail brownfamily13579@yahoo.com.



Donation: U.S. Naval Sea Cadet (USNSC) Corps, Region 14-2, Marianas Division donated \$300 to the American Red Cross Guam Chapter in support of Haiti relief efforts Feb. 24. Pictured are from left Charlita Harper, USNSC Corps Region 14-2 Marianas Division instructor; Javier Aninzo, sea cadet; Roland Selvidge, American Red Cross; Christopher Campbell, sea cadet; Katherine Campbell, sea cadet; Tehyani Crisostomo, sea cadet; back row, from left, Ens. Laurie Fernandez, USNSC Corps Region, 14-2 Marianas Division; and Lt. Jeff Brown, USNSC Corps Region, 14-2 Marianas Division commanding officer. (Photo courtesy of Lt. Cmdr. Cecilio Gonzales, regional director of USNSC Corps, Region 14-2 for Guam and the Western Pacific)

News Notes

Job Announcements

Interested individuals can view the vacancy listings at <https://www.cnic.navy.mil/Marianas/index.htm> or at <https://chart.donhr.navy.mil>. For more information, call 339-4222/6210.

Joint Region Marianas, Guam
Human Resources Specialist
Regional MWR Manager, closes March 9

Naval Base Guam
Fire Protection Inspector

Naval Hospital, Guam
Nurse (clinical)

Andersen AFB (Naval Support Activity, Andersen)
Bowling Facility Assistant
Training & Curriculum Specialist

NAVFAC Marianas Guam
INFADS Analyst, closes March 17
Interdisciplinary Engineer, closes March 17
Realty Specialist, closes March 17
Quality Assurance Specialist (Automotive), closes March 17

Employment Opportunities

Looking for a part time job? 36th Force Support Squadron offers multiple employment opportunities. Current job vacancies and job descriptions within 36th Services are available online at www.36thservices.com by clicking on HRO jobs. For more information, visit the Human Resources Office (HRO) or call 366-6141.

U.S. Naval Base Guam Main Gate Temporarily Closed

The main gate of U.S. Naval Base Guam will be temporarily closed until March 31 for repairs.

Access will be through the back gate of U.S. Naval Base Guam, located along Shoreline Drive. This gate will provide around-the-clock access to the base for authorized motorists.

A second gate at X-Ray Wharf will be open from Monday through Friday, 5:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., and is located behind the Navy Housing Office and the T. Stell Newman National Park Visitor Center. Electronic signs will be in place to provide traffic directions. Motorists should anticipate traffic congestion in the area.

AFSA Elections

The Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA) Chapter 1560 council elections for the upcoming term will be held March 19, 11:30 a.m. at the Top of the Rock ballroom. Any rank can fill any position! If you are interested in running for a position, please let me know. If you're not a member and wish to run we can set up your application before election day. If you are interested in running for a position, please contact Tech. Sgt. Lisa Parr, president of AFSA Chapter 1560 at 366-5817. You can also visit the AFSA SharePoint for election and position information.

Combination Flea Market & Arts & Crafts Fair

The HotSpot and Arts & Crafts Center are teaming up to bring you a combined flea market and arts and crafts fair March 20, 8-11 a.m. in the HotSpot Gym, just down the walkway from Gecko Lanes Bowling Center. Table fee for sellers is \$10 per table payable at the HotSpot for the flea market portion and the Arts & Crafts Center for arts and crafts fair vendors. The Arts &

Crafts Center is also looking for additional vendors. If you make handcrafted items and would like to sell them at this venue, please call Syomi Dodd at 366-2220. For flea market information, call the Hotspot at 366-2339.

Women's History Month

"Writing Women Back into History" is the theme for Women's History Month, March 2010. The Guam Veterans Center, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is seeking information and photographs of women who have or are currently serving in the U.S. military and who are interested in documenting their stories. The month's celebration will include a Women Veterans Conference on March 26, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Outrigger Guam Resort. All interested parties are invited to contact Cathy Illarmo at the Guam Veterans Center for information at 472-7161.

Annual Air Force Chess Tournament

The Hotspot will host the annual Base Chess Tournament March 27, 9 a.m. in the HotSpot gym. The tournament will have two age groups: Youth, ages 6-18, and Adults. If the winner is an active-duty service member, he or she may be eligible to compete in the Air Force Chess Tournament in May at Wright-Patterson AFB, in Ohio. Sign up at the HotSpot, or call 366-2339 for more information.

My Air Force Life Video Competition

Create a "My Air Force Life" video short and you could win a 2009 Apple computer with iWorks pre-loaded and a Panasonic HDC-HS250K video camera. Total prize package is valued at \$2,000. Just submit a short video (maximum of 60 seconds) on either of these themes: "What Your Air Force Life Means to You," or "Air Force is a Great Place to Live, Work, & Play." There are two categories of competition: youth, ages 12-

17, and adult, ages 18 and up. Entry deadline is April 4. Go to www.MyAirForceLife.com for all necessary information regarding this competition.

2010 Navy Chess Team

Applications are now being accepted for the 2010 Navy Chess Team through April 23. Interested active-duty personnel in the U.S. Navy, U.S. Coast Guard or U.S. Public Health Service may apply. All applicants must be U.S. Chess Federation (USCF) member in good standing with an established USCF rating. Additional eligibility requirements and the team applications are available on the Navy Chess Web site at <http://www.mwr.navy.mil/mwrprgms/chess.htm>. The top 12 applicants will be invited to the Navy Chess Qualifier, June 11-13 at Naval Support Activity South Potomac in Dahlgren, Virginia, to compete for a spot on the six-man Navy Chess Team. Navy Chess Team members will advance to the Interservice Chess Championships at Naval Station Great Lakes, Aug. 2-6. At least one Navy player will advance from there to the NATO Chess Championships in Koege, Denmark, Oct. 18-22.

Air Force Teen Aviation Camp

The 2010 Air Force Teen Aviation Camp will be held June 5-10 at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo. This camp features a residential 6-day program which provides youth a glimpse of what Cadets attending the U.S. Air Force Academy experience. Activities include a stay in dorms, high and low ropes courses, a tour of Academy, flight simulators, and a Cessna flight. Teens interested in aviation and leadership and who are sophomores or juniors in the fall of 2010 are eligible to apply. Applications are available at the Youth Center and must be received by Headquarters Services no later than April 2. For more information, contact Maryvel Jones at 366-3490.

Update: Road construction on Andersen AFB

By Senior Airman
Vanessa Fuentes
36th Wing Public Affairs

If you've driven around Andersen Air Force Base (AFB) lately you've noticed a lot of road construction. A groundbreaking ceremony was held Jan. 22 for the Arc Light Boulevard realignment construction project. The \$5.6 million project is to realign the busy Arc Light Boulevard, provide a new traffic pattern along Chicago Avenue, widen and repave existing roads, and install three new roundabouts with bike paths and sidewalks.

Lt. Ben Turner, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas resident officer in charge of construction at Andersen AFB, provided the following construction update:

Q: How is construction coming along?

Turner: Construction is currently on schedule, and progressing very well. Contractors continue work on installing the new section of Chicago Avenue, and as soon as that is complete, they will be moving on-

to construction of three roundabouts, and resurfacing of existing roads.

Q: Are there any dates when you expect construction to start interfering with Andersen traffic?

Turner: Based on the current schedule work will begin at the intersection of Chicago and Davis Avenues and in front of the Security Office building in approximately three weeks. Simultaneously, the contractor will be starting the resurfacing of the section of Arc Light between Marianas Avenue and the AAFES Base Exchange. This work will require intermittent closures of the back road which leads to the Base Exchange and the intersection of Chicago and Davis Avenues. For convenience of motorists, all other roadways in this area will maintain two-way traffic.

Q: How long is that expected to last?

Turner: Motorists may expect minor traffic delays and bumpy road conditions until final completion of the project in early July 2010.

Q: What are the reasons for the Arc Light Road Realignment project?

Turner: This project was initiated



Under Construction: Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas contractors perform re-alignment construction near Arc Light Memorial Park on Andersen Air Force Base March 3. Construction is projected to be completed in early July. (U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Ben Turner)

ed to relocate non-operational traffic away from the mission essential operations of the nearby flight line, and improve overall road safety for airmen, family members and base

patrons with smoother and safer thoroughfares.

Q: When can we expect all the construction to end?

Turner: Construction is sched-

uled to be complete in early July 2010.

Look for future project updates from the 36th Wing Public Affairs office.



Iwo Jima: Island had h

Continued from Page 1

the bomber stream.

In addition, the island served as a staging point for Japanese bombers and fighter-bombers, which flew down from their home islands to attack various B-29 bases between October 1944 and January 1945. Despite the fact that the 11th and 30th Bomber Groups flew 48 separate missions against Iwo Jima from August to October 1944, Lt. Gen. Tadamichi Kuribayashi, commander of the Japanese Iwo Jima garrison, had enough resources to build a formidable defense complex. By the time of Operation Detachment, the island's strength had quadrupled and its defense fortifications had been completely reworked.

Meanwhile, aircraft staging through Iwo Jima began to harass the mounting B-29 fleet in the Mariana Islands. Army Air Forces Pacific Ocean Area took this threat to the B-29s seriously. The small Japanese raids on the Mariana Islands were costly to the Superfortress force. From two operational airfields on Iwo Jima, Ki-45 Nicks, A6M Zeros, and other sundry small and medium bombers staged operations to annoy the U.S. bomber force, especially on Saipan. For example, in strikes from Nov. 2, 1944 to Jan. 2, 1945, Japanese aircraft destroyed 11 B-29s outright and damaged another 47 seriously on Isley

Field, Saipan. Though losing as many as the approximately 80 aircraft that staged raids, the Japanese had hit upon a tactical - destroy the bombers before they arrived over Japan!

The Joint Chiefs of Staff decided Iwo Jima must be captured and a U.S. air base built there. This would eliminate Japanese surprise raids and the early warning interceptors provide fighter escorts throughout the dangerous portion of the long B-29 mission and enable greater payloads at longer ranges. Iwo Jima in American hands would also provide a welcome emergency field for B-29s returning from Tokyo. In October 1944, the Joint Chiefs directed Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, to seize and develop Iwo Jima in the ensuing three months. This led to Operation Detachment.

The U.S. sent more Marines to Iwo Jima than to any other battle. In 40 days, 19,000 Marines in 880 ships sailed from Hawaii to Iwo Jima. Including the sailors from the transport ships, the entire force for Iwo Jima was 54,000. The pre-landing bombardment had little effect as hardly any of the Japanese underground fortresses were touched. Only one thousand defenders of Japanese soldiers were killed in the volcanic rock of Iwo Jima. The Americans had previously awaited the Americans.

On Feb. 19, 1945, U.S. Marines landed on the ashore. Heavily laden, they found the



Huge strategic importance for airpower in World War II

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bility severely restricted. In the words of Marine Cpl E. Hartman, "The sand was so soft it was like trying to run in loose coffee grounds." From the 28th Marines came this early, laconic report: "Resistance moderate, terrain awful."

Under Kuribayashi's direction, Japanese engineers had planted irregular rows of anti-tank mines and anti-boat mines along all possible exits from both beaches to hinder the Marines' advance. The Japanese supplemented these weapons by rigging enormous makeshift explosives from 500-pound aerial bombs, depth charges and torpedo heads, each triggered by an accompanying pressure mine. Worse, Iwo Jima's loose soil retained enough metallic characteristics to render the standard mine detectors unreliable. Marines were reduced to using their own engineers on their hands and knees out in front of the tanks, probing for mines with bayonets and wooden sticks.

Over the days and weeks and seconds that followed Iwo Jima became the deadliest battle of World War II for the Marines. It was the first time in nearly 2000 years that an invading army had landed on Japanese soil. More U.S. Marines earned the Medal of Honor on Iwo Jima than in any other battle in U.S. history. In 36 days of fighting, there were 25,851 casualties. Of these, 6,825 Americans were

killed. All but 1,000 of the 22,000 Japanese died in the battle.

Iwo Jima became a symbol of the hardship of war at its bloodiest, of the hope of victory for the American cause, and of the character and the purpose of the United States Marines. The victory had huge strategic significance for the war effort as by the end of the war, more than 2,400 B-29 bombers made emergency landings on Iwo Jima.

On March 4, 1945 the fighting men of both sides witnessed the reason for all of their struggle and sacrifice. Through the overcast skies appeared a silver bomber, the largest aircraft anyone had ever seen. It was the Boeing B-29 Dinah Might, crippled in a raid over Tokyo, seeking an emergency landing on the island's scruffy main airstrip. As the Americans in the vicinity held their breaths, the big bomber swooped in from the south, landed heavily, clipped a field telephone pole with a wing, and shuddered to a stop less than 50 feet from the end of the strip. Lt. F. Malo and his 10-man crew were extremely glad to be alive, but they did not stay long. Every Japanese gunner within range wanted to bag this prize. Mechanics made field repairs within a half-hour. Then the 65-ton Superfortress lumbered aloft through a hail of enemy fire and headed back to its base in Tinian Island. The Marines cheered.

Most Marines were exhausted at this point in the battle. Occasional hot food delivered close behind the front lines, or more frequently fresh fruit and milk from the nearby ships, helped morale some. So did watching more and more crippled B-29s soar in for emergency landings, often two or three a day.

"It felt good to see them land," said Sgt. J. Lindsey, a Marine squad leader, "you knew they'd just come from Tokyo."

Iwo Jima in American hands produced immediate and highly visible benefits to the strategic bombing campaign. Marines fighting on the island were reminded of this mission time and again as crippled B-29 Superfortresses landed after bombing Japan. The capture of Iwo Jima served to increase the operating range, payload, and survival rate of the big bombers. The monthly tonnage of high explosives dropped on Imperial Japan by B-29s based in the Mariana Islands increased eleven-fold in March alone.

Nearly every day until the end of World War II, crippled bombers landed on Iwo Jima's airfields. The importance of the island hit its peak on June 7, 1945, when 102 B-29s landed on Iwo Jima and then again when 186 bombers landed on the island on July 24, 1945.

By war's end, a total of 2,451 B-29s made

forced landings on the island. This figure represented an estimated 26,961 flight crewmen, many of whom would have perished at sea without the availability of Iwo Jima as a safe landing strip. One B-29 pilot said, "Whenever I land on this island I thank God for the men who fought for it."

The island wasn't important to just bombers though, as early as April 7, a force of 80 P-51 Mustangs of VII Fighter Command took off from Iwo Jima to escort B-29s striking the Nakajima aircraft engine plant in Tokyo.

Between March and August 1945, the nearly 300 P-51s stationed on Iwo Jima flew 1,700 sorties. On the first mission, P-51 fighters shot down 21 enemy aircraft while losing only one of their own. The bomber crews witnessed America's revenge against Japanese fighters as they witnessed the difference that an escort of Mustangs could make. After completing their escort mission when opponent aircraft had been swept from the skies, the P-51s focused on destroying Japanese fighters on the ground. By July 1945 the P-51s had destroyed more planes on the ground than in the air.

Descriptions of the battle of Iwo Jima are provided by the 36th Wing Historian, Dr. Andreas Fischer.



Photos, clockwise from bottom left:

P-51: "MY GIRL" a P-51 takes off from Iwo Jima. From this hard-won base U.S. Air Force fighters escorted the B-29's on bombing missions to Japan, and also attacked the Empire on their own. Image was used in the book, "Third Report of the C.G. of the A.A.F. to the Secretary of War" in 1945 (U.S. Air Force photo)

Revisiting: Cyril O'Brian, a veteran of the battle of Iwo Jima, takes notes during a visit to the Heritage Museum here on March 1. O'Brian was a combat correspondent on Iwo Jima and Guam during World War II and is touring the area during the 65th anniversary of Iwo Jima. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Jamie Lessard)

Emergency: "Dinah Might," the first crippled B-29 to make an emergency landing on Iwo Jima during the fighting, is surrounded by Marines and Seabees on March 4, 1945. Department of Defense Photo (USMC) 112392

Down: B-29 after an emergency landing at Iwo Jima. (U.S. Air Force photo)

Remembering: Military members pin their ranks on a memorial on top of Mount Suribachi, which is dedicated to those veterans who lost their lives on Iwo Jima. Photo by Navy Photographer's Mate 1st Class Aaron Ansarov.

Waiting: Huddled under a canopy blanket beneath the Wing of his 7th Air Force P-51 fighter on Iwo Jima, Crew Chief SSgt. Anthony A. Belesi, cuts open dry K-rations. Mechanics remained on the flight line 14 hours from dawn to dark with no shelter. (USAF file photo)

Badges of Honor: A hat belonging to Howard Chappell, a veteran of the Battle of Iwo Jima, spent 14 days on the island and was awarded the Purple Heart and the Presidential Unit Citation. Chappell, who retired a private first class from the United States Marine Corp, is one of over 200 veterans and family members to visit the Pacific during the 65th Anniversary of Iwo Jima. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Jamie Lessard)



Doctors perform first hand transplant in DOD

By Staff Sgt. Vanessa Young

Defense Media Activity San Antonio

A team of military and civilian doctors performed the first-ever female hand transplant in the U.S. Feb. 17 at Wilford Hall Medical Center here.

Retired Master Sgt. Janet McWilliams is the 10th person in the U.S. to undergo this procedure and the first to have it done in a Department of Defense facility.

Almost nine years ago, the former first sergeant of Lackland AFB's 342nd Training Squadron, lost her left hand and her right hand was severely injured when a package bomb exploded in her office.

After years of surgical reconstruction and failed attempts to find a suitable prosthesis for her left arm, doctors asked McWilliams if she was willing to be put on a waiting list for a hand donor.

Since the incident, McWilliams said she underwent more than 25 surgeries for her injuries, but when her doctor suggested a hand transplant, she didn't stop to think; she immediately said, "Yes." On Feb. 16, a hand donor was identified.

"I received a gift, a hand," she said. "In the back of my mind, I've always wanted to have a hand. This wonderful family gave me that gift. I'm so honored to have this hand."

In contrast to an organ donor, selecting a donor for a hand transplant recipient involves additional emphasis on matching skin tone color, gender and the size of the hand, said Dr. Joe Nespral, the director of Clinical Services at the Texas Organ Sharing Alliance.

Two weeks after the surgery, McWilliams already experienced movement in her thumb and fingers, said Maj. (Dr.) Dmitry Tudor, who was part of the surgical transplantation team and is the chief of Hand and Upper Extremity Service at Wilford Hall. However, he said, it would take at least six months for her to regain any feeling in her new hand.

This transplant, McWilliams said, is not only a significant occasion for her, but for all wounded warriors.

"I am hoping that I can open the door for other wounded warriors who are coming back from Iraq, Afghanistan and other areas of the world who've lost hands (or) arms," she said. "Hopefully this will provide hope for them as well as receiving something back that is absolutely priceless and that is our dignity."

Whenever she's in the hospital, Sergeant McWilliams dons a hospital gown with her former first sergeant rank and the patches of her former units. She said she hopes the news of this procedure gives wounded warriors another choice and helps them decide if this type of procedure is for them.

To date, no active-duty individuals have undergone this procedure, said Army Col. (Dr.) James Ficke, the chairman of Wilford Hall and Brooke Army Medical Center Integrated Departments of Orthopedics and Rehabilitation. There are about 50 wounded warriors who have an injury that may be eligible for this type of procedure.

Along with Sergeant McWilliams, only one former Marine has received a hand transplant, but his procedure was done at a civilian facility.

Sergeant McWilliams faces months of occupational therapy, and in a year's time, Doctor Tudor said he hopes she will have enough function to perform daily activities.

"The journey is going to be rough; it's not going to be easy," she said. "There's nothing you can't do in life. 'No,' is not part of my vocabulary. This beautiful hand

will certainly become a part of my body. Now, after all these years, I can finally wear that engagement ring again and my wedding band. It is just absolutely priceless."

Transplant: Retired Master Sgt. Janet McWilliams became the first female to undergo a hand transplant Feb. 17 at the Wilford Hall Medical Center, Texas. She is the 10th person to undergo the procedure in the U.S. and the first to have it done at a Defense Department facility. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Bennie J. Davis III)



McCool, AES celebrate Read Across America Week

By Oyaol Ngrairikl

Joint Region Edge Staff
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Commander William C. McCool Elementary/Middle School and Andersen Elementary School (AES) celebrated Read Across America Week March 1-5.

Read Across America, sponsored by the National Education Association (NEA), is an annual reading motivation and awareness program that centers around March 2, the birthday of acclaimed children's author Dr. Seuss.

McCool students, several of whom were sporting the red and white hat worn by Dr. Seuss' infamous character, the Cat in the Hat, attended a school-wide assembly March 2. During the assembly, there was a read-along with school Principal Don Christensen; several students read original poems about books they read; and the Cat in the Hat also made an appearance.

The school also held various activities throughout the week, including school-wide reading time and Dr. Seuss arts and crafts.

"The week is tied to Dr. Seuss' birthday because he played a very important role in getting children to read with these incredibly imaginative books," said Frances McDonald, McCool reading coordinator. "We just want children to enjoy reading. That's really the message we want to send out."

Motivating children to read is an important factor in student achievement and creating lifelong successful readers, educators said. Research has shown that children who are motivated and spend more time reading do better in school.

Educators said the week also emphasizes how fun reading can be. Rhonda Mojkowski, AES reading coordinator, said AES' theme this year reflected that spirit of fun, but also reflected the lives of military children who have the opportunity

to live in different countries. The theme was "Oh, the Places You'll Go," which is the title of a book by Dr. Seuss.

During the week, AES students decorated their doors, listened to Dr. Seuss books read by guest readers and studied Dr. Seuss' life and contribution to literacy.

Mojkowski said the AES Parent Teacher Organization supported the week's activities by purchasing copies of "Oh, the Places You'll Go" so teachers could read it to students.

Mojkowski added parents can do so much more to develop "a lifelong love of reading."

"Parents are students' first teachers they should read, read, read to their children," she said. "They can also encourage their children to read, by being readers themselves. Research has shown that when parents are seen reading... then children will copy that reading behavior."

Missy Gingrich, McCool assistant principal, said the reading cel-

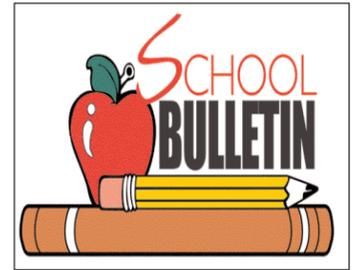
ebration supports student learning in the classroom and the Department of Defense Education Activity curriculum standards.

"When we have our reading celebration, not only does it focus on our standards and our core of reading," Gingrich said. "It also rejuvenates everybody and gives them that extra oomph this time of year that we need as we head down to June for that time of year to celebrate."

McDonald also encouraged parents to read at home with their children.

"Even if it's having conversations about books that children are reading, it can be any book that they read," McDonald said. "The conversation that goes on, that sharing and questioning really gets the children thinking which is what reading is all about."

To learn more about Read Across America visit <http://www.nea.org/readacross>.



School Bulletin aims to promote educational activities in the Navy community. If you know of an education-related event that you would like to include, send it to jointregionedge@fe.navy.mil or call 339-7113.

Navy College Office

SAT proctored exams will be administered March 16 and 23. To make your appointment or for more information, call 339-2485.

Andersen Education Center

Andersen Education Center The Department of Defense has launched a free, online tutoring service for service members and their families. The site www.tutor.com/military offers round-the-clock professional tutors who can assist with homework, test preparation, resume writing and more. This site provides academic and career support for military families, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For more information, call 366-2590.

Navy Home School Support Group

There is a newly formed Home School Support Group of Navy families. Interested home schooling families can join the group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GuamNavyHomeschool/join>. For more information, call Christine Dupplissey at 564-3360.

DoDEA

All Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) Pacific-Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools (DDESS)-Guam Schools are preparing to administer the TerraNova, 3rd Edition, to students in third-11th grades March 15-19. Parents are asked to help students prepare by ensuring good study habits, plenty of sleep, and providing nourishing meals, and encouragement.

Andersen Elementary

•Spring Book Fair is March 15-17, 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. in classroom B5.

•Parents are encouraged to volunteer on the School Year 2010-2011 Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) board. For more information about vacancies, contact Glynda Richter at andersen_aesp-to@yahoo.com.

McCool Elementary/Middle School

School bands will perform at the Tumon Bay Music Festival March 16 at the Hyatt Regency Guam Resort and Spa. Beginning Band plays at 6 p.m. and Advanced Band plays at 7 p.m.



Real Character: The Cat in the Hat, played by a Commander William C. McCool Elementary/Middle School student, greets students during an assembly at the school's gym March 2. (U.S. Navy photo by Oyaol Ngrairikl)



Reading: Tricia Allen, an Andersen Elementary School teacher, reads a Dr. Seuss book to a group of fifth-graders March 5. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Julian North)

WebTA saves students time

By Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class (SW)

Corwin Colbert

Joint Region Edge Staff

The Navy College Office Guam will begin using an online application system, WebTA, to process and route tuition assistance (TA) packages for Sailors effective March 26.

WebTA is a Navy College Program application that is intended to be a faster, easier and more efficient way to process TA applications.

"WebTA is streamlining the tuition assistance process and freeing up our Sailors from unnecessary paperwork and redundant traveling to and from the Navy College office," said Charles Wright, the director of the Navy College Office located on U.S. Naval Base Guam. "Sailors will still have to travel to the Navy College office for counseling, academic advice and to rectify any discrepancies in regards to tuition assistance, however, routine visits to process tuition assistance requests are eliminated."

In addition to fast processing,

WebTA allows Sailors to see their current TA usage or availability and review their documents for accuracy, sign, and submit the applications to their school for payment. It provides education information 24 hours a day from any computer at home, work, on a ship or deployed.

Wright said Guam Sailors must get a WebTA brief to learn how to use the Web site.

"Here on Guam, Sailors need to get the WebTA brief from my office, route the request for TA up their chain of command and, once approved, submit their TA application in WebTA," Wright said. "At the command, the application gets routed to the command approving authority, and then it goes to the Navy College Office for final approval."

The Navy College Office Guam will no longer accept any paper TA applications after March 26. The only exception is Sailors stationed on submarines.

Sailors can find the online application at <https://myeducation.netc.navy.mil> or <https://eta.cnet.navy.mil>. For more information, call 339-8291.

The Guam Hymn — Fanohge Guam



Anthem: Ray Miranda, left, program analyst for Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas, sings the "Guam Hymn," at the Seabee Ball held at Hotel Nikko Guam March 6. (U.S. Navy photo by Jesse Leon Guerrero)

By Jesse Leon Guerrero

Joint Region Edge Staff
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When people on Guam get together to watch a live sporting event, hold a government or military ceremony, and participate in many social gatherings, usually the first thing done is to sing the national anthem and "Guam Hymn."

For many local residents, the hymn is known simply as "Fanohge Chamorro," which is often translated as "Stand Ye Guamanians."

Dr. Ramon Sablan, a high school principal who was sponsored by the Navy to pursue a medical career, first wrote the hymn in English in 1919. Dr. Ann Hattori, associate professor of history at the University of Guam, described Sablan as a very active member of Guam's community and a friend of the Department of the Navy, which governed Guam at that time.

"He was the first Chamorro M.D. and also he saw the benefits of cooperating with the Navy," Hattori said. "He encouraged (Chamorros) to improve their English."

The "Guam Hymn" was adopted as the official anthem for the territory and nearly 50 years passed before it was translated into Chamorro by Lagrimas Untalan in 1974. Since then, the hymn is sung in Chamorro, which

"Guam Hymn" (also known as Fanohge Chamorro)

Written in English by Dr. Ramon Sablan and translated to Chamorro by Lagrimas L.G. Untalan

Chamorro verse 1:

Fanohge Chamorro put it tano'-ta
kanta i matuna-na gi todú i lugat
para i onra, para i gloria
abiba i isla sinparat.

para i onra, para i gloria
abiba i isla sinparat.

Chamorro verse 2:

Todu i tiempo i pas para hita
yan ginen i langet na bendision.
kontra i piligru na'fansafo ham
yu'os prutehi i islan guam
kontra i piligru na'fansafo ham
yu'os prutehi i islan guam.

English verse 1:

Stand, ye Guamanians for your country
and sing her praise from shore to shore.
For her honor, for her glory
exalt our island forever more.
For her honor, for her glory
exalt our island forever more.

English verse 2:

May everlasting peace reign o'er us.
May heaven's blessing to us come.
Against all perils, do not forsake us.
God protect our isle of Guam.
Against all perils, do not forsake us.
God protect our isle of Guam.

helps promote the language in schools and other settings.

For many, "Fanohge Chamorro" is a patriotic song that lends insight into the culture of Chamorros almost 100 years ago, and is not that different from how many residents feel about Guam today.

The hymn speaks of protection against per-

ils, which Hattori said can be a reference to typhoons or the outbreak of wars. Hattori pointed out the hymn also has a religious tone to it, probably due to how central Catholicism was to a majority of the island's population.

"The whole social life was based around fiestas, baptisms, weddings and funerals," Hattori said.

FREE

St. Patrick's Coloring, Crossword, Vocabulary & Trivia Contest

Join the U.S. Naval Base Guam Library for their St. Patrick's Day contest. Pick up your materials at the library today. Contest submissions are due March 17, 3:30 p.m. For more information, call 564-1836.

NBA Live '09 Tournament

Tournament is March 18, 7 p.m. at Single Sailor Sanctuary. Open to single Sailors or geographical bachelors only. For more information, call 564-2280.

Karaoke Night

Enjoy a night of music and fun March 19, 7 p.m. at Silver Dolphin. For more information, call 564-2474 or 339-6130.

Modern Warfare II Tournament

Tournament is March 22, 7 p.m. at Single Sailor Sanctuary. Open to single Sailors or geographical bachelors only. For more information, call 564-2280.

Illusionist Rob Lake

Armed Forces Entertainment presents illusionist Rob Lake in two shows: March 23, 6 p.m. at Meehan Theater on Andersen Air Force Base (AFB); and March 24, 6:30 p.m. Big Screen Theater on U.S. Naval Base Guam (NBG). For more information about the Andersen AFB show, call 366-2339. For more information about the NBG show, call 564-1830.

National Boy & Girls Club Week

Image Makers Photo Express Class will be held March 22, 4-5 p.m. at U.S. Naval Base Guam Teen and Youth centers. For more information, call 339-6130/564-2474.

National Boy & Girls Club Week

Ultimate Journey Community Clean up March 23, 4-5 p.m. at U.S. Naval Base Guam Teen and Youth centers. For more information, call 339-6130/564-2474.

New Child Development Home Orientation

Event is March 22-26, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at U.S. Naval Base Guam Child Development Center and is open to active-duty spouses residing in Navy Housing. For more information, call 564-1844 or 688-3753.

Chamorro Village Trip

Single Sailor Sanctuary offers a free trip to Chamorro Village March 24. Trip is free but bring money for food. Van leaves Single Sailor Sanctuary at 6 p.m. and Silver Dolphin at 6:30 p.m. Open to single Sailors or geographical bachelors only. For more information, call 564-2280.

U.S. Naval Base Guam Library Story Time

Every Wednesday from 3:30-4 p.m. at the NBG Library. For more information, call 564-1836.

March Sunday Special at Gecko Lanes

Kids bowl free Sundays in March when accompanied by mom or dad who pay regular price. For more information, call 366-5117.

St. Paddy's Day Party

Join the party March 17, 8-10 p.m. at Hightides Lounge in Top of the Rock. Event is free and will feature costume and karaoke contests, party favors and more. For more information, call 366-6166.

UNDER \$10

Hike - Mt. Schroeder to Ija

Rated very difficult. Meet at Rec N' Crew March 20, 8:15 a.m. Cost is \$5. Register by March 19, 1 p.m. For more information, call 564-1826.

Zumba Party '80s Style

Mark your calendars for this rhythm-filled event scheduled for March 20, 6-9 p.m. at Top O' the Mar. Cost is \$5 per person on the day of the event. Purchase tickets at Charles King Gym. Come in your best dressed '80s outfit and win a prize! There will be prizes for best-dressed adults and children. For more information, call 564-1856.

Hike Sinisa Falls

Rated medium. Meet at Rec N' Crew March 20, 8:15 a.m. Register by March

19, 1 p.m. For more information, call 564-1826.

Hike to Sigua Falls with Outdoor Recreation

Rated difficult. March 21, 7:45 a.m. This is a 6.5-mile hike and is for ages 15 and up. Cost is \$5 per person. For more information, call 366-5197.

Game Time Sports Grill

Begin or end your day with a delightful meal at Game Time Sports Grill. The overlook of the golf course offers a relaxing atmosphere for breakfast, lunch or dinner. Breakfast specials are served daily ranging from \$4.50-\$5.50. Breakfast hours are 6-10:30 a.m. Lunch specials also served daily and are only \$6.95 with fountain soda. Lunch hours are 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Also enjoy 18 holes of golf and a lunch package available at the Pro Shop at \$46 per person. For more information, call 344-5838 or 734-2155.

Breakfast at Top of the Rock

Starts below \$10. Breakfast hours are: Monday-Friday, 6:30-9:30 a.m. Saturday-Sunday, 7:30-9:30 a.m. For more information, call 366-6166.

2 for 1 at Gecko Lanes

Get two games for the price of one and have twice the fun Monday-Saturday, 6-10 p.m. For more information, call 366-5085.

Fajita Dinner at Café Latte

Base price for adults' dinner is \$2.95, and \$1.50 for children ages 6-12. All condiments are 75 cents per ounce. Every Tuesday, 5-7:30 p.m. For more information, call 366-6166.



Husking and making use of the coconut

By Jesse Leon Guerrero
Joint Region Edge Staff
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On an island, coconuts aren't just an ever-present part of the outdoor scenery. They are also part of the culture of the people. Here on Guam, Chamorros use the husk and the shell of the nut for arts and crafts items and utensils, while the meat and juice are a popular food source.

In the Chamorro language, coconut is called "niyok" (knee-zook). To make the most use of this large seed, it's important to handle it properly, especially if it's going to be eaten.

Donny Borja, a recreation aide for Navy Morale, Welfare and Recreation, said the first thing to do is make sure you choose a good coconut.

"When you shake it, you want to make sure there's juice inside and there's nothing growing out of it," Borja said.

The nut is covered by a husk of thick fibers, which can be pulled apart by a sharpened instrument. A sharpened stick will work, but Borja said it's more efficient to work with harder tools such as a sharp-

ened rebar, pick axe or garden pick.

Place the coconut horizontally onto the spiked edge and push down to separate a section. Keep peeling off sections and this will expose the nut. Remove all the fibers to prevent them from contaminating the meat inside.

To get to the meat and juice, hold the coconut horizontally and strike it several times with a machete or similarly long, sturdy blade. Do not strike with the sharpened part because it's a safety hazard and unnecessary. Use the blunt side instead. Turn the coconut after each strike and try to keep the cracked line continuous all the way around.

When the coconut is split in half, pour the juice into a cup or other container. The juice will have a slightly sweet taste as long as it's fresh and uncontaminated.

For the meat, you can use almost any utensil to grind or cut the meat out, but a "kamyoy" (come-zoo) is what many Chamorros use as a coconut grinder. A typical kamyoy is made with a narrow wooden base and a metal shredder at its front.

With a kamyoy, grind the meat out by placing the opened coconut half

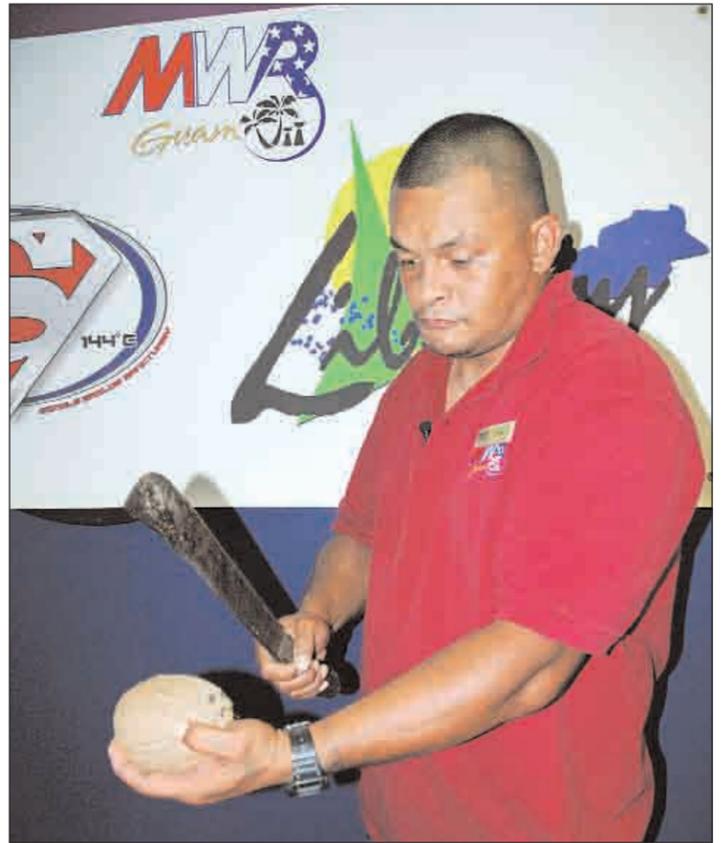
on the shredder and scrape three to four times before turning the shell to a new section of meat.

"You can get a coconut grinder at the local flea market," Borja said, referring to the Chamorro Village market open Wednesday and Friday nights in Hagatna.

Like the juice, coconut meat can be eaten raw. It is also cooked into Chamorro meals for fish, beef, chicken and even as a dessert.

For most recipes, coconut meat is used to make coconut milk. This is simply done with coconut meat and water. Add just enough water to let the meat sit completely and absorb the moisture into a porridge-like consistency. After about 10 minutes, squeeze the meat and collect the flowing milk into a container.

Cracking the Coconut: Donny Borja, a recreation aide for Navy Morale, Welfare and Recreation, opens a coconut with the blunt side of a machete at Single Sailor Sanctuary on U.S. Naval Base Guam Feb. 25. The coconut meat and juice inside the shell are used in a wide range of Chamorro food recipes. (U.S. Navy photo by Ray Torres)



OVER \$10

Kayak Achang Reef Flats
Rated easy. Cost is \$15 for single and \$25 for double, cost includes equipment, water and transportation.
Show at Rec N' Crew at March 18, 8:15 a.m.
For more information, call 564-1826.

Outdoor Recreation Fishing Trip
Scheduled for March 20, 7 a.m. Cost is \$70 per person and includes transportation and

fishing gear. For more information, call 366-5197.

Andersen Arts & Crafts Center

The following classes will be held March 20:

Digital Photography II, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Paper Plate Fish Craft, 12:45-2:15 p.m.

Intro to Watercolor Class (part 1), 2:30-4:30 p.m. (Part 2 will be held March 27, 1-3 p.m.) For more information, call 366-4248.

\$28 March Lube Special
The Auto Hobby Center is offering a \$28 Lube Special throughout March. For \$28 the service personnel will drain and replace up to 5 quarts of standard motor oil, replace oil filter with a standard oil filter, check and advise on current engine oil condition, lubricate chassis (if applicable), check tires, power steering fluid, windshield washer fluid, radiator fluid, brake/clutch fluid, coolant, inspect wiper blades and service lube if needed. This service is for passenger vehicles only. Price may vary depending on vehicle size. Price does not include fluids and

parts. If vehicle requires more than five quarts of oil, additional charges will be applied. For more information, call 366-2745.

Orote Point Lanes Family Deal

Family Value Package at Orote Point Lanes everyday, cost is \$40 per lane with a limit of five people. Package not available Monday-Thursday, 6-9 p.m. (League Nights). Fee covers two hours of bowling, shoe rentals for five people, one large single topping pizza, and one pitcher of soda. For more information, call 564-1828.



FRIDAY, MARCH 12

7 p.m.: The Tooth Fairy • PG

SATURDAY, MARCH 13

2 p.m.: The Tooth Fairy • PG
7 p.m.: The Lovely Bones • PG-13

SUNDAY, MARCH 14

7 p.m.: Edge of Darkness • R

The movie schedule is subject to change due to circumstances beyond Meehan Theaters on Andersen Air Force Base. **The Meehan Theater hotline is 366-1523.**



FRIDAY, MARCH 12

7 p.m.: The Spy Next Door • PG
9:30 p.m.: Edge of Darkness • R

SATURDAY, MARCH 13

1 p.m.: Leap Year • PG
3:30 p.m.: The Lovely Bones • PG-13
7 p.m.: Youth in Revolt • R

SUNDAY, MARCH 14

1 p.m.: The Tooth Fairy • PG
3:30 p.m.: When in Rome • PG-13
7 p.m.: Legion • R

The schedule is subject to change due to circumstances beyond the theater's control. **The Big Screen Theater hotline is 564-1831 or visit mwrguam.com.**

(Source: Navy Morale, Welfare and Recreation Office)

Chapel Schedule

Naval Base Guam

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 7 a.m.-4 p.m.

Roman Catholic Mass
 Monday-Wednesday, Friday
 11:40 a.m. Weekday Mass
 Saturday, 5:30 p.m. Mass
 Sunday, 9 a.m. Mass
 CCD Sunday, 10:15 a.m.
 Choir Practice
 Wednesdays, 6 p.m.
 Protestant Worship
 Service
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m.
 Protestant Sunday School
 Sunday, 9 a.m.

Women's Bible Studies
 first & third Wednesday
 8:30 a.m.

Women's Studies
 Second & fourth
 Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.

Choir Practice
 Tuesdays, 6 p.m.
 Jewish Shabbat
 Fridays, 6:30 p.m.

Naval Hospital Guam

Roman Catholic Mass
 Sunday, 9 a.m.
 Monday-Friday, 11:30 a.m.
 CCD
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m.

Andersen Air Force Base

Roman Catholic Mass
 Chapel 1
 Saturday, 5 p.m.
 Sunday, 9:30 a.m.
 Monday-Thursday, 11:30
 a.m.

Sunday Protestant
 Worship
 Chapel 2
 General Worship 9 a.m.
 Inspirational Gospel 11:30
 a.m.

Sunday Religious
 Education
 Chapel 2
 Catholic R.E., 8 a.m.
 Protestant R.E., 10:30 a.m.

*Schedules subject to
 change without notice. To
 confirm times or for more
 information about the pro-
 grams, call the chapels at
 the following numbers:*

Andersen Air Force Base
 366-6139
 Naval Base Guam
 339-2126
 Naval Hospital Guam
 344-9127

Still Moments



CGO of the Year: Capt. Jason M. Aftanas, of 554th RED HORSE Squadron, is congratulated by Brig. Gen. Phil Ruhlman, Commander, 36th Wing, and Command Chief Master Sgt. Allen Mullinex during the Feb. 19 36th Wing Annual Awards ceremony at Andersen Air Force Base. Aftanas won the Company Grade Officer (CGO) of the Year award. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Jeffrey Schultze)



First Sergeant of the Year: First Sergeant of the Year winner Senior Master Sgt. Paul Cornell, 36th Contingency Response Group, is congratulated by Brig. Gen. Phil Ruhlman, Commander, 36th Wing, and Command Chief Master Sgt. Allen Mullinex during the Feb. 19 36th Wing Annual Awards ceremony. Many awards were given that night. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Jeffrey Schultze)



Honor Guard of the Year: Senior Airman Jermaine Dias, of the 36th Mission Support Group, won the Honor Guard of the Year the 36th Annual Awards ceremony Feb. 19 at Andersen Air Force Base. Brig. Gen. Phil Ruhlman, Commander, 36th Wing, left, and Command Chief Master Sgt. Allen Mullinex, right, congratulated him for his win and thanked him for his hard work. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Jeffrey Schultze)



Civilian of the Year: Jennifer Andree, center, of 36th Medical Group won the Civilian of the Year (Category 1) award, is congratulated by Brig. Gen. Phil Ruhlman, Commander, 36th Wing, and Command Chief Master Sgt. Allen Mullinex during the Feb. 19 36th Wing Annual Awards ceremony held Feb. 19 at Andersen Air Force Base. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Jeffrey Schultze)



Civilian of the Year: Civilian of the Year (Category 2) winner William O'Meara Jr; of 36th Mission Support Group, is congratulated by Brig. Gen. Phil Ruhlman, Commander, 36th Wing, and Command Chief Master Sgt. Allen Mullinex during the 36th Annual Awards ceremony held Feb. 19 at Andersen Air Force Base. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Jeffrey Schultze)



Civilian of the Year: Civilian of the Year winner Arthur Hameister, 36th Mission Support Group, is congratulated by Brig. Gen. Phil Ruhlman, Commander, 36th Wing, and Command Chief Master Sgt. Allen Mullinex during the 36th Wing Annual Awards ceremony held Feb. 19 at Andersen Air Force Base. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Jeffrey Schultze)

To infinity and beyond

By Capt. David R. Leonard

36th Wing, Andersen Air Force Base

It's 6 a.m., I'm 40 years old, and it's my day off. There is a loud knock on the door followed by an impatient voice yelling "To infinity and beyond!"

My 3-year-old son thinks sleeping in is overrated. This is when I brush the sleep from my eyes and ask myself, "Aren't I too old for this?"

In fact, I was done having kids more than

10 years ago. God has an awesome sense of timing. It was almost three years ago to the day when my wife came home with a new job and extra income. I had wonderful plans for the new windfall, but sure enough, God led us in a direction we weren't expecting.

I would like to share some of our family experiences as a source of encouragement and challenge. We had often talked about adoption and we knew that we wanted to adopt a child from a foreign country. Our hope was to provide a home and a future that could not be possible for a child born to an orphanage.

We learned a lot over the next two years — not least of which was adoption can be expensive. However, we chose to focus our energy on learning about the reputation and purpose of the agencies. Our research into this was vital for peace of mind in this faith journey. We wanted to work with an adoption agency that attempted, one child at a time, to impact in a positive, caring way the world of the 44 million

orphaned children.

The next barrier was the hardest of the adoption process — working through the 'forever' waiting period. Typically it takes two to three years for a healthy child to be adopted from a foreign country. This is

because it takes months to determine if the child has family, is he/she truly an orphan and finally, the governmental red tape.

We prayed each night, hung stockings out each Christmas, sent gifts, and hoped

for the day that we would get the call. It finally came ten months ago telling us we had approval to travel. We packed our bags, kissed our girls, and got on a plane to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

I wished that I could describe the day that we met Nathan. It is sort of a blur to my memory. What I can tell you is that the adoption of a child is no less of a miracle than a birth. The first time they call you "Baba" (Daddy), or wrestle with their sisters, or pretend they are Buzz Lightyear, you know that God has bound them forever to your heart.

My son's name means "gift of redemption." This is what his sweet life means to us. He is a gift that brings our family new hope and clarity. Many people ask why foreign adoption? I say, because love knows no boundary and hope has no color. I hope this has encouraged and challenged you to pray and remember the orphaned worldwide. Does God have a unique faith journey for you?



Teams in place for Latte Stone Cup

By Mass Communication Specialist
2nd Class (SW) Corwin Colbert

Joint Region Edge Staff
corwin.colbert@fe.navy.mil

Admiral Nimitz Golf Course and Palm Tree Golf Course held the qualifying rounds for the Latte Stone Cup Tournament March 5-6.

Navy and Air Force civilians and service members will compete against each other during the Latte Stone Cup March 13-14. Each participant will play against a member of the opposite service branch. Winners of the match will earn points for his service branch. At the end of the tourney, the points will be tallied and the winning branch will receive a trophy during a banquet at Admiral Nimitz Golf Course following the tournament.

"The Navy versus Air Force tournament has been going on for awhile but this is the first time we had a qualifier," said Dean Perez, a Navy Morale, Welfare and Recreation representative.

There were service members, Reservists and retirees who participated in the qualifiers with 11 players from each branch qualifying at the end of the day.

Electronics Technician 3rd Class John Seybold, of USS Frank Cable (AS 40), teamed up

with fellow Frank Cable shipmates Machinery Repairman 2nd Class (SW) Edgar Curata and Logistics Specialist 1st Class (SW) Jason Atos. They were there to have fun and show their Navy pride.

"I came here to qualify and represent the Navy," Seybold said. "I have been playing for 19 years. Golf is a great game especially to relieve some stress after a long day on the ship."

All three played well. However Curata and Seybold were the only ones from the group who made the final cut.

"All winners were notified; it was close and the patrons seemed to have a good time," Perez said.

The Latte Stone Cup Tournament will be held at Admiral Nimitz Golf Course with a 10:30 a.m. tee-off time.

Drive: Electronics Technician 3rd Class John Seybold, of USS Frank Cable (AS 40), participates in the qualifying round for the Latte Stone Cup Tournament at Admiral Nimitz Golf Course March 5. The Latte Stone Cup Tournament will bring together the best golfers from the Navy and Air Force March 13-14 at the Admiral Nimitz Golf Course. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class (SW) Corwin Colbert)



Sports Shorts

The following is a list of sports and health-related activities held on U.S. Naval Base Guam. To submit your sports note, e-mail jointregionedge@fe.navy.mil.

Typhoonz Swim Team

Practices are held Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 4-6 p.m. at the U.S. Naval Hospital Guam swimming pool. Registration is ongoing at Charles King Gym and the cost is \$60 per month. Interested swimmers must be eligible patrons between the ages of 6-18 and able to swim freestyle, butterfly, backstroke and breaststroke, and do a short dive and a flip turn. The team will be competing in Guam Swim Federation meets. For more information, call 564-1861.

The following is a list of sports and health-related activities held on Andersen Air Force Base. To submit your sports note, call 366-2228.

Golf Get Ready Program

Palm Tree Golf Course will soon offer the Golf Get Ready program for adults. You'll have two 5-session classes to choose from. The first 5-session class will be held April 6, 13, 20, 27, and May 4. The second 5-session class will be held on Saturdays April 10, 17, 24 and May 1 and 8. The cost of the program is just \$99, plus all participants will receive two free rounds of golf — a \$50 value. Sign up soon, as we can only take eight students per class. For more information, please call 366-4653.