

On the Road with War in the Pacific National Historical Park

By Tammy Duchesne, museum curator

While the Dec. 8, 2002 Super-typhoon Pongsona may have destroyed the War in the Pacific's museum, visitor center and administrative offices, it hasn't stymied the park's enthusiasm or eagerness to share its resources and knowledge with the public. During the rebuilding period, they are using their creativity to fulfill their commitment to the community.

Supt. Eric Brunnemann accepted an invitation for the NPS to participate in "Career Day" at Andersen Middle School in Yigo, Guam. In efforts to show the students the natural, historical and cultural resources that abound on Guam and in the park, Eric brought with him Park Ranger Ali Spittler, Park Ecologist Dwayne Minton and Museum Curator Tammy Duchesne. Each brought resources, samples, items or artifacts that would help explain the

island's cultural prehistory, the natural resources and the events of WWII.

Students were rotated from one special interest table to another so they could see how the War in the Pacific NHP works towards its mission to "commemorate the bravery and sacrifice of those participating in the Pacific Theater of World War II" and to conserve and interpret the "outstanding natural, scenic and historical objects on the island of Guam for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations." Students enjoyed the diverse presentation and there was clearly something that appealed to everyone.

This was the first occurrence of the park taking staff members and resources off-site since the typhoon damage and the park has done similar visits to other local schools. For more information about the park's recovery efforts visit www.nps.gov/wapa. ■