



# AMURAI GATE



AIR FORCE - ARMY - NAVY - MARINE - COMMUNITY NEWS

Number 11 - Issue 41



# Japan COLA rates changing soon

By U.S. Forces Japan Public Affairs 10/23/2018 - YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — The Military Advisory Panel has approved the latest Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) rates for U.S. Service members based in Japan.

Four locations in Japan will see an increase in COLA rates, four will see a decrease and two will see no change from current rates.

Bases seeing an increase in COLA are Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Misawa Air Base, Commander Fleet Activities Sasebo, and Yokota Air Base. Installations that will see a decrease are Naval Air Facility Atsugi, Combined Arms Training Center Mt. Fuji, Camp Zama, and all installations in Okinawa. Yokohama North Dock and Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka will see no change in COLA rates.

The updates to COLA rates were approved as a result of data was collected from the Living Pattern Survey that

was conducted in April and May for uniformed members.

Service members projected to receive an increase in their COLA will see it on their Nov. 15 paychecks while those service members whose COLA is decreasing will see the change reflected in their Dec. 15 paychecks.

"I encourage all of our service members to check the defense travel website to get a better understanding of their pay," said Chief Master Sgt.

Terrence A. Greene, United States Forces, Japan command chief. "If our folks are concerned about the financial impacts of these changes, I encourage them to talk with their chain of command and take advantage of the financial planning resources the military makes available."

For additional information on COLA and the updated allowance rates, visit the Defense Travel Management Website, https://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/

# Four-legged-friends join Kadena's walk for Domestic Violence



Calvin Collosi, 18th Comptroller Squadron unit deployment and training manager, walks his dog during the Paws Against Domestic Violence event Oct. 20, at Kadena Air Base. U.S. Army, Air Force and Marine Corps family advocacy agencies came together to host the event to raise awareness for domestic violence for the Okinawa military community



A child makes a mask during the Paws Against Domestic Violence event Oct. 20



→ Berenise Tarin-Ruelas, Kadena USO volunteer, helps a child make crafts during the Paws Against Domestic Violence event



Senior Airman Jeaftmyr Del Rosario, 18th Component Maintenance Squadron aircraft electrical and environmental journeyman, holds a sign during the Paws Against Domestic Violence event.

# Kadena Air Base Weekly Newspaper



F納基地内 70 カ所以上、トリイステーション、海軍基地 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。

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# Team Kadena critical to regional security and stability

By Staff Sgt. Omari Bernard

18th Wing Public Affairs

10/30/2018 — Gen. CQ Brown, Ir., Pacific Air Forces commander, visited Kadena Air Base, Oct. 22, to familiarize himself with the 18th Wing's mission, present his expectations for the Pacific Air Forces and emphasize the importance of Team Kadena's role in ensuring regional security and stability.

During the visit, Brown and Chief Master Sgt. Anthony Johnson, PACAF command chief, assessed the operational readiness of Team Kadena's processes such as Rapid Airfield Damage Repair, Agile Combat Employment warfighting concept improvements and theater air refueling challenges.

As Brown and Johnson toured the operational side of Kadena, their wives, Sharene Brown and Stephanie Johnson, visited spouses and schools on base to determine areas they can help raise awareness for and enhance support at Kadena.

The Browns and the Johnsons also had an opportunity to share a traditional Japanese meal with Japan Air Self-Defense Force Lt. Gen. Hiroshi Kaminotani, Southwestern Air Defense Force commander, and his wife, Mieko Kaminotani, as well as other leaders from Japan's Southwestern Air Defense Force to further strengthen relationships and discuss opportunities to enhance cooperation and coordination.



Maj. Kerry Christensen, 18th Medical Group Pacific Critical Care Air Transport Team Theater director, briefs Gen. CQ Brown, Jr., Pacific Air Forces commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Anthony Johnson, PACAF command chief, about readiness in the Indo-Pacific Theater, at Kadena Air Base, Oct. 22.

While learning more about

during the visit, Brown also

took the opportunity to speak to

Airmen face-to-face during an

all-call and recognize Airmen

Brown said. "They are to stay

ready, resilient and postured for

the future. We have to be ready

to fight tonight, ready to fight

tomorrow and ready to fight ten

Brown emphasized not only

"I have three priorities,"

for their job performance.

operations

Team Kadena's

years from now."

the need to be operationally resilient, but also stressed the importance of every Airman's role to ensure PACAF stays ready and postured for the future.

'We also have to be resilient in how we take care of ourselves and our families," Brown explained. "The most important thing we have as a command is our Airmen -their development is the enduring strength and future of PACAF."

During the all-call, Johnson

also spoke to Team Kadena, reinforcing the importance of developing Airmen, resiliency and further emphasizing the importance of readiness.

According to Johnson, readiness is more than just physical training. He believes in empowering the frontline supervisors to know where they fit and how they can effect change.

'It is our duty to ensure that we are ready at all times," Johnson said. "At the end of the day our NCOs lead the way and



Staff Sgt. Matthew Ashley, 18th Munitions Squadron weapons load crew chief, during a tour of the flightline at Kadena Air Base,



Chief Master Sgt. Anthony Johnson, Pacific Air Forces command chief, speaks face-to-face with Airmen after an all-call at Kadena Air Base, Oct. 22. After the all-call, Johnson answered

we're going to try to push that leadership back down to where it needs to be at the frontline and really help us increase our readiness."

In the closing remarks of the all-call, Brown thanked Team Kadena for their dedication to the mission.

"It's the Airmen, families and civilians that make all of this possible," Brown said. "Thank you for the sacrifices you and your family make every day that allow us to do what we do."



# Air Commandos exercise SOF interoperability in the Pacific

### By 1st Lt. Renee Douglas

353rd Special Operations Group Public Affairs

10/29/2018 — Members of the U.S. Air Force 353rd Special Operations Group (SOG) participated in a joint training event with the U.S. Navy USS Wasp, and the U.S. Marine Corp 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) this Wednesday October 23rd, to improve integrated naval and special operations forces (SOF) capabilities.

The 353rd SOG 1st and 17th Special Operations Squadrons trained tactical air to air refueling with CV-22s from the 353rd SOG Detachment 1 and Marine MV-22s assigned to the 31st MEU. The 353 SOG Detachment 1 then trained the vertical lift capabilities of the CV-22 by landing on the deck of the USS Wasp.

"The opportunity to work with the MEU, specifically to forward deploy our CV-22 fleet to an Afloat Forward Staging Base (AFSB), greatly expands our force projection capability in case of contingency or conflict," said Major Anthony Florentine, a MC-130H pilot assigned to the 1st Special Operations "Improving our Squadron. interoperability with the MEU increases the SOG's ability to respond to emerging crises while expanding the radius in which we can rapidly operate in the Pacific theater."

Maintaining a U.S. forward



An MH-60S Sea Hawk helicopter, assigned to the "Island Knights" of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 25, lands on the flight deck of the amphibious assault ship USS Wasp (LHD 1) during flight operations, East China Sea, Oct. 23.

presence in the pacific enables faster response to support humanitarian assistance and disaster relief missions and any other conflict the SOG could be called to support. This training was an opportunity for the SOG to increase interoperability with joint partners in the pacific.

"Forward deploying the USS Wasp and practicing interoperability with 31st MEU demonstrates our ability to partner SOF with conventional forces. The MEU's expeditionary

capabilities complement SOF's inherent flexibility and allow rapid response anywhere in INDOPACOM," said Lieutenant Colonel Sabrine Kennedy, 353rd Special Operations Group director of operations. "Moving forward, the 353d SOG and our fellow SOCPAC components will take advantage of this capability to bring SOF competencies to bear for disaster relief, counter-terrorism, and support to regional partner nations."



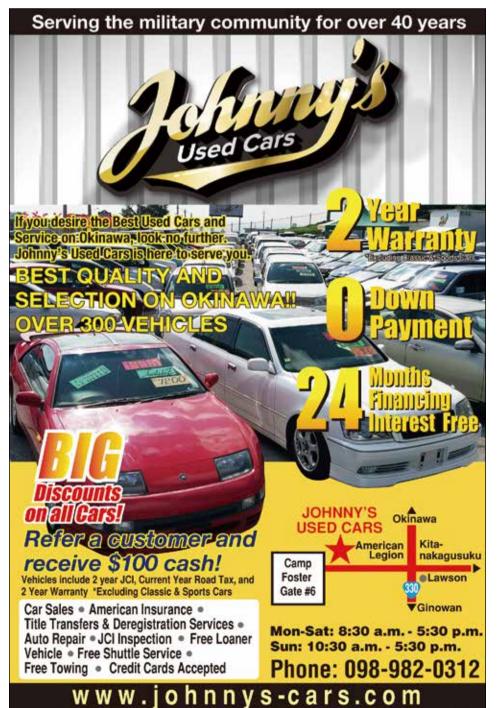


An MV-22 Osprey assigned to the "Flying Tigers" of Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 262 reinforced lands on the flight deck of amphibious assault ship USS Wasp (LHD 1). The Air Force variant CV-22 Osprey, assigned to the 353rd Special Operations Group, detachment 1, and Marine Corps MV-22 Ospreys are conducting joint training aboard Wasp to enhance joint interoperability at sea, Oct. 23.









# U.S. and Japan kick off exercise Keen Sword



(U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Codie L. Soule)

# By U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

10/30/2018 - PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii — Units from the U.S. military and Japan Self-Defense Force (JSDF) began exercise Keen Sword at military installations throughout Japan and surrounding waters, Oct. 29.

The biennial exercise is the latest in a series of joint/bilateral field training exercises since 1986 designed to increase combat readiness and interoperability of U.S. forces and the JSDF.

"Keen Sword will give U.S. and Japanese forces an opportunity to practice critical air, maritime and amphibious capabilities essential for Japan's defense and for regional security," said Lt. Gen. Jerry P. Martinez, commander of U.S. Forces Japan. "Just as important, the exercise is a visible

demonstration of the strength and durability of the U.S-Japan alliance and our shared pursuit of a free and open Indo-Pacific region."

Approximately 10,000 U.S. service members from commands such as U.S. Pacific Fleet, U.S. Forces Japan, 7th Fleet, 5th Air Force, 374th Airlift Wing, 18th Wing, 35th Fighter Wing, and III Marine Expeditionary Force will take part.

Two Royal Canadian Navy ships will participate in the maritime portion of the exercise for the first time, along with observers from several other partner nations. Martinez said, "These developments are a positive sign of our shared interest in expanding partnerships and increasing multilateral cooperation in the Indo-Pacific."

"The U.S.-Japan alliance has been the cornerstone of regional peace and security in the Indo-Pacific region for nearly 60 years, and events like Keen Sword ensure that we will remain ready for the next sixty years," Martinez added.

Exercises like Keen Sword provide the JSDF and U.S. military opportunities to train together across a variety of mission areas in realistic scenarios to enhance crisis response capabilities.

"On behalf of the 54,000 men and women of U.S. Forces Japan, I am proud to be a part of this alliance that is so essential to our two nations' shared interests," Martinez said. "We look forward to working side by side with our Japanese allies to make this important bilateral exercise a success."

# Cutting back on the juice

### By Staff Sgt. Matthew Fredericks 18th Wing Public Affairs

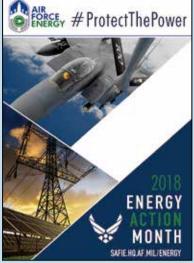
10/31/2018 — October 31 marks the end of Energy Action Month. The goal of the month is to highlight the role energy and water play in the Air Force's mission and encourage smart energy and water use and management.

The 718th Civil Engineer Squadron energy office worked throughout the month to raise awareness about energy savings and resiliency.

"Our goals for Kadena are to increase energy efficiency, optimize performance, eliminate waste of resources and thereby protect the environment," said Ray Powell, 718th CES installation energy manager. "We aim to create a more energy conscious community."

The base is continuously being upgraded in small ways in an effort to improve efficiency to reduce both costs and maintenance hours.

One such way is, recently, most exterior lights on the installation are being replaced with LED lighting. According to Charles Chen, 718th CES resource efficiency manager, LED technology has recently improved significantly in reliability and efficiency while still



dropping in cost.

"They use less energy, require less maintenance and provide better quality of light," Powell explained.

In addition to increasing efficiency, energy resiliency has recently become a focus to the energy office. Energy resiliency is being able to restore power quickly and maintaining back-up power sources for critical resources in the event of a natural disaster.

"The Air Force Energy Program enhances mission assurance through energy assurance," Powell said. "That means we will be prepared for whatever emergencies may be thrown at us; in all situations we are able to accomplish our mission."









# Marines with 3rd MLG execute fire and movement range



(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Pfc. Terry We

Lance Cpl. Markus Dodd sights in on a target with a M249 Light Machine Gun during a fire and movement range Oct. 24, at Camp Hansen. During the range, Marines with 3rd Marine Logistics Group practiced their marksmanship skills, improved their communication and worked on their weapons handling while engaging targets. Dodd is a native of Niles, Michigan, and is a machine gunner with the Tactical Readiness and Training, G-3, 3rd MLG Headquarters.

### By Pfc. Terry Wong

3rd Marine Logistics Group

10/26/2018 - CAMP HANSEN
— Marines with 3rd Marine
Logistics Group traversed
through slippery mud and grass
while heading toward wooden
walls for cover during a fire and
movement range Oct. 24, at
Camp Hansen, Okinawa. Darkgreen targets rose from the
ground, prompting a Marine
to shout at the top of his lungs,
"Contact front!"

During the range, the Ma-

rines with 3rd MLG practiced their marksmanship skills, improved their communication and worked on their weapons handling while engaging targets.

Staff Sgt. Ryan Betonie, an infantry unit leader with Tactical Readiness and Training (TRT), G-3, 3rd MLG Headquarters, said the Marines applied different rifleman techniques such as quickly identifying the target, as well as moving down range with a fireteam buddy and maintain-

ing alignment with their squad.

The main technique the Marines executed was "buddy rushing," which is done by some Marines firing at the targets, while others rushed forward. The process repeated until they reached a specified location and "closed with" the enemy.

Another important skill the Marines practiced was communication. During buddy rushing, Marines must pass crucial information such as the status of their equipment and the amount of ammunition they have remaining.

"The [fire and movement drill] allows the Marines to gain mastery in moving and communicating as they assault the objective," said Lance Cpl. Markus Dodd, a machine gunner with TRT, G-3, 3rd MLG Headquarters.

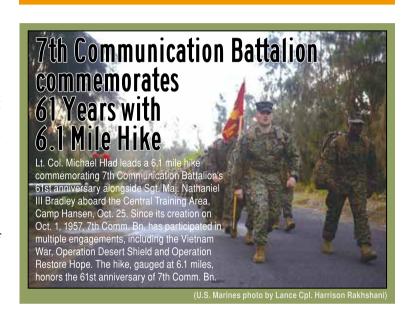
Some Marines only fire a weapon once per year during their annual rifle qualification, however, during the fire and movement range, Marines with Headquarters Regiment were able to join the infantry Marines.

"We like to incorporate our training so that Marines that don't often get this type of training can come out and experience it," said Betonie. "We do like to come out here and sharpen our skills, tactically"

# Marines and locals come together to celebrate Halloween



(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Tanner Lambert) arents and their children from Suginoko Preschool collect candy during a Halloween athering on Camp Hansen, Oct. 25. Marines with 3rd Intelligence Battalion, III Marine xpeditionary Force Information Group visit Suginoko Preschool on the last Wednesday of years month to interact with the children and help teach English.



# LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER! 6TH Annual USO Okinawa Color Blast 5K November 17th 2018 @ Torii Station

Registration: \$20

Kids 10 & under are FREE

Paid registants get a Rese event T-shirt!

Every registrant gets a 100 – gram color packet, an 80's style headband, and a pair of white USO branded sunglasses!









Top 3 females and males will receive plaques
November 17, 2018 | 0900 | TORII STATION
Register by 15 NOV @ okinawa.uso.org/colorblast2018



# VP-47 conducts flight operations

(U.S. Navy photos by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Kevin A. Filinn)

Aircrewman (Operator) 3rd Class Izak Ramirez, attached to Patrol Squadron (VP) 47, conducts flight operations in support of tactical Aircrew anti-submarine warfare proficiency, East China Sea, Oct. 23. The "Golden Swordsmen" are currently deployed to Kadena Air Base conducting maritime patrol and reconnaissance and theater outreach operations within U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations in support of Commander, Task Force 72, C7F, and U.S. Pacific Command objectives throughout the Indo-Asia Pacific region.



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47 patrols
the Northern
Mariana
Islands
conducting
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Assistance
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Relief in
response to
the aftermath
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# **SAME JAPAN 2018**

OKINAWA SYMPOSIUM | NOVEMBER 7-8 GOLF TOURNAMENT | NOVEMBER 9 PACIFIC HOTEL OKINAWA, NAHA https://www.samejapan2018.com

2018 Symposium Theme

Building Resilient Systems Through Enhanced Partnerships and Innovative Designs | 共同パートナーシップと革新的な設計によるレジリエント(強靭)なシステムの構築

Developing Enduring Relationships with Local Public and Private Sector Partners | 地域の官民 パートナーと永続的関係性の構築

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SAME日本支部2018シンポジューム・展示会の開催

シンポジウム: 11月7~8日 (水・木)、ゴルフ大会: 11月9日 (金) パシフイックホテル沖縄、URL:https://www.samejapan2018.com

# **1st MAW Warrior Games**



(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Ryan Persinger)
Marines with 1st Marine Aircraft Wing prepare for the MTVR pull during the 1st MAW's Warrior Games competition on Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, Oct. 25. The Warrior Games were held to bring together the Marines of 1st MAW through good spirited competition.











# U.S. successfully conducts SM-3 Block IIA intercept test

### By Mark Wright

Missile Defense Agency

**10/29/2018 - KAUAI, Hawaii** — Sailors aboard USS John Finn (DDG 113) and the Missile Defense Agency (MDA) successfully conducted an intercept of a medium-range ballistic missile target with a Standard Missile-3 (SM-3) Block IIA missile during a flight test off the west coast of Hawaii, Oct. 26.

The SM-3 Block IIA is being developed cooperatively by the U.S. and Japan and operates as part of the Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense system.

The target missile was launched from the Pacific Missile Range Facility at Kauai, Hawaii. John Finn detected and tracked the target missile with its onboard AN/ SPY-1 radar using the Aegis Baseline 9.C2 weapon system. Upon acquiring and tracking the target, the ship launched an SM-3 Block IIA guided missile which

"This was a superb accomplishment and key milestone for the SM-3 Block IIA return to flight," said MDA Director Lt. Gen. Sam Greaves. "My congratulations to the entire team, including our Sailors, industry partners and allies who helped achieve this milestone."

Based on observations and initial data review, the test met its objectives. Program officials will continue to evaluate system performance.

Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense is the naval component of the U.S. Ballistic Missile Defense System. The MDA and the U.S. Navy cooperatively manage the Aegis BMD program. The Missile Defense Agency's mission is to develop and deploy a layered ballistic missile defense system to defend the U.S., its deployed forces, allies and friends from ballistic missile attacks of all ranges in all phases of flight.



successful U.S. Missile Defense Agency (MDA) intercept test of a target missile launched from the Pacific Missile Range Facility at Kauai, Hawaii, Oct. 26.



# Military funeral honors with funeral escort for Sgt. Maj. Chaturbhuj Gidwani in Section 71

The 3d U.S. Infantry Regiment (Old Guard) Caisson Platoon helps conduct military funeral honors with funeral escort or U.S. Army Sgt. Maj. Chaturbhuj Gidwani in Section 71 of Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia, Oct. 23. Gidwani joined the U.S. Army Reserve in 1973 and after 25 years of service, he retired as a Sergeant Major, having peen awarded the National Defense Service Medal and the Joint Service Achievement Medal. Afterwards, he joined the Federal Civil Service in 1974 where he started his career with the Department of Defense at the Naval Torpedo Station in Keyport, Washington. He retired in 2009 after 35 years with the Federal Civil Service, after which he started Hindu services at Camp Foster, Kadena Air Base, and the Naval Hospital, all in Okinawa. Gidwani passed away on Nov. 11, 2017 at the age of 79. Bulbul Gidwani received the U.S. flag from his service.

# TORII ARTS AND CRAFTS CENTER

# FALL THEME ROCK PAINTING AT TORII BEACH



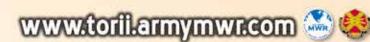
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH 9:30AM-11:30AM TORII BEACH PAVILION #5

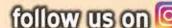
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CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT OR GUARDIAN AT ALL TIMES

COST: \$10 PER CHILD INCLUDES ALL SUPPLIES SIGN UP AT ARTS AND CRAFTS CENTER BLDG#207

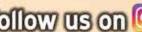
LAST DAY TO SIGN UP WILL BE 2 BUSINESS DAYS PRIOR TO EVENT FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 644-4329 OR 098-962-4329











# 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.

# **NOTICES** Disposition of Personal Effects,

Tech. Sgt. DON W SARDIN. Captain Simeon N. Cole-Fletcher is authorized to make disposition of the personal effects of Tech. Sgt. Don W. Sardin, 1st SOS, as stated in AFI 34-511, Disposition of Personal Property and Effects. Any person having claims for or against Tech. Sgt. Sardin should contact Captain Cole-Fletcher at 634-6606 or preferably at simeon.colefletcher@us.af. mil. (353 SOMXS/353 SOG)

### DBIDS 5.0 - Unescorted passes and contractor badge reissue

A scheduled upgrade to the installation access system has completed and DBIDS 5.0 is now live at Kadena Air Base. For all personnel possessing a DEERS linked form of identification (e.g. Common Access Card) there is no action required; DBIDS will automatically create a database profile the first time your identification is scanned by a hand-held device upon entry to the installation. All previously issued unescorted passes and USFJ 98EJ contractor badges will require registration and reissue of a new secure DBIDS 5.0 hard-card form of identification. To facilitate a smooth transition, these unescorted passes and USFJ 98EJ contractor badges will remain valid for a 90 day period while the Gate 1 Visitor Center conducts the registration and reissue process. All personnel that need reissue are encouraged to visit the Gate 1 Visitor Center at their earliest convenience. On Nov. 16 the installation will no longer accept unescorted passes and USFJ 98EJ contractor badges, and personnel still possessing these passes will be denied access and directed to the Gate 1 Visitor Center for registration and reissue.

### Receipt of Legal Proceedings Against the United States

If you or your family members ever receive through the mail, electronic media, or in person any written notice of legal action against the United States or the USAF to include a writ, summons, notice of legal proceedings, or any other foreign civil process, please IMMEDIATELY send or deliver it to the Legal Office for appropriate

### **Partial Road Closure**

Road Closure for portion of FH Smith Dr from intersection of Schreiber Ave to Bldg 3135 from Aug. 11 to March 31, 2020.

### **INFORMATION**

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.

### 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 SMSgt. Southern, or leave a message on the Kadena Fraud Waste & Abuse (FWA) Hotline at 634-0404.

### 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 AB 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

### Finance Inquiries

Finance inquiries may be sent to 18cpts. finance@us.af.mil - include full SSN. Phone calls will be taken from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. at 634-3609. Office is closed each 3rd Thursday of the month (Training Day) - Closed - All Day. For emergencies call 080-6487-6969.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS** 4th Annual Kadena Veterans Day Parade

The Veterans Day Parade will start Nov. 11 at 9 a.m., and progress along Douglas Blvd until complete. Current and former military members, dependent units and organizations will all be marching with American pride to bring a sense of hometown Americana to Kadena. Following the parade, a family-friendly after-party will take place in Marek Park with bouncy houses, face painting, a DJ, and 18th FSS food trucks. Everyone is welcome! For questions, please call Capt. Erin Wyrick at 630-4997 or 630-4902.

# Airlift/Tanker Association Chapter

The Okinawa Chapter of the Airlift/Tanker Association will hold a chapter meeting on Nov. 15. All current A/TA members and anyone interested in what A/TA is all about are encouraged and welcome to attend. Discussions will include membership and future efforts to invigorate the chapter.



# **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 using the link below or email Melissa Rafferty for more information at rafferty515@yahoo.com.

# Kadena High School JROTC Detachment

The Kadena High School (KHS) JROTC Detachment has 155 cadets and currently has no active duty organization helping them out. This volunteer effort is to help bridge that gap and provide Air Force Career Speakers, Tutors, Mentors, Drill Team leads, CyberPatriot leads, etc. This is a joint Company Grade Officer Council and the Top 3 volunteer effort and is extremely flexible. You can go to the Kadena CGOC sharepoint site (see below) to see the openings and different programs that you can volunteer for. Click on the JROTC Volunteer Signup for all the details! https://kadena.eis.pacaf. af.mil/orgs/kcgoc/SitePages/Home.aspx For more information please contact the CGOC POCs, Capt Daniel Brewer at DSN: 634-3097 or daniel.brewer.10@us.af.mil,

Capt Robert Stone at robert.stone.29@us.af. mil – OR – Top 3, SMSgt Casey Southern casey.southern@us.af.mil or SMSgt Keith Grady at Keith.Grady@us.af.mil

# Operation Snowball Drug/Alcohol Prevention Program

Kadena High School 5th Annual Operation Snowball Drug/Alcohol Prevention Program. You must attend the trainings on Oct. 27 and Nov. 3 to facilitate the event held on Nov. 17. Need 20 adult volunteers to attend the training and facilitate the event. POC Gail Wells 634-5593 or gail.wells@pac.dodea.edu

### Kadena High School World Language Department Volunteers

The Kadena High School World Language Department is seeking native French and Spanish speakers to volunteer to interact with students in French and Spanish as part of our community collaboration. Speakers are needed during the school day. French volunteers would be requested from 7:15 a.m. - 10 a.m., and Spanish volunteers would be requested from 7:15 a.m. - 2:05 p.m., on Oct. 26, Nov. 30 and Dec. 14. If interested please contact Jason Gusler at Jason.gusler@pac.dodea.edu.







TRICARE\* is implementing an open season for enrollment. You can only enroll in TRICARE

Prime or TRICARE Select or switch plans during TRICARE Open Season or after a Qualifying Life Event (QLE).

The TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP) is ending on Doc. 31. Many TRICARE-eligible beneficiaries
will qualify for the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP).

I am a(n)	I Want to Change My TRICARE Plan	I Want to Enroll in a FEDVIP Vision Plan	I Want to Enroll in a FEDVIP Dental Plan
Active Duty Service Member	You can only change plans if you're retiring.  At retirement, coverage ends. Learn about your options and what to do at www.tricare.mil/retiring	You do not qualify to purchase a FEDVIP vision plan. You will continue to get care as you do now.	You do not qualify to purchase a FEDVIP dental plan. You will continue to get care as you do now.
Active Duty Family Member  "Not including adult children enrolled in TRICARE Young Adult	You can change plans during the 2018 TRICARE Open Season.	You must enroll during Federal Benefits Open Season.	You do not qualify to purchase a FEDVIP dental plan. You can get your dental care through the TRICARE Dental Program.
Reserve Component Member or Family Member enrolled in TRICARE Reserve Select*	No action needed. This doesn't apply to you.	You must enroll during Federal Benefits Open Season.	You do not qualify to purchase a FEDVIP dental plan. You can get your dental care through the TRICARE Dental Program.
Retired Service Member or Family Enrolled in TRICARE Prime", TRICARE Select"	You can change plans during the 2018 TRICARE Open Season.	You must enroll during Federal Benefits Open Season.	TRDP ends Dec. 31, 2018. You must enroll in a FEDVIP dental plan during Federal Benefits Open Season to maintain coverage.
Retired Service Member or Family Member using TRICARE For Life	No action needed.  This doesn't apply to you.	You must enroll during Federal Benefits Open Season.	TRDP ends Dec. 31, 2018. You must enroll in a FEDVIP dental plan during Federal Benefits Open Season to maintain coverage.

To learn more about TRICARE Open Season, visit, www.tricare.mil/openseason.

For a full description of FEDVIP plans and coverage options, visit tricare.benefeds.com

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# TRICABE 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 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.

# MC Lightning, Hercules meet above the East China Sea



(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Gunnery Sgt. T. T. Parish)

### By Gunnery Sgt. T. T. Parish

31st Marine Expeditionary Unit
10/24/2018 - EAST CHINA SEA
— Marines and aircraft with Ma-

rine Fighter Attack Squadron 121 (VMFA-121) flexed their muscle Oct. 23, completing a three aircraft aerial refueling mission above the East China Sea.

Three F-35B Lightning II stealth attack jets, the Marine Corps' newest and most versatile fighter, flew from their home station at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, to rendezvous with a KC-130J Super Hercules aerial tanker belonging to Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152 (VMGR-152).

VMFA-121, part of the Aviation Combat Element for the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, provides a fixed-wing attack capability for the Marine Corps' only continuously forward-deployed MEU. VMGR-152, the "Sumos," provides a vital refueling and transport capability for 1st Marine Aircraft Wing across

the vast Indo-Pacific region.

"The fifth-generation and stealth capabilities of the F-35B make the aircraft a key enabler for the 31st MEU," said Lt. Col. Michael D. Wyrsch, 31st MEU detachment commander with VMFA-121. "The F-35B improves the maneuverability and freedom of movement of the 31st MEU and U.S. Navy Amphibious Ready Group team throughout the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command's area of responsibility due to the leap in capabilities of both the onboard sensors and the weapons."

During 2016, the U.S. began a shift of focus from operations in the Middle East to strengthening its posture and partnerships

in the Indo-Pacific. The F-35B is a key enabler for the Marine Corps' strategy as part of IN-DOPACOM, and VMFA-121 is the centerpiece for forward-deployed, amphibious operations of the so-called 5th Generation stealth fighter, said Wyrsch.

"The Marines Corps' motto of "First to Fight" is why the F-35B is critical in the INDOPACOM AOR," said Wyrsch. "The lethality, flexibility and responsiveness of having a land and seabased 5th Generation stealth fighter pre-positioned in this AOR provides the Marine Air-Ground Task Force commander the ability to gain and maintain the offensive advantage.







