

JOINT REGION EDGE

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NPC gets back to business

From Navy Personnel Command
Public Affairs

Just a week after torrential rains sent up to four feet of water across Naval Support Activity Mid-South (NSA) Millington, Navy Personnel Command (NPC), with the assistance of NSA personnel, have restored the majority of services that support the fleet.

The May 1 flooding caused base-wide power and phone outages, interrupted Internet access and damaged the servers that provide Navy and Marine Corps Intranet services to the more than 2,000 military, civilians and contractors that work at NPC as well as PERSNET which hosts a variety of systems that provide services to the fleet.

"We are incredibly lucky that no one was injured May 1st," said Rear Adm. Don Quinn, commander, Navy Personnel Command. "We, the entire Millington military community, all came together to support the local families who lost their homes and possessions and then turned to restoring our mission of supporting personnel in the fleet."

"Many of our NPC buildings were damaged by the flood. At least three buildings' first decks are still uninhabitable," Quinn said. "Most heavily damaged include the Reserve Personnel Management Division, the officer



After the Flood: Mark Vaughn and Russ Hilbert, civilian employees at Navy Personnel Command, take inventory of computer equipment damaged by flooding at Naval Support Activity Mid-South May 5. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class LaTunya Howard)

detailer offices and the computer server buildings."

The Reserve Personnel Management Division has relocated to the local Navy Operational Support Center and minimal services have been restored.

"We're open for business, and we're providing basic services now and hope to be at 90 percent by the end of this week. We expect to steadily add to the services we're providing as they become available," said Capt. Greg Smith, assistant chief for Reserve Personnel

Management.

"We ask for patience as we bring more processes back online. We want to assure members of the Reserve force that their information is secure and that they can be proud of the way their fellow Reservists, active duty counterparts and civilian peers all pulled together to protect the computers and files that make up their records," Smith said.

The NPC Customer Service Center was also located in a heavily damaged building.

"We were able to relocate agents and get them back on the phones in a short period of time but ask that, for the next few days, only those with emergency questions call," said Fred Chambers, director, Customer Relations Management department.

"In addition to taking calls, we have begun processing the electronically submitted selection board packages. Members can check the status of their packages by logging into www.npc.navy.mil and select 'selection board status' in the upper right-hand box," Chambers said. "Also I would ask those who submitted any information via fax after 30 April to resubmit the information electronically."

Electrical power and most phones were restored by May 6 and some personnel began

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Martratt recognized for meritorious service

By Tech. Sgt. Michael
Andriacco

36th Wing Public Affairs

Joyce Martratt, the 36th Wing Commander's administrative assistant, was awarded the Meritorious Civilian Service medal in a local ceremony May 7.

The Air Force Meritorious Civilian Service medal is the second highest award for civilian employees of the Department of Defense, only surpassed by the Air Force Distinguished Civilian Service Award.

Martratt has worked as a civilian employee for more than 44 years, beginning as a clerk-typist in 1966. She's been promoted numerous times since then and has worked for more than 20 general officers

during her career.

Her skills, knowledge and abilities have led to her being hand selected to serve as a command administrative assistant for several squadron, group, wing headquarters and numbered Air Force headquarters since 1969.

Martratt has led a storied life, filled with challenges, losses and successes. Through it all she credits her faith with helping her make the best of things.

About her time in the Mongmong concentration camp during World War II, she says the one thing that stood out was the faith of the people, their constant prayers, and their faith in God.

"I always talk to my God," Martratt said, "And I say, 'God please help me out every day so that what-

ever I do, it's in your name.'"

In addition to her participation in her church, Martratt's community activism such as Asian Pacific Planning Committee member, Andersen Civilian Advisory Board (since 1975), 2009 Grand Marshall for San Isidro Festival, and more, has made her a pillar of the community

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Recognition: Joyce Martratt cuts the ceremonial cake with 36th Wing Commander Gen. Philip Ruhlman during her recognition luncheon for her 44 years of civilian service on Andersen Air Force Base (AFB) May 7. Martratt was recognized for her outstanding service to the Air Force by friends, family and Andersen AFB. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Jeffrey Schultze)



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to return to business.

"The www.npc.navy.mil Web site is back online, but at this time we have no ability to change or add information to the front page of the site. We will update information as soon as we can but until then we are still using social media avenues to inform the fleet," said Lt. Cmdr. Barbara Mertz, NPC public affairs officer.

Some selection boards were affected by the flood, the E-8 Active Duty board was suspended and the O-4 Staff Board was postponed along with some Admin Screening boards.

"The systems that support officer statutory boards are back up and have been tested. However, some systems that support Enlisted Boards are not up. Once the final systems are up and tested for the enlisted boards we'll update the schedule," said Capt. Leo Falardeau, NPC assistant commander for Career Progression. "The active O-4 Staff Board has now been rescheduled to convene on May 20. No boards have been cancelled. Everyone will still get their chance in front of their board."

According to Falardeau, the Active E-7 Board is a priority and NPC is working to minimize impact on the fleet to have a full as

possible "induction season" for the new chief selects.

Today, PERSNET is back online. It hosts BUPERS on Line (BOL), Electronic Military Personnel Records System (EMPRS), Electronic Service Record (ESR), Web-Enabled Record Review (WERR), Career Management System/Interactive Detailing (CMS/ID), Perform to Serve (PTS) and Fleet Rating Identification Engine (FleetRIDE), Physical Readiness Information Management System (PRIMS) and the Navy Standard Integrated Personnel System (NSIPS) which serve the whole Navy and all are back online.

"Navy Personnel Command is basically open for business," said Ann Stewart, deputy commander, Navy Personnel Command.

"We still would like the fleet to have some patience with us as we finish bringing the systems back up and getting the last of our folks relocated into new spaces," Stewart said.

She also asked the fleet to limit calls to emergencies this week as they move people into offices and set up phones and computers.

The NSA base commanding officer has warned it could take months to complete the building renovations for NPC's most severely damaged spaces according to

Stewart.

Stewart is committed to being back to providing full level of service to the Fleet soon as possible.

"As we continue to do reconstruction over the next months there may be short periods of power outages and loss of connectivity and we would appreciate people's continued understanding while we recover from this significant event," Stewart said.

For more news, visit www.navy.mil, or the Navy Detailer's Facebook page www.Facebook.com/navypersonnelcommand.

For more news from Chief of Naval Personnel, visit www.navy.mil/local/cnp/.

Martratt: Civilian honored for 44 years with Team Andersen

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and respected by all.

Professionally, Martratt has actively participated in many high-visibility distinguished visits, including former Republic of the Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos as he traveled to the U.S. for asylum,

then Vice President of the United States George H.W. Bush, and Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip of England.

These are not, by any means, the limit to her accomplishments and professional experiences, as the administrative assistant to the 36th Wing Commander, Martratt

supports the wing mission in a very direct way.

"Throughout her time in civil service, Joyce has been a major influence on the mission and Andersen's relationship with the community," said Brig. Gen. Philip Ruhlman, 36th Wing Commander. "Her key role in supporting the

commander's office was as essential during my tenure here as it was for every single one of the generals and leaders that have come before me."

Martratt was also recognized for her contributions by several community organizations and was presented with a variety of plaques,

pins and mementos.

While Martratt's recognition can be considered one of the high-points to her career, she has no intentions of slowing down and plans to continue to serve for as long as she is able, and can likely look forward to many more awards in the future.



Family Honor: Joyce Martratt receives recognition from her family for her 44 years of civilian service during a ceremony on Andersen Air Force Base (AFB) May 7. Martratt was recognized for her outstanding service to the Air Force by friends, family and Andersen AFB. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Jeffrey Schultze)

Air traffic controllers clear the air

By Senior Airman Shane Dunaway
36th Wing Public Affairs

For pilots of military aircraft to successfully complete missions, they must rely on several units on base, including Airmen from maintenance, munitions and weather career fields.

But for the pilots to receive the final green light, the airspace must be controlled and ready for aircraft entry. That's where the 36th Operations Support Squadron's (OSS) air traffic controllers come into play.

Air traffic controllers conduct their mission alongside their 36th OSS counterparts, including weather, airfield operations and aircrew flight equipment in order to accomplish all 36th Wing mission objectives.

"We enable the warfighter to fly, fight and win by guiding air traffic control to and from Andersen AFB," said Tech. Sgt. Jason Trickey, noncommissioned officer in charge of air traffic control training and standardization. "The airspace we're responsible for maintaining encompasses a 4.3 nautical mile radius from the center of the airport. In that airspace, we monitor all aircraft from surface level to 2,000 feet above ground level, or 2,600 feet above sea level."

Working with the Continuous Bomber Presence and Theater Security Package provides a unique opportunity for air traffic controllers here.

"Since we do not have permanently assigned aircraft here, it poses a challenge for us," Trickey said. "We can go from an average of 10 operations a day to around 200 operations during exercises. It differs from installations with permanently assigned aircraft because air traffic is a bit more consistent and pilots' familiarity with local operations is greater."

Air traffic controllers attend 16 weeks of technical training at Keesler Air Force Base,



Signaling: Staff Sgt. Samuel Parker, 36th Operations Support Squadron air traffic controller, demonstrates how air traffic controllers use a light gun to signal aircraft and other vehicles on the flightline on Andersen Air Force Base May 6. Air traffic controllers spend 16 weeks in technical training at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., to learn necessary skills applicable to their career field. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Shane Dunaway)

Miss., to hone their craft and build a disciplined foundation to prepare themselves for the daily stressors that come with the career field.

"We have to have good operational risk management (ORM) and look out for each other," Trickey said. "One mistake could lead

to a tragedy. Having sound ORM is a vital part of being an air traffic controller."

Air traffic controllers here embrace all challenges a fluctuating ops tempo brings to the table, and they use each opportunity as a stepping stone toward excellence.

"When our air traffic increases, it enables us to stay sharp and gives our new Airmen who haven't experienced consistent air traffic the experience needed to progress in our career field," said Staff Sgt. Samuel Parker, 36th OSS air traffic controller.

Naval Hospital Guam Sailor honored for saving life

By Jesse Leon Guerrero
Joint Region Edge Staff

Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Patrick Wheeler, of U.S. Naval Hospital Guam, was awarded a certificate of commendation by the Guam Police Department (GPD) during a ceremony at the Government House in Agana Heights, Guam, May 12 for helping save the life of an accident victim.

GPD Chief of Police Paul Suba presented the award in recognition of Wheeler's life-saving actions for an island resident who was hit by an automobile in rush-hour traffic Feb. 24. As he was heading home from

the naval hospital, Wheeler noticed the accident. He stopped at the crash scene, managed the pedestrian's bleeding from lacerations and abrasions, kept the pedestrian calm, and protected his spine by keeping him immobile.

"For me, especially as a corpsman, I don't ever see it as someone else's problem," Wheeler said. "I kind of always think of myself as 911. So whenever I see a situation like that, my first instinct is just to get out and help because for me that's just my job."

Wheeler provided not only immediate medical assistance but was also able to help assist first

responders before the pedestrian was transported to Guam Memorial Hospital, the island's only civilian hospital, for further care.

As a member of Naval Hospital Guam's General Surgery Department, where diagnostics and other endoscopy work are performed, caring for a collision victim is not Wheeler's usual type of work. However, the 20-year-old corpsman said the Navy's clinical, nursing and general surgery training helped hone all his skills.

According to Wheeler, it is very beneficial for Sailors to be in an environment that allows them to use and develop the skills that

they were taught at their rating schools.

"I think Naval Hospital Guam has been a really great place to do that," he said.

Wheeler said he was excited to have his wife and friends from the hospital present to watch him receive the award from GPD.

"It's a great gesture, and I really appreciate it," he said. "I don't necessarily feel I deserve anything for what I did, but it is nice to be recognized."

Wheeler's award presentation was part of a larger celebration of Police Week, which is a national week of tribute May 9-15 to men and women

working in law enforcement.

Speaking in front of Wheeler's friends and family, Government of Guam officials, and other guests, Suba praised Wheeler and said that protecting the community requires participation from all citizens of the community.

"We appreciate our military counterparts," Suba said. "Thank you, gentlemen, for being there to serve our entire nation and the world."

Wheeler is scheduled to make a permanent change of station from Guam in June when he will head to Field Medical Service School in North Carolina.

Selection boards rescheduled, Sailors' records safe

By Wm. Cullen James
Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

Selection boards have been delayed due to the May 1 flash flooding at Navy Personnel Command (NPC) but none will be canceled, according to Navy Personnel Command officials.

"The active E-8 board which was in progress has been suspended. We have also delayed the active O-4 staff board which was to convene next week — both until further notice," said Capt. Leo Falardeau, NPC assistant commander for

Career Progression.

"The floods damaged a substantial amount of equipment," Falardeau said. However, critical Sailor personnel data was pulled and saved. Falardeau also indicated personnel data held in NPC's computer systems are essential to the board proceedings and reclamation of that equipment is in progress.

"Once the computer systems come up, we will take a day to test them. If everything's in order, we will immediately formulate a plan to reconvene those boards,"

Falardeau said. "We will conduct all boards; it will just be at a later time."

Sailors wondering about the status of their board packages also need not worry.

"Nothing was lost; your documents are safe," said Greg Moody, deputy director of NPC's customer relations management. The Customer Service Center, which Moody oversees, processes all board packages for NPC.

"The storm that happened over the weekend didn't affect board correspondence," Moody said.

The mail facility at NPC did not flood. Additionally, all board correspondence was retrieved Friday afternoon and transported for processing.

Moody's staff was able to go back into the building after the water subsided to retrieve the board packages.

"We processed 372 packages and have moved some of our people to a location where they can more easily process packages," Moody said.

Packages are now flowing as normal into NPC via mail. However,

Moody said e-mailing and faxing packages into NPC is not recommended until further notice.

"Documents sent to the boards before the storm are safe," Moody said. The Selection Board Portal is active and available for service members to check the status of the packages processed through April 30 at <https://customerservice.ahf.nmci.navy.mil/Portal/page/portal/CSC/NPCHOME> on a CAC-enabled computer.

For more news from Chief of Naval Personnel, visit www.navy.mil/local/cnp/.

Staff Sgt. Ross gets job done for 554th RHS

By Senior Airman Shane Dunaway

36th Wing Public Affairs

A 'dirt boy' from the 554th RED HORSE Squadron (RHS) recently earned 'Top Performer' honors for his work ethic and dedication.

Staff Sgt. Derrick Ross, 554th RHS pavements and construction equipment craftsman, works as a construction crew leader at the Pacific Air Forces Regional Training Center.

"He was selected for this award because he's the go-to man in the shop," said Master Sgt. David Robin, 554th RHS first sergeant. "We've nicknamed him 'The Silent

Solution,' because he takes care of problems without complaining. He always has a smile on his face, and he always says 'No problem,' because handling business is no problem to this guy."

Although not a direct reporting official, Ross supervises, trains and mentors 15 Airmen on vital equipment such as bulldozers, graders, compaction equipment and asphalt pavers.

"The Air Force has given me a very marketable trade with lots of multi-skill knowledge," Ross said.

The Truro, Iowa, native joined the Air Force July 21, 2003.

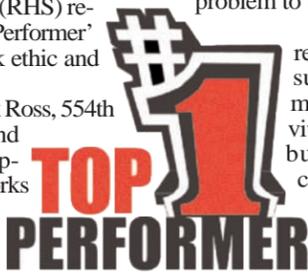
Ross is an active volunteer at Andersen Elementary School and

as part of the Airmen Against Drunk Driving program. When he's not at work or volunteering, Ross enjoys fishing, hanging out with friends, going to the drag strip and barbecuing.

Ross sees many positives from his decision to cross into the blue and do something amazing.

"I like the travel and education opportunities," Ross said. "I have met some very diverse and interesting individuals during my time in the Air Force."

On the Job: Staff. Sgt Derrick Ross, 554th Red Horse Squadron pavements and construction equipment craftsman, backfills a construction site at the Pacific Air Forces Regional Training Center on Andersen Air Force Base May 10. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Jeffrey Schultze)



NMCB 11 takes charge of Camp Covington



Change of Charge: Senior Chief Steelworker (SCW/SW) Michael Clodfelter, left, foreground, of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1, and Senior Chief Builder (SCW) Michael Grimes, right, foreground, of NMCB 11, secure NMCB 11's sign at a change of charge ceremony at Camp Covington on U.S. Naval Base Guam May 13. NMCB 1's 200 Sailors will return back to Gulfport, Miss. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class (SW) Corwin Colbert)

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NEX launches new online store

By Kristine M. Sturkie

Navy Exchange Service Command
Public Affairs

Authorized patrons of the Navy Exchange (NEX) now have the added convenience of shopping online with the launching of its new Web-based store at www.myNavyExchange.com.

The new Web site features select merchandise such as tactical gear, Navy uniforms, Navy Pride items, fitness apparel and shoes, motorcycle safety gear, watches and sunglasses.

"We want our NEX customers to be able to purchase great merchandise geared towards our Sailors online," said Karen Connery, Navy Exchange Service Command's (NEXCOM) director

of merchandising e-commerce. "This new online store will prove especially helpful for those customers who don't live near a NEX, like many of our Reservists, retirees and deployed active duty. We want all our customers to have access to the products they need at the great savings the NEX offers."

NEXCOM oversees NEX operations worldwide. According to NEXCOM officials, the new venture is the first phase in a major leap to satisfy the growing interest of online shopping in an extremely competitive retail industry.

In conforming with Navy regulations and privacy concerns, NEXCOM developed a secure system that validates authorized customers from those that aren't

eligible before accessing the online store. Once a customer is confirmed as an authorized patron, access is granted into the online store where they can shop and purchase merchandise. Once a transaction is completed, the site allows customers to track their purchases and the delivery process.

Customers can also purchase NEX Gift Cards on the new Web site. This feature continues to be available outside the customer validation firewall for both exchange-authorized and non-authorized customers. NEX Gift Cards can be purchased in varying amounts from \$5 and up and can be redeemed at any military exchange around the world.

To save on paper and postage, customers may also sign up to

receive the new digitally-enhanced NEX sales flyer rather than have one mailed to their home. The NEX also offers e-mail and text messaging services to inform customers of events at their local store, such as special sales events or guest appearances — all in an effort to enhance the convenience and shopping experience for the customer.

Customers can sign up for the free e-mail and text messaging services, find information regarding weekly sales, locate NEX stores and access customer service features on the new Web site. Customers can also follow what is happening at the NEX on Facebook, YouTube and Twitter.

NEXCOM's command-specific information has been relocated to a

new Web site domain under Naval Supply Systems Command's Web site. Information about NEXCOM's enterprise including the programs it oversees, such as Ship's Stores; Navy Clothing, Textile and Research Facility; Uniform Program Management Office; Navy Lodges and the Telecommunications Program, can be accessed at: <https://www.navsup.navy.mil>.

The NEXCOM Web site is located on the left hand side of the page under the section entitled "Our Team."

"Both public-access Web sites are cross-linked so customers can move from one site to the other with ease," said Connery.

For more news from Navy Exchange Service Command, visit www.navy.mil/local/nexcom/.

Team Andersen celebrates National Nurses Week

By Senior Airman Shane Dunaway

36th Wing Public Affairs

May 6 marked the start of National Nurses Week, a weeklong recognition period designed to celebrate nurses' and medical technicians' contributions to their patients' medical care needs nationwide.

Team Andersen senior leaders from the 36th Medical Group clinic showed their appreciation by purchasing lunch for their staff and thanking them for a job well done throughout the year.

"We take caring for our patients very seriously," said Lt. Col. Margaret Carey, 36th Medical Operations Squadron (MDOS) commander and chief nurse. "The nurses and techs are part of a team that works very hard to provide for our patients. I'm very proud and appreciate everything they do here in the clinic."

National Nurses Week also promotes healthy living choices and ideals. Nurses and techs discuss various topics with patients geared toward overall improvement of health.

"We accomplish this goal by educating our community on how to decrease blood pressure or cholesterol as well as informing the patient on the role a nurse plays between a patient and a doctor," said Capt. Cynthia Montesi, 36th MDOS family practice clinic nurse.

Nurses and techs each play different roles within the clinic here. Nurses assist providers by performing telephone consults with patients and assisting patients with overall health questions.

Techs here work closely with the providers to give information regarding patients' medical issues. They assist by taking blood pressure and other vital signs and processing patients into the clinic.

"The thing I like the most about my job is we get to meet a lot of people and we do our best to try and



Check: Staff Sgt. Nicole Reyes, 36th Medical Operations Squadron medical technician, performs a blood pressure check on a patient here May 10. Reyes is one of many outstanding team members on the clinic's staff. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Jeffrey Schultze)

help them," said Staff Sgt. Nicole Reyes, 36th MDOS aerospace medical technician. "We also get to work closely with the nurses and doctors, so we get to learn so much about the medical field."

The nurses and techs put forth immense efforts to ensure patients are provided quality medical care year-round.

"It's a morale booster for us to take a time-out to make the community aware that this is our week and if they want to give thanks, they can take the opportunity," Montesi said. "I think sometimes people get so busy with work that people forget to say what they appreciate about techs or nurses."

Spring and Summer Fire Safety

Each year, fires take lives and destroy numerous structures, resulting in mounting costs that have an enormous impact on families, communities and businesses. Fires also have devastating impacts on the environment and wildlife. Below is a list of zero- and low-cost safety precautions you can take to protect your home and workplace:

- If an appliance has a three-prong plug, use it only in a three-slot outlet. Never force it to fit into a two-slot outlet or extension cord.



Additional Tips

- Cooking equipment is the leading cause of unreported fires and associated injuries. Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.

Candles

- Ensure candles are in sturdy metal, glass, or ceramic holders and placed where they cannot be easily knocked down. Most importantly, keep candles out of reach of children and pets.

- Never leave the house with candles burning, and never leave burning candles unattended.

Electrical

- Routinely check your electrical appliances and wiring.

- Plug microwave ovens and other cooking appliances directly into an outlet. Never use an extension cord for cooking appliances, as it can overload the circuit and cause a fire.

For questions and concerns, contact your local Fire & Emergency Fire Prevention Offices:

U.S. Naval Base Guam:

339-6248/3484

Andersen Air Force Base:

366-5284

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

EEO Specialist
Naval Hospital, Guam
Nurse (clinical)
NAVFAC Marianas
Deputy Public Works Officer;
closes May 19

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.

My Air Force Life

Enter the My Air Force Life Original Song Competition and you could win a \$2,000 gift certificate to Musician's Friend, plus the adult category winner could have their song produced into a music video by the Pentagon Channel. Contestants must write a 3-4 minute song telling a story about what the following theme means to you: the Air Force is a great place to live, work, and play. There are two categories: adults, ages 18 and up; and youth, ages 12-17. Deadline for submission is May 23. For more information, visit <http://www.myairforcelifelife.com/>.

How has the military helped you with your college education?

The U.S. Armed Forces offers a number of programs to assist service members in attaining a college degree. Joint Region Edge asked service members on Guam how the military has helped them with their college education.



“Within two-and-a-half years, I’ve completed my bachelor’s degree in technical management, which happens to be related to the field that I’m in in the Navy – electronics technician. That experience was awesome to say the least. I used a portion of the GI Bill to cover that as well as tuition assistance at the same time. So a little bit of tuition assistance to begin with, some GI Bill at the end, and I have a bachelor’s degree.”

— Chief Electronics Technician (SW) Andre Wallace, USS Frank Cable (AS 40)



“The Air Force has helped me with my college career with my CCAF (Community College of the Air Force) degree and paid for most of everything. I’ve been able to move and work on my bachelor’s right now with hopes of getting my master’s soon.”

— Tech. Sgt. Kelly Dipierro, 644th Combat Communications Squadron



“I used the GI Bill – the first GI Bill – and it put me through college. I was able to get a four-year double major college degree in three years. So it helped me greatly.”

— Information Systems Technician 1st Class William Jefferson Davis, USS Frank Cable (AS 40)



“When I came into the military, I had taken a couple of college classes. Once I got in, I started working towards my degree and last month I finished my bachelor’s degree in applied science and technology with no money out of pocket except for books. Without the military I don’t know if all of that would have been possible.”

— Staff Sgt. Derek Greaves, 36th Operations Support Squadron

College grads to give back to families, junior personnel

By Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class (SW) Peter Lewis

Joint Region Edge Staff

More than 100 military and civilian college graduates were recognized during a graduation ceremony at Top O’ the Mar on Guam May 8.

Guest speaker Rear Adm. Paul Bushong, Commander, Joint Region Marianas, spoke of the difficulties that many students have faced due to demanding jobs and other commitments, and commended the graduates for their continued perseverance.

“You had the commitment to identify what needed to be done and the courage to stick to it,” Bushong said. “You have proven that you have the focus and dedication to get the job completed.”

Many of the new graduates agreed with Bushong’s sentiments, saying that their degrees were earned through tireless nights of study.

“It’s been a struggle to juggle work, a home life, friends and school,” said Tech. Sgt. Carrie Caudill, 36th Wing, who earned an associate’s degree in restaurant, hotel and fitness management from the Community College of the Air

Force (CCAF). “But all the work has been well worth it.”

Edward Dela Cruz, a civilian who earned a Bachelor of Science in information technology from the University of Phoenix, agreed with Caudill’s assessment of the time that went into earning a degree.

“I’ve had a lot of long nights of studying and missed out on a lot of parties,” Dela Cruz said. “But it was all worth it because this degree will help me provide a better life for my son.”

As the graduates marched across the stage to receive their degrees, which ranged from associate’s to

master’s degrees, family members and co-workers cheered, clapped and cried tears of joy.

“I am excited and so proud of my husband,” said Tracy Fanning, wife of Tech. Sgt. Christopher Fanning, of 734th Air Mobility Squadron, who earned an associate’s degree in aviation maintenance technology from the CCAF. “He is setting such a good example for our three kids and all of his junior Airmen. It’s really great that he can be honored like this.”

Fanning’s words were echoed by several military graduates who were eager to use their newfound expert-

ise toward the benefit of their commands and squadrons.

“I feel that I have attained a major accomplishment and am ready to move onto the next step,” said Staff Sgt. Michael Lewis, of 734th Air Mobility Squadron, who earned an associate’s degree in transportation from CCAF. “Now I have a better understanding of many aspects of my job and I can be a better mentor to my junior Airmen.”

For more information on earning a college degree, call the Navy College Office at 339-2485 or the Andersen Education Office at 366-3170.



Degree: Staff Sgt. Michael Lewis, right, of 36th Wing, Andersen Air Force Base (AFB), receives his associate’s degree in applied sciences from the Community College of the Air Force from Col. Tod Fingal, left, vice commander of 36th Wing, during a graduation ceremony at Top O’ the Mar on Guam May 8. Lewis was one of more than 100 students that were recognized by their peers and families during the ceremony. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class (SW) Peter Lewis)



College Grads: Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) graduates stand at attention during a graduation ceremony at Top O’ the Mar on Guam May 8. Twelve graduates from CCAF were among more than 100 students who had degrees conferred upon them during the ceremony. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class (SW) Peter Lewis)

Service members reflect on cultural diversity

By Oyaol Ngrairikl

Joint Region Edge Staff

The achievements and contributions of Asians and Pacific Islanders throughout the nation will be recognized throughout the month of May, which is Asian and Pacific American Heritage Month.

There are 276,079 Asian military veterans and 26,810 Pacific Islander military veterans who either are currently serving or have served in the United States military, according to a May 2, 2010 U.S. Census Bureau press release.

In a proclamation, President Obama noted how America's story is tied to the Pacific, an ocean that borders Asian countries including, Republic of Philippines and Japan, and that is home to Hawaii, Guam, and the freely associated states of Republic of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia and Republic of the Marshall Islands.

"Generations of brave men and women have crossed this vast ocean, seeking better lives and opportunities, and weaving their rich heritage into our cultural tapestry. During Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, we celebrate the immeasurable contributions these diverse peoples have made to our nation," Obama stated. "Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are a vast and diverse community, some native to the United States, hailing from Hawaii and our Pacific Island territories. Others trace their heritage to dozens of countries. All are treasured citizens who enrich our nation in countless ways, and help fulfill the promise of the American dream which has drawn so many to our shores."

Around the island, service members of Asian and Pacific Islander descent look at the month as a way to ensure others of the same heritage know the many opportunities available to them. It also serves as an educational platform to help today's service members and the younger generations understand the challenges of the past and the people who paved the way, opening doors of opportunity in the military today.

On Guam, military leaders and service members said this year's theme, "Leadership, Diversity, Harmony: Gateway to Success," captures how people from various cultures and backgrounds are helping to build the U.S. Armed Forces.

"Asian Pacific Americans have honorably contributed to every success of our United States in every walk of life. The dedication, commitment, heroism and valor of Asian and Pacific American men and women in our military can be traced all the way back to the Civil War, and continues today as we fight the war on terror," said Brig. Gen. Philip Ruhlman, Commander, 36th Wing. "Our United States Air Force is what it is today -- the world's premier air, space, and cyberspace force -- thanks to thousands of Asian and Pacific American Airmen who daily demonstrate the utmost of integrity, excellence and service before self while serving our great nation."

Staff Sgt. Katherine Caraballo,



Achievement: Rear Adm. Peter Gumataotao receives his new flag officer combination cover from his father-in-law during a ceremony Sept. 11, 2009. Gumataotao, the first Guamanian to achieve the rank of flag officer, was joined in the ceremony by his family, whom he credits with instilling many of the values he has built upon throughout his naval career. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Daniel J. Taylor)



Team Andersen: Staff Sgt. Katherine Caraballo, aerospace medical technician at Andersen Air Force Base (AFB) Medical Clinic, checks the vital signs of Staff Sgt. Douglas Sanchez, also with the medical clinic, May 6. (U.S. Navy photo by Oyaol Ngrairikl)

aerospace medical technician at Andersen Air Force Base (AFB) Medical Clinic, said she appreciates the opportunities the military has provided for her and her family. When she was 11, her parents moved their family to Guam from the Philippines for a chance at a better life.

"I remember in high school during a career day we had people come and talk to us and I don't remember the branch of the military but I do remember it made me realize that there was so much out there," Caraballo said. "I joined the Air Force a couple years after graduating, and through the Air Force I've had the opportunity to travel, to help protect those I love, to provide for my own family, and to excel in my field."

Caraballo said she volunteers at various community service events, such as career day presentations and tutoring sessions, to show younger Asians and Pacific Islanders the opportunities that await them after high school.

"It's really important that when we mentor, we reach out and let them know that there is nothing that holds them back in this life," she said. "I think the people who came

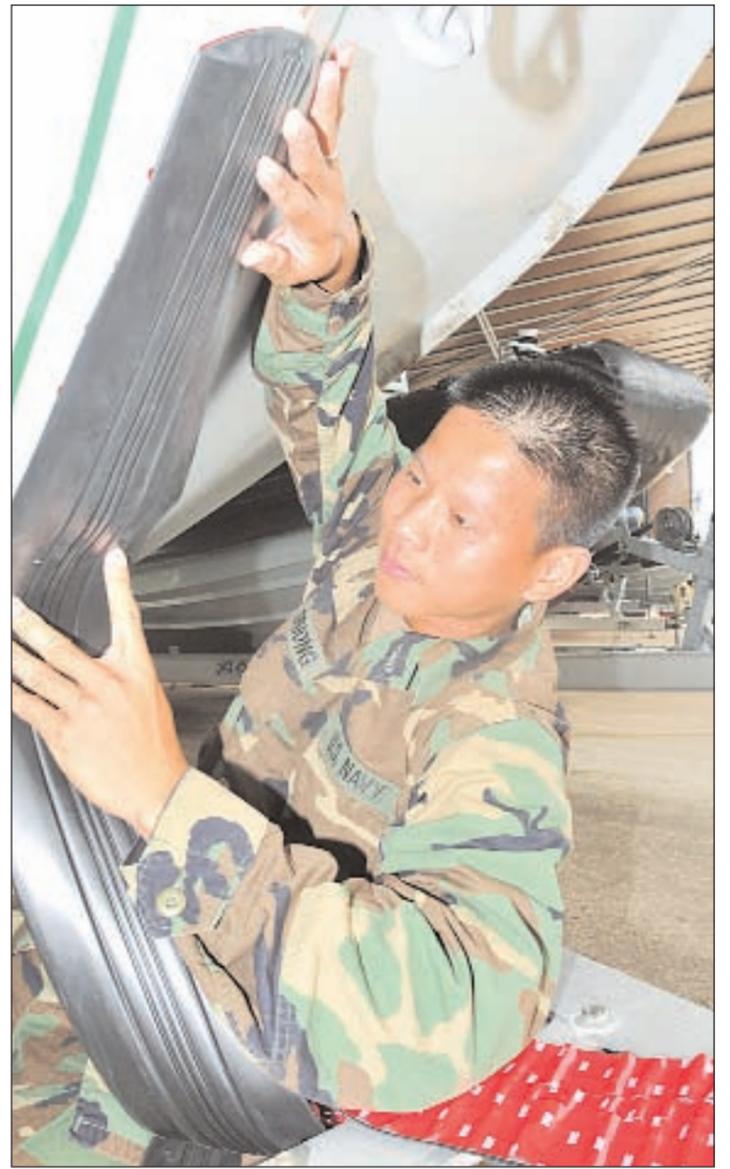
before me, who made it possible for me to not only come to the U.S. with my family, but to build a life for myself in the Air Force, made it my generation's responsibility to teach that lesson to our kids -- your culture is not going to hold you back. If anything, use it as a tool to move forward."

Asian and Pacific Islander Americans have served in the U.S. Navy since the mid-19th century. They also have worked for the U.S. Navy as civilians and have provided important services supporting fleet and shore commands.

Capt. Scott Galbreath, U.S. Naval Base Guam commanding officer, said uniformed and civilian Asian and Pacific Islanders have served with distinction in the U.S. Navy, providing valuable skills, services and perspectives, helping to build a stronger fleet.

"There's strength in our diversity," Galbreath said. "Any of us, no matter what our background, carry a point of view from a different part of the world. We see things a little differently and I think that enables us to come up with new ways to meet challenges."

The Navy has made it a goal to ensure diversity throughout the



Navy Opportunity: Seaman Thinh Truong, of Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit (EODMU) 5, smooths a guard onto a boat at the EODMU-5 headquarters on U.S. Naval Base Guam May 4. Truong, who was born in Vietnam, moved to the United States six years ago and eventually joined the Navy as part of his search for new opportunities. (U.S. Navy photo by Oyaol Ngrairikl)

ranks, to include the most senior levels of leadership.

Six flag officers, 11 members of the Senior Executive Service, three rear admirals and 137 master chiefs of Asian and Pacific American heritage are currently helping to lead the Navy.

Gunner's Mate 1st Class (SW/AW) Francis Cruz, Maritime Expeditionary Security Squadron (MSRON) 7, said his grandfather, a soldier during Guam's liberation in 1944, was his inspiration to join the Navy.

"Growing up I always knew I wanted to follow in my grandfather's footsteps," he said. "He inspired me to serve and to give back to those who are here today and to those who gave their lives for us during World War II."

Cruz also pointed to Rear Adm. Peter Gumataotao, who was promoted to flag rank in September 2009. Gumataotao is the first Guam native to be promoted to rear admiral.

"That's a big deal to me and everyone else who comes from a small island," he said. "We know that Pacific Islanders have served, and many made the ultimate sacrifice for America. But when you see

someone rise up the ranks like that, it reaffirms that we have something great to offer to our country."

Seaman Thinh Truong, of Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 5, joined the Navy only six years ago. The Vietnam-born Sailor said he joined the Navy not just to enjoy the freedoms afforded to Americans, but to help in that fight to defend those freedoms.

"In Vietnam, life is hard. It's difficult to find opportunity," Truong said. "In America, there is so much opportunity. The Navy is helping me to learn and grow, to build a future for myself and my family. I want to help, so we can help others in the world who were like me."

Truong said since he's joined the Navy, he's gained U.S. citizenship, which is opening more doors of opportunity.

"I'm proud to serve in the U.S. Navy," he said. "There are many people from Vietnam who came to the U.S. after the war. They find peace and know that if they work hard, they can find the American dream."

Members of Guam Army National Guard (GUARNG) are a unique

See HERITAGE, Page 7

Heritage: Nation honors Asian and Pacific Islanders in May

Continued from Page 6

group in several ways. As Guardsmen, many have full-time civilian jobs and represent a cross section of the island's workforce, from businessmen and lawyers to teachers and police officers.

GUARNG also boasts cultural diversity. Their 1,000-plus members consist primarily of people from Guam and, as such, have a mix of Chamorros, Palauans, Chuukese, Filipinos, Japanese and other cultural groups from the Pacific Rim, who've all taken the oath to serve and protect the nation in which they all live.

"We all wear the same uniform, have the same purpose, run the same mission," said Maj. Manny Escaba, 1st Battalion 294th Infantry Regiment operations officer. "It doesn't make a difference that we're from different cultures. In fact, it's those differences that help us get the job done."

Escaba, who has lead and been a member of several deployments to various areas from Asia to the Middle East, said many Guardsmen speak more than one language.

"It comes in handy because we're training or participating in a



Honor: Sgt. 1st Class Gonzalo Fernandez, center, accepts the Gen. Maxwell Thurman Award for winning the National Guard Recruiter of the Nation competition during the Association of the United States Army celebration in Washington, D.C., Nov. 4, 2009. From left, Gen. George W. Casey, U.S. Army chief of staff, Fernandez, and Sgt. Maj. Kenneth O. Preston, U.S. Army. (Photo contributed by Sgt. 1st Class Gonzalo Fernandez)

humanitarian mission in the Philippines, for example, it's good to have someone in our group that speaks Tagalog or another Philippine dialect," he said.

Escaba added there's an innate sense of understanding that there are other ways of seeing a problem

and finding solutions.

"Having that background and understanding gives us a cultural sensitivity that I think helps us when we're working with soldiers from other countries and helps us meet our mission goals," Escaba said.

Asian and Pacific Heritage Month Event

Military service members will be celebrating the military's cultural diversity throughout May as part of Asian and Pacific American Heritage Month. Here is an event to look forward to on Guam:

What: Joint Region Marianas' Asian and Pacific American Heritage celebration will feature guest speakers, food and live performances.

When: May 28, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Where: Admiral's Conference Room, Bldg. 3190, NBG

Cost: Free

For more info: Call 339-2578.

Sgt. 1st Class Gonzalo "Gonzo" Fernandez, of GUARNG Recruiting and Retention Battalion, was, like many other Guardsmen, born and raised on Guam and noted that pride for island and country is what drives him.

Fernandez earned the Recruiter of the Nation Award last December. The award is a first for him and GUARNG. He beat out about 7,000 other Army recruiters from across the nation to get it.

"The board looks at our [recruiting] numbers, our physical fitness, military bearing and other factors," he said. "This is something we wanted but weren't really sure we could get because we're going up against Texas and California huge states — and we're this small

battalion from this tiny island in the Pacific."

Fernandez said he believes other Guardsmen share that same drive to represent their cultural heritage as well as the island and nation which they call home.

"Standing in the arena and hearing them say my name and where I'm from, I was so proud," Fernandez said. "It was about the patch on my left shoulder, the Guam seal and who I represented. It wasn't about the name on my right shoulder because it's not about Fernandez, or Cruz or Camacho — it's about the Guam Army National Guard."

To learn more about the history of Asians and Pacific Islanders in America, visit www.asianpacificheritage.gov.

About Asian and Pacific American Heritage Month

In 1992, Congress officially designated May as Asian and Pacific American Heritage Month. The month reflects upon two important milestones in Asian and Pacific American history: the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States in May 1843 and the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad, which was constructed largely by Chinese immigrants, in May 1869.

With this year's theme of "Leadership, Diversity, Harmony: Gateway to Success," the nation celebrates the wealth of ideas, traditions and commitment that those of Asian and Pacific Island heritage bring to the U.S. Armed Forces.

Asian and Pacific American Service Members and Civilians Contributions to the U.S. Navy

Tens of thousands of individuals of Asian and Pacific Island heritage have served with distinction in the Navy and have contributed in significant ways to the Navy's legacy. Today nearly 19,000 uniformed personnel and more than 29,000 civilians of Asian and Pacific American heritage contribute to the Navy force. Some notable stories are recounted below.

Wesley Ishizu, Mid-Pacific Division Director for Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific, who is of Japanese heritage, was recognized as Asian American Executive of the Year by the Chinese Institute of Engineers in February 2010.

Vietnamese-born Cmdr. H. B. Le took command of the USS Lassen (DDG 82) in May 2009 and made a port visit to Da Nang, Vietnam, in November of the same year, his first visit back to his homeland since his family fled in 1975.

Capt. Raquel Cruz Bono, deputy director of TRICARE Management Activity, was honored as one of the 100 Most Influential Filipina Women in the U.S. by the Filipina Women's Network in October 2009.

Navy Rear Adm. Peter Aguon Gumataotao, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Korea, is a native of Guam and was promoted to his current rank in September 2009, making him the first Chamorro flag officer in the Navy.

Personnel Specialist 1st Class Borree Tibi, a Naval Reservist of Filipino descent, received the Military Meritorious Service Award from the Federal Asian Pacific American Council in May 2009.

Source: *Navy Heritage*

Contributions to the U.S. Air Force

A diverse group of Asian-Pacific Americans has assisted the

nation in building a military force capable of preserving our national liberty, while serving as a role model for other freedom-seeking nations and individuals around the world.

Among them are: On Jan. 28, 1986, the space shuttle Challenger exploded, killing all seven astronauts aboard. One of the crew, Astronaut (Lt. Col.) Ellison S. Onizuka, had become the first Japanese-American astronaut the year before when he flew aboard the shuttle Discovery.

On May 31, 1987, Hoang Nhu Tran graduated valedictorian of the U.S. Air Force Academy in a class of 960 students. He was also a Rhodes Scholar and Time Magazine's recipient of the 1986 College Achievement Award.

Source: *Airman's Roll Call*

Contributions to the U.S. Army

In the first half of the 19th century, many people from Asia, particularly China, immigrated to the United States where opportunities for employment were abundant. By the start of the Civil War, thousands of Asians were living in the United States. Many served with distinction in the U.S. Army.

Among them are:

Private Jose B. Nisperos became the first Asian-Pacific American to be awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions on September 24, 1911, while engaged in combat at Lapurap, Basilan, Philippine Islands. He

served in the 34th Company, Philippine Scouts. Having been badly wounded (his left arm was broken and lacerated and he had received several spear wounds in the body so that he could not stand), Private Nisperos continued to fire his rifle with one hand until the enemy was repulsed, thereby aiding materially in preventing the annihilation of his party.

The 442nd Regimental Combat Team, an Asian-American unit composed of mostly Japanese-Americans, fought in Europe during WWII. Many of these men put their lives on the line for their country while their families were confined to internment camps back in the United States. The unit became the most highly decorated military unit in the history of the United States Armed Forces, including 9,486 Purple Heart recipients — earning the unit the nickname "The Purple Heart Battalion"

Army Gen. Eric K. Shinseki (RET) graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1965 with a Bachelor of Science Degree. In June 1997, Shinseki was appointed to the rank of general before assuming duties as the Commanding General, United States Army Europe; Commander, Allied Land Forces Central Europe; and Commander, North Atlantic Treaty Organization Stabilization Force in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Shinseki assumed duties as the 28th Vice Chief of Staff, United States Army on

Nov. 24, 1998. He went on to assume duties as the 34th Chief of Staff, United States Army, on June 22, 1999. The general retired from the United States Army in June 2003.

Source: *Asian Pacific Americans in the United States Army*

By the Numbers

Asians

15.5 million: The estimated number of U.S. residents in July 2008 who said they were Asian alone or Asian in combination with one or more other races. This group comprised about 5 percent of the total population.

3.62 million: Number of Asians of Chinese descent in the U.S. in 2008. Chinese-Americans were the largest Asian group, followed by Filipinos (3.09 million), Indians (2.73 million), Vietnamese (1.73 million), Koreans (1.61 million) and Japanese (1.30 million). These estimates represented the number of people who were either of a particular Asian group only or were of that group in combination with one or more other Asian groups or races.

Serving Our Nation

276,079: The number of single-race Asian military veterans. About one in three was 65 and older.

26,810: The number of single-race native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander military veterans. About one in five was 65 and older.

Source: *U.S. Census Bureau*

HSC-25 keeps ready 24-7 to serve

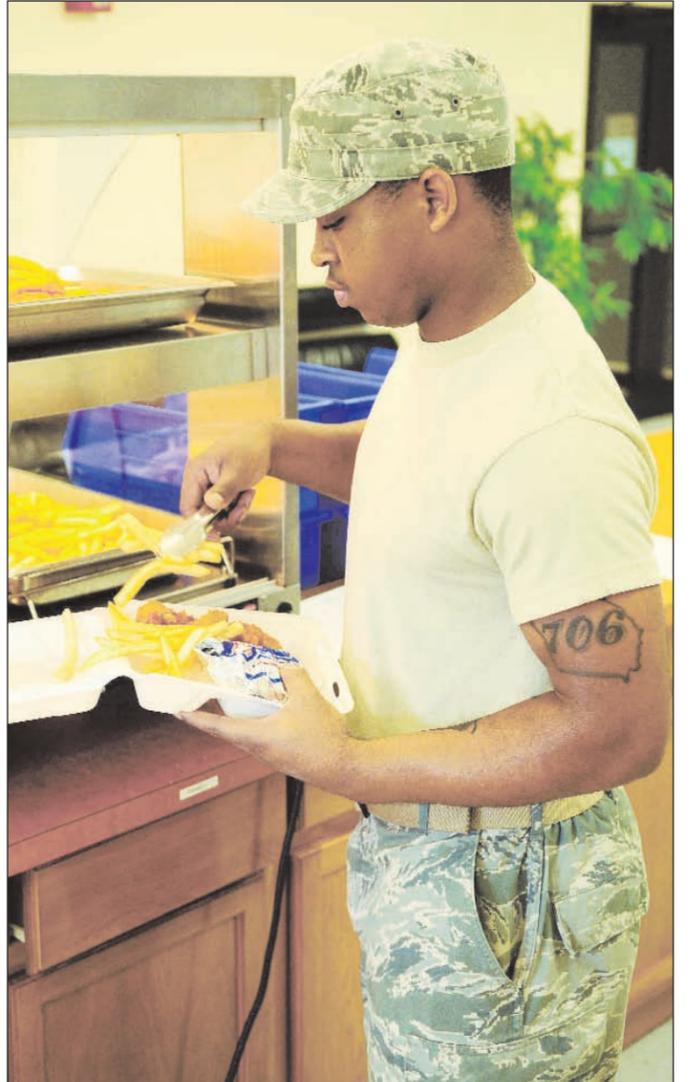


Mission Ready: A pilot from Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 heads to his MH-60S aircraft for pre-flight checks on Andersen Air Force Base (AFB) April 28. HSC-25 is a tenant Navy unit on Andersen AFB. As the Navy's only forward-deployed MH60S expeditionary squadron, HSC-25 maintains a 24-hour, search-and-rescue and medical evacuation alert posture, directly supporting the U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam and Joint Region Marianas. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Jeffrey Schultze)

Flight Kitchen serves a taste of success

Kitchen Service: On any given week, the Andersen Air Force Base (AFB) Flight Kitchen provides base personnel with an average of 1,800 meals. The Flight Kitchen serves a variety of people deployed Airmen part of the continuous bomber presence to permanent party members of Andersen AFB. The Flight Kitchen does not stop with flightline personnel. It is a great all-around meal option basewide used by the whole of Andersen.

Airman 1st Class Wendell Gunn, of the 36th Force Support Squadron, is one of the key Airmen in making the Flight Kitchen run smoothly in its mission to deliver a vital resource to fellow Airmen. Since opening in June of 2009, the Flight Kitchen has been a major success providing quality boxed meals as well as a variety of hot items during breakfast and lunch hours. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Jeffrey Schultze)



Conserve energy, be energy-efficient

By Kevin D. Evans
Joint Region Marianas Energy Manager

I am asked a lot about the difference between energy conservation and energy efficiency.

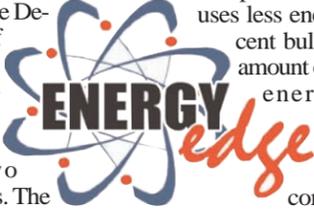
According to the Department of Energy, the terms energy conservation and energy efficiency have two distinct definitions. The first is behavioral in that there are many things we can do to use less energy (conservation). The second applies to the things we use to manage energy more wisely (efficiency).

Energy conservation is any behavior that results in the use of less energy. Turning the lights off when you leave the room and recycling aluminum cans are both ways of conserving energy. This

goes for water conservation, as well.

Energy efficiency is the use of technology that requires less energy to perform the same function as other technologies. A compact fluorescent light bulb that uses less energy than an incandescent bulb to produce the same amount of light is an example of energy efficiency. However, the decision to replace an incandescent light bulb with a compact fluorescent is an act of energy conservation.

All of us use energy everyday for a wide range of activities such as transportation, cooking, heating and cooling rooms, building things, lighting and entertainment. The choices we make about how we use energy, such as turning machines off when we're not using them or choosing to buy energy-efficient appliances, impact our environment and our lives.



NBG presents at PHARE



Forum: James Ogburn, business manager for U.S. Naval Base Guam (NBG), speaks during the 2010 Pacific Hotel and Restaurant Expo (PHARE) and Tourism Forum at the Sandcastle Guam in Tumon May 7. The forum provided attendees an opportunity to discern how they and their business or organization can benefit from and contribute to emerging opportunities in the new tourism markets. As one of the keynote speakers, Ogburn encouraged local businesses and organizations to develop business opportunities with the Navy. Ogburn spoke on how NBG supports, operates and maintains its facilities through continued use of service and supply contracts with the leverage of continued partnerships with industries and businesses. (U.S. Navy photo by Reynaldo Rabara)

TRICARE coverage PCSes with you

By Shannon Gentry

TRICARE Service Center

PCS (Permanent Change of Station) season is just around the corner and will continue through the summer. Whether Standard or Prime, TRICARE beneficiaries can rest assured that their health care coverage will PCS with them.

Before Leaving Guam

Before leaving Guam beneficiaries should stop by the TRICARE Service Center (TSC) for more information and to pick up a TRICARE Pacific Travel Card.

The TSC representative can answer any questions on enrollment or program benefits. Prime members should complete a PCS form, which will let the TSC know they are leaving the Pacific Region.

Health Care While in Transit

Emergency Care: If emergency medical care is required when traveling, go to the nearest Military Treatment Facility (MTF) or civilian emergency department.

Urgent Care: All beneficiaries are encouraged to visit the nearest MTF for available appointments whenever possible. When an MTF is not available, call the Regional TRICARE Service Center to seek listings of available civilian network providers.

Routine Care: Prime beneficiaries should wait until they transfer their enrollment to their new region for any routine appointments.

Arrival at the New Duty Station

It is important to update the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) record upon arrival at the new duty station.

If Prime is available, Prime beneficiaries should transfer their enrollment as soon as possible by simply completing the proper paperwork at the new TSC. Prime beneficiaries have 60 days after they leave Guam to transfer their enrollment to enjoy uninterrupted TRICARE Prime coverage.

If beneficiaries do not transfer their enrollment within the 60 days, they will revert to TRICARE Standard for their health care coverage. Standard beneficiaries may

want to consider enrolling into Prime at their new assignment if possible. The TSC can provide information about locally available TRICARE programs so beneficiaries can make an informed choice about their family's health care coverage.

Filing Claims

If civilian care is obtained by Prime beneficiaries during a PCS move, a claim for payment or reimbursement must be submitted to the appropriate claims processor. All

network providers will file the claim for the beneficiary. However, beneficiaries may be expected to pay at the time of service and then file the claim if seen by a non-network provider.

In either event, claims for active duty service members should be filed to Wisconsin Physician Services (WPS) – Active Duty Overseas, P.O. Box 7968, Madison, WI 53707-7968; claims for active-duty family members should be filed to Wisconsin Physician Services (WPS) – Foreign Claims, P.O. Box

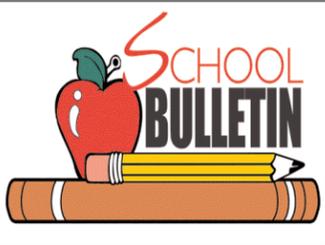
7985, Madison, WI 53707-7985. Standard beneficiary claims are filed with the claims processor for the region where care was received.

Dental Coverage

It is advisable to ensure active-duty family members are enrolled in the United Concordia TRICARE Dental Program (TDP) at least 30 days prior to leaving Guam. Monthly Premiums for 2010 are \$12.69 for the single plan (one family member) and \$31.72 for the family plan (more than one family

member). There are two ways to enroll into United Concordia TDP: online at www.tricare dental program.com or via mail by stopping by the TSC to pick up an enrollment form.

For more information, visit the TRICARE Service Center located on the first floor of US Naval Hospital or call 344-9777. You can also visit the TRICARE Service Center located within the 36th Medical Group or call 366-6547. Additional information is also available at www.tricare.mil.



School Bulletin aims to promote educational activities in the Navy and Air Force communities. 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

There will be an Education Fair May 19, 8-11 a.m. in Barracks 1 on U.S. Naval Base Guam, and then at Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 1-3 p.m. Counseling will be given by representatives from the Navy College Office and Navy College partnership schools. Briefs will be presented on Web-based Tuition Assistance. For more information, call 339-2485.

DoDEA

There are no classes for Department of Defense Education Activity schools on Memorial Day, May 31.

McCool Elementary/Middle School

Navy Morale, Welfare and Recreation will be hosting Sports Day at the school on the following dates and times.

Fourth grade: May 17, noon-2 p.m.

Fifth grade: May 18, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Guam High School

The earliest date to withdraw with credit under PCS orders is May 19. Sponsors must complete the accelerated withdrawal request. The form is available in the front office. A copy of the PCS orders must be provided.

Phone Numbers

Andersen Elementary School: 366-1511

Andersen Middle School: 366-3880/5793

Commander William C. McCool Elementary/Middle School: 339-8678

Guam High School: 344-7410

Department of Defense Education Activity office: 344-9160

Navy College Office: 339-2485

Andersen Education Office: 366-3170

AES students enjoy fun in the sun

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

Joint Region Edge Staff

Andersen Elementary School (AES) held a Fun and Fitness Week at the youth softball field on Andersen Air Force Base (AFB) May 3-7.

The event was coordinated by the AES Physical Education (P.E.) Program to celebrate May Fitness Month with the theme, "Go Dolphins! Let's move." Each day was scheduled for a different grade, starting with first graders.

Each field day started with a parade, which allowed students to express the meaning of this year's theme by producing a banner.

The children also enjoyed some physical recreation with games such as water games, hula hoops, jump ropes and tug-of-war.

"Our field day is designed in a way that every child is a full participant and derives a feeling of satisfaction and joy from a festival of physical activities," said Dialma Cartagena, an AES P.E. teacher. "The children will be encouraged to choose a physically active lifestyle, demonstrate respon-

sible personal behavior and self-expression, and enjoy social interaction."

After the day's activities, personnel from the Andersen AFB Fire Department paid a visit to the field for a freshwater wash-down.

"We are going to spray down the kids after a long hot day of activities," said Airman 1st Class Christopher Edington of the AFB fire department. "It's nice to see the kids active. They are always enthusiastic when we come out. It makes us feel pretty special."

Nikki Sanabia watched as her

daughter, Calbary, played in the fire-fighting mist.

"This is awesome," Nikki Sanabia said. "It was great for the kids to get to do some physical activities. I truly support an active lifestyle and I get my kids involved in as many active events as possible."

As for the kids, the first half of the day ended soaked and wet as they raced back to the school to prepare for lunch and class work.

"It was fun. I loved all of it," Calbary said. "We were sprayed by the firefighters and we beat the boys in tug-of-war."



Flying High: Fourth-graders from Andersen Elementary School (AES) enjoy parachute play during a field day event May 6 at the youth softball field on Andersen Air Force Base. The AES Physical Education Program celebrated Fun and Fitness Week May 3-7. Each grade level spent a day celebrating the week. (U.S. Navy photos by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class (SW) Corwin Colbert)



Hop, Skip: Fourth-graders from Andersen Elementary School (AES) jump to the finish line during a jump rope race May 6 at the youth softball field on Andersen Air Force Base. The AES Physical Education Program celebrated Fun and Fitness Week May 3-7. Each grade level spent a day celebrating the week. (U.S. Navy photos by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class (SW) Corwin Colbert)



Victory: Fifth-grade girls from Andersen Elementary School (AES) triumph in a tug-of-war competition against the boys' team May 7.



One Step at a Time: Fourth-graders from Andersen Elementary School (AES) hop to the finish line during a three-legged race May 6 at the youth softball field on Andersen Air Force Base.

DoDEA announces new board members

By Oyaol Ngirairikl

Joint Region Edge Staff

Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) Guam announced its newest board members during a meeting at Commander William C. McCool Elementary/Middle School April 27.

Lt. Col. Johnny Lizama, Commander, 254th Air Base Group, Guam Air National Guard; Chief Boatswain's Mate Nicholas Pavlik, U.S. Coast Guard Station Apra Harbor; and Denise Ola, a National Guard spouse, were elected to fill three open spots on the school board for the next two years.

Sue Burdick, DoDEA deputy superintendent, said the new board members' collective experiences and expertise will lend itself to a partnership that ensures another successful school year.

The new board members' terms begin with the start of the new school year in September.

"Our expectations of the newly elected school board members are that they continue the progress the school board has made on encouraging parent and community involvement in the school, support the DoDEA District Town Hall meetings, and make further contributions to the DoDEA Guam community," Burdick said. "With the varied backgrounds and expertise of the school board, they can reach out to the community at many levels."

Lizama is a returning board member who is currently finishing his first term. He said he decided to run because he wants to be an active participant in his children's education and the system that runs it.

"It's important to me that I know

what's going on in the schools and what I, as a parent, can do to fix it or at least be a positive contributor to the discussions that address issues," Lizama said. "I think the best way to do that is through the board."

Ola is a first-time DoDEA school board member, but she is not new to working closely with school officials and teachers. Ola has participated in various school events, voicing her opinions at school meetings, volunteering at school functions and leading school programs that supported and encouraged student learning.

"I believe that families are an essential element in education," Ola said. "I believe that it doesn't matter where you come from or where you go to school, if you as a parent have a strong relationship with the school, your child is more

likely to succeed academically."

Pavlik, also a first-time board member, agreed with Ola, saying that when parents take an interest in their child's education, it sends a message.

"Taking an interest in your child's homework sets the example," Pavlik said, noting that when parents take an active role in children's education, children will understand that education is important. "I've always stayed active with youth sports as a coach, so I hope to be a positive influence with extracurricular activities in addition to academics, and make sure I do my part to ensure they receive a quality education."

According to Department of Defense Instruction 1342.25, DoDEA school board members must be parents of DoDEA school students to be eligible to sit on the

board. Board members are charged with providing DoDEA with a list of possible candidates for district superintendent when the position has a vacancy.

Other requirements include preparing an annual written on-site review of the superintendent's performance and providing counsel to the district superintendent on the operation of the school and the implementation of the approved budget. Board members are also expected to participate in the development and oversight of fiscal, personnel and educational policies, procedures and programs.

To learn more about the roles and responsibilities of DoDEA school board members visit www.am.dodea.edu/ddessasc/ppgdocuments/schoolboard.html. To find out how you can participate as a parent volunteer, call 344-6190.

Take a walk through Guam's history

By Jesse Leon Guerrero

Joint Region Edge Staff

Take a stroll along the Hagatna Heritage Walking Trail and learn about prominent people and places in Guam's history.

The Historic Hagatna Foundation, in partnership with the Guam Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), unveiled the starting point marker for the trail at Fort Santa Agueda, also known as Fort Apugan, April 29. The trail features

17 main sites of interest spread over a two-mile path, which winds through the island's capital city.

Each of the sites represent a part of Guam's timeline with dates stretching as far back as 1687 B.C. Toni Ramirez, a historian for DPR, said that range of more than 3,000 years represents five major sections of Guam's past: Pre-Contact Period, Spanish Era of government, early American Period, World War II, and post-World War II.

The trail includes several parks;

monuments; building structures of government, military and religious groups; and a cemetery. At Fort Santa Agueda, Plaza de Espana, Governor Carlton F. Skinner Plaza, and Chamorro Village, interpretive signs display maps and offer information about the trail in English and Chamorro. Each of the sites also include older signs with details of the site's origin and location.

Since the trail is about two miles long, it can take more than two hours to complete on foot. Ramirez

said there are benefits to visit each site.

"Rather than reading a book, they can feel the temperature, the atmosphere, and really feel the structures," Ramirez said.

Ramirez gave the example of visitors touching the latte stones at Sen. Angel Leon Guerrero Santos Latte Memorial Park to understand what materials and tools were used to create them. The seven-foot tall lattes are out in the open, so people can stand beside them and

observe how the stones' sturdiness would have been useful for supporting houses more than 1,000 years ago.

Ramirez described the entire trail as "fun" and "enlightening."

"Hagatna has always been one of the earliest settled sites in Guam," Ramirez said. "But this trail is about more than Hagatna. It's about Guam's history."

For more information about the Hagatna Heritage Walking Trail, call DPR at 475-6296.



Historical Tour: Toni Ramirez, second from right, a historian for Guam Department of Parks and Recreation, uses an interpretive sign to point out an area of Paseo de Susana Park where he plans to guide attendees of the first Hagatna Heritage Walking Trail tour May 8. Three similar signs stand at Fort Santa Agueda, Plaza de Espana, and Governor Carlton F. Skinner Plaza. Called simply Paseo by many local residents, the area includes a baseball field, softball field, playground, and eating establishments open throughout the year. The park is also traditionally used as the site of Guam's annual Liberation Day carnival. (U.S. Navy photo by Jesse Leon Guerrero)



History Around the Corner: Local residents gather to learn more about Guam's history in front of the Azotea building at Plaza de Espana during the Hagatna Heritage Walking Trail tour May 8. Standing adjacent to the site of the former Spanish Governor's Palace, the Azotea served as an open-air terrace porch. The U.S. Navy built a tin roof over the Azotea in 1933, but a clay tile roof replaced it after World War II. (U.S. Navy photo by Jesse Leon Guerrero)

USO sponsors furniture auction, carpet bazaar

By Jesse Leon Guerrero

Joint Region Edge Staff

United Service Organizations (USO) Guam welcomes local and military residents to two events that will raise funds to operate USO's facilities and special events.

The Asian Antiques and Furniture Auction will be held May 22, starting at 10 a.m. at Top O' the Mar. The Oriental Carpet Bazaar will be held at the Royal Orchid Hotel in Tumon June 5-6, from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Admission to both events is free.

"We appreciate military members supporting us, and the money that goes to the USO goes back to supporting them," said Judith Decker, USO programs manager.

Auction

In addition to furniture, the auction will feature more than 300 items including carved jade, clocks, decorated porcelain, lamps, mirrors and more.

A preview of the items to be auctioned will commence at 10 a.m. The live auction will start at 11 a.m. Decker said attendees can bid silent-

ly for several items, while other items will be available for regular bidding.

This is the second year USO will hold this event on Guam.

"It's lots of fun," Decker said. "We had lots of positive responses from both bases. People really seem to like Oriental furniture here and the quality is great."

Bazaar

Joe Alexander, a USO volunteer who is helping to coordinate the event, said the bazaar will feature a wide selection of more than 100

carpets and rugs for sale.

"They're all handmade from all over the Orient, so that's Persian, Afghan, Indian, Iranian and Russian, which includes all of southern Russia like Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan," he said.

Alexander said this will be a good opportunity for Sailors and other customers to pick up a carpet as a gift for themselves as well as for friends and family not on Guam.

"It's a unique and valuable product you don't see here on a regular basis," Alexander said. "There isn't much opportunity to acquire

them in the United States, certainly not at these prices."

Alexander said price ranges will vary depending on how much wool or silk was used to make the carpet.

USO is a nonprofit organization that provides TV's and computers for personal use, as well as long-distance phone access, refreshments and a place to relax for service members and their families in Tumon.

For more information about these events and USO, call 647-4876 or visit them online at www.uso.org/guam.

FREE

Build your own Transportation Contest

U.S. Naval Base Guam youth are encouraged to participate using recycled items to build a transport system for this Teen and Youth Centers' contest. Deadline to turn in a project is May 17. For more information, call 339-6130.

Chamorro Village

Take a free trip to Chamorro Village in

Hagatna every Wednesday. Single Sailors and geographical bachelors can catch a shuttle at 6 p.m. at Single Sailor Sanctuary. Sailors at the Ordnance Annex

can catch the shuttle 6:30 p.m. at Silver Dolphin. For more information, call 564-2280.

Tuesday Texas Hold'em Nights

Texas Hold'em tournaments are held every Tuesday starting at 6 p.m. in Hightides at the Top of the Rock on Andersen Air Force Base. Play is free for club members and \$5 for non-members.

Weekly prizes are awarded. For more information, call 366-6166.

Free Golf Clinic

Learn the fundamentals of golf every Saturday and Sunday, 9-10 a.m. at Admiral Nimitz Golf Course in Barrigada. No need to register. For more information, call 344-5838.

Tarague Beach

Tarague Beach is currently open for swimming Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. During these days and times, swimming is authorized only in the designated marked

swimming area and only when a lifeguard is present. For more information, call 366-5197.

Story Time

The Andersen Air Force Base Library has story time every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. There are also crafts and other fun activities. For more information, call 366-4291. Bring the children for story time at the U.S. Naval Base Guam Library every Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. In addition to great stories, there will be crafts and other fun activities. For more information, call 564-1836.

On a Budget

UNDER \$10

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

On a Budget

p.m. Also enjoy 18 holes of golf and a lunch package available at the Pro Shop for \$46 per person. For more information, call 344-5838 or 734-2155.

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.

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.

\$10 AND UP

Orote Point Lanes Family Deal

Family Value Package at Orote Point Lanes available on the following days and times: Sunday, 10:30 a.m.-10 p.m.; Monday-Thursday 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m. and 9-10 p.m.; Friday and Saturday 10:30 a.m.-midnight. Cost is \$40 per lane with a limit of five people. 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.

HotSpot Flea Market

Sell items you no longer need or pick up some great bargains at the next Hotspot Flea Market May 22 from 8-11 a.m. at the HotSpot Gym, just down the walkway from the bowling center. For people wanting to sell items, each table is \$10. Sellers can set up the evening before the flea market from 6-9 p.m. or at 7 a.m. the day of the flea market. For more information, call 366-2339.



FRIDAY, MAY 14

7 p.m.: Clash of the Titans • PG-13

SATURDAY, MAY 15

2 p.m.: Clash of Titans • PG-13

7 p.m.: Why Did I Get Married Too • PG-13

SUNDAY, MAY 16

7 p.m.: The Ghost Writer • PG-13

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, MAY 14

7 p.m.: Hot Tub Time Machine • R

9:30 p.m.: Our Family Wedding • PG-13

SATURDAY, MAY 15

1 p.m.: Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief • PG

3:30 p.m.: The Ghost Writer • PG-13

7 p.m.: Green Zone • R

SUNDAY, MAY 16

1 p.m.: The Last Song • PG

3:30 p.m.: How to Train Your Dragon • PG

7 p.m.: Brooklyn's Finest • 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 mwr Guam.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
programs, call the chapels
at the following numbers:*

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

Begin your journey with God

By Capt. Mario Catungal

36th Wing

For me, when I speak of God, I don't mean some kind of vague, universal force. I mean a real person, complete with mind, will and the power and capability to act in my and our lives.

When I say that faith and trust will carry you to a resolution of your problem, I am not talking about warm religious feelings or an exercise in positive thinking. As I look at it, meaningful faith must be placed in real person, who knows the way for you and promises to lead you in it. That is God. If you want to begin your faith journey with God

you must first believe He exists and rewards those whom seek Him. This is the God I know and love.

As I view our need for God's help

I see it as no more a weakness than our need for air. We did not create ourselves, nor were we designed to create our own way in life. God wired us to depend on Him.

When you exercise faith in Him, you position yourself to accomplish superhuman feats. You are reaching far beyond human strength and knowledge and tapping into God's infinite strength and knowledge. After all, God knows how to fix it when it goes wrong.

When we are facing a difficult or

painful situation that we don't know how to handle, we choose one of these two options. First, we repeat what did not work before, but this time we try harder. Chronic dieters, for example, try to muster up just a little more will power, thinking this time it will work. Second, we stop trying altogether. I will never stop overeating, so what is the use? Trying to get through life on your own limited strength and knowledge will lead to futility and loss of hope in many areas, if not most.

But in God's economy, coming to the end of one's self is the beginning of hope. In the Bible even Jesus said, "God blesses those who realize their need for Him" (Matthew 5:3).

When we admit our helplessness and ask for God's help, we transcend our own limitations; thus

God's resources become available to us.

God's resources cannot be earned. They can be only received as a gift when we, in humility, acknowledge our need for our Creator. He is ready to get involved in your life as He has in mine. All you have to do is say yes to Him. Then, God will provide what you need to overcome the effects of even the most miserable problems.

Sometimes, God's way will be truly miraculous. Sometimes it will involve a lot of work and change on your part. Often it won't be the way you thought you needed. But when God makes a way, it works.

In conclusion, we can say that life consists of tough decisions: go on or give up, hold on or let go, stay or leave. But it is comforting to know that God is with us whichever way we go.



Andersen celebrates National Prayer Day



Songs of Prayer: The Andersen Gospel Choir performs during the National Prayer Luncheon on Andersen Air Force Base May 3. The choir performed during the observance of the yearly luncheon, which dates back nationally to 1953. The luncheon featured guest speaker Chaplain Maj. Gen. Cecil Richardson, Air Force chief of chaplains . (U.S Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Jeffrey Schultze)

NMCRS holds Armed Forces 5K

By James Fee

Joint Region Edge Staff

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) held its fifth annual Armed Forces 5K run in Hagatna as part of its 2010 Active Duty Fund Drive May 8.

The run drew nearly 300 participants from the military and local community.

Lt. Jeff Morin, officer in charge of Personnel Support Detachment Guam, said he participated in the

event to support a worthy cause. NMCRS provides financial, educational and other types of assistance to members of the Navy and Marine Corps.

"The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society takes care of our folks," Morin said. "We need to come out here and support it so it can continue."

Aviation Support Equipment Technician 3rd Class (AW) Tim Angelone, of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25, took first

place in the Men's Open Division (ages 20-29) with a time of 19:28, and second place overall behind Brandon Fell, a Guam resident.

Angelone said he ran the race to contribute to an organization that does so much for Sailors in need. The run was also an opportunity for Angelone to achieve his own fitness goals.

"I really enjoy running," he said. "It keeps me motivated. It keeps me fit. And best of all, it allows me to get an outstanding perfect 300 on

my PRT [Physical Readiness Test] and that's why I'm doing it."

The overall women's winner was Susan Smith, a Guam resident, who finished with a time of 21:05.

While the Armed Forces 5K was one of the last fundraisers for the NMCRS fund drive, Summer Sweeney, director of NMCRS, said that the organization takes donations year-round. Sweeney also encourages service members to volunteer at the Thrift Shop or for any of the NMCRS programs.

"Our society requires volunteers," Sweeney said. "Without them, we fail. And it doesn't matter how much time they can give — whether it's an hour or five hours a month. It's all incredibly important to our cause."

Close to 40 volunteers from Navy commands helped coordinate the day's event.

For more information about upcoming fund drive events to be scheduled or to learn more about volunteer opportunities at NMCRS, call 564-1879/80.



Above: Service members, military families, and island residents run the first leg of the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society's (NMCRS) fifth annual Armed Forces 5K in Hagatna, Guam, May 8. NMCRS held the run as part of its 2010 Active Duty Fund Drive. (U.S. Navy photo by James Fee)



Right: Lt. Jeff Morin, Personnel Support Detachment Guam, right, reaches for a time card from Gunner's Mate 2nd Class Jordan Simmons, Naval Munitions Command East Asia Division Unit Guam, as he finishes Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society's (NMCRS) fifth annual Armed Forces 5K in Hagatna, Guam, May 8. Morin said he ran the race to support NMCRS' efforts to take care of Sailors and Marines in need. (U.S. Navy photo by James Fee)

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.

Important Announcement

All Youth Sports registration will be held at the Child Development Center. For more information, contact Rachel Wiley at 564-1844/5.

Women's Self Defense Class

Navy Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) is holding a women's self defense class every Tuesday until May 25, 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Charles King Gym (CKG). The class is open to MWR patrons 16 years old and up. Register at CKG. For more information, call 564-1856 or 339-1301 or visit www.mwrguam.com.

Competitive 15K

The Competitive 15K run will be held May 22 at Ebbett Field. Showtime is 5:30 a.m. and go time is 6 a.m. Admission is free and T-Shirts are \$5. Register at Charles King Gym. For more information, call 564-1856 or 339-1301.

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.

Kids' Run

The annual America's Armed Forces Kid's Run will take place May 15 at the Andersen Air Force Base running track across from the Meehan Theater. Show time is 7:30 a.m. and go time is 8 a.m. There will be several age groups: children ages 6 and under will run a half mile; ages 7-8 will run one mile; ages 9-13 will run two miles; and ages 13 and over will run five kilometers. Register in advance at the Youth Center, Teen Center or Hotspot. For more information, call 366-2339.

Base Championship Tournament

Start getting in some practice rounds now so you'll be ready for the Palm Tree Golf Course annual Base Championship Golf Tournament May 15-16. Entry fee is \$40 for Palm Tree members and \$60 for nonmembers. Trophies will be awarded and there will be door prizes. For more information, call 366-4653.