

U.S. NAVAL BASE GUAM
Public Affairs Office
Main: (671) 339-2664/2663
E-Mail: NBGPAO@fe.navy.mil



PRESS RELEASE

Release 18-004

Naval Base Guam to Unveil Carabao “Forager”

SANTA RITA, Guam (March 14, 2018) – Biba Mes Chamoru and Go Navy... In the spirit of the partnership between the United States Navy and the island of Guam, we invite you to help us welcome aboard our newest shipmate, Forager the Carabao at 10 a.m., March 16.

U.S. Naval Base Guam (NBG) and Forager have joined the ranks of dozens of other painted carabao statues around the island, representing the culture, history and Chamorro spirit of the island and NBG.

Forager is part of the “Carabaos on Vacation,” an island-wide campaign celebrating culture and color, introduced by the Guam Chamber of Commerce Tourism Committee. Guam businesses and organizations purchased fiberglass carabaos, painted and decorated them, and placed them at various locations around the island. The NBG carabao will be located by the Welcome Aboard sign on base.

“We are happy to have our newest recruit welcome you and your family to Naval Base Guam and we are proud to be a partner in this wonderful island community, the Chamorro culture and our Navy’s heritage and history,” said Capt. Hans Sholley, NBG commanding officer.

Why Forager, you ask? Operation Forager was the code name of the massive seaborne and amphibious operation that liberated Guam and the Mariana Islands in the summer of 1944. We could think of no more fitting name to represent the Navy and its commitment to Guam than Forager, a name of which even Admiral Nimitz would be proud. We think you will agree.

Forager joins the NBG team as a result of a design contest last August, which selected three finalists from 67 entries. All entries were posted on the NBG Facebook page for the initial judging. More than 700 votes were cast. The top vote-getters were then submitted to a judging panel who decided on the winning design.

The winning concept was submitted by Courtney Joseph, a Navy spouse, and the two runners up were Reese Artero, a Guam High School student, and Chelle Reyes, a Morale, Welfare, and Recreation employee. These three designs were integrated into a final design which was hand painted by Chief Frank Horne, of NBG Dive Locker, his wife Nadia Horne, and Sholley.

Forager's design represents the island's beautiful seascapes and the sea power of the United States Navy. The starboard side pays homage to the great seal of Guam with hints of the NBG command crest. The familiar cliffs of Two Lovers Point are visibly flanked by two towering palms. The lush jungles and beautiful beaches surround the Pacific waters while the rising sun with rays inspired by the Naval Base crest, represent the island, "Where America's Day Begins." Finally in the distance, a galaide is symbolic of the Chamorro people's maritime heritage and the island's vibrant paddling community. And if you look closely at the silhouetted jungle scenes on Forager's legs, you may catch a glimpse of a latte stone or two.

The port side of Forager is an ocean scene depicting the modern sea power of the U.S. Navy in Guam. Exercising in a beautiful setting sun, a destroyer and a nuclear submarine ply the waters while two Island Knight helicopters fly sunset patrol under the watch of a section of FA-18 Hornets streaking off to an unseen carrier. Just like her legs on the opposite side, Forager's "sea legs" hide many island secrets to include corals, sea turtles, beautiful blue starfish and even a sunken MK-V dive helmet in tribute to the many underwater operation that happen in Guam's waters, both military and recreational. Finally, in the sunset clouds, Forager's "hull number" 44 is visible in a tribute to Guam's liberation, July 21st, 1944.

Finally on Forager's bow, you see the anchor from NBG's command crest and a chain and rope border yoking her neck with the words U.S. Naval Base Guam, all in tribute to our historic naval base. And if you are wonder why her horns are blue and red... carefully check out the command crest and you will see the ends of the "1899" banner are colored blue and red.

"Residents and visitors to the base are invited to stop by the unveiling ceremony and take a photo with our new shipmate," Sholley said.