



LIBERTY THROUGH UNITY

# JOINT REGION EDGE

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## 36th Wing named Air Force outstanding unit

“ It is because of this dedication and teamwork that we have come to expect great performance from the Airmen of the 36th Wing. ”

- Col. Donald Drechsler, 36th Wing vice commander

By Airman 1st Class Whitney Tucker  
36th Wing Public Affairs

The 36th Wing was recently named as recipient of the prestigious Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for exceptionally meritorious service from Oct. 1, 2009 to Sept. 30, 2011. The award was created by the Department of the Air Force Jan. 6, 1954. It is awarded by the Secretary of the Air Force to

numbered units that display decidedly superior performance, distinguishing themselves among, and above similar units.

The Wing garnered recognition as a result of persistent, superior performance and unwavering dedication to the Air Force mission.

“This is outstanding news and a testament to the outcome of our Airmen’s commitment to putting their best foot forward when

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## Naval Base Guam holds preparedness exercise

By Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class (SW)  
Gabrielle Blake  
Joint Region Edge Staff

Simulated disaster refugees poured into Charles King Fitness Center on U.S. Naval Base Guam (NBG) during the Bisitan Tasi (Ocean Visitors) exercise March 8.

The exercise simulated the arrival of up to 3,000 evacuees and 1,000 pets from another country who would stay on Guam for up to 48 hours in the event of

a natural disaster.

Volunteers were briefed on the role they would play in the scenario. Single Sailors became mothers and fathers. Some volunteers became people with financial hardship or people with illness.

The fitness center served as a processing center where refugees went through a check-in process then were able to go to different rooms and the old gym where there were multiple resources available to them including Fleet and Family Support Center, Navy

Working Together: Capt. Richard Wood, U.S. Naval Base Guam (NBG) commanding officer, speaks to volunteers and representatives during the Bisitan Tasi exercise at Charles King Fitness Center on NBG March 8. The exercise simulated the arrival of evacuees who would reside on Guam for up to 48 hours in the case of a disaster in a nearby country. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class (SW) Gabrielle Blake/Released

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# Interior and exterior tips to save energy



By Kevin D. Evans  
Joint Region Marianas  
Energy Manager

Beannachtai na Feile Pádraig (pronounced bann/ockt/tee nih fail/eh pawd/rig) is gaelic for Happy St. Patrick's Day! March is also the month that spring begins and I thought I'd share some interior and exterior energy saving tips for the season:

- Set the thermostat no lower than 76 degrees.
- Use ceiling fans to help circulate the air.

late the air.

- Turn off or replace lights. Most energy from incandescent bulbs becomes heat. Compact fluorescent bulbs use 75-80 percent less energy and produce less heat.

- Use the microwave rather than the oven if you do cook. Consider chilled foods, too.

- Grilling, outdoors, is also a fun way to conserve electricity, as well.

- Add shade. Install a programmable thermostat, and set it to cool the house before you get there. Check your ducts for leaks, and seal

them, if needed. Caulk and weather-strip windows, doors and pipe clearances. Insulate walls and crawl spaces. Higher R-values keep more cool air in and still allow air flow. Clean or replace air filters regularly for efficient air exchange.

- Outside, try strategic planting trees and shrubs on the east, west and south sides to cut cooling costs. Consider recycling old tires for new planting supports which is a very sustainable practice. Finally, consider, also, practicing xerescaping techniques which suggest using lo-

cal plants, trees, and shrubs that require less maintenance and little or no irrigation.

My Irish wife also reminds me that more environmentally friendly use and conserving of our natural resources will earn the goodwill of the sidhe (pronounced shee), the fey faerie folk, spirits of nature, such as the leprechauns and banshees. Not only does it make sense to us, but them, as well. Slán agus beannacht leat (pronounced slawn og/us ban/ockt lat), "Goodbye and blessings on you."

## AWARD:

### 'I am extremely proud of our Airmen'

Continued from Page 1

doing their jobs, and to their commitment to teamwork and professionalism," said Chief Master Sgt. Margarita Overton, 36th Wing command chief.

"The natural outcome is a reputation for excellence and that excellence is noticed," she continued. "I am extremely proud of our Airmen. We all made this happen."

Showcasing traditional red, white and blue, the ribbon is exclusively presented to service members belonging to units that perform meritorious service, accomplish a specific outstanding achievement of national or international significance, combat operations against an armed enemy of the United States, or military operations involving conflict with or exposure to hostile actions by an opposing foreign force.

In recent years, the ability of Andersen personnel to perform under pressure has been put to the test through contingency responses, aircraft generations, inspections and operational readiness exercises. According to Col. Donald Drechsler, 36th Wing vice commander, the award could not have been bestowed on a more deserving unit.

"Receiving this award is truly an honor for the 36th Wing," the colonel said. "An honor earned by men and women who resolve as a team to meet all challenges that arise to accomplish our mission. It is because of this dedication and teamwork that we have come to expect great performance from the Airmen of the 36th Wing."

"Andersen Air Force Base has an increasing role in our nation's safety and security in the Pacific region," he continued. "This responsibility rests squarely on the shoulders of every Andersen Airman. It is a responsibility they bear with pride, determination and persistence."

Whether providing humanitarian support to regional allies, conducting exercises to enhance readiness capabilities or perfecting diverse and mission-essential skills, Airmen here continually demonstrate steadfast devotion to the Air Force mission: fly, fight and win in air, space and cyberspace.

"The men and women of the 36th Wing have proven that sustained excellence across the entire spectrum of our operations is recognized at the highest levels," he said. "Every Airman in this wing should be proud of this recognition. More importantly, they should be proud of what they provide each and every day to our Air Force and to our Nation."



**Simulation:** Volunteers simulating disaster refugees speak to case managers during the Bisitan Tasi exercise at Charles King Fitness Center on U.S. Naval Base Guam March 8. The exercise simulated the arrival of evacuees who would reside on Guam for up to 48 hours in the case of a disaster in a nearby country. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class (SW) Gabrielle Blake/Released

## EXERCISE: Bisitan Tasi provided training experience

Continued from Page 1

Marine Corps Relief Society, base housing and local banks.

"Since this happens very infrequently, we want to make sure that the people we have here working are able to receive people in this kind of form," said Cmdr. Christopher Flis, NBG executive officer. "And they can experience the different challenges that may be presented by people coming from a far away place."

Corpsmen from U.S. Naval Hospital Guam played a big role in the medical portion of the exercise. They were faced with a variety of situations which included patients who needed prescriptions filled, patients who had post traumatic stress disorder and both stable and unstable pregnant patients.

"Sometimes as corpsmen we can get complacent in the hospital because we're doing clinical work," said Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Courtney Osborne. "When we get out here, we get a chance to do the things that we will be doing in the military if the situation ever arises. It's important for us to have that experience and to know what we need to do and who we'll be working with."

The exercise served as a training experience for both Navy and civilian personnel who work to provide support to service members and families.

"It's been a good chance for all of our stakeholders here on the installation to really practice their trade in a scenario that they don't get to practice in very often," Flis said.



**Helping Out:** Volunteers simulating disaster refugees speak to representatives from U.S. Naval Base Guam (NBG) family housing during the Bisitan Tasi exercise at Charles King Fitness Center on NBG March 8. The exercise simulated the arrival of evacuees who would reside on Guam for up to 48 hours in the case of a disaster in a nearby country. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class (SW) Gabrielle Blake/Released

## Joint Region Edge

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**F-16:** Maintainers from the 18th Aggressor Squadron walk beside the F-16 Fighting Falcon from Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska as it is being towed to an area for maintenance, the aircraft made an emergency landing at Saipan International Airport, Feb. 21. U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Carlin Leslie/Released

By Airman 1st Class Whitney Tucker  
**36th Wing Public Affairs**

An F-16 fighter jet assigned to Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska made an emergency landing while performing a training mission in support of Exercise Cope North 2012 in the U.S. territory of Saipan, Feb. 21.

Upon landing, the aircraft slid off the end of the runway, coming to rest approximately 380 feet into the grass. News of the incident was immediately followed by the formation of a team comprised of deployed units temporarily assigned to Andersen Air Force Base, several squadrons across the 36th Wing, as well as Saipan International Airport. Each squadron provided unique, mission essential support and facilitated a timely and successful

resolution.

Three hours after the F-16 touched down at Saipan International Airport, an advanced echelon of seven Airmen was on-hand to perform an initial assessment and work closely with local airport officials and emergency personnel.

"We received notification of the incident and within an hour, three maintenance personnel were being transported to the scene on a Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 MH-60 helicopter," said Chief Master Sgt. Michael Dye, 354th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron (AMXS) superintendent, currently deployed to Andersen.

Airport officials temporarily halted runway operations to provide a safe environment as Airmen prepared to extract the aircraft. Once secure, maintenance personnel put the fighter jet on

jacks, performed preventative maintenance and began to troubleshoot the original problem.

Local airport personnel provided intermittent supplies, fuel and support to assist relief efforts and ensure favorable results.

"Members of the airport staff were extremely welcoming and helpful," said Staff Sgt. Jared Carlson, 354 AMXS team lead. "They provided equipment and logistics support. They made sure we had everything we required."

Over the course of a few days, additional Andersen personnel and equipment flew into Saipan aboard Air Force C-130s. The team worked closely with local airport personnel to move the F-16 from the grass to the taxiway and ramp area for repairs. The airport's main runway was reopened to large commercial jets just 16 hours after the emergency landing. The alternate runway stayed opened throughout the recovery and repair operation for smaller aircraft.

The isolated incident also facilitated an impromptu training session in which service members helped familiarize members of the local fire department

with the danger zones of an F-16.

"We had the opportunity to take airport personnel and emergency responders on a walk-around of the aircraft," Carlson said. "We pointed out indicators and warning signs and provided guidance on how to react should they encounter them."

Though unexpected, the F-16 divert served as a teaching tool and afforded Airmen the opportunity to improve rapid deployability practices as well as strengthen ties with members of the Saipan community.

The mission concluded successfully and resulted in the restoration of the aircraft. Upon completion, the F-16 conducted flights to Andersen and on to Hawaii without incident, speaking to the performance of 36th Wing personnel and Saipan International officials.

"Due to the valiant effort put forth by Team Andersen Airmen and Saipan personnel, we were able to quickly and safely reopen the main runway and repair the aircraft," said Col. Donald Drechsler, 36th Wing vice commander. "The incident had a very positive outcome and allowed us to fly the F-16 back to Andersen in just a few days."

### NEWS NOTES

#### Job Announcements

Interested individuals can view the vacancy listings at <https://www.cnic.navy.mil/Marianas/index.htm> or at <https://chart.donhr.navy.mil>. For more information, call 349-6119/2224.

#### Family Health Fair

A Family Health Fair will be held April 14 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Charles King Fitness Center on U.S. Naval Base Guam. There will be free food, giveaways, activities for the kids, a dance contest and Zumba party. Staff will be on-hand to share information for the entire family including men's health, cancer, massage therapy, a bra-fit clinic and more. For more information, visit <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Family-Health-Symposium-2012-NH-Guam/175326905909113> or call 344-9436.

#### Tax Services Available

The Navy Legal Services Office's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program will be available for all eligible personnel at the Navy Exchange Main Complex food court on U.S. Naval Base Guam Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. For more information, call 333-2061.

#### Air Force Office of Special Investigations Recruiting Effort

The Air Force Office of Special Investigations (AFOSI) is looking for enlisted Airmen for special-agent duty once they have first served in another career field. Those eligible are staff sergeants with less than 10 years time in service, technical sergeants with less than one year time in grade and less than 11 years time in service. Senior Airmen are accepted on a case-by-case basis. If you have a line number for staff sergeant, you will be considered as one. First-term Airmen are releasable from their current career field but must be within their retraining window. Career Airmen are releasable with the approval of their career field manager. Current active-duty officers may also retrain into AFOSI from most career fields. Applications can be accepted 10-13 months prior to date eligible for return from overseas (DEROS). Those interested in a career as an AFOSI

special agent can contact AFOSI Det. 602 on Andersen Air Force Base at 366-2987 for a recruitment package. For more information, visit <http://www.osi.andrews.af.mil>.

#### USPS Naval Station Business Hours

The United States Postal Service location in Barracks 4 on U.S. Naval Base Guam is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. - noon and 1-3 p.m. and closed on Saturdays, Sundays and federal holidays.

#### SCHOOL BULLETIN

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 349-2115.

## COMMUNITY Corner

DoDEA Guam District Schools  
March 23: No Classes

### movies • movies • movies

#### The Big Screen Theater

MARCH 16 (FRIDAY)  
7 PM MAN ON A LEDGE PG-13  
9:30 PM UNDERWORLD: "AWAKENING" R

MARCH 17 (SATURDAY)  
1 PM EXTREMELY LOUD AND INCREDIBLY CLOSE PG-13  
3:30 PM ONE FOR THE MONEY PG-13  
7 PM THE DEVIL INSIDE R

MARCH 18 (SUNDAY)  
1 PM ADVENTURES OF TINTIN PG  
3:30 PM RED TAILS PG-13  
7 PM THE GREY R

Movie Hotline 564-1831 US Naval Base Guam

Meehan Theater - TEMPORARILY CLOSED through June

### SPORTS SHORTS

#### U.S. Naval Base Guam Shamrock Competitive 10K

Run for your luck at the Shamrock Competitive 10K behind Molly McGee's March 17. Show time is 5:30 a.m. with go time at 6 a.m. Door prizes will be awarded. Pre-register at the Charles King Fitness Center front desk on or before March 16 or sign up on race day. There is no fee to join and the event is open to all authorized patrons. For more information, call 333-2049.

#### Free Golf Clinics

Learn the basics of golf or practice perfecting your game during golf clinics at the Admiral Nimitz Golf Course every Saturday and Sunday from 9-10 a.m. For more information, call 344-5838

#### Andersen Air Force Base

**March Madness Pacific-wide Basketball Tournament**  
The annual March Madness Pacific-wide Basketball Tournament will be held March 17-24 at the Coral Reef Fitness Center. Teams throughout the Pacific will participate in the biggest tournament of the year. Call 366-6100 for more information.

#### What about "Zumba"?

Free Zumba classes are held at Coral Reef Fitness Center Monday-Wednesday at 7 p.m., Thursdays at 9:40 a.m. and Saturdays at 8:30 a.m. For more information, call 366-6100.

#### Zumbatomic® Children's Dance

The Hotspot is now offering Zumbatomic® Children's Dance Classes for Lil Stars ages four to seven and Big Stars ages 8 to 12. Zumbatomic® is a specially designed class to encourage kids to develop a healthy lifestyle and to incorporate fitness as a natural part of their lives through dance, music and exercise. Lil Stars meet Wednesday from 3-4 p.m. for eight weeks. Class fee is \$30. Big Stars meet Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3-4 p.m. for eight weeks. Class fee is \$50. To register, stop by the Hotspot or call 366-2339 for more information.

# Send-off ceremony recognizes deploying GUANG members



**Mobilize:** 254th Air Base Group Commander Col. Johnny Lizama orders 254th Red Horse Squadron Commander Lt. Col. Audie Artero to mobilize his troops during a send-off ceremony Feb. 14 at the University of Guam Field house. The Adjutant General of the Guam National Guard Maj. Gen. Benny Paulino handed down the official command for the Guam Air National Guard to mobilize over 100 members in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Guam National Guard Photo by Senior Airman Audreya J.P. Taitano/Released

By Senior Airman Audreya J.P. Taitano  
Guam National Guard Public Affairs Office

More than 100 Guam Air National Guard (GUANG) members preparing to deploy were surrounded by loved ones during an official send-off ceremony Feb. 14 at the University of Guam field house in Mangilao.

"Duty, honor and sacrifice," said Maj. Gen. Benny Paulino, Guam National Guard adjutant general. "We recognize these fine Airmen today because they live these three simple words that have a tremendous impact on our lives as we know it."

The 254th Red Horse Squadron (RHS) is deploying the majority of GUANG personnel and will participate in an Overseas Contingency Operation as part of a Total Force personnel footprint to support the Central Command Air Force Red Horse Requirements.

"I'm excited," said 254th RHS Heavy Equipment Operator Airman 1st Class Jesse San Nicolas. "This is my first deployment, and it's great to be able to experience it with a team of guys that you're willing to go out on a limb for."

The months of preparation have been demanding as the Airmen sharpen their skills for operation in the battlefield.

"The physical training aspect has probably been the most important," San Nicolas said. "Our fitness has been key in making sure we're able to carry the extra gear while in the zone."

From the homefront, family and friends are preparing in a different way.

"The thought of the deployment has been very sad," said Lenisha Villanueva, girlfriend of five years to 254th RHS Heavy Equipment Operator Jamie Torres. "But the reality of it really hit me during today's ceremony."

Like many others, Villanueva and Torres plan to bridge the distance and

time through letters, phone calls and video chat.

While the families prepare for the long months apart, Paulino praised the Guam Air Guard's long record of mission success and their proven readiness.

"Our engineers have been consistently tasked by the Pacific Air Force Command with a variety of missions in and around the region," Paulino said. "Over the last two years, the 254th Red Horse Squadron and the rest of the Guam Air Guard have excelled in two major Air Force inspections truly showing their high standards."

The 254th RHS will be augmented by members of the 254th Comptroller Flight who will provide finance support, while an additional 22 members from the 254th Force Support Squadron will be assigned to various locations throughout the region to provide support in the areas of personnel and services.

## PSD Sailor enjoys helping peers

By Mass Communication Specialist  
2nd Class (SW) Corwin Colbert  
Joint Region Edge Staff

Personnel Specialist 2nd Class Alvin Balajadia is the Education Services Officer (ESO) for Personnel Support Detachment (PSD) Guam.

The ESO's job is to help the executive officer administer educational programs for the command. In this role, the ESO coordinates officer and enlisted training and on-duty educational programs. He or she also works with the Navy College Program educational adviser to encourage personnel to take part in the Voluntary Education Programs.

Balajadia said he enjoys this position of helping others giving back to the Navy after the Navy helped him enhance his life. He joined the Navy seven years ago to continue moving forward in his life.

"I was a computer programmer

with a young family," Balajadia said. "I was laid off from my job and needed to find a job with better security."

Balajadia said the Navy offered the relief he needed to take care of his family.

"I could have come in as an IT (Information Systems Technician), but it would have required me to wait a year," he said. "I didn't have time to wait so I was offered to be in this field and I jumped at the opportunity."

Since moving up the ranks as a personnel specialist, PSD Det. Guam's "Top Performer" and Sailor of the Quarter for quarter two, said he learned to love his job and what it means to the force.

"This is the best job in the Navy," Balajadia said. "What I do has an impact on Sailors lives. Knowing that I did a good job and that I helped out my peers means a lot to me."



**Top Performer:** Personnel Specialist 2nd Class Alvin Balajadia, left, of Personnel Support Detachment, Guam goes over advancement procedures with his junior personnel March 12. Since moving up the ranks as a personnel specialist, Balajadia said he learned to love his job and what it means to the force. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class (SW) Corwin Colbert/Released



**Top Dog:** Staff Sgt. Jauvarie Lewis, 36th Security Forces Squadron military working dog handler, was awarded Team Andersen's Best on Andersen Air Force Base, March 1. 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/Civilian with an award. U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Veronica McMahon/Released

## Andersen's Best Staff Sgt. Jauvarie Lewis

By Senior Airman Veronica McMahon  
36th Wing Public Affairs

Staff Sgt. Jauvarie Lewis, 36th Security Forces Squadron (SFS) military working dog handler, was awarded Team Andersen's Best on Andersen Air Force Base, March 1.

Lewis and his partner MWD Carlos/H395, a German Shepherd Detection dog, search for contraband

within the installation and ensure that those trying to bring illegal items into the installation are caught, arrested and prosecuted.

"Sgt. Lewis is a superior leader and solid noncommissioned officer representing the 36 SFS," said Tech. Sgt. Jacob Holm, 36 SFS and Lewis' supervisor. "He works many long and tedious hours during the heat of the day to guarantee the safety and security of all personnel."

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/Civilian with an award.

To nominate your Airmen/Civilian for Andersen's Best, contact your unit chief or superintendent explaining their accomplishments.

# Submarine Squadron 15 bids farewell to Russ, welcomes Minium

By Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class (AW) Jason Swink  
**Commander, Submarine Squadron 15 Public Affairs**

Commander, Submarine Squadron (CSS) 15 held a change of command ceremony at Polaris Point on board the Los Angeles-class submarine USS Oklahoma City (SSN 723) March 13.

Capt. Scott Minium relieved Capt. John Russ as commander of the squadron.

Rear Adm. James F. Caldwell, Jr., commander of Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, was the guest speaker and spoke on Russ' diligence, tenacity and sense of ownership as commander of the submarine squadron.

"The success of the team depends on the leadership at the helm and the commitment of the team," Caldwell said. "To the crews of our Guam submarines: Your mission cycle is demanding, it is unlike any other submarine homeport in our nation. I think of it as a proving ground for the best and most operationally focused submarines in our force."

Following his remarks, Caldwell presented Russ with the Legion of Merit for impressive leadership of the Navy's only forward-deployed submarine squadron. Russ oversaw 36 voyage repair periods for visiting submarines and managed four forward-deployed submarines that supported 13 U.S. 7th Fleet operations. Russ also oversaw three inter-fleet transfers and laid the groundwork for

three more.

During his remarks, Russ expressed great satisfaction with CSS-15's mission priorities of "War Fighting First, Operate Forward and Readiness."

"I've been blessed with the best submarine skippers and crews in the fleet; they are motivated, talented and ingenious submarine warriors," Russ said. "As our Navy's only forward-deployed submarine squadron, operating at the tip of the spear in Guam is exactly what this amazing staff and our forward-deployed submarines and tenders do best."

As Minium assumed command of CSS-15, he praised Russ for the squadron's efforts in improving submarine operations in Guam.

"There is the towering legacy of the past, a strong pattern of success and improvement that started with the standing up of Squadron 15 in 2001," Minium said. "Since then, each successive commodore and his staff have worked to improve submarine operations in Guam, and the benefits of their efforts have often reached far beyond the submarine force. Taking command of a successful organization is both humbling and daunting, and I'm sure I speak for every member of the squadron when I say the best we can do to honor your work is to add our own chapter to this fine legacy."

Russ' next assignment is chief of staff of Commander, Submarine Group 7.

CSS-15 provides maintenance, training, logistics and administration support for the submarines assigned to U.S. 7th Fleet.



**Taking the Helm:** Capt. Scott Minium gives his remarks during a change of command ceremony for Commander Submarine Squadron (CSS) 15 held aboard the Los Angeles-class submarine USS Oklahoma City (SSN 723) March 13. Minium relieved Capt. John Russ as commander of Submarine Squadron 15, the Navy's only forward deployed submarine squadron, providing maintenance, training, logistics and administrative support for the submarines assigned to U.S. 7th Fleet. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class (AW) Jason Swink/Released



**Farewell:** Capt. John Russ is piped ashore at the conclusion of the change of command ceremony for Commander Submarine Squadron (CSS) 15 held aboard the Los Angeles-class submarine USS Oklahoma City (SSN 723) March 13. Russ was relieved by Capt. Scott Minium as commander of the squadron, which is the Navy's only forward deployed submarine squadron, providing maintenance, training, logistics and administrative support for the submarines assigned to U.S. 7th Fleet. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Jason Swink/Released

U.S. Pacific Command Public Affairs

# Locklear assumes USPACOM command, Willard says farewell

Adm. Samuel J. Locklear III succeeded Adm. Robert F. Willard as the Pacific Command commander in a ceremony at Camp H.M. Smith, Hawaii, March 9.

"I'm extremely privileged to assume this command that is well-led, well-organized and is a superbly purposed command, a command that has clear strategic intent and clear direction from our nation's leadership," said Locklear said. "Adm. Willard has masterfully charted a course to help us navigate the dynamic 21st century's security environment, and as any good naval officer, I expect a smooth transition from his hand on the helm to mine."

Locklear arrives after relinquishing his role as the U.S. Naval Forces Europe commander, in which he also served concurrently as the U.S. Naval Forces Africa commander and NATO Allied Joint Force Command Naples commander.

A host of guests came to celebrate the event, including key speaker Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta. During his remarks, Panetta expressed the importance of the Pacific region and the partnerships and relationships between militaries.

"In this region, we don't just need a great warrior; we also need, in a commander, a great diplomat. Bob [Willard] has demonstrated the power of relationships. How to turn those relationships into partnerships, into alliances, and how to turn those partnerships into true and lasting friendships," Panetta said. "The U.S. has long been the security partner of choice in the Pacific region and thanks to Bob's leadership of PACOM. Our country's important role as a Pacific power has not only endured, it has grown stronger."

Willard praised the men and women serving at Pacific Command.

"I can't possibly express my full appreci-



**Passing the Torch:** Outgoing Pacific Command (PACOM) commander Adm. Robert F. Willard, left, shake hands with incoming PACOM commander Adm. Samuel J. Locklear III as they pass the torch of authority during U.S. Pacific Command change of command at the Nimitz-MacArthur Pacific Command Center, Camp H.M. Smith, Hawaii, March 9. Department of Defense photo by Glenn Fawcett/Released

ation to U.S. Pacific Command 330,000 uniformed and civilian personnel who supported our effort here and across half the world in the past 2 1/2 years," Willard said.

"To the Soldiers, Sailors, Airman and Marines and special operations who man the brigades, strike groups, wings, expeditionary units, platoons and individual augment missions that are really the forward face of the Pacific and Pacific Command and who for more than a decade have shared rotations into and out of Iraq and Afghanistan with the rest of our nation's joint forces, it's been my profound honor to serve you," he said.

Willard reminisced how much he and his wife, Donna, enjoyed their military service as a family.

"Almost 39 years, where did they go... I remember my dad telling me once that as we get older, time seems to accelerate, and then our memories make it all happen [as though it were] just yesterday and I'm not sure I was buying it at the time, but I am now," Willard said. "And I remember it all; the sight of the F14 Tomcat for the first time as the Navy's newest fighter, the USS Abraham Lincoln as Donna and I strolled down the pier to relinquish command, the smell of a cockpit, the bridge of a ship... Just like it was yesterday. And mostly I recall the Sailors, Soldiers, Airman and Marines."

Locklear provided a glimpse into his vision for the military in the Pacific.

"PACOM is the vanguard of our new U.S.

defense strategy... a strategy that clearly recognizes that we are a Pacific nation with significant national interests, key allies and partners throughout the Asia-Pacific region. We will expand our networks of cooperation with emerging partners who ensure the security of our common interests, continue to invest in long term strategic partnerships with those nations who have the ability or the willingness to serve as the regional economic anchors through providers of security in this critical region," Locklear said. "We will work to preserve peace, and deter and defend against provocations throughout this region. We'll promote a rules based international order that ensures stability and encourages the peaceful rise of new powers, economic growth and constructive defense cooperation."

"Of course, as we have always done with this command, we remain vigilant, well-trained, proficiently resourced and we will always be ready for the unexpected, but most importantly, we will take care of our most precious assets, our magnificent people and their families," he continued.

As Commander, U.S. Pacific Command, Locklear will be the senior U.S. military authority responsible for approximately 330,000 military and civilian personnel, or one-fifth of the total U.S. military strength assigned to the command, throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

Locklear also commanded Joint Task Force Odyssey Dawn aboard the command ship USS Mount Whitney Mount Whitney to help enforce the U.N. Security Council Resolution 1973 to protect the Libyan people from the country's ruler in 2011. His personal decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal with one gold star, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit with four gold stars, Bronze Star Medal, and numerous individual, Campaign and Unit awards.

# Guam service members show middle school students career options



**Demonstration:** U.S. Naval Base Guam's (NBG) Fire and Emergency Services firefighters demonstrate the different uses of their fire trucks to students during the Jose Rios Middle School 6th Annual Career Day March 9. Service members along with the fire department joined the civilian workforce in educating the students about various employment opportunities. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class (SW) Corwin Colbert/Released

By Mass Communication Specialist  
2nd Class (SW) Corwin Colbert  
*Joint Region Edge Staff*

**G**uam service members participated in the Jose Rios Middle School 6th Annual Career Day March 9.

Erin Guzman, career day coordinator, said the main purpose of the event was to give the children an opportunity to learn about the many job fields they can choose in the future.

"There is so many things these kids can do; so much potential in them – we are trying to have them explore that," Guzman said.

Service members from Army, Navy, and Air Force along with the

U.S. Naval Base Guam's (NBG) Fire and Emergency Services joined the civilian workforce in educating the students about various employment opportunities.

Yeoman 3rd Class Christopher O'Neal, Joint Region Marianas community service coordinator, said he and a small group from his command participated to show students the many different jobs within the military.

"We are here to show them that there are many things you can do; so many jobs opportunities you can take to evolve your life and career," O'Neal said.

Guzman said the students show a keen interest in military jobs and were excited that the service members were able to present at career

day.

"The students request for them to come in every year so we reach out to our coordinators and teachers to get them to come in," Guzman said. "We really do appreciate that."

Piti Mayor Ben Gumataotao said the event was successful and thanked everyone who came to support.

"The event was successful because the children got to learn about the participants' daily lives, the leadership that we have – I'm sure the children are appreciative of that," Gumataotao said. "I want to thank the commands and the admirals for coming and helping the school on this day. They learned a lot not only through the military but throughout their lives."



## APRA CABLE HUT – P204 PART C TELECOMM DUCT BANK

### Schedule of Closures within Yellow Arc:

**Area 1:** March 19-22, 8 p.m.-5 a.m.  
(Includes B642, 1793, 2120, 2121, 3190, 3191)

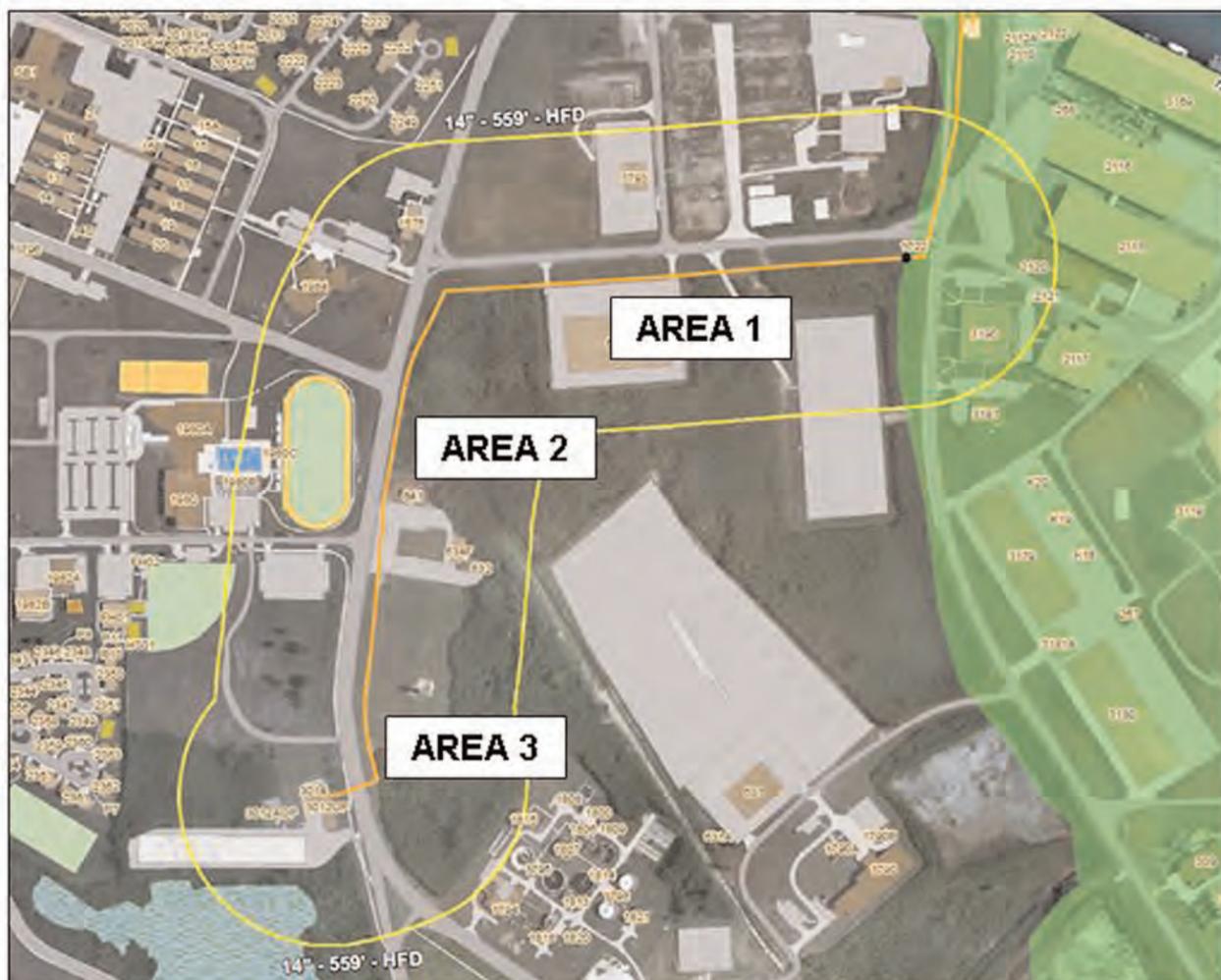
**Area 2:** March, 22-23, 10 p.m.-5 a.m.  
(Includes B1575, 1984, 1980B&C, 641, 634F, 632, 642 and 1793)

**Area 3:** March 26-27, 10 p.m.-5 a.m.  
(Includes B3012AOP, 3012OP, 3014, 641, 634F, 632, 1815, 1980B, 1980C, 1984)

### Points of contact for additional information:

U.S. Naval Base Guam Public Affairs Officer Annette Donner  
339-2663

NAVFAC Marianas CME Julie Bramble  
339-4047



### Notification of Construction Work

Please be reminded that excavation work for the Apra Cable Hut and Telecomm Duct Bank is scheduled to commence on March 19. The schedule to the left shows when the Arc will be in effect. Anticipate various road closures during these dates. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

**Construction Work:** Due to pending construction in this area, a pre-construction clearance procedure will be followed at night from March 19-27 to eliminate any suspicion of the presence of WWII unexploded ordnance. For their safety, during that procedure, persons in the buildings within this arch may not be present and roads will be closed. Please note that the procedure will be conducted after 8 p.m. and before 5 a.m. Graphic provided by U.S. Naval Base Guam Public Affairs Office

By Col. Nathan Berman  
36th Wing Judge Advocate

I recently read an article describing the most recent Gallup poll of America's most trusted institutions. According to the article, Americans express greater confidence in the military than in 15 other institutions with 78 percent saying they have a great deal or quite a lot of confidence in it. That is compared to the Supreme Court with 37 percent confidence, television news with 27 percent, banks with 23 percent and Congress with 12 percent. What a remarkable statement by the American public.

After reading the article, I asked myself, why does our nation have such great confidence in the military, especially in comparison to other institutions? The answer I came up with: It was because of the uncompromising emphasis the military places on honor, integrity and ethics.

When the American public states they have the greatest confidence and trust in the military, they are saying they have the greatest trust and confidence in the people in the military, which means you and me. I had to look at my own experiences and training in ethics while in the military to see what it is that makes me different in the eyes of the public than those in the other 15 institutions that were considered in the poll.

I began my ethics training when I raised my hand at the U.S. Military Academy one week after graduating from high school. From day one, I was taught and lectured on duty and honor with an emphasis on honor. I was taught that I would not lie, cheat or steal, or tolerate those who did. Tolerate meant that if I knew about someone lying, cheating or stealing, and did not report it, I was just as culpable. I was exposed to the most sen-

# Put integrity first

ior officers, war heroes and former POWs who gave memorable, inspiring presentations on duty and honor. After numerous lectures and training, I felt confident that I understood honor and ethics. I felt that now knowing the rules, it was quite simple and easy to adhere to the ethics standards I was trained on. That is how my training began.

My first experience in ethics occurred about 15 months into my four years at the Military Academy, when I was 19-years-old. One of my close friends signed out of their unit on a Saturday afternoon writing on the sign out ledger that he was going camping on the installation. Instead, he left the installation, drove to his house and returned to the installation within a couple of hours. By signing out saying he was camping instead of saying that he was leaving the installation, he saved himself from using one of the six pass days he had over the next year.

When he returned, he told his roommate who was also his best friend at the time that he had gone home for a couple of hours. His roommate was in a dilemma, should he keep quiet, be loyal and keep the trust of his best friend, or should he adhere to the honor code as promised and report his best friend? He chose adherence to the honor code. With a zero tolerance for honor violations at the Military Academy, my friend was immediately kicked out of the Military Academy in dishonor.

After this incident I asked myself, would I have been strong enough to

do the right thing? Ask yourself, under these facts and circumstances, would you have been strong enough? This experience showed me that ethics, honor and integrity were not quite the simple concepts I thought they were and not as easy as I thought they would be to adhere to.

I was confronted with a similar situation as an Army lieutenant stationed in Germany. At that time, two of my noncommissioned officers approached me complaining that my boss and commander committed an ethical violation that directly financially negatively impacted them. They said that they were too afraid to address this with him due to additional negative consequences.

I approached the commander who refused to correct the violation he had committed. I told him that I could not allow this to go uncorrected and would have to have this addressed by his boss unless he corrected the problem. He still refused knowing that I knew if I did bring it forward to his boss I would face certain negative consequences day to day and to my overall career.

I had to decide; would I do the right thing and accept these certain negative consequences or turn a blind eye to the incident I now knew about? I did the right thing and a higher commander ordered the correction of the incident and my NCOs were protected. And yes, I faced negative consequences for doing that, which I had to endure.

I share these experiences to demonstrate two valuable lessons that I learned regarding integrity and

ethics. The first is that you have to accept that you may have to make significant personal sacrifices to adhere to the core value "Integrity First." If you are not willing to do that, the military is not the right place for you.

I am sure it was heart wrenching for my 19-year-old classmate to report his best friend who had committed an honor violation, knowing that his best friend would be kicked out of the Military Academy under the most difficult circumstances, lose a four-year scholarship and lose any chance of having a military career. As mentioned above, I too suffered negative consequences for my decision to stand strong for ethical standards and against the authority of my commander.

The second lesson is that as military members, we must aggressively and earnestly police ourselves to protect the integrity of our core values. It was because of people like my classmate at the Military Academy that the Academy has maintained the national and international reputation it has over the last 210 years of maintaining the highest ethical standards. It was my actions as a lieutenant that ensured that the enlisted and NCOs in my artillery battery had confidence in the integrity and character of their leadership and in the U.S. Army maintaining its core values.

The reason that the military has been the top ranked institution each year since 1998 and from 1986-1989 may be a recognition that military members are willing to accept all the personal sacrifices necessary to adhere to ethical standard that they swear by. Along with the recognition that all military members, from the lowest enlisted rank to the most senior officers, actively self police their own members of the military and serve as formidable guardians of its reputation, ensuring absolute adherence to its core values.

## New TRICARE features improve online capability

By Capt. Damian Pardue  
36th Medical Group

TRICARE Online (TOL) is the Military Health Systems Internet point of entry that provides all Andersen Medical Group and Department (MGD) of Defense (DoD) beneficiaries access to available healthcare services and information through an enterprise-wide secure portal.

TRICARE Online users who receive their care at Andersen or any military treatment facility can schedule appointments, order prescription refills and view their personal health data.

The new "Blue Button" feature encourages beneficiaries to actively engage in their healthcare. This TRICARE Online feature allows users access to expanded personal health data including lab results, problem lists, encounter data and also allows adult family members to book appointments for minors. These capabilities mark an expansion of the current "Blue Button" which already allows beneficiaries to access their demographic information, allergy and medication profiles.

In order to access TOL booking appointments for minors, beneficiaries can use either their DoD self-service logon or a common access card. Log on to the TRICARE online Web site at [www.tricareonline.com](http://www.tricareonline.com).

From the beneficiary home page, authorized adult family members are permitted to schedule, view and cancel both primary care and select self-referral specialty appointments on behalf of:

- Themselves
- Other adult family members with permission
- Minor children under 18 years of age

Users are encouraged to establish a username and password. A "forgot password" option is available online to reset forgotten passwords.

To learn more and to gain granting access for family members, visit [www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/dsaccess/index.jsp](http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/dsaccess/index.jsp).

For TOL customer assistance and additional information, contact the MHS customer service help desk at 1-800-600-9332. You may also contact your 36 MDG TOL Administrator at 671-366-3882.

## USS Emory S. Land loads Tomahawk missiles



**Preparation:** Sailors assigned to Naval Munitions Command East Asia Division Detachment Guam, submarine tender USS Emory S. Land (AS 39) and USS Michigan (SSGN 727) Gold crew, prepare to load a Tomahawk Land Attack Missile onto Michigan March 1. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Apprentice Samuel Souvannason/Released



**Load:** Sailors assigned to Naval Munitions Command East Asia Division Detachment Guam, submarine tender USS Emory S. Land (AS 39) and USS Michigan (SSGN 727) Gold crew, prepare to load a Tomahawk Land Attack Missile onto Michigan March 1. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Apprentice Samuel Souvannason/Released

**Guiding Line:** A Sailor uses line to guide a Tomahawk Land Attack Missile onto USS Michigan (SSGN 727). Sailors assigned to Naval Munitions Command East Asia Division Detachment Guam, submarine tender USS Emory S. Land (AS 39) and Michigan Gold crew, worked together to complete the first SSGN reload to take place in Guam March 1. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Apprentice Samuel Souvannason/Released





LIBERTY THROUGH UNITY

# JOINT REGION EDGE

Volume IV No. 9

Friday, March 16, 2012

## 36th Wing named Air Force outstanding unit

“ It is because of this dedication and teamwork that we have come to expect great performance from the Airmen of the 36th Wing. ”

- Col. Donald Drechsler, 36th Wing vice commander

By Airman 1st Class Whitney Tucker  
36th Wing Public Affairs

The 36th Wing was recently named as recipient of the prestigious Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for exceptionally meritorious service from Oct. 1, 2009 to Sept. 30, 2011. The award was created by the Department of the Air Force Jan. 6, 1954. It is awarded by the Secretary of the Air Force to

numbered units that display decidedly superior performance, distinguishing themselves among, and above similar units.

The Wing garnered recognition as a result of persistent, superior performance and unwavering dedication to the Air Force mission.

“This is outstanding news and a testament to the outcome of our Airmen’s commitment to putting their best foot forward when

See Award, Page 7



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## Naval Base Guam holds preparedness exercise

By Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class (SW)  
Gabrielle Blake  
Joint Region Edge Staff

Simulated disaster refugees poured into Charles King Fitness Center on U.S. Naval Base Guam (NBG) during the Bisitan Tasi (Ocean Visitors) exercise March 8.

The exercise simulated the arrival of up to 3,000 evacuees and 1,000 pets from another country who would stay on Guam for up to 48 hours in the event of

a natural disaster.

Volunteers were briefed on the role they would play in the scenario. Single Sailors became mothers and fathers. Some volunteers became people with financial hardship or people with illness.

The fitness center served as a processing center where refugees went through a check-in process then were able to go to different rooms and the old gym where there were multiple resources available to them including Fleet and Family Support Center, Navy

Working Together: Capt. Richard Wood, U.S. Naval Base Guam (NBG) commanding officer, speaks to volunteers and representatives during the Bisitan Tasi exercise at Charles King Fitness Center on NBG March 8. The exercise simulated the arrival of evacuees who would reside on Guam for up to 48 hours in the case of a disaster in a nearby country. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class (SW) Gabrielle Blake/Released

See Exercise, Page 7



## CSS-15 WELCOMES NEW LEADER

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Scan for direct links to Joint Region Marianas



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- [twitter.com/jrmguam](https://twitter.com/jrmguam)
- [youtube.com/jrmguam](https://youtube.com/jrmguam)

# Interior and exterior tips to save energy



By Kevin D. Evans  
Joint Region Marianas  
Energy Manager

Beannachtai na Feile Padraig (pronounced bann/ockt/tee nih fail/eh pawd/rig) is gaelic for Happy St. Patrick's Day! March is also the month that spring begins and I thought I'd share some interior and exterior energy saving tips for the season:

- Set the thermostat no lower than 76 degrees.
- Use ceiling fans to help circulate the air.

late the air.

- Turn off or replace lights. Most energy from incandescent bulbs becomes heat. Compact fluorescent bulbs use 75-80 percent less energy and produce less heat.

- Use the microwave rather than the oven if you do cook. Consider chilled foods, too.

- Grilling, outdoors, is also a fun way to conserve electricity, as well.

- Add shade. Install a programmable thermostat, and set it to cool the house before you get there. Check your ducts for leaks, and seal

them, if needed. Caulk and weather-strip windows, doors and pipe clearances. Insulate walls and crawl spaces. Higher R-values keep more cool air in and still allow air flow. Clean or replace air filters regularly for efficient air exchange.

- Outside, try strategic planting trees and shrubs on the east, west and south sides to cut cooling costs. Consider recycling old tires for new planting supports which is a very sustainable practice. Finally, consider, also, practicing xerescaping techniques which suggest using lo-

cal plants, trees, and shrubs that require less maintenance and little or no irrigation.

My Irish wife also reminds me that more environmentally friendly use and conserving of our natural resources will earn the goodwill of the sidhe (pronounced shee), the fey faerie folk, spirits of nature, such as the leprechauns and banshees. Not only does it make sense to us, but them, as well. Slán agus beannacht leat (pronounced slawn og/us ban/ockt lat), "Goodbye and blessings on you."

## AWARD:

### 'I am extremely proud of our Airmen'

Continued from Page 1

doing their jobs, and to their commitment to teamwork and professionalism," said Chief Master Sgt. Margarita Overton, 36th Wing command chief.

"The natural outcome is a reputation for excellence and that excellence is noticed," she continued. "I am extremely proud of our Airmen. We all made this happen."

Showcasing traditional red, white and blue, the ribbon is exclusively presented to service members belonging to units that perform meritorious service, accomplish a specific outstanding achievement of national or international significance, combat operations against an armed enemy of the United States, or military operations involving conflict with or exposure to hostile actions by an opposing foreign force.

In recent years, the ability of Andersen personnel to perform under pressure has been put to the test through contingency responses, aircraft generations, inspections and operational readiness exercises. According to Col. Donald Drechsler, 36th Wing vice commander, the award could not have been bestowed on a more deserving unit.

"Receiving this award is truly an honor for the 36th Wing," the colonel said. "An honor earned by men and women who resolve as a team to meet all challenges that arise to accomplish our mission. It is because of this dedication and teamwork that we have come to expect great performance from the Airmen of the 36th Wing."

"Andersen Air Force Base has an increasing role in our nation's safety and security in the Pacific region," he continued. "This responsibility rests squarely on the shoulders of every Andersen Airman. It is a responsibility they bear with pride, determination and persistence."

Whether providing humanitarian support to regional allies, conducting exercises to enhance readiness capabilities or perfecting diverse and mission-essential skills, Airmen here continually demonstrate steadfast devotion to the Air Force mission: fly, fight and win in air, space and cyberspace.

"The men and women of the 36th Wing have proven that sustained excellence across the entire spectrum of our operations is recognized at the highest levels," he said. "Every Airman in this wing should be proud of this recognition. More importantly, they should be proud of what they provide each and every day to our Air Force and to our Nation."



**Simulation:** Volunteers simulating disaster refugees speak to case managers during the Bisitan Tasi exercise at Charles King Fitness Center on U.S. Naval Base Guam March 8. The exercise simulated the arrival of evacuees who would reside on Guam for up to 48 hours in the case of a disaster in a nearby country. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class (SW) Gabrielle Blake/Released

## EXERCISE: Bisitan Tasi provided training experience

Continued from Page 1

Marine Corps Relief Society, base housing and local banks.

"Since this happens very infrequently, we want to make sure that the people we have here working are able to receive people in this kind of form," said Cmdr. Christopher Flis, NBG executive officer. "And they can experience the different challenges that may be presented by people coming from a far away place."

Corpsmen from U.S. Naval Hospital Guam played a big role in the medical portion of the exercise. They were faced with a variety of situations which included patients who needed prescriptions filled, patients who had post traumatic stress disorder and both stable and unstable pregnant patients.

"Sometimes as corpsmen we can get complacent in the hospital because we're doing clinical work," said Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Courtney Osborne. "When we get out here, we get a chance to do the things that we will be doing in the military if the situation ever arises. It's important for us to have that experience and to know what we need to do and who we'll be working with."

The exercise served as a training experience for both Navy and civilian personnel who work to provide support to service members and families.

"It's been a good chance for all of our stakeholders here on the installation to really practice their trade in a scenario that they don't get to practice in very often," Flis said.



**Helping Out:** Volunteers simulating disaster refugees speak to representatives from U.S. Naval Base Guam (NBG) family housing during the Bisitan Tasi exercise at Charles King Fitness Center on NBG March 8. The exercise simulated the arrival of evacuees who would reside on Guam for up to 48 hours in the case of a disaster in a nearby country. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class (SW) Gabrielle Blake/Released



**Welcomed Visit:** Rear Adm. Paul Bushong, Joint Region Marianas commander, speaks with Retired Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Lawrence Snowden during a luncheon at Bushong's house March 11. The luncheon was part of the 17th annual Military Histories tour that brings veterans back to the old battlefields on Guam and Iwo Jima. U.S. Navy photo by Lt. William Knight/Released



**Historical Assets:** Member of a military historic tour group and interested personnel view Andersen's historical assets during a tour on Andersen Air Force Base March 13. The tour was part of the 17th annual Military Histories tour that brings veterans back to the old battlefields on Guam and Iwo Jima. U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Alexandre Montes/Released

# Iwo Jima visits Guam

By Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class  
(SW) Gabrielle Blake  
*Joint Region Edge Staff*

"I was 19 years old when I joined the Marine Corps back in the '40s," Marine Corps veteran Bill Griggs recalled. "I got scared one time. On the ship when I first saw Iwo Jima, I got scared. I won't deny it to anybody."

This was one of many stories shared by World War II veterans during a Military Historical Tour March 11-13 that brought veterans to Guam for a visit, or for most a revisit.

"Military histories tours were established by Col. Warren Weidhan for the purpose of bringing United States Marine veterans back to the battlefields of the Pacific," said Don Farrell, a Guam historian. "It's important both for the veterans themselves as well as the younger people. It's an education for the youth to meet those who survived and established the legend of the Marine Corps. For the veterans, it's an opportunity for them to revisit their battlefield and for many of them it's an opportunity to expunge some hard memories that they've had to live with for 40, 50 years."

On their tour, veterans attended a luncheon at the home of Rear Adm. Paul Bushong, Joint Region Marianas commander, where they were able to get an aerial view of the beaches where the Marines first landed on the island during the war.

They also visited U.S. Naval Base Guam where they stopped at the War Dog Memorial,

Gab Gab Beach and the old Marine Corps barracks site.

U.S. Navy veteran Ira Rigger was one of the Seabees on Guam during World War II. He recalled memories of helping to make the waters along what is now Gab Gab, deeper for ships to come in and out.

"We laid dynamite on the bottom and blasted it," Rigger said. "The water would go up in the air about 500 feet and when it came down, since the hole had closed up, it went sideways and you did not want to be standing there because in that water was pieces of coral. You turn your back and you get pelted all the way to shore."

During the veteran's tour on Guam they also visited north and south battlefield areas, pre-war structures and Andersen Air Force Base. Veterans were able to experience Guam customs as well.

"They will have an understanding of not only the battlefields that were visited by the Marine Corps, but also the local culture," Farrell said. "They go home with a larger perspective of the place they fought."

Farrell said veterans are always shocked, amazed and pleased to see that something they experienced as a very terrible event has done something so good.

"I feel thrilled to realize that I had a part to play in this," Rigger said. "Not only to help to make the war a success for the United States but it helped developed Guam so that the people who live here have a better chance of living well."

**Tour:** A group of Iwo Jima veterans and their relatives, visit the U.S. Marine Corps Memorial on U.S. Naval Base Guam March 12. The memorial is on the site of the pre-World War II Marine Barracks and where the U.S. flag was raised for the first time after U.S. forces took back the island from the Japanese in July 1944. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Corey Hensley/Released



# Seabees: "We Build, We Fight"

By Shaina Marie Santos  
Joint Region Edge Staff

The history of the Seabees began in 1941, after the Japanese-led attack on Pearl Harbor. When the United States entered World War II, it became clear that the use of civilian employees was unfeasible.

Due to the construction required during and after the war, there became an apparent need for a militarized Naval Construction Force to build advance bases in war zones. According to the Naval History & Heritage Web site, Rear Adm. Ben Moreell moved to create such a force.

On Jan. 5, 1942, he gained the authority to recruit men from construction trades for a Naval Construction Regiment composed of three Naval Construction Battalions. This was the beginning of Naval Mobile Construction Battalions (NMCB) and a new group of Sailors who would soon be known as the Seabees.

NMCB units arrived on Guam during the liberation of the island in 1944 to aid in reconstruction efforts. Among countless projects completed on island, the Seabees are credited for the construction of Guam's main thoroughfares, Marine Corps Drive and the Glass Breakwater, which fortifies Apra Harbor as a port for sea vessels.

Today, NMCB units still operate on Guam, supporting base, local and regional ventures.

NMCB 40 based out of Port Hueneme, Calif. is currently deployed on Guam to support construction efforts on U.S. Naval Base Guam (NBG) and its installations. The command's main body is currently positioned in Okinawa, Japan, with approximately 245 Seabees, 141 of which are on island rotating every 6-9 months. NMCB 40 Seabees are also assigned to 10 deployment sites and 11 exercises throughout the region.

Headquartered at Camp Covington, NMCB 40 Seabees serve as the



**Under Construction:** Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 40 Engineering Aide 3rd Class (SCW) William Yoon radios crewmembers at the future Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas building 4175 near Apra Heights Feb. 28. The parking lot is set for completion May 30 and will be equipped with 300 parking spaces for those stationed at the newly renovated offices. U.S. Navy photo by Shaina Marie Santos/Released

main construction support unit to NBG and currently carry out many projects both on and off base.

## Orote Point Quarry

The Orote Point Quarry can be considered the hub of NMCB 40 construction operations as it provides mineral materials utilized for building projects such as roads, parking lots and building foundations. Nine Sailors from NMCB 40 operate the quarry including two blasters and two drillers who are trained to operate specialized equipment.

On a daily basis, NMCB 40 has the capability to move 300 tons of aggregate from the quarry benches to the crusher and 60 tons of crushed aggregate from the quarry crusher to construction sites on NBG.

## Bachelor Enlisted Quarters Gazebo

Behind the Bachelor Enlisted Quarters (BEQ) on NBG, NMCB 40 is constructing a 26-by-26 foot gazebo set for completion by May

22. The project began Dec. 19, 2011 and costs \$76,036.

The gazebo will not only provide a rest area for BEQ residents but offers an opportunity for Seabees to hone their construction skills.

"[Building the gazebo is] a lot of good training for a lot of the guys," said Project Manager Builder 2nd Class (SCW) Jonathan Garcia of NMCB 40. "We do a lot of fast-paced construction, but to actually slow it down and get back to what we traditionally do as Seabees, taking care of the project management and actual quality of work... it benefits us later on so when we are forward deployed in contingency operations we do everything safer."

## Parking Lot at Building 4175

NMCB 40 has also taken over construction of the future Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Marianas parking stalls at building 4175 near Apra Heights in Santa Rita. The asphalt parking lot, which is reported to be at about



**Rock On:** A Sailor from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 40 moves rocks to the quarry crusher at the Orote Point Quarry on U.S. Naval Base Guam Feb. 28. The quarry provides mineral materials used in NMCB 40 construction projects such as roads, parking lots and building foundations. U.S. Navy photo by Shaina Marie Santos/Released

80 percent completion, is set for full completion May 30. Construction of the future parking lot began July 7, 2010 by NMCB 133. The \$938,267 parking lot will provide 300 parking spaces for NAVFAC Marianas employees moving to the building once new office renovations are complete.

According to NMCB 40 Equipment Operator 2nd Class (SCW) Amanda Ibalio, the project was split into two different phases, the first to be completed by March 15. NMCB 40's progress includes the installation of light bulbs and constructing a north entrance to the parking lot.

"We're hoping to mitigate [parking problems] as soon as possible," she said.

Aside from projects on island, NMCB 40 carries out missions in various countries through the region, building relations as well as infrastructure.

## Regional Contributions

Throughout the region, NMCB 40 also makes its mark. According to Lt. Cmdr. Jeffrey Jordan, officer in charge of NMCB 40, Seabees are making contributions to communities in foreign countries as well.

"The Seabees will go into various countries and do humanitarian work, disaster recovery work, and then also build infrastructure with the local communities as far as working on schools, working on orphanages, drilling wells," Jordan said.

He added that NMCB 40 has teams in Cambodia drilling water wells and in Timor Leste constructing schools and orphanages. Teams are also set to deploy to the Philippines and Yap to aid local schools. Jordan said the mission is about building relationships between the United States and host nations.

"In a time of need or in a time of war or crisis, we have built those relationships and now it allows U.S. forces to come in to those different islands -because we've worked those relationships," he said.

## Community Contributions

The Seabees have also contributed in Guam's local communities. NMCB 40 along with fellow Sailors and Airmen volunteered for a Habitat for Humanity of Guam project in Talofof. Service members repaired roofing, installed new screen doors and windows and revitalized the home's exterior.

NMCB 40 is already looking at their next community project with Habitat for Humanity of Guam, turning a donated 40-by-10 container into a home for a family in Talofof.

Future Seabee projects on Guam include constructing a shelter for a pure-water tanker at Polaris Point, a storage building at the Fena Water Treatment Plant and a port operations generator enclosure.

The many contributions to the local and military communities on Guam and abroad will be celebrated during the annual Seabee Birthday Ball March 17 at the Hotel Nikko Guam. This year the Seabees will celebrate 70 years of "We Build, We Fight" service to the nation and recognize the efforts of thousands of Sailors worldwide.

"The Seabee ball is a time to celebrate the accomplishments of those who have served, those who are currently serving, and the future of the naval construction force [so that] we may continue to be unified and support the nation in times of need," Jordan said.

## NAVFAC Marianas promotion

**New Commander:** U.S. Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Marianas Capt. John Heckmann, left, gives Lt. Cmdr. Laurie Scott the Oath of Office as Scott is promoted to commander at the Seabee Memorial at Asan Beach Park, March 12. Scott, NAVFAC Marianas assistant operation officer and integrated product team leader, will be stationed in Port Hueneme, Calif. as chief staff officer of the 1st Naval Construction Regiment (1 NCR) this summer. "I've worked with some great people and (my wife) and I have made some great friends while we've been here," Scott said. "We're going to miss everyone when we leave in a couple of months." He thanked his family, which included his wife and two children. "I love you more than life itself and you've made me a better person because I'm a dad," he said. "Anybody who knows... [my wife's] a lot wiser and smarter than I am. She sacrificed a lot in order for me to be able to serve our country, so I love her to death; she's my best friend and my soul mate." Capt. Heckmann described Scott's future position to be a challenging, yet envious one. "I was blessed to have such a capable officer to help me," Heckmann said. "I think everyone can rest assured that this promotion was a logical one and he was a clear choice." U.S. Navy photo by Shaina Marie Santos/Released



By Shaina Marie Santos  
Joint Region Edge Staff

# St. Patrick's Day celebrates Irish culture

St. Patrick's Day is commonly associated with wearing green, three-leaf clovers, leprechauns and following a rainbow to its end in hopes of discovering a pot of gold. Uncommonly known, however, are its roots in religion and Irish heritage.

St. Patrick's Day is celebrated each year on March 17 in commemoration of the death of St. Patrick.

According to U.S. Naval Base Guam (NBG) Chaplain Lt. Cmdr. Thomas Ianucci, many attribute St. Patrick to be the saint of Ireland.

"There's legends that he drove the snakes out of Ireland," he said. "[St. Patrick was] the role model on how [the Irish] put on Christ in their life."

According to National Geographic, St. Patrick is reported to have originated from Britain, where he was ordained as a priest before beginning his mission in Ireland. He

was said to have used three-leaf clovers, or Shamrocks to illustrate the holy trinity.

Ianucci added that in present day, the celebration has become a day to celebrate Ireland, its people, and ethnic diversity.

"There was a great influx of Irish people during the Irish potato famine," Ianucci said. "So normally it would be a day for Irish people to rejoice in their ethnic background. It's just a time to celebrate and be grateful of who you are and your ethnic background. These people made a big mark when they came over here

and migrated to this country. So you've got tradition both that is their culture and religion. It's a great time to celebrate and people accept you. That's what America's about."

Molly McGee's Irish Pub bartender Beverly Acfalle, has participated in St. Patrick's Day celebrations before and generally sees the holiday as one where people simply want to celebrate Irish heritage.

"[Patrons] come in as a festive day," she said. "It's a custom to the people that actually understand it, and it's a good way to celebrate."

Emory S. Land (AS 439)

Boatswain's Mate 1st Class (SW) Ted Marsh said that St. Patrick's Day are large celebrations in cities where Irish Americans flourished such as Boston, Chicago and Savannah, Ga.

"It's the places in the U.S. where the Irish really settled," he said.

Marsh said that he has visited Savannah numerous times to celebrate St. Patrick's Day, where he says they paint the town green.

"They paint all the fountains green, they put food dye in the water," he said. "The whole town, all on St. Patrick's Day, they have a

huge parade."

Molly McGee's Irish Pub will celebrate St. Patrick's Day on March 17 at 7 p.m. on NBG with a band performance by Passenger 3 at 8 p.m. For more information, call 564-1834.

Molly McGee's Irish Pub manager David Ragland says that they usually expect up to 200 patrons on the holiday, who uphold festivities by wearing the color green and enjoying beverages dyed green with food coloring.

NBG Chapel will celebrate Mass in commemoration of St. Patrick's Day on March 17 at 5:30 p.m.

Bamboo Willies will be hosting a St. Patrick's Day Dinner at Tarague Beach on Andersen Air Force Base March 17 with Irish style dinner specials beginning at 5:30 p.m. There will be a DJ performance and beverage specials throughout the evening. Dinner is \$7.95 for club members and \$9.95 for non-members. For more information, call 366-6166.

By Shaina Marie Santos  
Joint Region Edge Staff

## Irish fare shares heritage

Corned beef and cabbage is a traditional Irish dish one can make to celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

The beef is traditionally flavored by brining in water, salt and spices, the traditional way Irish and other early societies preserved their meats when no refrigeration was available.

The dish is one the staples at Molly McGee's Irish Pub on U.S. Naval Base Guam. Molly McGee's Irish Pub manager Dave Ragland said the dish is a simple way to make a great meal.

"You only need corned beef brisket cooked to perfection, steamed cabbage and garlic mashed potatoes," he said. "In the old days, cabbage and potatoes were the staple of the Irish diet and you can put store and keep them over time. The beef is pickled so the meat can be stored and last longer; remember in the old days we did not have refrigerators."

Emory S. Land (AS 39) Boatswain's Mate 1st Class (SW) Ted Marsh said that growing up, his memories of celebrating St. Patrick's Day consistently included the dish.

"My mom used to cook corned beef and cabbage every St. Patrick's Day," he said. "That's about the most Irish meal you can come up with."

Ragland said his favorite part of the dish is the flavors that come together to complement each other.

"When you put it all together, it just gives you a flavor that you like," he said. "You can see how the simple meal is still a traditional Irish favorite."

### Recipe

The following recipe was taken from Allrecipes.com:

- 4 and one-half pounds corned beef brisket
- 5 black peppercorns
- One-half teaspoon garlic powder
- One onion, peeled and left whole
- 2 bay leaves
- One pinch of salt
- One small head cabbage, cored and cut into wedges
- 6 large potatoes, quartered
- 4 large carrots, peeled and sliced

One-fourth cup chopped fresh parsley

2 tablespoons butter

In a 6-quart Dutch oven, place the beef brisket, peppercorns, garlic powder, onion, bay leaves and salt. Fill the pan with water to cover everything plus one inch. Bring to a

boil and cook for 20 minutes. Skim off any residue that floats to the top. Reduce heat to a simmer and cook for two to three hours, until the meat can be pulled apart with a fork.

Once the meat is done, add the cabbage, potatoes and carrots, pressing them down into the liquid. Sim-

mer for an additional 15 minutes or until the potatoes are tender. Skim off any oil that comes to the surface. Stir in the butter and parsley. Remove the pot from the heat.

Remove meat from the pot and place everything on a serving dish and let rest for 15 minutes. Also remove the vegetables to a bowl to keep warm. Slice meat on the diagonal against the grain. Serve meat on a platter and spoon juices over meat and vegetables.



**Irish Dish:** A plate of corned beef and cabbage is served at Molly McGee's Irish Pub on U.S. Naval Base Guam March 9. The beef, which is brined for preservation and flavor, carries traditional flavors that people around the world enjoy. Corned beef and cabbage is a traditional Irish dish that may be served in celebration of St. Patrick's Day March 17. U.S. Navy photo by Shaina Marie Santos/Released

**Green Eggs and Ham:** U.S. Naval Base Guam (NBG) Legalman 1st Class (AW) Kristina Grant reads Dr. Seuss's Green Eggs and Ham at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation library on NBG March 7. The special reading was in celebration of Dr. Seuss's 108th birthday, which was on March 2. U.S. Navy photo by Shaina Marie Santos/Released



**Special Reading:** U.S. Naval Base Guam (NBG) Command Master Chief (SW/AW) John Lawry displays a page he is reading from during a special reading of *The Lorax* at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation library on NBG March 7. The special reading was in celebration of Dr. Seuss's 108th birthday, which was on March 2. U.S. Navy photo by Shaina Marie Santos/Released

## MWR library celebrates Dr. Seuss's birthday

By Shaina Marie Santos  
Joint Region Edge Staff

The Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) library celebrated Dr. Seuss's 108th birthday with guest readers March 7.

U.S. Naval Base Guam (NBG) Command Master Chief (SW/AW) John Lawry and Legalman 1st Class (AW) Kristina Grant read to a packed audience of children and parents.

Dr. Seuss, born Theodore Seuss Geisel, is world renowned for his picture books geared toward children. His famous works that include "Cat in the Hat," "Green Eggs and Ham," "The Grinch who Stole Christmas," and "The Lorax" feature fanciful creatures, creative language and original artwork by Geisel.

Grant said she fondly remembers growing up with Dr. Seuss stories and said she enjoys reading the books to children.

"For my birthday... I received a bunch of Dr. Seuss books and 'Cat in the Hat' and 'Green Eggs and Ham' were two of my favorites," Grant said. "[The books are] just something that I've grown up with. I think it's great because it teaches kids how to read and recognize words."

Lawry, who read "The Lorax," was met with much enthusiasm from the children whose hands shot into the air when they recognized the newly released movie of the same title.

"The book is always better than the movie," he told his audience.

Lawry said he remembers his parents reading Dr. Seuss to him often and enjoys reading to the youth, adding that he has also continued the tradition of sharing Dr. Seuss's stories with his own children.

"I think Dr. Seuss taught us a lot," Lawry said. "With some fascinating stories they really told us about life and I think that anybody that has the opportunity to teach people about Dr. Seuss's lessons is really doing a service to the world - they're building better people."

MWR Librarian Jessica Carbon said she was delighted with the audience turnout and grateful to the volunteer readers.

"Every year we have different kinds of the way we celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday," she said. "Today we focused on the material, the readings, listening to the wonderful words, the prose, and the rhythmic readings. A lot of kids came today to honor Dr. Seuss's birthday celebration."



**The Lorax:** U.S. Naval Base Guam (NBG) Command Master Chief (SW/AW) John Lawry flips a page during a special reading of *The Lorax* at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation library on NBG March 7. The special reading was in celebration of Dr. Seuss's 108th birthday, which was on March 2. U.S. Navy photo by Shaina Marie Santos/Released

## Chapel Schedule

### Naval Base Guam

Office Hours: Monday-Friday,  
8 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Roman Catholic Mass  
Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:30 p.m.  
Sunday Mass: 9 a.m.  
Sacrament of Reconciliation:  
Saturday, 5 p.m.  
Protestant Worship Service  
Sunday Service: Traditional and  
Contemporary Service:  
10:30 a.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.

Women's Bible Study: Every second and fourth Saturday of the month at 8:30 a.m. at the Fellowship Hall, Building 61

### Andersen Air Force Base

Roman Catholic Mass (Chapel 1)  
Weekday Mass: Tuesday,  
Wednesday, Friday, 11:30 a.m.  
Saturday Vigil Mass: 5 p.m.  
Sunday Mass: 9:30 a.m.  
Sacrament of Reconciliation:  
Saturday, 4:30-4:50 p.m.  
Catholic Women of the Chapel:  
First and third Wednesday of the month, Chapel 1 Annex, 6:30 p.m.  
Catholic Youth of the Chapel:  
Second and fourth Wednesday of the month, Chapel 1 Annex, 6:30 p.m.  
Choir Rehearsal: Saturday 4-5 p.m. and Sunday, 8-9 a.m.  
Protestant Worship Service  
Praise Service: Sunday, Chapel 2, 9 a.m.  
Gospel Service: Sunday, Chapel 2, 11:30 a.m.  
Emerging Worship Service:  
Sunday, Lighthouse, 6 p.m.  
Protestant Women of the Chapel:  
Second Monday of each month, Chapel 2 Annex, 6:30 p.m.  
Protestant Men of the Chapel:  
Wednesday, Lighthouse, 7 p.m.  
Protestant Youth of the Chapel:  
Thursday, Chapel 2 Annex, 7 p.m.  
Protestant Young Adults:  
Thursday and Saturday, Lighthouse, 6 p.m.  
Protestant Sunday School:  
(September-May) Sunday, Chapel Activity Center, 10:15 a.m.

*Schedules subject to change. To confirm times or for information about other programs, call the chapels at:*

Andersen Air Force Base:  
366-6139  
U.S. Naval Base Guam  
339-2126  
U.S. Naval Hospital Guam:  
344-9127

By Lt. Sherri L. Garrett  
*U.S. Naval Hospital Guam*

Sometime or another we all have experienced the physical urgency of thirst. Boonie stomping, running a 10K, jumping and dancing in Zumba classes, or just sitting at the table with family and friends can bring on the desire to have our thirst quenched by a cold glass of water.

Proper hydration is important; we need water to regulate our body temperature and to provide the means for nutrients to travel to all our organs. Water also transports oxygen to our cells, removes waste and protects our joints. When we do not hydrate properly, dehydration can cause serious problems like cramping of limbs, fainting and could severely disrupt our electrolyte balance which could lead to heart failure.

It is easy to recognize limitations brought on by physical thirst. Imagine the effects on us when we are spiritually dehydrated. A dehydrated spirit is just as serious as being physically depleted. When we are all

# Are you thirsty?

dried up spiritually we don't see things as clearly as we could. Nine times out of 10 we will not feel that great either.

A dehydrated spirit pays too much attention to things that don't really matter and pays too little attention to communion with God. It is challenging to have our spiritual thirst quenched by a loving God when we ignore him because we are so worn out by the cares of the world.

## CHAPLAIN'S Corner



Being a workaholic or trying to be everything to everybody will cause dehydration of the spirit. God wants his people to find rest and peace in him, because God is the only one who can quench a restless thirsty soul.

In Psalm 42:1-2, the psalmist links the physical thirst with the spiritual thirst. "As the deer pants for the streams of water, so my soul pants for you O God. My soul thirsts for

God, for the living God..." Although we may forget at times, God is the only source of living water for the refreshment for the spiritual thirsty.

We may search for years to find that thing that satisfies our thirst. We turn to our loved ones, careers, sex, booze, and other things. Always searching and never resting. Only to find out God has been waiting by the brooks of our hearts to quench that dehydrated state that we are in.

The good news is that God has something that never runs out. He has a spring of love, comfort, and joy that will satisfy our spiritual thirst. Not removing the need we have for his spiritual water, but always being there to give us water when we get thirsty.

God is not looking for self sufficient people; God wants all of us to depend on him to quench our spiritual thirst. No person, possession, or experience can produce the spiritual pleasure we can find in God. Are you thirsty?

## Classifieds

# Softball tournament to benefit NMCRS

By Mass Communication Specialist  
2nd Class (SW) Gabrielle Blake  
*Joint Region Edge Staff*

The U.S. Naval Base Guam (NBG) Second Class Petty Officer Association is organizing a softball fundraiser for the Navy-Marine

Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) Fund Drive this year. The event is scheduled for March 24-25 at Ebbett Field on NBG.

The entry fee per team is \$200. Each team can have up to 12 players. Registration and entry fees are due by March 21.

There will be a mandatory meeting for all the coaches at 6 p.m., March 21 at Charles King Fitness Center.

The opening ceremony will be 7:45 a.m. and the first game starts at 8 a.m., March 24. The rain dates will be March 31 and April 1. Fifty percent of the proceeds will go to the winners of the tournament. The other half will be donated to NMCRS.

The mission of NMCRS is to provide, in partnership with the Navy and Marine Corps, financial, educational, and other assistance to members of the Naval Services of the United States, eligible family members, and survivors when in need; and to receive and manage funds to administer these programs.

For more information about the softball tournament, contact Renata Flake at [renata.flake@fe.navy.mil](mailto:renata.flake@fe.navy.mil) or 727-1272 or contact Marqurell Harris at [marqurell.harris@fe.navy.mil](mailto:marqurell.harris@fe.navy.mil) or 898-6270.