

JOINT REGION EDGE

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Military celebrates at Guam festival



By Jesse Leon Guerrero

Joint Region Edge Staff

Service members partnered with Guam Chamber of Commerce, Guam Visitors Bureau and first lady Joann Camacho to kick off the 18th Annual Christmas Festival at Skinner Plaza in Hagatna Nov. 27.

Guam Chamber of Commerce and its sponsors hosted the event to start the holiday season. Hundreds

Hagatna: Staff Sgt. Sharnta Bullard, of 36th Medical Operations Squadron, watches over a decorated house and yard for Santa Claus at Guam Chamber of Commerce's 18th Annual Christmas Festival at Skinner Plaza in Hagatna Nov. 27. Bullard and dozens of other service members helped set up the grounds, passed out free popcorn, watched over children and supported other activities for several hours. (U.S. Navy Photo by Jesse Leon Guerrero)

of local residents and military personnel attended, enjoying party food, live performances and other entertainment.

"It's really an awesome event here, seeing the little kids happy and getting ready for Christmas," said Staff Sgt. Sharnta Bullard, of 36th Medical Operations Squadron, while watching over a decorated Santa Claus house that families had a chance to walk through.

Bullard was just one of dozens of service members who volunteered to help with setup, passing out free popcorn, keeping children safe and supporting other activities.

At a station set up for children writing down their wishes for presents, Ensign Vaughn Hammang, of Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Marianas, said he was ready to help because Guam is like an extended family for him.

"It gets our face out there, helps people realize we're involved in the community and we want to do our

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Grand reopening of Andersen swimming pool

By Airman Whitney Tucker

36th Wing Public Affairs

Sunlight glinted off the concrete beneath endless yards of crystal clear water as the first lucky patrons cannon-balled into the Andersen Air Force Base (AFB) swimming pool Nov. 20.

The newly remodeled pool, which is open from noon- 6 p.m. every day except Thursday, is open for business for the first time in more than a year and Team Andersen members came out in bulk to show their elation and support during the weekend.

"On Saturday we had a great turnout," said Ray Stiers, 36th Force Support Squadron outdoor recreation manager. "Thirty-five fami-

lies, 40 Andersen Airmen and dozens of deployed Airmen came out and took advantage of the new facilities."

While the extensive renovation prolonged the closure of the swimming pool, the improvements help to ensure safety and promote quality of life.

"The pool was refurbished to accomplish two primary objectives," said Lt. Col. Brian Hinsvark, 36th FSS commander, "to update the infrastructure and enhance safety and reliability. We added picnic and relaxation areas with barbecue pits and umbrellas for shade, thereby offering a combined pool and party capability for birthdays, unit functions and other celebrations. These areas can be reserved, or used

on a first-come, first-served basis if not already reserved. Also, we are anxiously awaiting the arrival of furniture purchased last year."

In addition to providing a family-friendly environment, substantial safety and health issues were addressed.

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Reopening: Brig. Gen. John Doucette, 36th Wing commander looks on as Team Andersen kids cut the ribbon for the grand reopening of the Andersen Air Force Base pool Nov. 24. The pool reopened after undergoing more than a year of substantial renovations. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Jeffrey Schultze)



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First Four: New faces, same mission

By Airman 1st Class Anthony Jennings
36th Wing Public Affairs

The Andersen First Four Council provides an outlet for Airmen seeking professional growth and striving to be an active part of improving the morale, welfare and quality of life of their peers.

The First Four, governed by an executive board, recently hosted elections for new council members. The organization is open to all ranks within the Airmen tier. In fact, every Airman assigned to Andersen Air Force Base is a member of the First Four, according to the First Four's constitution.

"My goal is to make our committee as large as possible," said Airman 1st Class Anthony Tucker, 36th Comptroller Squadron financial services technician and newly elected First Four president. "We are a group of 15 to 20 people, being the voice of more than 600 Airmen, and that needs to change. We'd like to see more of Andersen's Airmen become involved with the committee, the base and local community."

Active participation in the First Four helps Airmen hone their leadership abilities as they pursue the noncommissioned officer rungs of the Air Force rank ladder, as well as providing networking opportunities.



Stepping Up: Team Andersen congratulates the newly elected First Four Council members, from left, Publicist Airman Whitney Tucker, Secretary Airman 1st Class Rachel Pomazal, Vice President Airman 1st Class Eric Gibson, President Airman 1st Class Anthony Tucker, Treasurer Senior Airman Bryce Sellers, Trustee Airman 1st Class Matthew Mohrenweiser and Trustee Airman 1st Class Emerald Gipson. The Andersen First Four Council provides an outlet for all Airmen seeking professional growth and striving to be an active part of improving the morale, welfare and quality of life of their peers. The First Four holds meetings every second Friday of the month at 3:30 p.m. in the HotSpot. Airmen of all ranks with the Airman tier are encouraged to attend. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Anthony Jennings)

"The Andersen First Four is the best way to show your supervision that you are thankful to be where you are and show that you have the skills

to go far in the U.S. Air Force," Tucker said. "Everything the Air Force wants you to learn or get involved in, you can get from the First Four. You

get the leadership and communication skills, volunteer hours, as well as the opportunity to get acquainted with Airmen from the many different Air

Force Specialty Codes on this base."

The First Four meetings are held every second Friday of the month at 3:30 p.m. in the HotSpot. Airmen are encouraged to attend at least once before deciding whether or not they want to get involved with the council.

"The new council looks really promising," said Senior Airman Mark Donahue, 36th Medical Operations Squadron bioenvironmental engineering technician and former president of First Four. "They are much younger than the last, so I believe this means they will be more in touch with our newer Airmen."

Team Andersen congratulates the newly elected First Four Council members: President Airman 1st Class Anthony Tucker; Vice President Airman 1st Class Eric Gibson; Treasurer Senior Airman Bryce Sellers; Secretary Airman 1st Class Rachel Pomazal; Publicist Airman Whitney Tucker; Trustees Airman 1st Class Joseph Stewart, Airman 1st Class Trinidad Diaz, Airman 1st Class Emerald Gipson, Airman 1st Class Matthew Mohrenweiser.

"If you'd like to help out your fellow Airmen and yourself, why not get involved with the council specifically designed to do so," Donahue said. "This is your council, where your ideas matter. If you disagree with the council members, let your voice be heard. Everyone's opinions are equal."

Charles King Fitness Center Swimming Pool now open



New Pool: The new Charles King Fitness Center swimming pool on U.S. Naval Base Guam is shown on Dec. 2. The Olympic-size pool opened Nov. 26 and offers an option of four 50-meter lap lanes or eight 25-meter lap lanes. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Corwin Colbert)

Charles King Fitness Center Swimming Pool

The new Charles King Fitness Center Swimming Pool opened on Nov. 26. The pool is an Olympic size pool with the option of four 50-meter swim lanes or eight 25-meter swim lanes. It has new pavilions, a splash pad for youths, a kiddie pool, four family changing rooms with showers and lockers, and a larger area for recreational swim. Swim club activities, including lessons and competitive swim practice, have moved to the new pool. Water aerobics are offered three times a week; the schedule can be downloaded from the MWR website.

Hours of operation:

Monday-Friday lap swim from 5:30-8:30 a.m.
Tuesday-Sunday and holidays recreational swim from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Extended hours of operation coming soon will be:
Monday-Friday from 4:30 a.m.-9 p.m.
Saturday from 6 a.m.-9 p.m.
Sunday and holidays from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
For more information, visit www.mwrguam.com or call 564-1822.

Off Limits Establishments

The Guam Armed Forces Disciplinary Control Board has placed the following establishment off limits to all military personnel:

Gallop USA Indian Art and Jewelry at the Micronesia Mall

All military personnel are prohibited from entering the establishment. Service personnel, whether in uniform or in civilian clothing, found entering or leaving the establishment may be subject to disciplinary action under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Coast Guard cook shares skill, leads by example

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

Joint Region Edge Staff

Little more than four years ago, Clifford C. Ricalde made the decision to join the world's finest volunteer lifesaving organization. He said he wanted to make something of himself while doing something he enjoyed and serving his fellow citizens.

"Prior to joining, I was attending a culinary academy and discovered a love for cooking," Ricalde said. "Luckily, the Coast Guard needed cooks. So I joined and it's been one of the best decisions I've ever made."



As a member of U.S. Coast Guard Cutter (USCGC) Sequoia (WLB 215), Food Service Specialist 2nd Class Ricalde ensures that his fellow Coast Guardsmen are well nourished and ready to defend our country's waterways. As the ship's "Jack-of-the-Dust," he is the one who handles the daily issues around the galley.

"I am in charge of receiving all food items, inspecting and stowing, posting to stock record cards all food items received, issued, or sold, and ensuring all storerooms are clean and orderly," Ricalde said. "In addition to that I also make sure junior FSs are expending food items on a

first-in, first-out basis according to their packing date and making only authorized issues to the captain-of-the-watch and other authorized persons."

Because of the small size of his division, Ricalde is also required to ensure proper completion of required records, forms and files submitted for all reports.

"I also write all our menus, ensuring load-out guides are completed and make certain there is variety and nutritional adequacy in menus," he said. "Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, I also supervise the galley cooks to ensure proper food preparation, service, and conservation."

According to Ricalde's supervisor, Chief Food Service Specialist Jason M. Drzewicki, though he has only been at the command a short while, because of his can-do attitude and the care he puts into his job, Ricalde stands out from his peers.

"Since he reported he has never done anything less than an excellent job. His culinary skills are recognized by the entire crew, as well as multiple VIPs that have eaten aboard the ship," Drzewicki said. "FS2 Ricalde has greatly improved the crew morale with each and every meal he prepares. FS2 also ensures that all other aspects of his job meet the same standards — from cleaning the galley to completing the required paperwork for the galley."

Drzewicki also said that Ricalde is a great leader, always willing to lead by example, and give junior personnel advice and training that will benefit their careers.

"He constantly shows and demonstrates to junior FSs what they should be doing and how they can recreate each meal on their duty days," Drzewicki said. "FS2 Ricalde does not keep any secrets when it comes to his recipes, he gladly passes on his knowledge and skill of cooking to the entire FS Department, making life for the entire crew that much more enjoyable."

Though Ricalde is new to his current command, he should be no stranger to such praise. At his previous command, his hard work contributed to a Coast Guard Achievement Medal, a Coast Guard Unit Commendation and a Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation. He said that he owes his positive work attitude to the morals of hard work and respect he learned from his father.

"My father had an unyielding work ethic and a great appreciation for the time we have on this earth, which he instilled in me" Ricalde said. "He showed me that time is too precious to take for granted and that there is no substitute for hard work."

For everyone wondering what his key to job enjoyment and fulfillment, Ricalde had a few words of advice. "Find something you love, and then do that as a career," he said. "When you love your job, everyday is an adventure."



Preparing With Care: Food Service Specialist 2nd Class Clifford C. Ricalde slices peppers in preparation for a nutritious meal on board U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Sequoia (WLB 215), Nov. 23. Ricalde said that being able to turn his love of cooking into a career is just one of the many things he loves about being in the U.S. Coast Guard. (U.S. Coast Guard photo by FSC Jason Drzewicki)

36th Operations Group's Martinez is always vigilant



Andersen's Best: Senior Airman David Martinez, 36th Operations Group control tower air traffic controller, stands with coworkers after being awarded Andersen's Best Nov. 23. As a control tower air traffic controller, Airman Martinez is responsible for coordinating the takeoff and landing of aircraft on the Andersen Air Force Base (AFB) flightline. While at Andersen AFB, Martinez has played a direct role in controlling more than 30,000 sorties in a dual runway environment. "Senior Airman Martinez is one of many of our always vigilant Air Traffic Controllers," said Chief Master Sergeant James Slisik, 36th Operations Group superintendent. "For example, he identified and alerted an aircraft on approach to the wrong airfield. He promptly alerted the crew and redirected them to Andersen, saving 15 personnel on board and the aircraft from disaster." Andersen's Best is a recognition program which highlights a top performer from the 36th Wing. Each week, supervisors nominate a member of their team for outstanding performance and the wing commander presents the selected Airman with an award. To nominate your Airman for Andersen's Best, send an e-mail explaining their accomplishments to ebone.garden@andersen.af.mil. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Jeffrey Schultze)

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Sailors show information warfare dominance

By Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class (SW) Peter Lewis
Joint Region Edge Staff



New Warfare Qualification: Capt. William Chase (left), commanding officer, Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station, Guam, stands proudly with his newest information dominance warriors, after a warfare pinning ceremony at the command compound in Dededo, Nov. 24. The six Sailors were the first on-island, and among the first in the Navy, to earn the new Information Dominance Corps warfare qualifications. In the photo are, from left: Chase; Chief Warrant Officer 2 Joel Dean; Information Systems Technician 1st Class (IDW) Christopher Castillo; Master Chief Information Systems Technician (IDW/SW/AW) Steven Dupree; Chief Information Systems Technician (IDW/SW/AW) Christopher Richardson; Lt. David Dimmer; and Lt. Cdr. James Lecounte. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class (SW) Peter Lewis)

Six Sailors from Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station (NCTS), Guam were the first on-island, and among the first in the Navy, to receive the new Information Dominance Corps (IDC) warfare qualifications, during a pinning ceremony at the command headquarters in Dededo, Nov. 24.

The new information dominance warriors are Lt. Cdr. James Lecounte, Lt. David Limmer, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Joel Dean, Master Chief Information Systems Technician (IDW/SW/AW) Steven Dupree, Chief Information Systems Technician (IDW/SW/AW) Christopher Richardson, and Information Systems Technician 1st Class (IDW) Christopher Castillo.

The IDC program marks the first new wide-scale warfare pins since the enlisted-only expeditionary warfare specialist (EXW) qualification was announced in 2006. The pins are only one of several changes the Navy has made over the past year to the way it deals with information warfare, including the founding of 10th Fleet/Fleet Cyber Command as part of the overall U.S. Cyber Command.

Capt. William Chase, commanding officer, NCTS, Guam, leveled praise upon those who were pinned, saying that they had taken another step toward strengthening the Navy, and improving the service's ability to defend against threats and

protect the nation.

"This recognition reflects years of experience in [information technology] and communications, no small amount of study, and a qualification board," he said. "It is a major accomplishment, a career milestone, and a historic moment."

Dupree, who is also the command Enlisted Information Dominance Warfare Specialist (IDW) Program Manager, was wholeheartedly in agreement, and said that earning an IDW pin will go a long way toward furthering the

Navy's mission.

"These Sailors' significant accomplishment will help to enhance the security of Guam's networks, which are used by all military coalition forces operating throughout the Pacific and Indian oceans," he said. "That's no small contribution."

Castillo said that finally getting the warfare device pinned to his chest was something he'd been hoping for since it was first announced to the fleet.

"I'd been looking into this since

it first came out in 2009 and it was something I wanted to make sure I got," he said. "Now that I have it, it feels great knowing I was one of the few who had the opportunity to get it and was able to complete the qualification. To me, it's a huge milestone in my career."

Being the lone First Class Petty Officer or below pinned during the ceremony, Castillo served as an inspiration to the many junior personnel in attendance.

"It was great seeing him get pinned. It gave me hope and

determination that I can actually do this," said Information Systems Technician 3rd Class Thomas Hart. "I'm going to put all my effort into getting this pin because it's extremely important to me and I want to show my shipmates what information warfare dominance is all about."

Castillo had a piece of advice for any Sailors looking to pursue the new warfare qualification.

"Take advantage if you have the opportunity to get it," he said. "But it's not something that's going to be easy. Make sure you're ready to put in a lot of time and effort."

To qualify for the IDW pin, enlisted Sailors must demonstrate an understanding of specific knowledge pertaining to the IDC ratings of aerographer's mate, cryptologic technician, information systems technician, and intelligence specialist. However, the program is not exclusive to IDC ratings, and will be open to all Sailors stationed at commands offering the IDC warfare qualification.

The officer communities that qualify for the IDC pin include information professional, information warfare, intelligence, meteorological and oceanography, and space cadre. Officers must first complete a core IDC qualification, followed by advanced, community-specific qualifications.

For more information on NCTS, visit the command website at <http://www.nctsguam.navy.mil/>

For more news from U.S. Naval Forces, Marianas, visit www.navy.mil/local/guam/.

Adopt-a-School wants volunteers to help our kids

By Airman Whitney Tucker
36th Wing Public Affairs

Andersen Air Force Base is home to more than 1,300 elementary and middle school students. Many students rely on dedicated volunteers to ensure their safety and help them achieve their academic goals.

The Adopt-a-School Program places service members in close contact with both Andersen Middle

School (AMS) and Andersen Elementary School (AES) making them available to lend a helping hand to students, teachers and parents whenever possible.

"This program is a very good opportunity for squadrons on Andersen to get involved," said Rebecca Duncan, Andersen school liaison officer. "Commanders basically give a point of contact for their squadron and choose a school to sponsor. I

compile a list of all volunteer squadrons and when AMS or AES need volunteers, they are able to request an exact number of people and divide them up between volunteer squadrons to fill the need."

Volunteer squadron members will be put to good use assisting teachers and parents throughout the year with tutoring, crosswalk duties and various day-to-day activities.

"We can always use help during

the school year," said Norma Jao, AMS guidance counselor. "Volunteers would be extremely helpful when the students need additional tutoring, during educational field trips and when we hold evening events such as band performances."

The Adopt-a-School Program bridges the gap between service members and the Andersen school system. It fosters both professional and mentor relationships between

various squadrons and students who seek to excel in their studies.

"I believe partnership is important," Jao said. "This program helps to build strong relationships. We look forward to working with members of the different squadrons for years to come and seeing the progress students make as a result of the pairing."

To volunteer for the Adopt-a-School Program, call Rebecca Duncan at 366-8136.

Tax season approaching; NLSO looking for volunteers

By Toni Vegafria
U.S. Naval Legal Service Office Pacific, Det. Guam

With the holiday season already here, we at the U.S. Naval Legal Service Office Pacific, Det. Guam (NLSO), are preparing for another busy season. You guessed it — tax season.

NLSO will host the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) training course for area Navy and Coast Guard commands, sched-

uled for Jan. 10-14. This training will prepare all volunteers to be tax counselors who can assist eligible personnel in completing basic federal income tax forms. Training will also be provided to prepare returns for electronic filing using the Taxwise computer software.

In previous years, we have had great success with this program. Last year, NLSO VITA volunteers prepared and electronically filed more than 700 federal income tax

returns, resulting in \$930,000 in refunds and tax preparation savings of more than \$95,000. The success of this program depends upon command support and volunteer commitment.

Quotas for the course are now being accepted. Nominees should be serious individuals who have the time, ability and desire to help their shipmates in our tax center or authorized tax centers of U.S. Naval Base Guam. At a minimum, volunteers will be expected to serve

one day per week at the tax center from Jan. 31-April 15.

No prior tax preparation experience is required to successfully complete the course. However, all volunteers will be required at the completion of training, to pass an Internal Revenue Service approved test. Only volunteers completing the training and passing the test will be eligible to prepare and file tax returns. Volunteers will also be required to complete and sign a Standards of Conduct

form, as volunteers have a responsibility to provide quality service and uphold the highest of ethical standards.

Class size is limited and quotas will be apportioned as necessary based on the size of the command, need and number of requests received. To reserve a seat and for course content or more information about the VITA Program, e-mail Toni Vegafria at antonette.vegafria@fe.navy.mil or call NLSO at 333-2061/2.

Guamanians remember Dec. 8, 1941

By Anna-Victoria Crisostomo
Joint Region Edge Staff

Every year on Dec. 8, thousands of residents gather at the Dulce Nombre de Maria Cathedral Basilica in Hagåtña to celebrate the feast of the Immaculate Conception and honor the island's patron saint. The event typically consists of reverent prayer and a procession of the faithful around the village.

On Dec. 8, 1941, however, the sounds of solemn celebration were replaced by blaring alarms and the crash of bombs exploding as World War II (WWII) touched down in the Pacific during one of the holiest days of the year. The attack on Guam began only a few hours after that on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

The Catholic feast day is a celebration of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, mother of Jesus. Catholicism teaches that Mary, known to residents as Santa Marian Kamalen, was born free from original sin and thus was worthy to carry God's child. The people of Guam have honored her as their patroness since the Spanish Era. A 300-year-old statue of her, steeped in tradition and lore, occupies the place of honor above the altar in the basilica and is the focal point of the Dec. 8 procession.

When the bombing started that day, many residents were in Mass either at the cathedral or in various churches around the island.

"Life here on Guam was centered around the church," said Anthony Ramirez, curator and



Religious Statue: Anthony Ramirez, curator of the Guam Museum of Art, Culture and History, shows a replica of the statue of Santa Marian Kamalen as it sits in a display case at the museum in Hagatna Nov. 26. While there are a few stories that speculate as to the origin of the original statue, all accounts seem to agree on the southern village of Merizo as its place of origin. Today, the original statue is found at the Dulce Nombre de Maria Cathedral Basilica in Hagatna. The statue has its own set of caretakers who prepare it for Santa Marian Kamalen's feast day service and procession every year on Dec. 8. (U.S. Navy photo by Reynaldo Rabara)

acting administrator of The Guam Museum of Culture, Art and History. "Dec. 8 is a holy day of obligation, which is akin to a sabbath day."

According to Ramirez, the attacks were centered on the village of Sumay, present-day U.S. Naval

Base Guam, because of the presence of Navy and Marine forces and ships that were based at Apra Harbor.

Two days after the attack, on Dec. 10, Japanese forces stepped foot on Guam and began their tyranny. The village of Hagåtña,

once the center of activity and social life for the Chamorro people, became the Japanese headquarters. Shortly after their takeover, the Japanese executed several to demonstrate their power.

"This was to serve as a reminder that the people of Guam

had to live under the Japanese dictates," Ramirez said. "Life was very harsh for the people. It was a very rapid transition or change of power from a United States system to a Japanese system which was more regimented, more disciplined than the lax American structure of living."

Overnight, the people of Guam were ripped away from the lives they knew that had been filled with friends, freedom, faith and their budding American identities. Many were forced to work in labor camps, separated from their families and killed for refusing to surrender their allegiance to America. In 1944, Uncle Sam returned to Guam and liberated the island from its captors as so many residents believed would happen.

Today, despite the atrocities of WWII and capture of the island that December day, residents still honor their patroness and give thanks for her many blessings.

Ramirez added that, while this is not the only Dec. 8 occurrence that has brought hard times upon Guam's people (Supertyphoon Pongsona hit Guam Dec. 8, 2002), the many tests that come on this day have not shaken the dedication of the faithful.

"I think, sometimes, in a way it kind of strengthens the beliefs of Chamorros on this particular feast day," Ramirez said. "I would say, although it's kind of ironic and maybe sounds even contradictory, I think people's faith, when it becomes tested, actually sometimes becomes stronger."

News Notes

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.

Priority Placement Program (PPP) for Military Spouses

If you are a military spouse looking for a job, PPP may be able to assist you. If you have recently relocated with your sponsor or just received new orders to relocate you may be eligible to register for PPP. You will be required to furnish a copy of your sponsor's PCS orders. Even if you've never worked for the federal government, new Executive Order 13473 may still award you eligibility for appointment to the federal service under a competitive appointment. Note that PPP is an automated system that only refers spouses to DoD positions and you must be a U.S. citizen to be eligible for employment in the federal government. For more information, e-mail Kim Mendoza (last names beginning A thru M) at Kimberly.mendoza1@navy.mil or Renita San Miguel (last names beginning N thru Z) at Renita.sanmiguel@navy.mil or visit online <http://www.donhr.navy.mil/> (click on "Employment" and "Military Spouses").

Holiday Door Decorating Contest

Decorate your home, office, or dorm doors and enter the Hotspot's annual Holiday Door Decorating Contest. The contest is open to all Andersen offices along with base housing and dormitory occupants. Doors will be judged on design and creativity. Only the outside of the doors will be judged. Doors must be ready for display by Dec. 15. Judging will take place Dec. 16, and winners announced Dec. 17. Great prizes will be awarded! Entry forms are available at the Hotspot. For more information, call 366-2339.

Air Force Clubs Membership Drive

The Air Force Clubs Membership Drive is going on now! All personnel who join the Top of the Rock Collocated Club between now and Dec. 31 will automatically receive three months free membership, a free cash back rewards program and two free lunches at the Top of the Rock. Membership benefits are numerous. In addition to the Military Free Cash rewards program, Air Force Clubs offer numerous free and inexpensive activities including discounts on every meal to include special functions, an annual \$25,000 scholarship program and other member's only programs. The Club is a great place for entertainment and meeting new friends in a fun and safe environment. Join now and start reaping the benefits. Membership applications are available at the Top of the Rock, Gecko Lanes Bowling Center, Palm Tree Golf Course, Magellan Inn Dining Facility and Coral Reef Fitness Center. For more information, call 366-6166.

Last week to donate for Christmas Drop

By Airman 1st Class
Anthony Jennings

36th Wing Public Affairs

With just a few weeks left before the commencement of Operation Christmas Drop, the window of opportunity to make a difference in the lives of those in need is quickly closing.

The Air Force plans to deliver 60 pallets of gifts to about 50 islands to help support Guam's neighbors during Operation Christmas Drop, a four-day airdrop mission which delivers donated supplies and gifts to those in need. Christmas Drop do-

notation boxes will stay in place until Dec. 8 with flights scheduled to run from Dec. 13-17.

"We are merely the medium between the generous people on Team Andersen and local communities on Guam to the people in need on these remote islands," said Capt. Daniel Uchtmann, 734th Air Mobility Squadron and Operation Christmas Drop vice president.

Operation Christmas Drop is a nonprofit organization powered by volunteers from Andersen Air Force Base and the local community that have to date dropped more than 800,000 pounds of goods through-

out the islands since Operation Christmas Drop's inception.

People who wish to donate can donate items such as coffee, mosquito repellent, axes, serviceable clothes, fishing and snorkeling equipment, non-battery operated toys and non-perishable foods at collection points across the base and the island.

"Many of the donations these people need are things we tend to take for granted," Uchtmann said. "You don't have to donate an arm and a leg, but even the smallest gesture of kindness can make a big difference in the lives of those who are

less fortunate."

This year marks the 58th anniversary of Operation Christmas Drop, making it the longest-running airdrop mission in the history of the Air Force.

The Christmas tradition started in 1952 when WB-50 aircraft from the 54th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, formerly assigned to Andersen, was flying a mission south of Guam. As the aircraft passed over one of the islands, the crew saw islanders waving to them. The crew gathered miscellaneous items from the plane, put the items in a container, attached it to a parachute and

dropped the cargo as they circled around again.

That small gesture of kindness, which started with just one box, has now grown into an islandwide effort to help make Christmas merry for those less fortunate.

Today, the men and women of the U.S. Air Force, the University of Guam, media, local government, business, and professional and charitable organizations work together to collect cash and merchandise to deliver toys, clothing, fishing equipment, food items and tools to remote islands and atolls in the area.

Andersen OSC supports Christmas Drop



Donation: Members of the Andersen Officers Spouses Club (OSC), from left, Terrell Michael and Audrey Roberts, Welfare Committee chairwomen, Kristen Murren, 2nd vice president, and Cat Harrington, president, present Capt. Charles Schulz, president of Operation Christmas Drop, with a check for \$5,000 for the 2010 Operation Christmas Drop Nov. 15 on Andersen Air Force Base. The Andersen OSC has been a dedicated supporter of Operation Christmas Drop since its inception. (Photo courtesy of the Andersen Officers Spouses Club)

GW Strike Group begins exercise with S. Korea

By Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Cheryl Callahan

The George Washington Carrier Strike Group (GWCSG) entered the waters west of the Korean peninsula to participate in a combined military exercise with the Republic of Korea (ROK) on Nov. 28.

The exercise is part of the series announced at the 2 + 2 meetings in July and is scheduled to run until Dec. 1.

"While this exercise, which is defensive in nature, has been planned for some time, it underscores the importance of the ROK-U.S. alliance and our collective commitment to regional security and stability," said Rear Adm. Dan Cloyd, Commander, Task Force 70.

The purpose of the four-day exercise is to enhance the readiness and interoperability of ROK and U.S. forces during routine operations in international waters and airspace. Both militaries have

conducted similar exercises together in recent months on both sides of the peninsula.

The exercise will include more than 7,000 personnel, 11 ships and a variety of aircraft to include F-18 Super Hornets, F-16C Fighting Falcons, A-10C Thunderbolt II, F-15Ks and KF-16s.

The ships involved include: the Nimitz-class nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS George Washington (CVN 73), with embarked Carrier Air Wing Five (CVW-5); the guided-missile cruiser USS Cowpens (CG 63); the guided-missile destroyers USS Lassen (DDG 82), USS Stethem (DDG 63), and USS Fitzgerald (DDG 62); and several ships and aircraft from the ROK.

The two nations will conduct air defense and surface warfare readiness training, communications and data link drills and subject matter expert exchanges during the course of the four-day exercise.

For more news from Commander, U.S. 7th Fleet, visit www.navy.mil/local/c7f/.



Exercise: Capt. Reid Tanaka Chief of Staff of Commander Task Force (CTF) 70 greets Republic of Korea's (ROK) Rear Adm. Lee aboard the aircraft carrier USS George Washington (CVN 73). George Washington is in the waters west of the Korean peninsula in preparation of a training exercise with the ROK Navy. This exercise reinforces U.S. commitment to the ROK and regional partners in the western Pacific Ocean. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Cheng S. Yang)

Officials condemn leaks, detail prevention efforts

By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

Government officials condemned the publication of hundreds of thousands of sensitive, classified State Department cables by WikiLeaks Nov. 28.

The website published the documents that detail private U.S. diplomatic discussions with foreign governments. The cables are candid reports by diplomats, and seen by themselves, can give an incomplete picture of the relationship between the U.S. and the foreign governments, White House officials said.

The cables are not expressions of policy, nor do they always shape final policy decisions, officials said.

"Nevertheless, these cables could compromise private discussions with foreign governments and opposition leaders, and when the substance of private conversations is printed on the front pages of newspapers across the world, it can deeply impact not only U.S. foreign policy interests, but those of our allies and friends around the world," said White House spokesman Robert Gibbs.

"To be clear, such disclosures put at risk our diplomats, intelligence professionals and people around the

world who come to the United States for assistance in promoting democracy and open government," he said.

The release of the documents may risk the lives of diplomats and friends living under repressive regimes.

The U.S. stands for responsible, open government at home and around the world, Gibbs said.

"This reckless and dangerous action runs counter to that goal," he said. "By releasing stolen and classified documents, WikiLeaks has put at risk not only the cause of human rights but also the lives and work of these individuals. We condemn in the strongest terms the unauthorized disclosure of classified documents and sensitive national security information."

Today's posting is the third WikiLeaks publication of sensitive U.S. documents. The last publication included military and intelligence reports from Afghanistan, and another contained similar documents from Iraq. Newspaper and magazine journalists in the U.S. and Europe received and reviewed the documents from WikiLeaks and have written stories on their content.

Pentagon officials have put in

place methods to minimize such thefts of classified materials.

"It is now much more difficult for a determined actor to get access to and move information outside of authorized channels," said Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman, following publication of news articles on the documents Nov. 28.

The theft of the materials traces to the lack of sharing of information and intelligence prior to and after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, officials said.

The commission studying the environment at the time found that agencies weren't sharing enough information with each other.

While stopping short of saying better sharing could have prevented the attacks, the 9/11 Commission pointed this out as a weakness that needed to be closed.

Federal officials responded by working to push out more information and intelligence in an effort to strike a balance between the "need to know" and the need to "share to win."

"Departments and agencies have taken significant steps to reduce those obstacles, and the work that has been done to date has resulted in considerable improvement in information-sharing and increased

cooperation across government operations," Whitman said.

The effort backfired in that it made it easier for individuals or groups inside the process to steal the information.

Department of Defense (DoD) officials said they responded by putting in place policies to prevent such occurrences, while still giving information and intelligence to the people who need it most: those confronting the realities of terrorism.

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates ordered two reviews of information and intelligence sharing in August.

The review called on DoD systems to disable all "write" capability for removable media on classified computers to mitigate the risks of personnel moving classified data to unclassified systems, Whitman said.

The reviews also direct DoD organizations to have a limited number of systems authorized to move data from classified to unclassified systems, he said.

Officials within DoD organizations are also implementing two-person handling rules for moving data from classified to unclassified systems to ensure proper oversight and reduce chances of unauthorized

release of classified material, Whitman said.

DoD officials are also taking a page from credit card companies which monitor patterns and detect suspicious or anomalous behavior. Some 60 percent of DoD's classified net is now using a host-based security system — an automated way of controlling the computer system with a capability of monitoring unusual data access or usage.

Department officials are speeding deployment to the rest of the classified system, Whitman said.

In addition, department officials are conducting security oversight inspections in forward-deployed areas, undertaking vulnerability assessments of DoD networks and improving awareness and compliance with information protection procedures.

U.S. Central Command, for example, has increased insider threat training for its intelligence professionals and started multidiscipline training between traditional security, law enforcement and information assurance at all echelons.

Command officials also have established insider threat working groups to address the WikiLeaks incident and prevent reoccurrence.

Cookie Caper looking for sweet donations

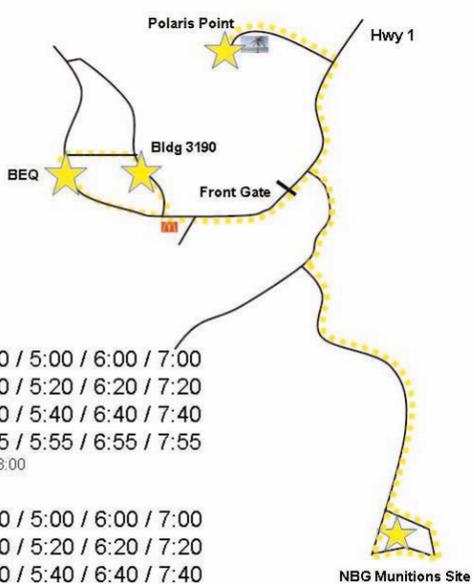


Cookies for Airmen: Volunteers prepare bags of cookies for unaccompanied Airmen at the 2009 Cookie Caper on Andersen Air Force Base Dec. 13, 2009. Last year's event yielded 780 decorated bags, each containing a dozen cookies. The 2010 Cookie Caper will be held Dec. 8 in the Chapel 2 Annex Room. Volunteers are needed to bake and package cookies. Cookies may be dropped off curbside in front of Chapel 2 from 6:30-9 a.m. After 9 a.m. cookies may be dropped off inside the Chapel. For more information contact Wendy Wieder at wiederguam@yahoo.com, or call 653-0549. (Photo courtesy of the Andersen Officers Spouses Club)

U.S. Naval Base Guam Shuttle Bus December Schedules

Gold Route December Revision

Monday to Friday
Mornings: 4 AM – 8 AM
Afternoons: 4 PM – 8 PM



AM Schedule

BEQ	4:00 / 5:00 / 6:00 / 7:00
NBG Munitions Site	4:20 / 5:20 / 6:20 / 7:20
Polaris Point	4:40 / 5:40 / 6:40 / 7:40
BLDG 3190	4:55 / 5:55 / 6:55 / 7:55

Note: Bus proceeds to NEX to start Blue 1 at 8:00

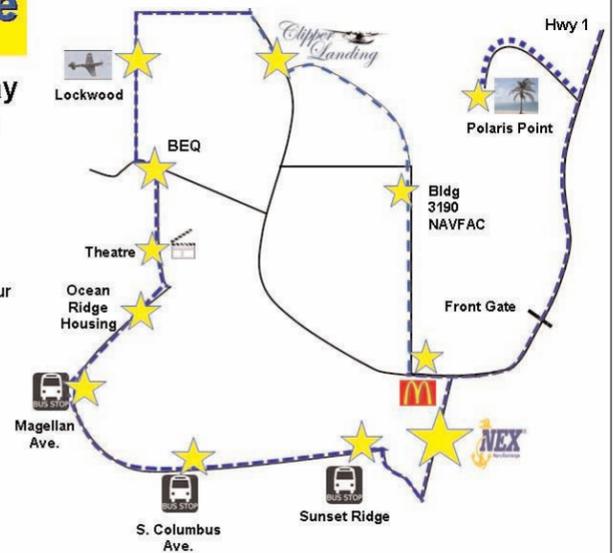
PM Schedule

Polaris Point	4:00 / 5:00 / 6:00 / 7:00
NBG Munitions Site	4:20 / 5:20 / 6:20 / 7:20
BLDG 3190	4:40 / 5:40 / 6:40 / 7:40
BEQ	4:45 / 5:45 / 6:45 / 7:45

Note: Blue 2 route ends at Polaris Point and becomes the evening Gold Route.

Blue Route December Revision

**Monday to Friday
and Weekends**
8 AM – 4 PM



Schedule

NEX	Top of Hour
Polaris Point	:15
NEX	:30
McDonalds	:33
Bldg 3190 NAVFAC	:36
Clipper Landing	:40
Lockwood	:44
BEQ	:45
Theatre	:47
Ocean Ridge Housing	:50
Magellan Ave. Bus Stop	:52
S. Columbus Bus Stop	:54
Sunset Ridge Bus Stop	:56

MCPON sends 2010 holiday message to the fleet

Special from Master Chief of the Navy (SS/SW) Rick D. West

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON)(SS/SW) Rick D. West released the following Holiday message to the fleet Dec. 1:

“Shipmates and Navy Families, In anticipation of the holiday season, I would like to take a few minutes to wish you ‘happy holidays’ and to thank you and our Navy fam-

ilies for the outstanding service and support that you provide our great Navy and nation every day. I could not be more proud of you!

As you know I’m a competitor, and this holiday season I have a challenge for each of you. Are you up for it? The challenge is simple. Be mindful of your shipmates’ holiday plans and don’t leave any shipmate behind. Take the time to find out what plans your shipmates have

over the holidays. No one should be left alone sitting aboard a ship, in the barracks or at home. You’ve worked hard all year and so have they. Just as our nation supports us and our Navy, let’s support each other by making this season one where we are providing our shipmates with the best holiday memories that we can as a Navy family.

Take on this challenge and you’ll receive the gift of pride knowing

that we each contributed towards making this a memorable and joyous holiday season for our entire Navy family.

Additionally, I would be remiss if I didn’t mention and thank those out doing the job. Today, thousands of our shipmates are deployed around the world vigilantly keeping the watch and ready to answer our nations call. Thank you for working hard for our nation’s freedom.

As we bring 2010 to a close, please remember to keep safety at the forefront of your daily activities both on and off duty. We’ve had a great year in safety, and I want to see you continue this trend throughout the end of the year and into 2011.

Happy Holidays, Shipmates, and HOOYAH!”

For more news from Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, visit www.navy.mil/local/mcpon/.

'Tis the season to be energy conscious

By Kevin D. Evans

Joint Region Marianas Energy Manager

Now that Thanksgiving Day is over and I've waddled away from the kitchen and into the family room to ponder holiday decorations for the season, I'll share some great holiday energy savings tips. Ho! Ho! Ho!

Energy-efficient holiday lighting can be both festive and frugal. Holiday lighting is a tradition of the season, but those festive little lights can still turn one into a bitter Ebenezer Scrooge when the electricity bill rolls in. To avoid a "Bah, humbug!" attitude, take an energy efficient look at the bulbs you're stringing on your trees and on the eaves of your home.

Large, traditional colored bulbs could be costing you a bundle.

While most C7 or C9 incandescent lights use five to seven watts per bulb, some of the older strings use up to 10 watts per bulb.

Consider buying new miniature Light Emitting Diode (LED) lights, which use about 70 percent less energy and last much longer than the larger bulbs. If you prefer the brilliance of the larger lights, switch to five-watt bulbs, which use about 30 percent less energy than seven- to 10-watt bulbs.

For both indoors and outdoors, LED holiday lights are now available in green, orange, gold, red, and white and blue. They're shatterproof, shock resistant, safer to touch, and won't burn your hands. They also present little to no fire

hazard, save up to 80-90 percent of your energy costs, and they are long lasting.

To avoid accidentally leaving your lights on and running up your electric bill unnecessarily, use an automatic timer, both indoors and out. You'll remove the burden of turning the lights on and off and avoid leaving them on all night or during the daylight hours. Just make sure that the timer you use is rated to handle the total wattage of your lights.

Remember, if you live in base housing, both U.S. Naval Base Guam and Andersen Air Force Base housing instructions' season holiday lighting caveats apply. Please, check your local housing instructions.

Safety should play an important role in your holiday decorating. Here are a few suggestions: Ensure all lights contain the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) label, meaning they meet UL safety requirements. While you're reading labels, be sure you're buying the right set for indoor use, outdoor use or both.

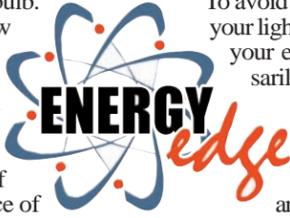
Before decorating, check all light sets for frayed wires, damaged sockets or cracked insulation. If you find any defects, replace the entire set. All outdoor cords, plugs and sockets must be weatherproof. Keep electrical connections off the ground, and make sure wiring is kept clear of drainpipes and railings to prevent any risk of shock.

Dry Christmas trees can be fire hazards, so please, keep trees well watered and keep extension cords and light strings away from the

water. Light your tree only when you are at home and awake to enjoy it. If you're in the mood for a holiday that's old-fashioned and more energy efficient, consider decorating this year's tree.

Please, also, keep a fire extinguisher handy, and be sure your home's smoke detectors have new batteries and that they're working properly -- good advice in any case.

So, no matter whether you're in competition to have the best and brightest lighting or tree display on the block, or you're simply looking for an ambience, please keep energy efficiency in mind. It's a gift you can enjoy all year long in your family energy budget. Happy holidays, Merry Christmas, be safe in your home, and have an energy-aware and happy holiday!



Festival: Military helps holiday kickoff

Continued from Page 1

best to help out," Hammang said. "It makes not only the base, but the surrounding area, a better place."

Rebecca Webb, an Air Force spouse, spent the day watching her 8-year-old daughter paint other children's faces as part of the U.S. Naval Base Guam (NBG) Girl Scout troop's free entertainment.

"This is our first holiday on Guam,

so this is important to us to be here," Webb said. "As most military families, you're trying to embrace where you are. So we knew this would be a fun event to come and try out and see how Guam does it."

At the festival's two stage areas, students from several Guam schools sang and danced for attendees. The festival also featured a parade with floats, banners and marchers representing NBG Fire and Emergency

Services, NAVFAC Marianas' energy program, Father Duenas Memorial School's Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, as well as local businesses and the Mayors' Council of Guam.

The highlight of the event featured a countdown for the lighting of an artificial tree at dusk, following a prayer for peace in honor of service members at home and overseas. As multi-colored lights went on all over

the park, a snow machine covered attendees with artificial snow.

Ensign Richard Russell, of U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam, said it was exciting to see everyone having fun and it brought back memories of snow and holidays spent in his hometown of Boston.

"The tree is absolutely beautiful," Russell said. "This is really great that everybody's come together today for this great event and the Coast

Guard's definitely glad to be here."

The festival's theme this year was "Tiempon Minagof," (tee-EM-pun min-A-gof), which is Chamorro for "A Time of Joy."

The park, including the main 30-foot tree, will light up every evening from 6 p.m.-midnight until Jan. 3. For more information, call Guam Chamber of Commerce at 472-6311 or visit online at www.guamchamber.com.gu.



Festival: Local residents and military members enjoy a tree lighting ceremony at Guam Chamber of Commerce's 18th Annual Christmas Festival at Skinner Plaza in Hagatna Nov. 27. The event included a parade, live performances from local dance groups and choirs, food giveaways and games. (U.S. Navy Photo by Jesse Leon Guerrero)



Snacks: Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (SW/AW) Shivonne Willoughby, left, and Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Matthew Romano both from U.S. Naval Hospital Guam, hand out free popcorn to families and other attendees at Guam Chamber of Commerce's 18th Annual Christmas Festival at Skinner Plaza in Hagatna Nov. 27. (U.S. Navy Photo by Jesse Leon Guerrero)

Pool: Great turnout for upgraded facility

Continued from Page 1

"We overhauled the entire mechanical system to include piping, controls, valves and pumps," Hinsvark said. "A state-of-the-art water and chlorination system now protects our swimmers. Additionally, a complete lighting upgrade ensures safe day and night swimming. We renovated the entire decking surface with a cool surface walking material, and completely gutted the pool house for a beautiful and more customer friendly area."

To coincide with added safety measures provided by the pool renovation, Team Andersen

Swimming: Team Andersen members came out in force Nov. 20 to enjoy the newly renovated base pool during its grand reopening weekend. After being closed for more than a year, the pool is open for patrons to come swim, barbecue and sunbathe at their leisure. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman Whitney Tucker)

patrons can look forward to a revamped lifeguard and child safety program.

"All lifeguards take the American Red Cross lifeguarding course currently taught at the Department of Parks and Recreation in Hagatna," Stiers said. "Also, the lifeguard stands, which did not allow guards to see around the edges of the pool, have been replaced. Now lifeguards can see into the blind spots to ensure 100 percent safety."

Andersen AFB is a prime location for year-round poolside entertainment. Residents now have the ability to lounge in the sun, barbecue with friends or simply get a good workout by taking advantage of this Andersen asset.

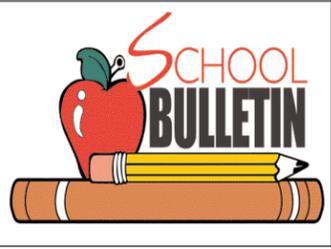
"The base pool provides an outlet for Team Andersen members," Stiers said. "It is a great way to wind down after a long day at work and catch up on time with family. After a long hiatus, we are more than happy to provide this resource to our service members and their families."



New chief master sergeant selects at Andersen



New Chief Master Sergeants: Team Andersen congratulates its newest chief master sergeant selects: Brian Loisel, left, and Nicole Sheleva, right, of 554th REDHORSE, and Karl Bradford, 36th Comptroller Squadron. Chief master sergeant is the highest enlisted rank in the Air Force, with the exception of Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force. Only Airmen who uphold the highest standards of performance, professional competence, leadership, education and experience earn the right to pin on the eight-striped chevron. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Anthony Jennings)



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 349-2113.

Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA)

School board meetings are the second Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m.

Upcoming meetings:

Dec. 14 at Cmdr. William C. McCool Elementary/Middle School

Jan. 18 at Guam High School

Feb. 15 at Andersen Elementary School

March 15 at Guam High School

April 19 at Cmdr. William C. McCool Elementary/Middle School

May 10 at Guam High School

Andersen Elementary School

Family Learning Night scheduled for Dec. 9 has been postponed. The new date will be announced.

Andersen Middle School

Holiday Concert Dec. 9 at 6:30 p.m. in the Dragon Theater. All parents and students are welcome; band students should be present by 6 p.m.

McCool Elementary/Middle School

Parent Teacher Organization Holiday Shop Dec. 4 from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. in the cafeteria.

Guam High School

SAT and Subject Test at St. John's School, Upper Tumon Dec. 4 at 7:30 a.m. Dates for the SATs are posted in school office and also on the College Board website. Students must create an account with the College Board and then register for the test online. The test days are always on a Saturday and students need to be at the school by 7:30 a.m.

Mid-Winter Ball at the Panther Den at Guam High School Dec. 11 from 7 p.m.-11 p.m.

Guam Military Christian Homeschoolers

Homeschool support group meets the second Tuesday of every month from 1-2 p.m. For more information, contact Guam Military Homeschool Coordinator Christine Duplissey at christine_duplissey@yahoo.com or 564-3360.

ELA curriculum gets makeover

By Anna-Victoria Crisostomo

Joint Region Edge Staff

Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) schools in Europe, the Americas and the Pacific have adopted a new English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum that was implemented this fall.

Early Childhood Education Instructional Systems Specialist (ECE ISS) Denise Sheedy shed some light on the new curriculum and the steps leading to its adoption.

"This new curriculum takes advantage of 21st century technologies for communication, instruction and assessment, as well as includes interdisciplinary units and resources," Sheedy said.

She added that new students

benefit from this curriculum because it is current in content and technology and integrates science and social studies content areas. Sheedy also said that the new curriculum aligns well with current DoDEA standards.

Students from pre-kindergarten through sixth grade are participating in the Reading Streets program. At the secondary level, the program is known as Elements of Literature.

While the new program only made its way into classrooms this fall, Sheedy explained that it had been under review for some time.

"DoDEA has been evaluating their curriculum and working toward this change for approximately the last five years," she said.

Sheedy added that DoDEA sets renewal cycles for each of their curricular areas that generally come up every five years. Therefore, parents and other stakeholders can expect to see curriculums changing as content and technological advancements are made.

After the new materials came into the school last spring, educators took part in a half-day training, Sheedy said. A full-day ELA roll out training was then offered in the fall.

"We discussed the standards that drive our instruction, formative assessments, flexible grouping and looked at the technology piece and materials that this curriculum provides," she said.

Carmelita Chargualaf, a first

grade teacher at Cmdr. William C. McCool Elementary/Middle School, said that the program's differentiated instruction and a focus on technology will help all students feel successful.

"The new [curriculum] reaches all learners, regardless of level or ability," Chargualaf said. "There's differentiated instruction. The writing is embedded. Technology is embedded. The stories are more relevant and up-to-date."

An educator with DoDEA for 14 years, Chargualaf is optimistic about the change.

"This is something that we've discussed as a team and we all feel the same way about the new ELA program," Chargualaf said. "We like it."

DoDEA Customer Satisfaction Survey ongoing

From Department of Defense Education Activity

The Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) is administering its biennial Customer Satisfaction Survey (CSS) through Dec. 15.

The purpose of the survey is to give parents and students an opportunity to provide feedback on the effectiveness of DoDEA educational programs.

All sponsors with children enrolled in DoDEA Pacific schools from pre-kindergarten or Sure Start through grade 12 may participate by completing a survey for each school

in which they have an enrolled student. Students in grades four through 12 may participate by completing separate surveys for those students in grades four and five, and those in grades six through 12.

As with prior Customer Satisfaction Surveys, participation remains voluntary and maximum participation is encouraged in order to obtain reliable data.

The surveys were developed through a review process of various groups to include area offices, education directorate staff members at the DoDEA headquarters and external sources.

Some questions were adapted

from the Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward Schools with additional DoDEA-specific questions. The 2010 CSS contains more parent/student specific questions, particularly with regard to guidance and counseling.

The surveys take approximately 20 minutes to complete and are available online at www.dodea.edu (click on the CSS graphic link). Parents who do not have access to the Internet should contact their child's school to determine other alternatives – such as using the school's computers.

Information derived from the surveys will be used to improve planning efforts at all levels of DoDEA

Pacific. Schools, districts and senior leaders will analyze the survey results to gain insight into the satisfaction levels of sponsors and students.

Customer satisfaction is one of many measures used by DoDEA Pacific to plan for future programs and services. The survey results will also be used to monitor progress on achieving goals of the DoDEA Community Strategic Plan (CSP). The CSP defines the strategic direction for DoDEA through 2011.

For more information on the CSS, please call the school office or visit the DoDEA website at <http://www.dodea.edu/>.

Service members, families have fun this holiday season

By Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class (SW) Peter Lewis
Joint Region Edge Staff

Are you a service member on Guam? Are you looking for fun and exciting activities for the holidays? Well, look no further!

The United Service Organizations (USO) has invited all service members and family members to join them for their annual holiday feast on Dec. 25, from noon-3 p.m. In addition to dinner, guests will also receive Christmas presents. Just go down to the USO, which is located at the Royal Orchid Guam Hotel in Tumon, show your military identification card, and join the party.

If you are interested in volunteering for this event, or for more information, call 647-4876.

Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) on NBG, will host its annual "12 Days of Christmas" event at the Single Sailor Sanctuary, Dec. 12-23.

Over the 12 days, participants can partake in a variety of activities, including scavenger hunts, trivia contests, pingpong, and stocking making. Participation in each event will earn the player points, which can be redeemed for a prize on the 13th day.

The rock/metal band Seether, will have a special performance Thursday, Dec. 16, in the field next to Molly McGee's Irish Pub.

For more information on these events, pick up an MWR calendar, or call 564-2280.

MWR will also host a New Year's Eve Family Bash, Friday, Dec. 31, from 8 p.m.-1 a.m., at the Orote Point Lanes. The celebration will feature bowling, karaoke, a live DJ, pizza, games and prizes.

Prizes will include two roundtrip economy class air tickets to any of the 50 states, a one-night stay in an Ocean View Room at the Outrigger Guam Resort and Sunday brunch for two at Palm Café at the Outrigger Guam Resort.

Fee for the bash will be \$80, and will include lane rental, two large single topping pizzas and unlimited fountain beverages. Reservations will be taken Dec. 1-20, with full payment due Wednesday, Dec. 29. For more information call 564-1858/1829

For service members at Andersen AFB, the 36th Force Support Squadron has several fun, family-friendly holiday events planned.

Join family and friends for the Hotspot's Free Outdoor Movie Night at Arc Light Park Saturday, Dec. 11, at 7 p.m., and watch Disney's PG-rated

"A Christmas Carol." Bring your blanket or lawn chairs and enjoy a movie under the stars.

Decorate your home, office or dorm doors and enter the Hotspot's annual Holiday Door Decorating Contest. The contest is open to all Andersen offices along with base housing and dormitory occupants.

Doors will be judged on design & creativity. Only the outside of the doors will be judged. Doors must be ready for display by Dec. 15. Judging will take place Dec. 16, and winners announced Dec. 17. Great prizes will be awarded. Entry forms are available at the Hotspot.

For more information about these two events, call 366-2339.

Coral Reef Fitness Center's annual Ho Ho Ho 5K Run/Walk will take place Friday, Dec. 17, starting at the Palm Tree Golf Course Driving Range parking lot. Show time is 6 a.m. Go time is 6:30 a.m. Sign up by Dec. 14.

Start the New Year off on the right foot by signing-up for Coral Reef Fitness Center's annual New Year's Day 5K Run/Walk, Saturday, Jan. 1, starting at the Palm Tree Golf Course Driving Range parking lot. Show time is 6 a.m. Start time is 6:30 a.m. Sign up by Dec. 27.

For more information about the runs, call 366-6100

Holiday Events

Christmas Dinner at USO
The United Service Organizations (USO) invites all service members their families to their annual holiday feast at the Royal Orchid Guam Hotel in Tumon from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 25. Guests will receive Christmas presents. Must present military ID. For more information, call 647-4876.

MWR's 12 Days of Christmas
Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) on U.S. Naval Base Guam (NBG) presents its annual "12 Days of Christmas" event at the Single Sailor Sanctuary (SSS) Dec. 12-23. Participants will join in scavenger hunts, trivia contests, pingpong, and stocking making events in order to gain points that may be redeemed on the 13th day. Rock/metal band Seether will perform next to Molly McGee's Irish Pub Dec. 16. For more information, call 564-2280.

MWR New Year's Eve Family Bash

MWR invites all to ring in 2011 at its New Year's Eve Family Bash at Orote Point Lanes from 8 p.m. - 1 a.m. Dec. 31. The celebration will include bowling, karaoke, food, games and prizes including a hotel stay and two roundtrip tickets to any of the 50 states. Fee of \$80 includes lane rental, two large single topping pizzas and unlimited fountain beverages. Reservations will be taken until Dec. 20. Full payment due Dec. 29. For more information, call 564-1858/29.

Coral Reef Fitness Center's Ho Ho Ho 5K Run/Walk

Coral Reef Fitness Center is hosting its annual Ho Ho Ho 5K Run/Walk Dec. 17. Course will start at the Palm Tree Golf Course Driving Range parking lot. Show time 6 a.m. Go time 6:30 a.m. Sign up by Dec. 14. For more information, call 366-6100.

How do you plan to celebrate the holidays?

Joint Region Edge asked its readers how they plan to celebrate the holidays.



"We usually go to my mom's house in Chalan Pago. I have a sister in Virginia and one sister in Texas. They'll call in and talk to our family here. We do it every year."
—Corinne San Agustin
DZSP 21 Property



"This year I'm actually flying home to Oceanside, Calif. I worked Christmas last year. It'll going to be like a family reunion. My mom is having some of the [family] come by."
—Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Glennis Watler
U.S. Naval Hospital Guam



"I'll probably call my [parents] back in Georgia. I'm on call during the holidays, but hopefully I'll be able to spend time with my wife and kids here. We've been on Guam about a year and seven months now."
—Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Lamongo Reed
U.S. Naval Hospital Guam



"I'm deployed here, so I'll probably be going to the beach with co-workers and enjoying some off-time. When I'm not doing that I'll probably be volunteering my time downtown at the local Salvation Army."
—Master Sgt. Clinton Stone
36th Logistics Readiness Group maintenance supply liaison



"I'm a local so I'll be spending time with my family, barbecuing and eating some of our traditional foods like red rice, pancit and kelaguen."
—Senior Airman Stacy Charfauros
36th Force Support Squadron re-enlistment and extensions technician



"I doubt I'll be leaving the island to visit family, but I'll definitely be calling them. I'm single so I'll be spending the holidays at some of my co-workers' houses. They're almost like family."
—Staff Sgt. Eric Reagan
36th Communications Squadron project manager

FREE

Free movies at the Big Screen Theater
Stop by the Big Screen Theater on NBG this weekend, where free movies are shown every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

Library Games

Children ages 5-17 can visit Andersen AFB Library Tuesdays-Thursdays, 5-8 p.m. to enjoy playing video games from a collection of Xbox, Wii or Playstation 3 games. Children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult. Sponsors must provide written permission to allow minor dependents in-house use of games and gaming equipment and accessories. For more information, call 366-4291.

Adult Swim Clinic

Held on the last Saturday of every month from 8-10 a.m. at the NBG pool. This course is designed to help proficient swimmers improve their stroke. Each clinic is a 2-hour session with a certified instructor, including individualized drill sets and a videotaping session to improve stroke. Registration deadline is the Thursday before each clinic. For more information, call 564-1856.

Image Makers

NBG Teen Center and Youth Center offers photography classes every Monday, 3-4 p.m. For more information, call 339-6130.

Tuesday Texas Hold'em Nights

Texas Hold'em tournaments are held every Tuesday starting at 6 p.m. in Hightides at Top of the Rock on Andersen AFB. Play is free for club members and \$5 for non-members. Weekly prizes are awarded. For more information, call 366-6166.

Chamorro Village

Take a free trip to Chamorro Village every Wednesday. Single Sailors and geographical bachelors can catch a shuttle at 6 p.m. from 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.

Story Time

Bring the children for story time at the NBG 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.

The Andersen AFB Library has story time every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. There are also crafts and other fun activities. For

On a Budget

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

UNDER \$10

Tuesday Fajita Night

At Andersen AFB's Café Latte, every Tuesday from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Base price starts at only \$2.95, and you can build your own fajitas! For more information, call 366-6166.

Game Night

At Top of the Rock on Andersen AFB, every Friday from 6-9 p.m. Enjoy card games, pool, and darts. Cost: Free for members, \$5 for non-members. For more information, call 366-6166.

Mongolian BBQ

At Andersen AFB's Cafe Latte every Wednesday night from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Base price starts at only \$2.95/adult and \$1.50 per child! For more information, call 366-6166.

Xtreme Middy Madness

At NBG's Orote Point Lanes, Every Monday-Friday from 1-5 p.m. Bowl for only \$5 (shoes not included)! For more information, call 564-1828.

Bowling Mondays

Bowl all you want at Gecko Lanes every Monday, starting at 6 p.m. for just \$5 plus shoe rental. For more information, call 366-5117.

Thirsty Thursdays

Thirsty Thursdays at Gecko Lanes every Thursday, starting at 5 p.m. Enjoy \$1 games, shoe rentals, fountain sodas and more! For more information, call 366-5117.

Karaoke Fun Night

Karaoke Fun Night (weather permitting) at Bamboo Willie's every Saturday, 7-10 p.m. For more information, call 366-6166.

Under 21 Night

Every Wednesday High Tides Enlisted Lounge hosts Under 21 Night from 7 p.m.-midnight. Patrons can enjoy Mongolian Barbecue, music and a fun environment to hang out and unwind. Patrons 18 years and older can participate. For more information, call 366-6166.

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 are also served daily and are only \$6.95 with fountain soda. Lunch hours are 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Also enjoy 18 holes of golf and a lunch package available at the Pro Shop for \$46 per person. For more information, call 344-5838 or 734-2155.

Breakfast at Top of the Rock

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

2 for 1 at Gecko Lanes

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

Member Special at Palm Tree Golf Course

Every Tuesday, 7 a.m.-6 p.m., ride 18 holes for the 9-hole cart rate of \$8. For more information, call 366-4653.

\$10 AND UP

Family Bowling Value Package

NBG Orote Point Lanes, Family Value Package (up to 5 people) \$40 per lane. Includes: Shoe rentals, two hours of bowling, one large single topping pizza and one pitcher of soda. Package available Monday-Friday, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m.-8 p.m. For more information, call 564-1828.

2-Day Basic Crochet Class

2-Day Basic Crochet Class Nov. 17-18 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Andersen Arts and Crafts Center. Class fee is \$25 per person. Sign-up in advance, or call 366-4248 for more information.

Piano Lesson Openings

The Andersen Air Force Base Youth Center currently has openings for piano lessons on weekdays after school and on Saturdays. Cost is \$60 per month for four 30-minute lessons. Contact Dale Garcia at 366-3490/91 or email: youth1music@yahoo.com for more information.

Jazzy Sundays

Sundays from 5-8 p.m. at Willie's Beachside Jazz on Andersen Air Force Base. Enjoy a relaxing evening at the beach while you listen to great jazz music. If you get hungry, you can order one the delicious offerings from our Bamboo Willie's menu. For more information, call 366-6100.

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.

Lunch at Top of the Rock

Got a big appetite? Grab your friends and enjoy the tantalizing Smoker Menu, which features dishes like St. Louis ribs served with our own fried bread and honey butter, pulled pork sandwich, brisket quesadilla with all the extras, and a hickory chicken Caesar salad. Want a lighter lunch? Feast on the soup and salad bar for only \$6.95. Hours of operation: Monday-Friday, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. For more information, call 366-6166.

Clipper Landing

Savor the flavor of our delicious entrees as you enjoy a spectacular view of Sumay Cove Marina. Hours of operation are Wednesday and Thursday, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.; Friday, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. and 4-9 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. For more information, call 564-1857.

Wing Night Thursdays

Wing Nights are held in Café Latte at Top of the Rock on Andersen Air Force Base every Thursday from 5:30-7:30 p.m. For more information, call 366-6166.



FRIDAY, DEC. 3

7 p.m.: Red • PG-13

SATURDAY, DEC. 4

2 p.m.: Red • PG-13
7 p.m.: Hereafter • PG-13

SUNDAY, DEC. 5

7 p.m.: Jackass 3D • R

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



FRIDAY, DEC. 3

7 p.m.: Secretariat • PG
9:30 p.m.: My Soul to Take • R

SATURDAY, DEC. 4

1 p.m.: You Again • PG
3:30 p.m.: Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps • PG-13
7 p.m.: Case 39 • R

SUNDAY, DEC. 5

1 p.m.: Legend of the Guardians: The Owls of Ga'Hoole • PG
3:30 p.m.: The Social Network • PG-13
7 p.m.: Life As We Know It • PG-13

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

(Source: Navy Morale, Welfare and Recreation Office)

Chapel Schedule

Naval Base Guam

Office Hours: Monday-Friday
8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Roman Catholic Mass
Weekday Mass: Monday-
Wednesday, Friday,
11:40 a.m.
Saturday Mass: 5:30 p.m.
Sunday Mass: 9 a.m.
Sacrament of Reconciliation:
Saturday, 5 p.m.; and Sunday
8:30 a.m.

Protestant Worship Service

Sunday Worship Service:
10:30 a.m.

Women's bible Studies:
Monday, 9 a.m.

Choir Practice: Thursday,
6 p.m.

Jewish Shabbat

Friday, 6:30 p.m.

Naval Hospital Guam

Roman Catholic Mass:
Monday-Friday, 11:30 a.m.
Chapel of Hope: Sunday, 9 a.m.

Andersen Air Force Base

Roman Catholic Mass
(Chapel 1)

Weekday Mass: Tuesday-
Friday, 11:30 a.m.

Saturday Mass: 5 p.m.

Sunday Mass: 9:30 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:
Saturday, 4:30-4:50 p.m.

Catholic Women's Group:
First and third Wednesday of
the month, 7 p.m.

Catholic Youth: Second and
third Wednesday of the
month, 6 p.m.

Choir Rehearsal: Sunday,
8-9 a.m.

Protestant Worship Service

(Chapel 2)

Praise Service: Sunday, 9 a.m.

Gospel Service: Sunday,
11:30 a.m.

Protestant Women's Group:
Second Monday of each
month, 6:30 p.m.

Protestant Men's Group:
Wednesday, 7 p.m.

Protestant Young Adults:
Thursday, 7 p.m.

*Schedules subject to change.
To confirm times or for infor-
mation about other pro-
grams, call the chapels at:*

Andersen Air Force Base:
366-6139

U.S. Naval Base Guam:
339-2126

U.S. Naval Hospital Guam:
344-9127

A life that made a difference

By Lt. Cmdr. Ronald Rinaldi
USS Frank Cable (AS 40)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him, and the life was the light of men ...

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:1-4, 14)

As we have entered the beginning stages of the holiday season, it is appropriate to take a look at the life for whom this special season of the year is recognized. Frequent Christmas messages often focus on the divinity of Jesus Christ as the passage above indicates.

Some others give attention to his perfect humanity, both of which are acknowledged to be true in the Christian orthodoxy.

It is also relevant to recognize the example of a difference maker in the life of Jesus. Certainly world history is loaded with famous names, but can they match up with Christ who only lived on this earth a little more than 33 years, along with a three-year ministry? Though His life and ministry were short, Jesus' impact was enormous and continues to our times.

The following anonymous short essay, "One Solitary Life," gives a clear reflection on the difference Christ made in the world:

"Here is a man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another obscure village, where he

worked in a carpenter's shop until he was thirty. Then for three years he was an itinerant preacher.

"He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never traveled 200 miles from the place he was born. He did none of the things that usually accompany greatness.

"While he was still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against him. His friends deserted him. He was turned over to his enemies, and went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. While he was dying, his executioners gambled for the only piece of property he had - his coat.

"When he was dead, he was taken down and laid in a borrowed grave.

"Nineteen centuries have come and gone, and today he is the central figure for much of the human race. All the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that ever sailed, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the

life of people on this earth as powerfully as this one solitary life."

A study of the life of Christ easily displays that Jesus had a purpose (to do the will of his Father, John 8:42) and a mission (to seek and save that which was lost, Luke 19:10). No doubt he also believed in what he was doing as well.

This brings some thoughts on the question of leading a life of purpose. Even the noted humanist, Abraham Maslow, shed light on this in what he called the "Jonah Complex," in which he wrote that people tend to run away from their own potential greatness and settle for less than what they could be.

Maslow wrote, "If you deliberately set out to be less than you are capable of, you will never be truly happy."

Take time during the Christmas season to reflect on your life. Is yours a life of purpose and fulfillment? If not, take time to make needed changes to better enable yourself to make a difference in the world.



Still Moments



Promotion: Capt. Richard Wood, commanding officer, U.S. Naval Base Guam (NBG), congratulates newly promoted petty officer Navy Diver 1st Class (select) Christopher R. Burns at a frocking ceremony on NBG on Nov. 24. Wood congratulated Burns for striving to be at the top of his game and for his outstanding contributions to the U.S. Navy. The image has been intentionally masked for security purposes. (U.S. Navy Photo by Annette Donner)



Promotion: Capt. Richard Wood, commanding officer, U.S. Naval Base Guam (NBG), congratulates newly promoted petty officer Master-at-Arms 1st Class (select) Shannon L. Golden at a frocking ceremony on NBG on Nov. 24. Wood congratulated Golden for striving to be at the top of her game and for her outstanding contributions to the U.S. Navy. The image has been intentionally masked for security purposes. (U.S. Navy Photo by Annette Donner)



Promotion: Capt. Richard Wood, commanding officer, U.S. Naval Base Guam (NBG), congratulates newly promoted petty officer Master-at-Arms 2nd Class (select) Max V. Briggs at a frocking ceremony on NBG on Nov. 24. Wood congratulated Briggs for striving to be at the top of his game and for his outstanding contributions to the U.S. Navy. (U.S. Navy Photo by Annette Donner)

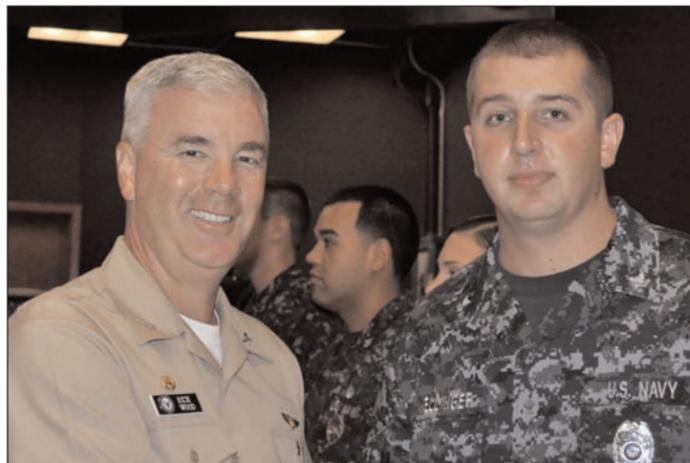


Promotion: Capt. Richard Wood, commanding officer, U.S. Naval Base Guam (NBG), congratulates newly promoted petty officer Master-at-Arms 2nd Class (select) Juanmarcos A. Larasosa at a frocking ceremony on NBG on Nov. 24. Wood congratulated Larasosa for striving to be at the top of his game and for his outstanding contributions to the U.S. Navy. (U.S. Navy Photo by Annette Donner)

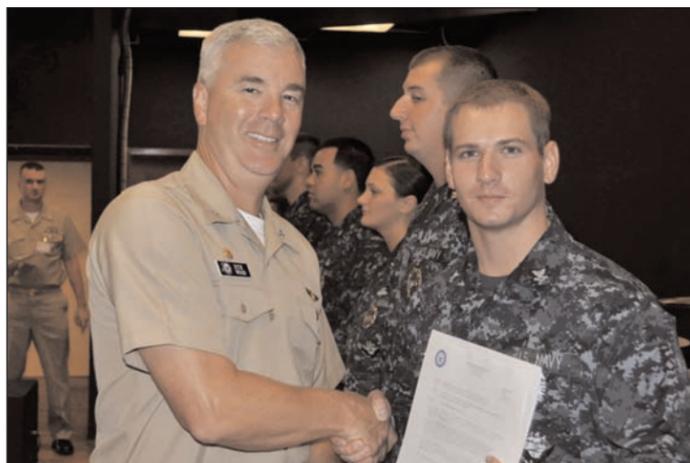
Still Moments



Promotion: Capt. Richard Wood, commanding officer, U.S. Naval Base Guam (NBG), congratulates newly promoted petty officer Master-at-Arms 2nd Class (select) Julie A. Lima at a frocking ceremony on NBG on Nov. 24. Wood congratulated Lima for striving to be at the top of her game and for her outstanding contributions to the U.S. Navy. (U.S. Navy Photo by Annette Donner)



Promotion: Capt. Richard Wood, commanding officer, U.S. Naval Base Guam (NBG), congratulates newly promoted petty officer Master-at-Arms 2nd Class (select) Bryan A. Mellinger at a frocking ceremony on NBG on Nov. 24. Wood congratulated Mellinger for striving to be at the top of his game and for his outstanding contributions to the U.S. Navy. (U.S. Navy Photo by Annette Donner)



Promotion: Capt. Richard Wood, commanding officer, U.S. Naval Base Guam (NBG), congratulates newly promoted petty officer Master-at-Arms 2nd Class (select) Brant M. Mulaney at a frocking ceremony on NBG on Nov. 24. Wood congratulated Mulaney for striving to be at the top of his game and for his outstanding contributions to the U.S. Navy. The image has been intentionally masked for security purposes. (U.S. Navy Photo by Annette Donner)



Promotion: Capt. Richard Wood, commanding officer, U.S. Naval Base Guam (NBG), congratulates newly promoted petty officer Master-at-Arms 2nd Class (select) Theresa D. Ramirez at a frocking ceremony on NBG on Nov. 24. Wood congratulated Ramirez for striving to be at the top of her game and for her outstanding contributions to the U.S. Navy. The image has been intentionally masked for security purposes. (U.S. Navy Photo by Annette Donner)

Panthers win Far East girls tennis title

By Sydney Short
Guam High School

Weeks before, we all started preparing for the Far East tennis tournament that took place Nov. 8-11 at the Risner Tennis Complex on Kadena Air Base, Okinawa. We were drinking lots of fluids, staying away from all the sweets and playing tennis every chance it didn't rain.

Finally, the day arrived. I was up at 4 a.m. ready to go to the airport. Flying with our little group was very special and we all wore our Guam High sweat suits.

Our team leader that we all admire and look up to, Amber; Chloe with her sweet attitude and love for the game; Caroline with her positive and helpful attitude, and me, Sydney. We were all ready to begin our huge adventure.

Once we arrived in Okinawa, Japan on Sunday night, we immediately went to dinner together and planned a team breakfast. That night went very fast; 5:30 a.m. rolled around quickly. We had 40 minutes to get ready so our bus could take us to the courts for our first day in Okinawa. That first morning was beautiful — just like all the other days in Japan. Our girls team rocked the competition and our boys were always there to support too!

Our week flew by with smoothie runs together at break times between the matches. Our days were filled with playing tennis. At night our heads would hit the pillow and it was lights out till 5:30 a.m.

It was a great feeling being a part of the team, you felt like each time you watched your teammate you were actually out

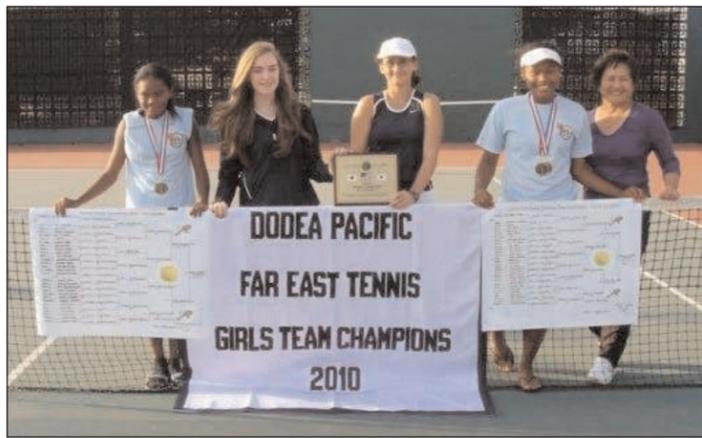
on the court being a part of the action.

Our afternoons were spent eating and shopping. We had a night when we even got together and watched a movie. On our last night we all went to the American village and shared many laughs and fun times.

Our team will take away such great memories to last a lifetime.

Amber won first place in singles. Chloe and Amber as a doubles team won first for Guam High. I won first in the consolation for the second year in a row. Caroline and I went into the finals consolation round in doubles. Win or lose, we are the girls first place team for our outstanding teamwork and camaraderie.

(Editor's Note: Sydney Short is a member of the Guam High School girls tennis team.)



Panthers Earn Tennis Title: The Guam High School girls tennis team display the championship banner after winning the Department of Defense Education Activity Pacific Far East Girls Division Tennis Championship Nov. 12 at the Risner Tennis Complex on Kadena Air Base, Okinawa. From left, Chloe Gadsen, Caroline Loynd, Sydney Short, Amber Gadsen and Juana Aguon, coach. Amber won first place in singles play and teamed with her sister, Chloe, to win the doubles title. Amber was named Stars and Stripes girls tennis Player of the Year. (Photo by Juan Aguon)

Guard paddlers show strength in international competition

By Capt. Ken Ola
U.S. Army National Guard

Team Sindalu (sin-DAH-loo) paddling team, composed of GUAM Army National Guard (GUARNG) members and their dependents, showed a strong presence in the 12th Annual Micronesian Cup (Micro Cup) Paddling Competition held in Koror, Palau, Oct. 23-24.

"Despite being generally a novice team, Team Sindalu placed third in the mixed masters division in three races," said 1st Lt. Venezia Luzanta, coordinator for Team Sindalu (Sindalu is the Chamorro word for soldier).

Micro Cup events were broken down into men's, women's, youth and mixed masters divisions. The races included 500-meter and 1,500-meter sprints as well as long distance races -- 10 miles for men, eight miles for women, five miles for mixed masters, and three miles for youth.

Team Sindalu took third place in the mixed masters division 500-meter sprint, 1,500-meter sprint and five-mile race.

The team took 21 paddlers to Palau from different units throughout GUARNG, including four family members. Team members raised \$11,400 for their transportation and lodging.

Thirty-three teams participated in this year's Micro Cup including teams from Hong Kong, Saipan, Palau, Guam, Singapore and Australia.

Luzanta said most of the team members took away from the event the invaluable experience of competing internationally for the first time, the sharing of culture with teams from the different countries, and the enjoyment of visiting the islands of Palau and learning about



Sindalu Takes Palau by Storm: Team Sindalu paddling team between races during the 12th Annual Micronesian Cup Paddling Competition in Palau Oct. 23. Sindalu is the Chamorro word for soldier and the team is composed of Guam Army National Guard members and dependents. (U.S. Army photo courtesy of the Guam National Guard)

its culture and people.

Spc. Raymond Barnes related one memorable experience he had during one of the races.

"During our men's 500-meter race, the weather picked up and the waters were really rough," Barnes said. "Being the steersman of the boat, I was predicting a 70 percent chance our boat would flip. This race brought memories of a past deployment to Afghanistan for me, as it reminded me of pre-mobilization training.

"We knew if we did not work together as a team we would not complete the race, just like deploying and in our missions. During the race we were all communicating as waves pounded into the boat

lifting all sides of the canoe and at times coming very close to completely flipping over. Throughout the race every member of the team knew their jobs and what our goal was. We finished the race together. In the boat were various soldiers from different units. Their ranks were from specialists to captains. We did not take any of that into consideration as we all knew that we were one team."

The team hopes to become even more competitive in the future. It recently acquired two new canoes — one with funds the team raised and one purchased by GUNG Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

Next year's 13th Annual Micro Cup will be held on Guam.

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.

Charles King Fitness Center

Charles King Fitness Center (CKFC) hours of operation are Monday-Friday from 5 a.m.-9 p.m., Saturday from 8 a.m.-9 p.m., Sunday and holidays from 9 a.m.-7 p.m. For more information, call 333-2049.

NCTS Gym

The Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station Guam gym will reopen Dec. 6. Hours of operation are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m.-8 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday from 11 a.m.-8 p.m., and Saturday-Sunday from 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Run Registration

Runners can now submit run registrations for Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR)-sponsored runs via e-mail. On the Fitness Program page of the MWR website, mwr-guam.com, click on the "NEW Run Registration Form" PDF under Additional Links, and follow the instructions on the form. Pre-registration for all fitness events will end at 5 p.m. on the Friday of the week prior to the event.

Ultimate Frisbee

Ultimate Frisbee games are played at Sampson Softball Field on U.S. Naval Base Guam. League games are played Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:30 p.m. Pick-up games are Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. For more information, call 339-2365.

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.

Lap Swimming

Effective Dec. 3, the Andersen pool will offer lap swimming outside the recreational swim hours. Lap swim hours will be: 6-8 a.m. Friday through Wednesday 11 a.m.-noon Friday through Wednesday 6-7 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday only. No lap swimming will be available Thursdays, weekends, holidays and down days. Also, the pool is looking for certified swimming instructors and lifeguards. For more information, call Outdoor Recreation at 366-5197 or Human Resources at 366-1189.

Aikido Classes

Aikido is a traditional Japanese martial art of self-defense that focuses on using the force of the opponents attack and redirecting it. The Hotspot is now offering two types of Aikido Classes. One is a traditional (Hombu) Aikido Class for all levels. Classes will be held Monday and Wednesday from 5:30-6:30 p.m. for kids 8-12 years and 6:30-8 p.m. for adults. The other class is Law Enforcement/Combat Aikido, and is for adults only. This class will be held Tuesday and Thursday from 6-7:30 p.m. All classes are \$60 per month, per student. Sign up at the Hotspot. For more information, call 366-2339.

Tumbling for Tots

Tumbling for Tots, an interactive play program for kids and parents, is now available at the Hotspot Gym. For more information, call the Hotspot at 366-2339.