

CRAIG SANTOS PEREZ / from the micronesian kingfisher [*i sihek*]

~

hu hasso i remember
the barbed wire fence
near grandma's house
—recruiters enter—
fighter jets roar above
the jungle canopy

please forgive those
who post no trespassing signs
against [us]

we flock to enlist
—call it *species survival plan*—
[our] skin camouflaged
by uniforms, [our] bodies
deployed overseas

day twenty : skin is completely
covered by pin feathers

each rosary bead is
a military base—*invasion is this cage*—

camp pendleton
corpus christi
san diego naval station
st anthony of padua
patron saint of sailors
tayuyute ham pray for [us]

schofield barracks
travis air force base
fort hood

st therese of lisieuz
patron saint of pilots and aircrews
tayuyute ham pray for [us]

futenma
diego garcia
port of haifa
st ignacius of Loyola
patron saint of soldiers
tayuyuti ham pray for [us]

jeju island
guantanamo bay
twentynine palms âmen

day twenty-three : back and wing feathers
breaking out of sheaths
flight, head, and neck feathers
still sheathed

count
more than 600 stations
of crossing
each rosary bead is
a fallen
brave of micronesia

“A mated pair of Guam Micronesian kingfishers . . . laid two fertile eggs this spring deep inside a hollowed-out palm log in a special breeding room of the [Chicago] Lincoln Park Zoo bird house. Keepers promptly stole one of the eggs . . . The parents incubated and hatched one egg in the hollow log . . . The other egg hatched [a few days later] inside an incubation machine in a lab, where the chick now lives, fed by keepers from tweezers protruding beneath the beak of an oversized kingfisher hand puppet [2010] [i sihek exi(s)ts]

“view inside one of guam’s
micronesian kingfisher nest logs
via video feed!”

each bead is
a unseen chamorro
veteran

what does not change is the will . . .

*day twenty-seven : all feathers out of sheaths
except for tail and a few feathers
around the eyes*

“kingfishers have excellent vision
and can see into the water”