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AIR FORCE - ARMY - NAVY - MARINE - COMMUNITY NEWS

Number 11 - Issue 27



Airmen from the 18th Civil Engineer Squadron, 18th Medical Support Squadron and Bionvironmental Flight inspect the condition of an underground circuit board July 23, at Kadena Air Base. Members of Team Kadena work together to ensure that power is restored to Kadena Air Base quickly and safely during power outages.

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



# International rescue effort saves trapped soccer team

By Staff Sgt.  
Jessica H. Smith

18th Wing Public Affairs

7/20/2018 — Twelve boys ranging from the age of 11 to 16, along with their soccer coach, found themselves stranded in a cave in Thailand's Chiang Rai province, June 23. After 17 days of being trapped, an international rescue team was able to successfully bring an end to the nearly 3-week rescue operation.

Amongst the international rescue team were Kadena's very own. The request from the Thailand government came roughly three days after Thailand rescue efforts began. Less than 12 hours later, members of the 320th Special Tactics Squadron from the 353rd Special Operations Group and members of the 31st Rescue Squadron from the 18th Wing were ready to go.

Upon arrival, members were divided into teams to complete different tasks in order to move forward with the rescue mission. Some assessed possible rescue operations at the mouth of the cave while others created helicopter landing zones by clearing areas of the surrounding jungle and planned for scuba tank cache locations.

With 24-hour operations and 16 to 18 hour shifts, the international rescue team worked around the clock to overcome the many challenges they faced.

"It's important for people to understand that this kind of rescue had never been attempted by anyone in the world," said Tech. Sgt. Adam Lopez, 31st RQS pararescueman. "It was the most technically difficult mission any of us have ever been involved with."

Confined space diving is considered to be extremely hazardous for even the most highly trained and competent divers, making it a high-risk mission for the rescuers and those trapped in the cave, he explained.

Unsure of where the children were within the cave and whether they were even alive, the team needed to operate with a problem-solving mindset and



(U.S. Air Force photos by Capt. Jessica Tait)

^ Airmen from the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM) prepare for dive operations July 2, at Chiang Rai, Thailand. At the request of the Royal Thai government, the United States, through USINDOPACOM, sent a search and rescue team from Okinawa to assist Thai rescue authorities in locating 12 youth football players and their coach.



◀ Airmen from the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM) conduct a combined land survey with Thai rescue authorities July 1, at Chiang Rai, Thailand.

communicate with all others in the rescue effort – regardless of the inevitable communication barriers – to determine what efforts could be provided and by who.

"It was important for all the different supporting players to come together because everyone brought a different expertise to the table – no single entity had all the skills or answers to be able to complete the rescue," said Tech. Sgt. Michael Smith, 31st RQS pararescueman. "We all had something to offer and we needed to be united to complete the mission."

As soon as the location of the children was determined, safety and risk mitigation became a priority for the rescue team and all others involved in the

rescue effort to ensure the best possible outcome, explained Staff Sgt. Jamie Brisbin, 31st RQS pararescueman.

Having found the children, the international rescue team began the real prep work for fulfilling the rescue plan. However, because of the complexity of the rescue effort, the team feared the loss of some of the children, unsure that everyone would survive.

"Due to the technical difficulty of this mission we didn't expect all of the children to survive the rescue, Lopez said. "However, we had the right people and equipment in place and we knew that due to the low oxygen levels in the cave, as well as the worsening weather that was sure to further flood the cave, we had a small window of time to execute

a rescue and the risk mitigation that went into planning this rescue was done with such a high level of attention to detail that we knew the plan was solid."

Team Kadena took on the role of executing logistics dives inside the cave to preposition scuba tanks that would later be used for divers to swap used tanks for full tanks, explained Master Sgt. Christopher Uriarte, 31st RQS pararescueman.

On the first day of positioning tanks, over 200 were placed strategically throughout the cave.

During the rescue, members of Team Kadena carried the children from chamber to chamber and then dove with them from the third chamber to the second chamber where they were handed off to the Australian team

members who then handed them off to the Thai members.

"It was an amazing experience to have so many people, regardless of nationality or culture working together towards a common goal," said Stephen Drakes, 31st RQS SERE specialist. "Obviously communication is the immediate barrier to any multi-national effort, and that was true during this rescue as well – we were able to overcome communication barriers by building solid relationships with the folks we worked with day-in and day-out; by the time we were pulling the kids out of the cave, we were operating as a cohesive team."

While almost everyone involved had a personal sense of pride in their contribution to the success of the life-saving mission, many also found professional value in it.

"What I took away from this mission was gratitude toward our leadership; because this mission was so high risk, I expected that our involvement – specifically the confined space diving – would be restricted," Uriarte said, "But we kept our leadership up to speed on our decision making process and how we planned to mitigate risks, and they fully supported our decisions on how to execute at the tactical level."

Overcoming so many difficulties and barriers may have been an accomplishment experienced only by those directly involved, but as news of the last child being rescued spread throughout the media – making it a 100 percent successful rescue mission – the world sighed in relief too.

"For nearly 200 years, we have maintained friendly and productive relationships with Thailand – we are confident that will be the case long into the future," said Capt. Jessica Tait, 353rd SOG Public Affairs chief. "The U.S. stands with our allies and partners during difficult times and we are committed to providing humanitarian assistance and disaster relief throughout the world."

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# Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight monitors heat conditions



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

U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Rodolfo Castro, 18th Aerospace Medical Squadron bioenvironmental engineering technician poses next to Wet Bulb Globe Temperature Meters July 17, at Kadena Air Base. The 18th AMS Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight is responsible for testing Kadena's water supply, heat index and air quality.



The Risner Fitness Center displays the current flag condition for July 19, at Kadena Air Base. The 18th Aerospace Medical Squadron's Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight monitors temperatures throughout the day to ensure the safety of Airmen and civilians working in the heat.



Senior Airman Rodolfo Castro, 18th Aerospace Medical Squadron bioenvironmental engineering technician, inspects a manual Wet Bulb Globe Temperature Meter July 19, at Kadena Air Base. The temperatures taken are used to determine the current flag conditions for the entire installation.



The 18th Aerospace Medical Squadron's Bioenvironmental Flight uses Wet Bulb Globe Temperature Meters to monitor humidity, as well as radiant and dry heat July 17, at Kadena Air Base. The temperatures taken from the device are then used to determine the current flag condition and the work/rest cycle for Kadena Air Base.

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# 18th CMS, 44th AMU conduct joint training

**By Senior Airman Kristan Campbell**

18th Wing Public Affairs

7/20/2018 — The term 'full throttle' is often translated as doing something completely or without restraint. Here at Kadena Air Base, the 18th Component Maintenance Squadron and 44th Aircraft Maintenance Unit are training to do just that — powering aircraft full speed ahead.

The two units integrated inside one of the base's engine testing facilities known as a 'hush house' to conduct joint aircraft training on an F-15 Eagle, July 16. Hush houses, which are built using noise-dampening materials, quiet the engine within its walls and are ideal for testing scenarios.

"Our job here is to keep engines war ready," Chief Master Sgt. Ryan Gretlein, 18th CMS Propulsion Flight Chief said, "our shops test 'em, inspect them, take them apart, and rebuild them."

Airframes such as the F-15 play an integral role in delivering unmatched combat airpower to contingency operations. In order to support these operations, every Airman performing engine maintenance must become familiar with the airframe they're assigned to, as well as its engine limits, emergency procedures and technical orders.

"Kadena is unique because we do such a broad spectrum of troubleshooting on more than just one type of engine, the F-15's stationed here as well as the A-10 engines down at Osan Air Base," Gretlein said. "We conduct training days every month to make sure our Airmen are knowledgeable to the task at hand."

During on-the-job training in the unit's bay areas, Airmen become meticulous



▲ Staff Sgt. John Hammons, 18th CMS aerospace propulsion craftsman (middle), instructs Airmen from the 18th CMS and the 44th AMU on how to safely maintain an F-15 Eagle engine during joint-aircraft training with the 18th CMS July 16, at Kadena Air Base.

at servicing engines in three difference steps or phases: the fan module, core module, low pressure module, gearbox and augments. These engine components can be broken down further for servicing repairs, before being rebuilt and used in the aircraft.

"We're capable of diagnosing anything and everything on the engines using equipment such as borescopes, which are a kind of camera we use to see into the component," added Master Sgt. Jeremiah D. Roper, test cell section chief.

When testing engines, it can be done two ways: installed in the airframe, or uninstalled from its intended airframe. While the hush house allows testing of installed engines, a separate area known as the test facility — gifted by the government of Japan — allows 18th CMS maintainers to run uninstalled engine tests; both facilities make joint training a possibility.

By conducting joint training, maintainers working on both the flightline and propulsion shop are able to integrate and stay highly trained to fuel the fight.



▲ Airman Logan Tidwell (left) and Airman 1st Class Christopher Skeen (right), 44th Aircraft Maintenance Unit engine specialists, access an F-15 Eagle engine panel during joint training with the 18th Component Maintenance Squadron July 16.



▲ Airmen from the 18th Component Maintenance Squadron and 44th Aircraft Maintenance Unit service an F-15 Eagle during joint aircraft training July 16.

"Taking full advantage of these rare opportunities to hone our technical skills alongside our flightline counterparts allows us to share capabilities, knowledge, and best practices among jet engine experts from many different backgrounds and experience levels," Gretlein said. "Training together helps each entity grow stronger individually and in turn helps us work better together to ensure we are providing safe, reliable engines, keeping the 18th Wing's F-15 Eagles mission ready at all times."

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# 44TH AND 67TH AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE UNIT HOLD ANNUAL "TURKEY SHOOT"



◀ Staff Sgt. James Smith, 67th Aircraft Maintenance Unit weapons load crew chief, inspects AIM-120 advanced medium-range air-to-air missiles during an annual "turkey shoot" weapons load competition July 16, on Kadena Air Base. Airmen competed to load two AIM-120 advanced medium-range air-to-air missiles and one AIM-9X heat seeking missile as fast as possible.



▲ Airman 1st Class Devan Dempsey, 44th Aircraft Maintenance Unit weapons load crew member, prepares ammunition during an annual "turkey shoot" weapons load competition July 16.



▲ Members of the 44th Aircraft Maintenance Unit carry an AIM-9X heat seeking missile during an annual "turkey shoot" weapons load competition July 16. Airmen from the 44th and 67th AMU competed head-to-head for bragging rights on which unit has the fastest load crew at Kadena Air Base.

(U.S. Air Force photos by Airman 1st Class Greg Erwin)

## Stratotanker refuels during RIMPAC

Tech. Sgt. Ryan Strole and Master Sgt. Chris Read, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chiefs assigned to Grissom Air Force Base, Indiana, assist Capt. Aaron Payomo, 909th Air Refueling Squadron pilot from Kadena Air Base, prepare a 434th Air Refueling Wing KC-135 Stratotanker for flight during the Rim of the Pacific exercise, July 17.



(U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Samantha Mathison)

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# Capt. Erickson visits VP-4



Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Task Force Seven Two Capt. Brian C. Erickson Talks to Sailors from Patrol Squadron (VP) 4 and Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron (VQ) 1 during an all hands call in the squadrons' hangar at Kadena Air Base, July 20. Erickson spoke about the importance of every Sailor and how their collective efforts have led to success in various operations. VP-4 is currently deployed to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations conducting missions and providing maritime domain awareness to supported units throughout the Indo-Pacific region.

(U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Juan S. Sua)

## Newest VP-4 Aircrewman walks the flight line after a MDA flight



Naval Aircrewman (Operator) 3rd Class Brent Taylor from Franklin County Virginia, currently assigned to the "Skinny Dragons" of Patrol Squadron (VP) 4 transits the flightline following a Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) flight aboard a P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircraft, July 24.

(U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Juan S. Sua)

## RIMPAC exercise



A light armored vehicle (LAV) enters the well deck of the landing helicopter dock ship HMAS Adelaide (L01) during the RIMPAC exercise. Twenty-five nations, 46 ships, five submarines, and about 200 aircraft and 25,000 personnel are participating in RIMPAC from June 27 to Aug. 2 in and around the Hawaiian Islands and Southern California.

(U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Gavin Shields)

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# Combating chemical warfare with Combat Logistics Regiment-35



Marines place marked flags around a point of contamination during a reconnaissance, surveillance and decontamination course conducted by chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) Marines with Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd Marine Logistics Group July 17 at Camp Kinser.

(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Pfc. Terry Wong)

**By Pfc. Terry Wong**

26th Marine Expeditionary Unit

7/20/2018 - CAMP KINSER, Okinawa

— Marines with Combat Logistics Regiment 35 and Headquarters Regiment, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, participated in a reconnaissance, surveillance and decontamination (RSD) course conducted by chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) Marines July 17-19, at Camp Kinser.

The RSD course teaches Marines to effectively react to a CBRN incident and save lives of Marines exposed to deadly agents, said Lance Cpl. Matthew Lewis,

a CBRN defense specialist with Headquarters Company, CLR-35, 3rd MLG.

“Marines are expected to learn the basic fundamentals of chemical, biological and radiological warfare as well as the actions to take in a CBRN incident such as decontamination and immediate action drills,” said Lewis.

The course also covered chemical dissemination and the effects of CBRN attacks and different types of equipment such as chemical detection papers and alarms used to detect various chemical agents.

During the course, Marines prac-

# U.S. Marines deliver the boom during RIMPAC



(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Adam Montero)

U.S. Marines with Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, fire an M777 towed 155 mm howitzer during live-fire training as part of Rim of the Pacific exercise at Pohakuloa Training Area, Hawaii, July 17. RIMPAC provides high-value training for task-organized, highly capable Marine Air-Ground Task Force and enhances the critical crisis response capability of U.S. Marines in the Pacific.

ticed donning the M50 Joint Service Protective Mask and the Joint Service Lightweight Integrated Suit, also known as the mission oriented protective posture suit (MOPP). The MOPP suit included a blouse, trousers, gloves and boots to protect Marines from CBRN agents.

For many Marines, the only CBRN experience they have is their annual requirement, the gas chamber. However, the RSD course provides Marines with expanded knowledge on detecting and combating CBRN incidents.

“They get a little idea of what we do,

they see the equipment and what the equipment does and they get experience with it,” said Cpl. Tyler J. Beard, a CBRN defense specialist with CLR-35.

After the RSD course, Marines are expected to demonstrate what they learned by detecting, reacting and decontaminating a CBRN environment.

“The takeaway for this training is knowing how to properly react to a CBRN incident if it does occur,” said Beard, “Some things we look forward to is having these Marines properly trained and helping out the Marines around them.”

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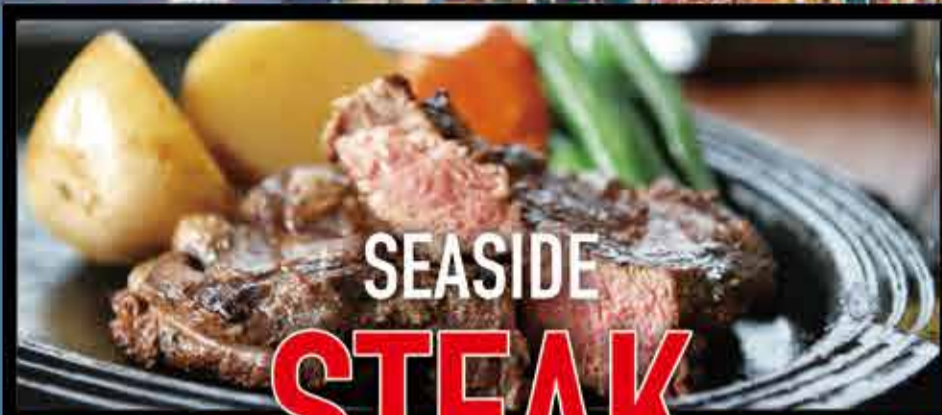
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Climax Coffee / atabi's / ARICCIA
- B CHURAHAMA Restaurant  
HORIZON CURRY WORKS  
FRANK'S CHOP SHOP  
Okinawa Orge! Doh
- C Solis Grande D R Cafe
- D Oak Fashion Bldg.
- E BOLLYWOOD DREAMS



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Oak Fashion Bld. 1F, 9-39 Mihama, Chatan-cho  
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Sat, Sun and JP Holiday: 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.



# The finale of Rim of Pacific in Southern California

**By Cpl. Jacob Pruitt**

15th Marine Expeditionary Unit  
7/24/2018 - MARINE CORPS  
BASE CAMP PENDLETON,  
Calif. — It was no ordinary  
amphibious assault as Canadian  
soldiers jumped out the back  
of assault amphibious vehicles  
(AAV) operated by U.S. Marines  
of 3rd Assault Amphibian  
Battalion.

The AAVs mimicked splashing  
out of a naval vessel and  
swiftly brought the soldiers to  
the beachfront. The Canadian  
soldiers conducting the attack  
are Van Doos from the Royal 22e  
Régiment and their mission was  
to clear the combat town located  
at Red Beach, a training area  
aboard Marine Corps Base Camp  
Pendleton, California, July 13.

The Canadian soldiers  
trained alongside U.S. Marines  
at Camp Pendleton for weeks  
as part of Rim of the Pacific, or  
RIMPAC, exercise. During this  
final training day, U.S. Marines  
with 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine  
Regiment, practiced defending  
the beach while fortified in the  
steel buildings throughout the  
combat town.

The U.S. Marines and Canadian  
soldiers relied on the skills  
and tactics learned throughout  
RIMPAC to complete this cul-  
minating exercise.

“This was a once in a lifetime  
training opportunity,” said Canadian  
Army Lt. Mark Latremouille,  
a platoon commander with 2nd

U.S. Coast Guard  
deployable specialized  
forces assigned to Maritime  
Security Response Team  
- West and Royal Canadian  
Navy explosive ordnance  
disposal technicians  
assigned to Fleet Diving  
Unit Pacific conduct  
maritime interdiction  
operations training in  
support of counter-  
improvised explosive device  
and mine warfare operations  
as part of Commander  
Task Force 177 during the  
force integration phase of  
RIMPAC Southern California  
exercise, July 6.



(U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Matthew Stroup)

Canadian  
soldiers with  
the Royal 22e  
Régiment exit an  
AAV-P7/A1 assault  
amphibious  
vehicle during an  
amphibious raid  
as part of RIMPAC  
exercise on Marine  
Corps Base  
Camp Pendleton,  
California, July 13.



(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Robert Gavaldon)

Battalion, 22e Régiment. “Fundamentally a lot of [what] we do is the same, but training opportunities like this beach assault and the Infantry Immersion Trainer, which we completed earlier in the exercise, really push[ed] us and taught us some hard lessons that needed to be learned. I’m glad that working with our partner nations and getting to share tactics and knowledge has made us better, more efficient soldiers.”



(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Robert Gavaldon)

RIMPAC provides a unique  
training opportunity that  
strengthens international mar-  
itime partnerships, enhances  
interoperability and improves  
the readiness of participating  
forces for a wide range of poten-  
tial operations.

After landing on the beach,  
Canadian soldiers proceeded to  
secure a foothold on the beach-  
head before advancing to the  
combat town to conduct room

clearing.

“This training went very well,  
not only for my guys but the Can-  
adians as well,” said U.S. Marine  
Corps Sgt. Killian Shelton, a pla-  
toon sergeant with 2nd Battal-  
ion, 1st Marine Regiment. “We  
set up an urban defense while  
they conducted an amphibious  
assault. Both sides were adapting  
to the opposing team’s strategies  
and learning from prior mistakes  
in real time.”

Both forces demonstrated  
immense skill and tactical acu-  
men as they carried out their  
respective missions.

Throughout the Southern  
California portion of RIMPAC,  
the U.S. Marines, Canadian  
soldiers and Mexican marines  
demonstrated the robust capa-  
bility, adaptability, and partner-  
ship, forging unbreakable bonds  
that will last a lifetime.

“It has been a pleasure working  
with our Canadian and Mexican  
partner forces,” said Sgt. Maj.  
Daniel E. Mangrum, sergeant  
major, 15th Marine Expedi-  
tionary Unit. “By the end of the  
exercise, we’ve gotten to see some  
of the bonds and friendships that  
training like [RIMPAC] facili-  
tates. From a distance it’s hard  
to tell where our Marines ended  
and our partner nations began,  
the way our forces merged into  
a seamless fighting force for this  
training and the way they treated  
each other was a great thing to get  
to be a part of.”

The Southern California por-  
tion of RIMPAC 2018, which  
spanned from June 27 to July 15,  
has come to a conclusion for the  
15th Marine Expeditionary Unit  
and its subordinate elements of  
the Marine Air-Ground Task  
Force, however the bonds made  
will last each service member a  
lifetime and the tactics shared  
will make each participating  
member more capable and  
adaptable to respond to crisis.



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Happiness

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# USMC make it rain during Kodiak Mace



(U.S. Air Force photo by Jamal Wilson)

U.S. Marines with the 3d Transportation Support Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 3, 3d Marine Logistics Group from Okinawa observe a heavy equipment parachute drop at the Malemute drop zone, July 16 at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.



U.S. Marine Corps Pfc. Tanner Cole with the 3d Transportation Support Battalion, directs the transportation of a container delivery system bundle at the flightline at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, July 18. Marines of the 3d TSB, VMGR-152, and Marine Wing Support Squadron 172 are participating in Exercise Kodiak Mace. During the exercise, through July 25, Marines are conducting joint precision air drop system, cargo, and personnel airdrops.

(U.S. Air Force photos by Senior Airman Javier Alvarez)



U.S. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Connor Morrow, with the 3d Transportation Support Battalion, helps secure a Helicopter Expeditionary Refueling System for an air drop as part of training exercise Kodiak Mace at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, July 16.

**By Senior Airman Javier Alvarez**

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Public Affairs 7/23/2018 - **Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, ALASKA** — U.S. Marines of the 3d Transportation Support Battalion, Marine Wing Support Squadron 172 and Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron (VMGR) 152 participated in exercise Kodiak Mace at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, July 12 to 25.

Exercise participants prepared and performed various air drops to include Container Delivery System, Type V

Heavy Equipment Platforms, Joint Precision Airdrop System, Combination drops, and Personnel drops, said Gunnery Sgt. Christopher Bird, 3d Transportation Support Battalion air delivery platoon operations chief.

While various types of chutes were deployed from the back of the KC-130J Hercules, the most significant were the Helicopter Expeditionary Refueling System and JPADS.

"JPADS use GPS guided parachutes to reach the desired destination," Bird said. "In Okinawa we don't get very many opportunities to drop JPADS. This is a fairly

new system and we hope refine our skills with it."

The vast and diverse landscape of Alaska is ideal for the various types of drops performed during Kodiak Mace.

HERS drops provide fuel and the necessary equipment to set up a helicopter refuel point, ideal for a remote location.

"It gives us a greater reach for fuel resupply when there's no other means of getting fuel on site," said Gunnery Sgt. Octavio Ortiz, Marine Wing Support Squadron 172 fuels staff NCOIC. "Depending on the terrain, this type of fuel supply could be the safest delivery

method available."

Soon after the HERS left the aircraft, bulk fuel specialists met the pallet on the ground and extracted the simulated fuel within.

By weeks end, six JPADS were dropped from high above Malemute Drop Zone, and multiple HERS drops were performed, with each fuel drum delivering more than 430 gallons of fuel.

"Last year we dropped one JPAD," Bird said. "This year we're dropping six. In the Marine Corps we have training and readiness standards. The training we do out here helps us meet those standards."

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# SOCPAC conducts airborne exercises with multinational Special Operations Forces during RIMPAC



(U.S. Navy photos by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Carlos Gomez)

▲ Multinational special operations forces conduct static line airborne insertion operations during the Rim of the Pacific exercise, July 19.



▲ U.S. Army Master Sgt. Juan Lopez instructs multinational special operations forces on safety procedures prior to airborne insertion operations during the Rim of the Pacific exercise, July 19.

## By Petty Officer 1st Class Carlos Gomez

Commander, U.S. 3rd Fleet

7/20/2018 - WAHIAWA, Hawaii — About 150 special operations forces members from seven countries flooded the skies during airborne operations in Wahiawa, July 17 and 19.

Special Operations Command Pacific (SOCPAC) conducted airborne operations with multinational Special Operations Forces (SOF) in support of the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise.

In the spirit of RIMPAC, U.S. Army Special Forces from the 1st Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group (SFG) partnered

with SOF units from the Republic of Korea (ROK), India, Indonesia, Peru, Philippines, Japan, and SOCPAC for two days of conducting and refining static-line and military free fall parachuting techniques. While the jumps help all units involved maintain proficiency in their training requirements, there is a deeper theme to these events.

“It’s about building partnerships,” said U.S. Army Capt. Matthew Song, assigned to the 1st SFG out of Okinawa, Japan. “In SOF, that person-to-person relationship plays out big in the end.”

Song, the lead facilitator for SOF units during the airborne operations, understands the importance of bridging together

different units from around the globe. This was the first time conducting an exercise of this scale and complexity, Song said, citing the many moving parts and countries involved.

“I’ve been in the military a long time and never had the chance to work with these nations,” said Indian Navy Lt. Cmdr. “VB”, assigned to the Indian Navy’s Marine Commando Force. “RIMPAC is incredible as it brings us all together.”

Aside from building rapport across nations, these events allow participants to learn from one another.

“These evolutions enable subject matter expert exchanges, key leader engagements, and familiarity between all countries involved,” said U.S. Army Master Sgt. Juan C. Lopez, the primary jumpmaster for the exercise. Improving interoperability and fostering professional relationships are also important outcomes, he said.

“Interoperability in training together is extremely important as we learn new things,” said ROK Navy Lt. “K”, assigned to ROK’s Naval Special Warfare Flotilla. “You never know when you’ll need it in the future.”

“All countries involved performed exceptionally,” Lopez said. “From the combined jump master teams, to the paratroopers, and the support personnel, everyone worked as a cohesive unit to execute a complex operation that exceeded expectations.”

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# Soldiers in Okinawa help local resident after house fire

**By Capt. Adan Cazarez**

94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command  
**7/23/2018** — Born and raised in Okinawa, Ms. Humiko Haneji a 64 year old elderly woman has spent the last 10 years providing janitorial services on Kadena Air Base and keeping the hallways and bathrooms within Echo Co. clean and tidy. However, on May 2018 her home of 20 years was destroyed.



(U.S. Army photo by Capt. Adan Cazarez)

▲ Staff Sgt. Rolando Estabillo with Bravo Battery 1st Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery Regiment, presents Ms. Humiko Haneji a rice cooker, one of many donations provided by the Soldiers of 1-1 ADA after losing her home of 20 years in a house fire.

When news began to circulate within Echo Co. about Ms. Haneji situation. Capt. Eric Torrescarovich, Commander of Echo Co., immediately put out a call to the Soldiers of the unit to help donate any home appliances, clothes and household goods to help out Ms. Haneji.

The Soldiers enthusiastically responded with an outpouring of support to help the Ms. Haneji who many of the Soldiers seen her as a member of Echo Co.

“It’s just heartbreaking what happened to Ms. Haneji, I see her every week and consider her a part of the Echo Co. family,” said 2nd Lt. Emre Basaran, automotive platoon leader. “We have to make sure we take care of each other, regardless if they are military or civilian. That’s what we are all about.”

Staff Sergeant Ronaldo Estabillo the Bravo Battery, Field Maintenance NCO-IC described the damage from the fire.

“She lost everything, her home was just burned to ashes. It was painful to just see the amount of destruction and sadness in her face when she told us about what happened,” said Estabillo. “Helping Ms. Haneji in her time of need was just the right thing to do,” Estabillo added.

The out pour of support was over-

whelming and showed the true friendship spirit of the Soldiers of Echo Co.

“I’m so proud of our Soldiers” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Binyam Mengestu, the Maintenance Technician for Echo Co., “within days of receiving the call for help I saw a furniture, clothes and a rice cooker being donated.”

“It was truly amazing to see how quickly our Soldiers responded in coming together to help Mrs. Henji,” Mengestu added.

By the end of the month Ms. Henji was speechless by the generosity of donations. The outpour of donations was so overwhelming that the excess donations has to be donated to local charities.

As Ms. Haneji continues the long road to fully recovering her home, Echo Co. and its Soldiers will be there with her every step of the way.

# Marines volunteer as crossing guards for local elementary school in Chatan Town



Col. Vincent Ciuccoli stops traffic for children on their way to Kitatama Elementary School July 19 in Chatan Town.

(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Danielle R. Prentice)

**By Cpl. Danielle Prentice**

Marine Corps Installations Pacific

**7/19/2018** — This volunteer opportunity builds trust within the community. Marines are trusted with ensuring that children make it to school safely by using crosswalks.

“As the commander, I wanted to set the example today and be out volunteering with the Marines, doing what they do every Tuesday and Thursday,” Col. Vincent Ciuccoli, camp commander of Camp Foster and commanding officer of Headquarters and Support Battalion, Marine Corps Installations Pacific-Marine Corps Base Camp Butler, Japan. “It’s not just a one-time thing for me, I want to keep going, to let the Marines know it’s important to me.”

Marines set out cones to block thru traffic from 7:30–8:30 a.m. to ensure children’s safety as they walk to school.

“It is good to have Marines out here,” said Asato Kazumi, a teacher at Kitatama Elementary School. “The children don’t

see a difference, the importance is they’re safely getting to school. I’d like for the Marines to continue to come help.”

Marines have been volunteering twice a week, providing two to four Marines, as crossing guards near Kitatama Elementary School since December 2015.

“I hope Marines who are involved and volunteer also get a better understanding of what it means to be a true partner in Okinawa,” said Ciuccoli. “This means we have to give back. There is a great community and culture on Okinawa that we get to learn a lot about. For example this morning, you could feel it. You could see the friendliness whether you were waving at a child or you were talking to a parent. You really understand what it means to be part of the community. I believe we can learn a lot from them. I think it’s the exact kind of mutual respect we need amongst each other as Marines, which members of the local community demonstrate every day. I like that the Marines get to see it firsthand.”

**Event is Free!**

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# Kadena Air Base Community Notes

To submit an announcement for the base bulletin, please visit [www.kadena.af.mil](http://www.kadena.af.mil) NO FEDERAL ENDORSEMENT OF PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS OR ACTIVITIES IS INTENDED.

## Kadena Connect App

The Kadena Connect App is available on both the Google Play and Apple App Store for your Android and iPhone devices. The free app enables users to dial DSN numbers on Kadena along with quick and easy access to call emergency and taxi services. The app also hosts a variety of useful information and widgets such as:

- Important alerts and notifications
- Weather conditions
- Exchange movie theater show times
- Restaurant information
- Ordering food online
- Family fun
- Events
- And much much more

To download the free app or to find out more information visit the Google Play or Apple App Store!

## TCCOR Trash Pickup

All scheduled trash services will cease at the start of TCCOR 2 until ALL CLEAR. For more information, contact 18th CES.

## Gate 5 Closure

Gate 5 will be open during normal morning hours, but WILL NOT open during regular afternoon hours for the remainder of the summer. Gate 5 will be open Monday to Friday from 6:15 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. Once school resumes in the fall, Gate 5 will go back to also opening in the afternoon hours. For more information, contact 18th SFS.

## 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 NOW LOCATED AT THE USO

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 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. and we're here to help. Also if you would like to volunteer please click on the Link below! We're open from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. and we're here to help. Any questions please Email our Work Box or contact us on Facebook, Kadena Air Base A2D2. Angel Vargas, President, 090-9786-9431. Henry Huynh, Vice President 090-9785-7935. Roman Nieves, Secretary 080-6485-6464. Jared Bland, Head Scheduler 070-3135-9906. Zachary Todd, Public Affairs 080-9850-5200.

## 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.

## Road Cut Notification

The Arnold Ave, Hampshire St and an unnamed street between Hampshire and Walmsley Way will be road cuts to install new electrical conduits and foundation for street lights for the new Military Family Housing. One-lane of each affected areas will be closed. Contractor will provide flagmen to direct the one-way alternation. Open trenched will be covered with steel plates at the end of each day. For more information, contact Akira Fair at 634-4879.

## Road Closure

Partial Road Closure/alternate traffic flow is scheduled from July 9 to Oct. 31 on Schreiber Ave near Bldg 250 to Bldg 3416. Flaggers and traffic lights will be posted. This is to support Government of Japan construction project in the vicinity. For any information or concerns, please contact Eishin Hiyajo at 634-4285, or Email [eishin.hiyajo.jp@us.af.mil](mailto:eishin.hiyajo.jp@us.af.mil).

## Citibank Government Travel Cardholders: Confirm Your Address by Aug. 1

Due to a new contract, Citibank is issuing new individual government travel cards. Cardholders will receive new account numbers and expiration dates starting in late August through the end of October. It is imperative that all cardholders confirm/update their mailing address via CitiManager by Aug. 1 to help ensure their new card arrives on time. For guidance on how to

update your address in CitiManager, please click the following URL: [https://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/Docs/How\\_to\\_Update\\_Contact\\_Info\\_in\\_CitiManager.pdf](https://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/Docs/How_to_Update_Contact_Info_in_CitiManager.pdf)

## Passenger Travel/Personal Property Closure

TMO Passenger Travel & Personal Property office will be closed on Aug. 17 due to an official function. Please plan accordingly and visit our office prior to this day to finalize your travel needs. We apologize for any inconvenience that this may cause. For more information, contact MSgt Mac at 634-7845

## Personal Property PCS Peak-Season: Visit TMO Right Away

TMO has been booking pick-up dates for the Kadena base populace at a frantic pace since May 1, due to peak PCS season (May 1 to Sep 30). Currently, everything up to July 18 is completely booked for any household goods (HHG) and/or unaccompanied baggage (UB) shipments. If you're PCS-ing in June and have not set up a pick-up date with our offices, please be sure to have someone in mind who can release your items to the carriers, during pick-up, once a pick-up date is established. A special power of attorney will be needed in order to designate someone else to be at your home/dorm on the day of pick-up. As soon as members receive their orders, they are required to visit our office to set up a pick-up date. Pick-up dates are first come, first serve and cannot be secured without orders.

## Lead and Copper Sampling Notification

Samples will be collected through the months of July and August to determine lead and

Continued on PAGE 15



## TRICARE CORNER



Did You Know? THE TRICARE RETIREE DENTAL PROGRAM (TRDP) ENDS ON DEC. 31, 2018.

### Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP)

On December 31, 2018, the Defense Health Agency's TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP) will end. However, as directed in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2017, retired uniformed service members and their families, who were eligible for TRDP, will have the opportunity to enroll in the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP).

The first opportunity to enroll in FEDVIP will be during the next Federal Benefits Open Season, which runs from November 12 through December 10, 2018, with coverage effective January 1, 2019. If you are currently enrolled in a TRDP plan, you will not be automatically enrolled in a FEDVIP plan for 2019. You must enroll during open season.

### FEDVIP Dental Benefits:

- 1.5M current enrollees in TRDP
- Retired members of the Uniformed Services and National Guard/Reserve components
- Current spouses of enrolled members, and children up to age 21, or to age 23 if a fulltime student
- Un-remarried surviving spouses or eligible children of deceased members who perished while in retired status or while on active duty

### FEDVIP Vision Benefits:

- Those enrolled in TRICARE Reserve Select or TRICARE Retired Reserve
- Uniformed services active duty family members
- Uniformed services retirees and retiree family members
- Those entitled to TRICARE For Life

Visit [tricare.benefeds.com](http://tricare.benefeds.com) for the full eligibility guidelines.

### Questions/Briefings Requests:

If you would like to learn more information about TRICARE or request a briefing, please contact the TRICARE Referral Service Center (TRSC) at DSN: 630 - 4310 or visit us at the 18th Medical Group, Bldg. 626, Monday - Friday from 0730 - 1630.



copper levels in your tap water. This sampling is required by Air Force Instruction 48-144, Drinking Water Surveillance Program, and the Japan Environmental Governing Standards and is being accomplished through the cooperation of housing occupants and Bioenvironmental Engineering (BE). Because lead and copper in drinking water is mainly due to corrosion of service lines and household plumbing, tap water samples are collected at kitchen or bathroom taps of residences. Housing units will be chosen and the residents notified if they are to do sampling. BE will provide the required sample collection containers along with instructions on how to correctly collect the water sample. If chosen for sampling, the instructions on how to complete the sampling process, along with sampling containers, will be left at your place of residence.

**Government of Japan Quarantine Warning**

Certain regions of Japan, including Okinawa, are home to serious plant pests that are not present in other parts of Japan. The government of Japan's Plant Protection Station strives to

eradicate these pests and prevent the movement of their host plants to areas the pests are not currently present. DO NOT transport or mail the following plants and species: Sweet Potatoes / Citrus Seedlings / Giant African Snail / Citrus Greening Disease / West Sweet Potato Weevil / Sweet Potato Weevil.

**UPCOMING EVENT  
Kadena Women's Basketball Team**

Kadena Lady Warriors Basketball team is looking for women that interested in playing the game of basketball. The team is open to all ID card holders. If you have any questions or concerns please email Head Coach Artis Gandy at artis.gandy@yahoo.com.

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES  
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 or email Melissa Rafferty for more information at rafferty515@yahoo.com.



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# What's Okinawa etcetera?

## IN SUMMER, EAT PINEAPPLE!

Throughout the world, there are around 2,000 different varieties of pineapple. Most of Japan's pineapples are grown and harvested in Okinawa, where the main production areas are Ishigaki Island, Iromote-jima and Nago City on the main island.

Pineapple fields are one of Okinawa's typical sceneries, and although these fields can be seen before being harvested, the fruit is hidden amongst spikey leaves.

This fruit is perfect for the hot season, as it contains plenty of vitamins C and B1 which help fight fatigue and are also good for the skin.



The 'Bogor pineapple', also known as the 'snack pineapple', comes from Taiwan and can be eaten straight from being picked. There is also the 'peach pineapple', a small variety which was developed in recent years. It is very popular and is slightly less acidic with a light, peachy fragrance.



**Okinawa Travel Info**  
Tourist information for Okinawa, Japan

<http://okinawatravelinfo.com>  Like Okinawa Travel Info 

### Find Your Exchange Food Trucks at a Location Near You Today!

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28-Jul	1100-1900	Foster Main Store	Old Spices
28-Jul	1100-1900	KAB Concession Mall	Café Shiyu de Pokko
29-Jul	1500-1900	KAB Concession Mall	Churros Chilin-no-Suzu
29-Jul	1100-1900	KAB Concession Mall	Old Spices
29-Jul	1100-1900	Foster Main Store	Triple A 
30-Jul	1100-1400	KAB Flightline	Nukumi Kitchen
30-Jul	1100-1800	Butler Express	Old Spices
30-Jul	1100-1400	AMC Terminal	Triple A 
30-Jul	1600-1900	KAB Concession Mall	Triple A
31-Jul	1100-1400	KAB Flightline	Café Shiyu de Pokko
31-Jul	1100-1400	Torii Express	Nukumi Kitchen
31-Jul	1100-1800	Foster Troop Store	Old Spices
1-Aug	1100-1400	Torii Express	Triple A 
1-Aug	1100-1400	KAB Flightline	Old Spices
2-Aug	1100-1400	KAB Flightline	Café Shiyu de Pokko

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