



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**  
JOINT REGION MARIANAS  
PSC 455 BOX 211  
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JTREGMARIANASNOTE 1620  
J35  
27 Jun 2022

**JTREG MARIANAS NOTICE 1620**

**From:** Commander, Joint Region Marianas

**Subj:** OFF LIMITS LOCATIONS, RESTRICTED WATER ACTIVITIES, AND HIGH RISK ACTIVITIES ON GUAM AND IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

**Ref:** (a) JTREGMARIANASINST 1620.1B  
(b) 36 WG/CC memo of 10 Aug 20 (Guam Water Activity Restrictions)  
(c) 36 WG/CC memo of 10 Aug 20 (High-Risk Activities Program)

1. **Purpose.** To notify all military personnel on Guam and in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) of off-limits locations and other prohibitions and restrictions. Copies of this notice shall be posted on bulletin boards and other conspicuous locations throughout each command. The prohibitions and restrictions discussed in this notice are not applicable when conducting official duties requiring the use of subject water location, (e.g., military exercises involving listed locations); however, military leaders and personnel conducting official duties shall ensure adherence to appropriate water safety measures.

2. **Authority**

a. Reference (a) authorizes the formation of the Joint Region Marianas (JRM) Armed Forces Disciplinary Control Board (AFDCB) to advise and make recommendations on matters related to eliminating conditions which adversely affect the health, safety, morale, welfare, and discipline of the Armed Forces within JRM and its area of responsibility (AOR).

b. This notice amplifies the guidance provided in reference (b), which also addresses the safe participation in water activities of all personnel on Andersen Air Force Base (AAFB), whether permanent party, on temporary duty, deployed, or visiting.

3. **Background**

a. Guam's waters offer a wide range of recreational opportunities. For swimming and snorkeling, the safest areas are those beaches protected from the ocean by a barrier reef. Inside this reef, the water is often calm, shallow, and with only a slight current, if any at all. But many times people venture near or onto the reef, then into deeper water for various reasons. This can be extremely dangerous because of two primary dangers in swimming too close or onto the reef.

(1) The first danger to swimming near a reef is caused by the waves breaking on the reef. Even in the calmest conditions, it is difficult and dangerous to cross the reef in surf. The coral itself is extremely sharp which can cause deep and painful cuts. If necessary to cross the reef, it is best to do so during high tide or in an area where contact to the reef is avoidable.

(2) The second danger is currents caused by waves. First, there are rip currents which are strong, but relatively narrow seaward currents moving perpendicular from the shore. Second, are long shore currents. In almost all cases where the waves are consistently larger than one foot, a strong current runs along the reef. This current, known as a "long shore" current, is created when the water forced inside the reef by the waves is higher than the sea level outside the reef. When this happens, the water tries to flow back out to sea, but the waves bringing more water into the reef prevent the flow back of water. Therefore, the water will flow parallel along the reef or shoreline until it finds a place to flow back into the sea. Long shore current can be just as strong as rip current.

b. In the past, there have been military and civilian casualties due to water activity mishaps. The implementation of off-limits locations and restricted water activities is a way to combat these tragic yet avoidable events.

c. Additional information on water safety and other local recreational hazards can be found at the following sites (copy and paste links into your internet browser):

(1) United States Coast Guard Water Safety Tips:

<https://www.pacificarea.uscg.mil/Portals/8/District%2014/SectGuam/Documents/Safety%20at%20Sea.pdf>

(2) AAFB's Guam Survival Guide:

<https://www.andersen.af.mil/Portals/43/36%20WSA%20TENANT/Installation%20Safety/Guam%20Survival%20Guide%2018'.pdf?ver=2018-02-08-054850-083>

(3) Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources tide calendar:

Tide Times and Tide Chart for Guam (tide-forecast.com)

(4) JRM Water Safety Video Links:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fTVJsE13wTg>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/luApqkYsSrTK84lPiiKm7WshylcQePqus/view?usp=sharing>

(5) JRM Hiking Safety Video Links:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yQQt2CtUvl8>

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/l8933yc\\_7llh-igQELM49iuB0BTg5UvTc/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/l8933yc_7llh-igQELM49iuB0BTg5UvTc/view?usp=sharing)

4. Guam Water Activity Prohibition/Restrictions. The following locations and activities are restricted, as described in the table below. These prohibitions/restrictions apply to all military personnel on Guam and CNMI, whether permanently assigned, on temporary duty, leave, or any other status.

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<b>LOCATION / ACTIVITY</b>	<b>PROHIBITION / RESTRICTION / CAUTION</b>
Non-Recreational Diving	Diving below 130 feet and wreck diving is prohibited unless appropriately certified and equipped or undergoing certification training. Self-Reliant diving (diving alone) is prohibited.
Pagat Shore at Pagat Point's cliff line	Water entry is prohibited.
Recreational Swimming	Recreational swimming in the CNMI is restricted to recreational beach areas. Saipan: Western shores and beaches near Garapan. Tinian: Western shores and protected beaches in the town of San Jose.
Reefs	There will be no standing, sitting, climbing, walking, or other such contact with reefs. For these purposes, a reef is a ridge of jagged rock, coral, or sand just above or below the surface of the ocean.
Rivers and Waterfalls	Caution should be exercised when hiking in the near vicinity of rivers, river outlets, and waterfalls. These areas shall be avoided during or shortly after heavy rain.
Shark's Hole at Shark's Cove North of Tanguisson Beach	Water entry is prohibited.
Swimming in the vicinity of breakwater	No swimming in the vicinity of breakwater. For these purposes, breakwater is defined as the last portion of an elevated ridge of coral or rock between the shore and the deep water open sea that can typically be identified by waves breaking the surface, depending on the tide.
Two (2) Person Concept	A minimum of two capable swimmers are required for all ocean-related activities.

5. **High Risk Activities.** The following activities are considered high risk due to the likelihood for a mishap. These activities and actions require a Risk Management briefing with cognizant safety personnel prior to participation. The requirement for a Risk Management briefing applies to all military personnel on Guam and the CNMI, whether permanently assigned, on temporary duty, leave, or in any other status. Unit leaders should consult their Safety Officers and/or their respective Installation Safety Office to ensure a proper Risk Management briefing is conducted and documented for the activities listed below. Units may use service specific Risk Management forms.

### **HIGH RISK ACTIVITIES LISTING**

All-Terrain Vehicle ATV Auto Racing Bungee Jumping Civil Light Aircraft Flying	Mountain Biking (Trail Riding/Racing) Parasailing River Rafting/Kayaking/Canoeing Rock Climbing/Rappelling
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Cliff Diving	Scuba Diving
Combative Sports	Snorkeling
Free Diving/Extended Breath Holding	Soaring
Hiking	Spearfishing
Hunting (Firearm and/or Bow)	Surfing/Boogie Boarding
Jet Skiing/Personal Water Craft	Ultralight Aircraft/Powered Parachute
Kite Boarding/Surfing	Underwater Exploration (Cave
Motocross/Off-Road Riding	Diving/Spelunking)
Motorcycle Racing (Street/Track)	Parachuting to include Sky Diving

**NOTE:** *This list is for Guam and the CNMI. Service members must reference service specific regulations and their leadership prior to participating in High Risk activities away from Guam and the CNMI.*

6. **On-Installation Prohibitions/Restrictions/High-Risk Activities.** Military installations on Guam, (i.e., AAFB and Naval Base Guam) may have additional guidance and restrictions regarding high risk activities on their specific installation. All military personnel must ensure compliance with any such installation-level orders, guidance, or policies, including references (b) and (c).

7. **Effective Date.** The above prohibitions/restrictions and high risk activities are effective immediately and will remain in effect until modified or rescinded by competent authority.

8. **Restriction.** Service personnel, whether in uniform or in civilian clothing, found violating the limits of these prohibitions may be subject to administrative or disciplinary action under the Uniform Code of Military Justice and other applicable regulation.

9. **Dissemination.** Wide dissemination of the preceding information is directed to ensure awareness and compliance by all military personnel. Copies of this notice shall be posted on bulletin boards and other conspicuous locations throughout each command.

10. **Records Management.** Records created as a result of this notice, regardless of media or format, must be managed in accordance with Secretary of the Navy Manual 5210.1 of January 2012.



B. R. NICHOLSON

**Releasability and distribution:**

This notice is available electronically via the CNIC G2 Portal at  
<https://g2.cnic.navy.mil/JRM/SitePages/Home.aspx>