



From clockwise: Airmen gather to prepare a F-15C Eagle for takeoff Dec. 5, at Gwangju Air Base, Republic of Korea during Exercise Vigilant Ace-18. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Kristen A. Heller) / Four F-15s from Kadena Air Base, fly over Gwangju Air Base, Dec. 1. (U.S Air Force photo

Yoon walk to a static F-22 Raptor, Dec. 7. Yoon visited during the routine exercise Vigilant Ace. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Jessica H. Smith) / Staff Sgt. Andrea Miles, 18th Aerospace Medicine Squadron technician, Kadena Air Base, assists a patient with fastening a seat belt on a C-130 Hercules cargo aircraft member, assigned to Yokota Air Base, Japan

during exercise Vigilant Ace 18 at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Dec. 6.

(U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Franklin R. Ramos) / A maintenance Airman and an F-15C Eagle pilot have a discussion prior to takeoff Dec. 5, at Gwangju Air Base, during Exercise Vigilant Ace-18. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Kristen A. Heller) / An F-15 from Kadena Air Base,

by Senior Airmnan Jessica H. Smith) / 18th Wing Commander from Kadena Air Base, Brig. Gen. Case Cunningham and Mayor of Gwangju, Jang Hyun

By Senior Airman Jessica Smith

18th Wing Public Affairs

12/10/2017 - GWANGJU AIR BASE, South Korea — Over the last week, U.S. and Republic of Korean Forces across South Korea participated in an annual bilateral exercise, Vigilant Ace-18. The exercise focuses on interoperability within the alliance between the United States Air Force and ROK Air Force.

Although this is an annual exercise, two major differences this year were the participation of fifth-generation aircraft and the standing up of Gwangju Air Base. Despite the fifth-generation fighters being new to the ROKAF, and the challenges of creating a fully functional collocated operating base, the exercise still went off without a hitch.

"We have learned a lot of the limitations that are here currently and how to work around them, said Maj. Joshua Ramirez, director of inspections, 18th Wing, Kadena Air Base. "Obviously we don't have all of the comforts of home herethat includes equipment and personnel, we found very creative ways to get around that stuff and still get jets in the air."

With U.S. military units from all over coming together as one team, including Alaska, Japan and the Republic of Korea, Vigilant Ace-18 allows the USAF to employ the agility of airpower away from home stations as well as an opportunity to get to know our ROKAF counterpart's capabilities.

"In order for us to really be able to project the force that we need, we really have to come together and learn how to work together and understand what each base brings to the fight," Ramirez said. "It gets them to see how we do things and it gets us to see how they would do things and find a common ground to make it a unified front."

While the exercise has a heavy emphasis on air power and deterrence, it's also about building relationships.

"Specifically with our ROKAF partners, it allows us to continue to strengthen

lands at Gwangju Air Base, Dec. 1. (U.S Air Force photo by Senior Airmnan Jessica H. Smith)

and build the alliance which ultimately is the key to deterrence and keeping the peace on the peninsula," explained Brig. Gen. Case Cunningham, commander, 18th Wing, Kadena Air Base. "That opportunity is incredibly important for us." Maximizing interoperability and partnership, was tested first-hand when a snowstorm resulted in aircraft unexpectedly landing at Gwangju Air Base.

"For this skeleton crew that we havecompared to what we have back hometo be able to catch all those personnel would have been impossible," Ramirez said. "The ROKAF stepped up like champions and they were out there catching **READ VIGILANT ACE-18 PAGE2**

Everyday Heroes

By Brett Manis II

18th Wing History Office/SOJTF-OIR Historian

ur society often has a preoccupation of raising up people to mythical levels. We equate various groups of people with elevated morals, increased intelligence and a naïve belief that those people are infallible from bad decisions.

Look no further than the public condemnation of your favorite actor or athlete when a personal struggle or a criminal offense is made public. Over the last generation, Americans have put our service members into that category. They are labeled as the "best of America," millions of people have some form of "support our troops"

paraphernalia and we are treated to television shows and movies dedicated to military virtues.

Our society has tried to turn every man or woman who joins a branch of the Armed Forces as superheroes who magically only make the perfect, and perfectly courageous, decisions required of them.

Our society has arguments about whether the actions of some honor or offend our troops, often without stopping to ask our troops what they think. They have become a monolith to be used to further a cause, whether political, charitable or business. The American people have turned well over a million men and women into a faceless group that is exploited for their service.

What those people are missing is the phenomenal nature of our individual service members. They are not faceless, nor a monolith nor a bloc of people who believe one thing. They are men and women, they are every ethnicity and creed who live in America, they are Republicans and Democrats, only out of uniform, of course, they are Christians, Muslims, Jews, atheists



and so much more.

They are single and they are married. Some have babies, some have "fur babies" and others have neither. Our service members, the men and women of every military branch, represent our entire country in all its glory.

It's easy to forget the United States is rare among the world as there is no ethnic group of "Americans." We have gained our strength through our diversity. It's not a mistake that America has grown stronger the more inclusive we have become.

I have been given the opportunity to serve in a deployed environment. I serve with Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Airmen. I serve with Special Forces members and conventional forces members. Together, we are working hard to enable the fight against terrorists and extremists where they are, rather than at home.

Working here has really made clear what eight years as an Air Force civilian already taught me: our men and women in uniform are regular people. Some joined for honor and a patriotic duty. Some joined for education. Others joined because they had no other prospects and the military offered three meals and a paycheck. Some even joined because a judge gave them the option of prison or service, but they all serve. They are not free from errors in judgement or terrible decisions. Those on Okinawa have seen that all too well. They are inherently fallible because they are merely human.

That, however, is their strength. The military is a collection of "regular people" who pull together to form something

greater. They work toward a common purpose with a shared bond born of service, sacrifice and a decision to join something bigger than themselves.

Whether they are Special Forces on the front lines, transportation specialists, maintainers, pilots or submariners, they are working to create a world better than they found it. Some will see combat their entire careers and others will never be within hundreds of miles of enemy soldiers, but they all build a military that is the most powerful and effective fighting force in the history of the world.

Our service members are not faceless. They are not clones or carbon copies to fill a billet. Though their uniforms suggest blending into one, their stories and the backgrounds have created unique individuals who put on those uniforms.

This holiday season, when people say they are thankful for our troops, please take the extra minute to recognize the men and women behind those uniforms. They are the reason we live in the land of the free.

VIGILANT ACE-18 FROM PAGE1

planes, helping us make sure everybody was safe on the ground so there were no accidents or incidents with the aircraft."

Experiences like this re-emphasize the importance of continuously training with our counterparts.

"I believe there's always something to learn – how to be good teammates and partners – but also how to be prepared if called upon to hit the ground running," said Chief Master Sgt. Michael Ditore, command chief, 18th Wing.

Building bonds amongst the participants can foster a sense of trust between the different units involved.

"It's always about relationships; we're going to continue to develop and build those relationships so that when it does come time – if needed – to work together, we're not strangers," Ditore said. "It gives them both the confidence and trust in us to show what true professionals we are, that we're here for them for the long run."

Trust is equally important in the operational aspect of the exercise. With so many players involved, one has to be able to count on the person working along side them for a successful mission to be pulled off.

"I think we performed outstanding; we did great," Ramirez said. "Bumps and bruises along the way, but overall we learned a lot, we overcame and we did what we were supposed to do. It was great to have everybody do their part and see what they can learn from this exercise."

Kadena Air Base Weekly Newspaper



嘉手納基地内 70 カ所以上、トリイステーション、海軍基地 海軍病院、米国領事館、県内の商業施設や店舗へ 300 カ所以上に無料配布されています



空軍、陸軍、海軍、その家族、軍雇用員、シビリアンなど幅広い層に読まれています。

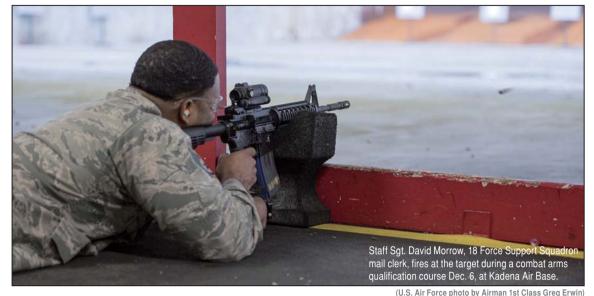
店舗への外国人集客に広告掲載をご利用ください。 広告お問い合わせ / Advertising inquiry 株式会社工イト info@samuraigate.jp お気軽にご連絡ください Tel. 098-921-2003



Published by Eight Co., Ltd. a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with the 18th Wing. The civilian enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services overseas. Contents of Samurai Gate are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force or Eight Co. Ltd. of the products or services advertised. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force or Eight Co. Ltd. of the products or services advertised. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. For commercial advertising, inquiry, send an email to info@samuraigate.jp

Official Kadena Air Base inquiries: 18wg.papublicaffairs@us.af.mil DSN:634-3813

CATM training helps qualify Airmen in weapons proficiency



By Airman 1st Class Greg Erwin

18th Wing Public Affairs

12/7/2017 — Training for the right moment is paramount to maintaining our position as the world's greatest Air Force. On this day, like any other in Okinawa, a distinct sound can be heard after walking through the door at Combat Arms.

"FIRE!" Moments later, loud bangs

from rifles ring out, sending sound waves through the student's bodies, the heart skips a beat and the only thing one can hear is the ringing in their ears from the pulled triggers. Welcome to combat arms qualification training.

The schedule for students attending the course was packed and started at 8:00 a.m. After arriving, the class meets their instructor for the day and proceeds to the armory to acquire their weapons. Training began with two to three hours of classroom instruction where students learned how to clear, load, unload, use and clean their weapon.

Once the initial classroom portion is completed, the students head to lunch, and return ready to start firing qualifications.

Air Force personnel primarily qualify on the M4 carbine and the M9 pistol. However, the range here at Kadena can also support the M870 shotgun, M240 and M249 machine guns, M107 sniper rifle, as well as the M203 grenade launcher.

"The course is necessary for Airmen who are about to change stations, forward deploy, or for duty requirements," said Staff Sgt. Seanice Thomas, 18th Security Forces Squadron combat arms range safety officer.

"You have to have a need to come through the training, it's not open to the public."

Range qualification testing consists of multiple magazines with different numbers of bullets loaded for different scenarios and firing positions. This format helps simulate random situations that Airmen may encounter on the job or while deployed.

The qualification portion takes anywhere from three to four hours. This is the most crucial portion to determine proficiency of the Airmen.

According to Staff Sgt. Sebastian Landivar, 18th SFS combat arms range safety officer, the stress of making sure your effort is good enough to qualify can weigh on the mind of many who take the course.

"A lot of folks are kind of scared, afraid of weapons, or don't enjoy it," Landivar said. "If you come in with a positive attitude, you're able to make this day a lot better."

By the end of the day however, the students really enjoyed the experience. "My favorite part of the training was shooting on burst mode," Staff Sgt. Tess Sunderlin, 353rd Special Operations Support Squadron aircrew flight equipment said. "You have to really focus to hit the target, and the adrenaline rush is really cool."

Sunderlin also had words of encouragement for anyone who is scheduled to test.

"The line instructors are really helpful, they know what they're doing, and I trust them," Sunderlin said.

For Airmen who are still not convinced why the training is important, or maybe aren't taking the day as serious as they'd like, Sunderlin also had this to say.

"Take the training seriously, because you never know when you're going to have to forward deploy with somebody and use these skills," Sunderlin said. "Pay attention, do your best, and don't treat it as just a day off from work."

The skills taught in the class are just another way that the 18th SFS combat arms section is able to help keep Team Kadena safe, and ultimately help the Air Force in producing the most capable, ready, and highly skilled Airmen able to fly, fight, and win.





40-1 | Mihama | Chatan-cho | Nakagami-gun | Okinawa 904-0115 | Japan T: +81(0)98 901 1111 | F: +81(0)98 901 1100 hilton.com hiltonchatan.jp

MAKE HOLIDAY TRADITIONS A LITTLE LESS TRADITIONAL

Christmas is knocking on the door of Corrente, offering the most stylish and trendy backdrop for your festive get-together this holiday season.

<Year End & New Year Party Plan>

Special Menu (Appetizer, Pasta, etc.) & 2 hours All-you-can-drink plan (Bottled Beer, Red & White Wine, Awamori, Soft Drinks)

Per person ¥7,500

Advanced reservation is required.
Available for the party of 4 or more.
Excepted Period : 12/22 - 12/25, 12/31 - 1/3
Tax and service charge included.

For reservations, please call us at 098 901 1130



%All prices are in Japanese Yen, and subject to applicable tax and service charge.



By Senior Airman Quay Drawdy 18th Wing Public Affairs

12/7/2017 — When two buses filled with chief master sergeants and the vice commander visit a unit, it is either a very good or a very bad thing. Fortunately for the senior master sergeants they met, they brought positive news.

A total of 11 Kadena senior master sergeants were selected for promotion to chief master sergeant. All available chiefs and Col. Richard Tanner, 18th Wing vice commander, visited each of the selectees at their units to congratulate them Dec. 12.

'Touring the base and meeting all of the new chiefs brought back memories," said Chief Master Sgt. Greg Butcher, 18th Force Support Squadron military personnel flight superintendent. "I re-

member that excitement and it was truly humbling to have been a part of it."

The excitement of joining the top of the U.S. Air Force enlisted corps wasn't lost on the selectees. Families, coworkers, leaders and more joined together to congratulate the new chiefs on their promotion, which led to tears and heartfelt thanks.

"Making chief feels unbelievable," said Senior Master Sgt. Demetrius Jones, 18th Communications Squadron operations flight superintendent. "It's very humbling and as much as you want to prepare yourself, you can't. I can't forget the people that have helped get me where I am throughout the years. For now, though, I'm excited to continue doing my job and doing the best I can wherever the Air Force ends up needing me."

Senior Master Sgt. Demetrius Jones, 18th Communications Squadron operations flight superintendent (center), waits to have the rank of chief master sergeant ceremoniously "tacked on" Dec. 6, at Kadena Air Base



Team Kadena conducts combined NEO and RPU exercise

By Senior Airman Omari Bernard

18th Wing Public Affairs 12/7/2017 — Airmen from the 18th Wing simulated accepting personnel and evacuees through a base-wide combined deployment and evacuation exercise Dec. 4 here.

"Today we are exercising our ability to operate two key components to ensure our readiness in the Pacific," said Maj. Sean Parker, 18th Logistics Readiness Squadron director of operations. "We are looking at our ability to receive noncombatant evacuation operation (NEO) evacuees from locations in the Pacific other than Okinawa and we are also looking at our ability to receive and support contingency operations here."

In a real-world operation, Kadena Air Base becomes one of many hubs for forward deployed Airmen and NEO evacuees from all over the Pacific Air Force's area of responsibility.

According to Parker, exercising Team Kadena's ability to receive forces while simultaneously taking care of evacuees can be difficult.

"Testing reception is challenging, it involves a number of different processing centers and bed down locations," Parker explained. "They are very different processes and exercising them both at the same time stresses our ability to command and control the events at the same time."

Over a period of two days hundreds of Airmen, roleplaying as deployed forces and evacuees, were able to in-process to the base as deployed forces while evacuees were taken care of and simulated transported safely back to the U.S. By exercising these reception operations at the same time Team Kadena tested their skill sets and identified best practices for planning future contingency operations.

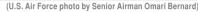
During the exercise Team Kadena members in-processed to the base, as augmentees, through the reception processing unit at the Schilling Community Center while Airmen, role playing as civilian evacuees, in processed at the reception control center at the Risner Fitness Center.

"Processing through NEO was easy and awesome to follow," said Senior Airman Ashley White, 18th Civil Engineer Squadron NEO evacuee. "Everything was smooth and I felt I received the attention that I needed. They talked to me like a dependent and were very comforting and welcoming, I couldn't ask for any more than that."

White said she feels comfort in knowing her husband will be taken care of if he ever has to go through a NEO.

"I feel very confident in going home and being able to explain this to my husband about what he needs to do, what he needs







(U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Quay Drawdy) Airman Katherine Henning, 18th Force Support Squadron fitness specialist, (left) and Staff Sgt. Jelani Burrell, 18th FSS fitness specialist, process Airmen through a non-combatant evacuation operation exercise line Dec. 5, at Kadena Air Base.

to prepare for, and how easy the process is," she continued. "I think it's beneficial to practice these operations."

U.S. Air Force installations throughout the Pacific routinely

Okinawa

Kita-nakagusuku

Lawson

KAB

Gate 1

Ginowan

Nago

VChatan

Phone: 098-982-0312

Camp Foster Gate #6 Mon-Sat: 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Mon: 2:30 - 5:30 p.m. Tue - Sat: 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Sun: 10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Sun: 10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Adama Branc

Phone: 098-921-7318

JOHNNY'S (Main Office) American Legion

JOHNNY'S ★

FamilyMart ●

during a routine exercise Dec. 4, at Kadena Air Base conduct exercises to maintain

readiness. "Regardless of what is happening in the world we always need to be ready and this gets us closer to that goal line," Parker

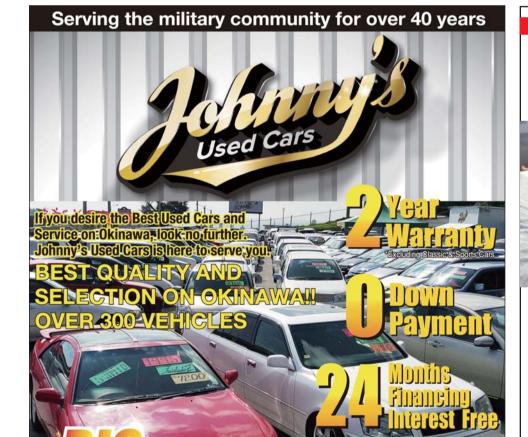
said. "If something were to happen in the region, that our people are trained proficient and know how to integrate everyone's rolls to ensure our effectiveness in the region."

(U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Omari Bernard)

▲ Master Sgt. April Pham, 18th Force Support Squadron lodging

section chief, in-processes deployed Airmen to Kadena Air Base

Local HOTSHEET



Snow in Okinawa? Yes, see it with your own eyes! **Christmas Fantasy**

At this time of year, all of Okinawa is filled with Christmas and New Year's events for the whole family! There is hardly a store or establishment that does not have traditional holiday music playing. Aside from all the holiday activities on your to-do-list, why not add a fun and entertaining event that all members of your family can enjoy? The Okinawa Zoo & Museum in Okinawa City, which is not far from Kadena Air Base, celebrates its 22nd annual Christmas Fantasy event that will be held December 22 - 29 from 4:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. each evening. The event is filled with lots of holiday cheer such as sparkling lights, illuminated Christmas trees and decorations that are guaranteed to give you that fuzzy, nostalgic feeling as you celebrate the holiday season. Check out snow that will be falling from snow machines as well as a large snow slide and igloos where children

can play. There is also an artistic display of snow, lasers and fireworks that is a must-see. Advance tickets are available at Kadena ITT/MCCS Tours at ¥1,800 for adults and high school students, ¥1,000 for children from 4 through junior high school. Prices at the gate will be ¥2,200 and ¥1,200 respectively. (Children 3 yrs old and below enter for free) Parking is available at the Okinawa Zoo & Museum, Okinawa City Office and the Koza Sports Park. There are shuttles available to and from the venue.

era customerand

receive cash!

Vehicles include 2 year JCI, Current Year Road Tax, and 2 Year Warranty *Excluding Classic & Sports Cars

Car Sales • American Insurance • Title Transfers & Deregistration Services . Auto Repair

JCI Inspection

Free Loaner Vehicle . Free Shuttle Service . Free Towing

 Credit Cards Accepted

www.iohnnv s-cars.com

Christmas Fantasy

December 22 - 29 Event hours: 4:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. For more information, call event planning committee at 098-933-4190, or visit www.xmas-fantasy.com/ Okinawa Zoo & Museum 5-7-1 Goya, Okinawa City





paid advertisement

SAMURAI GATE

DECEMBER 15, 2017

U.S. Army members teach JGSDF and U.S. Airmen Army combatives

Japan Ground Self-Defense Force members, U.S. Airmen and Soldiers complete a conditioning drill during U.S. Army Level-1 Combatives Training Dec. 7, at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma. U.S. Army Level-1 Combatives Training prepares service members for close-range combat.

By Senior Airman Omari Bernard

18th Wing Public Affairs

12/8/2017 — Loud yells and heavy thumps echoed through the McCutcheon Gym at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma Dec. 7, as U.S. service members practiced Level-1 Army combative techniques with the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force.

The bilateral hand-to-hand combat training included members of the Army, Air Force and JGSDF.

"This week we went over the basic

combative course level one," said U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Julius Dunsan 1-1 Air Defense Artillery primary combatives instructor. "This is a five-day course where students can gain basic knowledge on how to defeat their opponent in the open field using hand-to-hand combat."

According to Dunsan, the lessons learned during the week can be used by anyone to become a better combat fighter.

"It teaches important lessons like engaging the enemy, closing the distance, getting the dominant body position and

(U.S. Air Force photos by Senior Airman Omari Bernard)

finishing the fight," Dunsan explained. "This is a great training opportunity. If you find yourself in close quarters combat, this training will let you know what to do to secure victory and your life."

According to JGSDF Sgt. Makoto Shiraishi, 15th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Regiment combatives instructor, the JGSDF has its own set of combatives, but focus less on ground maneuvers.

"This is a very good opportunity as instructors to teach what we've learned this week to our soldiers so we can gain



✓ U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Julius Dunsan, 1-1 Air Defense Artillery primary combatives instructor, demonstrates a submission hold during U.S. Army Level-1 Combatives Training Dec. 7, at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma. Army combatives are generally taught as a last-resort fighting technique designed for close quarters combat.



∽ Senior Airman Devan Wedemeyer, 18th Communications Squadron technician, performs upper body conditioning during U.S. Army Level-1 Combatives Training Dec. 7, at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma.

knowledge on how to fight in a combat situation," Shiraishi said.

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Colby Davis, 18th Medical Support Squadron pharmacy vault custodian, enjoyed the combatives course.

"Today I'm helping out with the Army basic combatives course as a translator and participant," Davis said. "It's great to work out with our sister services and partner nations and I'm grateful for the opportunity to learn a new set of skills that I don't get to see at my normal everyday job."



Building bundles, checking them twice

By Staff Sgt. David Owsianka

374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs 12/7/2017 — Once a year islanders throughout the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, Federated States of Micronesia, and Republic of Palau will see bundles parachute out the back of multiple planes to provide them with essential supplies that are necessary for their daily lives. The bundles include items such as educational material, clothing and food, but before delivery, there is a team of dedicated professionals making sure they are built safely and up to standard.

Airmen from Yokota's 374th Logistics Readiness Squadron combat mobility flight and the 353rd Special Operations Group, Kadena Air Base, started building 10 practice bundles and 140 supply bundles for the 66th Operation Christmas Drop at Anderson Air Force Base, Guam, Dec. 7. The bundles are prepared to be dropped out of multiple C-130J Super Hercules and C-130H Hercules from the U.S. Air Force, Royal Australian Air Force and Koku Jieitai (Japan Air Self-Defense Force) to the 56 different islands over the next ten days.

"It's feels great and is really nice to know that the supplies that we are putting into the bundles are truly going to those in need," said Senior Airman



John Marcum, 374th LRS CMF rigger. "There is a lot of training that goes into everything, so once we learn how to do everything it all builds up to this and being a veteran (third year at OCD) it's really nice to show others how to accomplish our tasks more efficiently."

The group began the bundle building process by cutting the wood into the proper size and length, then set up the boxes so the bundles could be ready to be airdropped. The final step in the build, is securing the parachutes so that the bundles can be safely delivered to the islands.

Members from the 353rd SOG joined the LRS team to provide experience they gained from being stationed at Andersen and performing these tasks for previous OCD events to help make the training event more successful.

"With Christmas Drop being as big as it's important for us to train with and learn from Yokota Airmen as we perform costal humanitarian airlift drops to help us become more proficient at it to provide our coworkers with these methods as a new capability for us to possibly use it in the future," Master Sgt. Sim Edgar Malinao, Kadena Air Base, 353rd Special Operations Group aerial delivery superintendent. "I've hosted the bundle building in the past, so I feel like we are adding to their capabil-



Staff Sgt. Montana Warmack, 353rd Special Operations Group air transportation rigger from Kadena Air Base, places water inside a practice bundle to be used for a Low-Cost Low-Altitude training drop at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, Dec. 7.



ities and getting through our process more quickly because we have the skillset that they are looking for."

By creating the bundles, the flight provides the mission with the means of expanding the existing capabilities to provide tactical airlift in accordance with national strategic objectives within the Indo-Asia Pacific Region while helping complete Cardboard boxes sit in a warehouse as Airmen from the 374th Logistics Readiness Squadron combat mobility flight cut plywood to create bundles at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, Dec. 7.

Coast Humanitarian Air Drop training.

"Doing this is really exciting because a lot of what we do at our home station is just training, so when we get to come down here and apply those skills is super fulfilling because we can see the joy of the islanders as they receive their bundles," Senior Airman Cassandra Cobb, 374th LRS CMF rigger.



Visit Kadenafss.com or pick up December Venture magazinge for a full list of our New Year's Eve events!





A M U R A I G A T E

Teaching the giving spirit

By Margaret Bartlow

Stearley Heights Elementary School 5th Grade Ms. Rice's Class

12/12/2017 — This year the second-annual toy drive was organized by Stearley Heights and Kadena Elementary Schools. It was planned by Kadena Elementary's counselor, Ms. Beard-Archie, and Stearley Heights Elementary's counselor, Mr. Wirsich. The donations will go to the Okinawa Children's Hospital and to Okinawa City Social Welfare. Children, especially during the season of giving, should be able to know and show the true meaning of selflessness. So as the exciting holiday of Christmas approaches, kids are given the opportunity to donate to the less fortunate. This will not just teach the true meaning of selflessness and boost the giving spirit inside all of us, but also make someone out there a whole lot happier. These two schools are teaching the giving spirit.

The guidelines were as follows: Donations will be accepted from Monday, December 4, to Thursday, December 14. Toys will be given to children within the age range of 1-13. It was asked that the toys be inexpensive (ex. under ten dollars), and that they were put in the box unwrapped, but in their original packaging. The class that donates the most toys will receive a prize.

It is known among all of us that we should give Christmas spirit and gifts to the less fortunate.



SHES students Margaret, Juliet and Javier collecting toys for our drive. (Photo by Angle Fino)

Stearley Heights Elementary participants made the comments below when asked the question "What do you think about the toy drive?" One student replied "I think it is a good idea to give new toys to kids who can't afford them." Two others replied "I feel really good about donating to kids and want the school to continue fundraisers like this." and "I think it's a very good idea to help kids who don't have many things, and besides, it's the season of giving!" A teacher responded "The toy drive is an excellent way for our school to come together and bring hope and joy to kids in need." A few other exquisite answers were given by several other students.

The toy drive will bring happiness, joy, hope, and Christmas spirit to so many people this Christmas. It will also bring the true meaning of both Christmas and selflessness to so many students, along with a gift of an even more generous heart for every student this joyful

Matthew C. Perry hosts Far East Journalism Contest

DECEMBER 15, 2017



Samuel Stebbins, left, a student from Kadena High School, and Anna Fuerst, a student from Matthew C. (M.C.) Perry High school, pose for a picture after receiving awards for best editorial writing at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, Dec. 1. Over 100 students from 13 Pacific Department of Defense schools gathered at M.C. Perry High School to compete for best journalists, broadcasters and publishers in the region during the 26th Annual Far East Journalism Contest.

holiday. We would like for every student that gives and every child that receives to share in these benefits this happy season. Christmas is for everyone, and we should try to make sure everybody will feel the Christmas spirit this year. It will never hurt for anyone to make at least a small donation at any good organization. We are trying to, and hopefully succeeding, teach students this. That again brings in the word selflessness. Give as well as receive. And now, I'd like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas. I hope that everybody this Christmas will have something, anything, that will bring joy to them. We are trying to make this possible. Three cheers to everyone else that is trying also. Any act of kindness, however small, is never wasted. Toy drives, food drives, all of them are helping to make a very merry Christmas. That, and to teach selflessness to students, are the goals of our efforts.





XS Scuba & Tanks December 30th & 31st

PROGRAM FOR ADULT

Torii Arts and Crafts Center
 Three sessions Available!

 9, 16, and 23 December
 0930 - 1130

 \$30.00 fee includes materials and instruction

Call 644-4290 for more information

CALL 644-4303 TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT!

WWW.TORH.ARMYMWR.COM

TORH MWR - OKINAWA 📑



ハウスクリーニングスタッフ募集

連絡先:株式会社エイト沖縄支店(沖縄市城前町5-8)
電話:098-989-0961
携帯:080-9372-3606(担当・島袋)
資格:年齢問いません。未経験者大歓迎
時間:9:00~21:00 (実動5~8時間シフト制)
休み:週2日~3日(その他相談可)
応募方法:電話連絡の上、履歴書(写真貼付)持参下さい。
時給:800円~1,500円
(試用期間2ヶ月有、その後能力により昇給有)

メールでの問い合わせOK! s.akiyama@eight-jp.net 会社ホームページ:http://www.eight-jp.net

面接日程を調整いたしますので、電話連絡の上(またはメール)、 履歴書(写真貼付)持参下さい。





Kadena Air Base Community Notes

To submit an announcement for the base bulletin, please visit www.kadena.af.mil NO FEDERAL ENDORSEMENT OF PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS OR ACTIVITIES IS INTENDED.

Trash & Recycling Important Information

18th CONS and 18 CEG continue to work diligently to ensure our communities receive reliable trash collection services. Even though we've been able to resume limited waste collection service, our waste collection emergency is not over. We need your help to maximize recycling to reduce our garbage. Up to 50% of our trash is recyclable. A helpful list of recyclable items can be found at KAB Facebook. Bulk trash services have been temporarily interrupted, so DO NOT leave large items on the side of the road. Large refuse can be brought to several locations off base for disposal. For questions or concerns, please call CE Customer Service at 634-2424.

Kadena and Camp Foster Emergency Numbers

Kadena Fire Emergency Services reminds everyone to program their cell phones with the emergency numbers. To report an emergency on Kadena via cell, dial 098-934-5911, and from an office phone, dial 911. For Camp Foster via cell, dial 098-911-1911, or from an office phone, dial 911.

AADD: Get Home Safe

Did you drink tonight? Made a plan but it's falling through? Can't catch a cab? If any of this applies to you, call AADD. Don't risk it all, when you can get a ride home for free. Call AADD at the cell phone number 098-961-1110 and then ask for the USO or dial DSN: 634-3889 We're open from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. and we're here to help.

How to File a Complaint with IG

If you believe you are unable to resolve your complaint through supervisory

channels, you may seek IG assistance to determine if the complaint should be filed with the IG. You can file a complaint if you reasonably believe inappropriate conduct has occurred or a violation of law, policy, procedures, or regulation has been committed. Complete the personnel data information on an AF Form 102 and briefly outline the facts and relevant information related to the issue or complaint. List the allegations of wrongdoing briefly, in general terms and provide supporting narrative detail and documents later, when interviewed by an IG person. Allegations should be written as bullets and should answer who committed the violation; what violation was committed; what law, regulation, procedures, or policy was violated; when did the violation occur. Help is available: Call your Kadena IG office at 634-7622 for Maj. Sarabia or 634-1109 for Mr. Lovingood, or leave a message on the Kadena Fraud Waste & Abuse (FWA) Hotline at 634-0404.

18th MDG Clinic Closures

The Kadena Air Base clinic will be closed on the following dates this year: Dec 25 (Christmas Day) Closed All Day / Dec 26 (5th AF Family Day) Closed All Day / The 18th Medical Group is responsible for ensuring the 18th Wing's medical readiness in support of the United States' and Japan's mutual interests. In keeping with this mission, the Kadena Clinic will be participating in 18th Wing upcoming exercises. During exercises, our normal patient care and clinical services (pharmacy, lab, immunizations, etc.) will be impacted, as the clinic will be closed for one day during these exercises (exact dates subject to scenario). We ask for your patience as our trusted professionals exercise their skills and work with the Wing and other agencies on island in support of these training events. We apologize for any inconvenience that this may cause. As always, in the event of an emergency, seek emergency services at the U.S. Naval Hospital on Camp Foster, or by dialing ambulance services at 634-1796 or by cell phone 098-934-5911. For more information, contact Capt. Jennifer Stark at 630-4565, Staff Sgt. Larissa Palmer at 630-4504, or Ms. Melissa Cook at 630-5050.

Bioenvironmental Engineering Gas Mask Fit Testing Date/Time Change

Bioenvironmental Engineering will now be conducting Gas Mask Fit Testing on Thursday of each week from 0730-0930 walk-ins. Located in building 428 across from the Schilling Community Center. If you are deploying or going TDY within 30 days and require a fit test please call 634-4752.

Finance Office Closure

The Finance office will be closed the third Thursday of every month for training. For emergencies please call 080-6487-6969.

Post Office Closures and News Holiday Hours:

Finance: Dec 25 - 26 - Closed / Jan 1 - 2 - Closed

Parcel Pick-up: Nov 27 - Dec 29 / Mon - Sat: 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. / Dec 25 -Closed / Jan 1 - Closed Family Day Parcel Pick-up Hours: Dec 26, Jan 2: 9:00 - 3:00 p.m.

18th Wing Equal Opportunity

Do you face concerns of unlawful discrimination or sexual harassment? If so, Kadena Air Base leadership maintains a strict "zero-tolerance" policy pertaining to discriminatory behavior. If you feel you are being unlawfully discriminated against, to include sexual harassment, take action. We encourage members to use the chain of command first to resolve issues at the lowest level. However, you can also contact the EO office at 634-2571 to set up an appointment; or you may visit our office. Please note that the EO office will not accept a Formal Complaint more than 60 calendar days for military and 45 calendar days for civilian complaints after the alleged offense occurred without sufficient justification.

Kadena Legal Office Closure

The Kadena Legal Office will be closed on Dec 15 for an office function. For emergency situations please contact Capt Gabriel Bush at 634-3300.

Early Childhood Ministers Needed

Basic Specifications and/or qualifications include: contractor must be an adherent to the Protestant Christian faith and be living a life consistent with the morals and ethics of the Protestant Christian faith; contractor must be skilled at directing, training and employing volunteers in order to provide teachers for all necessary children's classes during assigned events; 2 years of experience in children's education in a school, daycare or church environment is preferred. A demonstration of skills is not required. Obtain a copy of bid documents at Chapel Two, Bldg. 425 from Dec 11 to Jan 3, between the hours of 0730-1630, Monday through Friday (excluding holidays and down days). The Contract Officer's contact information for submitting bids are Tech. Sgt. Jennifer L. DePrinzio who can be reached at Bldg. 425, jennifer. deprinzio@us.af.mil or 634-2219 and

Continued on PAGE 11



SHISA, OKINAWA'S GUARDIANS ON THE ROOFTOPS

Shisa, the "legendary beast" placed on the rooftops and entrances of Okinawan houses, watches over and protects us.

The word "Shisa" is said to have originated from the word "Simha," which means "lion" in the Sanskrit language.

The scary looking faces of the Shisa may seem ironic as they are placed on the rooftops and entrances as talismans against evil.

It seems to represent the expansive atmosphere of the southern tropical island of Okinawa.



You may probably notice that most of the Shisa are in an "a-un" pair, one on the left and



HAI-SAI! (Hello) Chanpru is Okinawan for "something mixed" and the word also is used when talking about the mixture of cultures. In this corner, we will go over some fun tips as you enjoy your stay on the island.

vol.40 Winter Solstice in JAPAN

Winter Solstice or "TOUJI" is the day to mark the shortest day and the longest night of the year. There is a custom of eating KABOCHA (Japanese pumpkin) on TOUJI to help ward off catching a cold due to its rich nutrients. There is also another custom of taking a bath with whole YUZU (Japanese citron). It is said that the YUZU fruit has warming properties to prevent you

A long time ago, it is said that the Shisa was enshrined at the entrance and hilltops of villages. But since the last century or so, the Shisa began to get placed on top of the roofs of civilian homes.

This became popular when red roof tiles were made open to the public without any restrictions. It is said that these Shisa statues were first made by craftsmen who used the remains of red roof tiles. the other on the right.

The Shisa with an open mouth is male, and the one whose mouth is closed is female. The term "a-un" also comes from the Sanskrit language.

The term is supposed to represent the first and last letters of the alphabet, meaning the beginning and end of things.

There are a variety of small porcelain Shisas that are sold as souvenirs.

You will definitely find one you will like.



from catching a cold and the fragrance has relaxing properties that will help you sleep through the long winter nights.

DECEMBER 15, 2017

Master Sgt. Kevin T. Chellis who can be reached at Bldg. 425, kevin.chellis@us.af. mil or 634-1288 for questions. Submission and demonstration due date is Jan 3 NLT (1300) hours. Basis of Award by which the individual is elected will be Best Value. Requirement for contractor background check(s) for position(s) involving contact with children below 18 years age, as directed by DoDI 1402.5. Any other relevant information includes, please go to Chapel Two, Bldg. 425 to pick up a full statement of work description and requirements.

Kadena Air Base women's softball

Are you looking to play slow pitch softball? Our women's team competes all-year round on Kadena with other local bases and there is even opportunities to play in tournaments throughout the Pacific Theater! Practices are held twice per week and this is open to all active duty personnel, spouses and DOD civilians. For more information, please contact Master Sgt. Crystal Benitez at crystal. benitez@us.af.mil

UPCOMING EVENTS ACE Santa 5K Run Fundraiser

Airmen Committed to Excellence is holding a Santa 5k Run on Saturday December 30th. Day of run registration starts at 7:00 a.m and race starts at 8:00 a.m.; both start in the parking lot next to Outdoor Recreation. For more information and to register, please contact Aurora Salazar at acesantarun@gmail.com.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES Volunteers Needed At Amelia Earhart Intermediate School

Guest classroom readers requested for Black History Month from Jan 15 - Feb 15. School volunteers requested to read to students at Amelia Earhart Intermediate School (grades 3-5) Jan 17 & Feb 6, 9:10-10:00 a.m. Selection of books provided, contact POC, Ms. Gatus, sarah.gatus@ pac.dodea.edu to sign up, LOA provided. **Come Volunteer At The Wired Bean** The Wired Bean is a home away from home for our junior enlisted and we need E-4s and above to volunteer to monitor the facility and check out equipment. Please sign up using the link below or email Melissa Rafferty for more information at rafferty515@yahoo.com.

AADD

Airmen Against Drunk Driving is looking for volunteers. If you're not a drinker, or if you're under 20, then it's definitely perfect for you! Regardless of rank, the times are 10 p.m.-1 a.m. on weekend nights and there are six volunteers for every night. Non-alcoholic drinks are provided. AADD is also looking for squadron POC's and schedulers. This will help fill weekend and event activities and will hopefully affect even more folks around base. If you have any questions please contact Airman 1st Class Aaron Wright, AADD President, at aaron.wright.15@us.af.mil or Senior Airman Najera, AADD Vice-President, at lillian.najera@us.af.mil.







Bring a date or a group of friends and enjoy Teppanyaki for lunch or dinner! This delectable Japanse cuisine is not only delicious, but entertaining as well!

Lunch New! Teppanyaki Tuesday - Saturday 11 am - 2 pm

Dinner Teppanyaki Tuesday - Thursday 5 pm - 9 pm Friday & Saturday



In addition to our famous Teppanyaki, we also have a full service dining room that offers delectable dinner dishes such as Jack's Famous Garlic Steak, King Red Salmon, and Baked Mahi Mahi. Call ahead to make a reservation and enjoy your evening out.

Gather with Friends





Don't forget to book your parties with us! Our rooftop patio is the perfect place to gather with coworkers or friends. You can't beat our sunset views!

> JACK'S PLACE • 966-7422 Building 9950





Come taste the best meat in Okinawa! 10% military discount with ID card holder

