



Kadena F-15Cs take flight

An F-15C Eagle takes off from Kadena Air Base, April 3. Both the 44th and 67th Fighter Squadrons at Kadena Air Base play a unique role in securing peace and stability in a free and open Indo-Pacific with their F-15C capabilities.

(U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Matthew Seefeldt)

Professional Military Education builds a stronger fighting force



(U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Peter Reft)

Service member from the U.S. Army and Marine Corps participate in a Marine Corps combat fitness test during an Okinawa Joint Experience course April 2, on Kadena Air Base.

By Staff Sgt. Benjamin Sutton

18th Wing Public Affairs

4/12/2019 — Members of Team Kadena's noncommissioned officer corps came together for a week of Professional Military Education learning and training April 1-5.

These NCOs had the unique opportunity to speak with U.S. Air Force Command Chief Master Sgt. Rick Winegardner, U.S. Forces Japan Command Senior Enlisted Leader, about the future of warfighting across the Pacific and how it will include U.S. servicemembers from all branches.

"The main reason these PME courses are essential to our deployment strategy is to build a stronger more ready force," said Winegardner. "We will always engage our adversaries with a combined force to maximize the synergies of each service ensuring we can project the effects we need in support of the National

Defense Strategy. Being able to understand one another's capabilities and service cultures is the first step in building our joint teams for joint employment."

Winegardner continued by discussing how lessons learned in joint PME courses assist enlisted members beyond the battlefield.

"The relationships we build have a direct impact on our readiness," he explained. "I've seen more training opportunities and problems solved at the user level and joint PME courses are part of the bridge-work connecting our enlisted members with one another, opening up increased training and the development of our enlisted force. Even this last class, once they realized and focused on the commonalities and not the differences you could see a higher level of respect, a desire to do more together as well as learning from each service and service member."

Participants were tossed into classes with every service represented for the opportunity to discuss counseling and leadership techniques.

"Being able to grasp an understanding of how each service conducts operations at the E-4 through E-6 level was very interesting," said Staff Sgt. Daniel Mauricio, 18th Wing Command Chief executive assistant. "This seminar also created a forum for students to identify similarities and differences of each service's leadership methods, counseling techniques, approaches to standard enforcement, challenges and how to they are handled."

With the military becoming more and more integrated in order to ensure mission success, leaders at every level must know and be comfortable operating in a joint environment.

"I thoroughly enjoyed my experience during this course," said Mauricio. "Having the opportu-

18TH SECURITY FORCES TRAINING



(U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Cynthia Belio)

U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Michael Justice and Airman 1st Class Sarah Fox, 18th Security Forces Squadron response force leaders, review a form to process a DUI response during a training exercise at Kadena Air Base, April 8. Each team of Airmen participated in simulated traffic stops and DUI responses, as well as an interactive scenario on the Milo Range.

nity to work and connect with fellow servicemembers in these environments is so valuable. It has developed new ways of thinking for me and broadened my perspective of how the Air Force piece fits into the puzzle. I also thought the instructors were well prepared and gained valuable insight."

Mauricio continued explaining he had acquired a larger sense of self-perspective and a massive appreciation for the other services.

"This course also allowed us to compare customs and courtesies, rank structure, standards, and values which will be extremely valuable in the event I fill a joint billet," said Mauricio. "Working alongside other services was the best part about this course. Identifying each services unique strengths and differences was fun and solicited productive debate in the classroom. From the time I joined the armed forces, I have always been told to network and this course helped me create meaningful relationships with

my sister service counterparts."

The students didn't spend the entire course in a classroom however, for Mauricio, the best part of the course was the fitness challenge.

"By far, the U.S. Marines combat fitness test and the joint forces fitness events were my favorite aspects to the Okinawa Joint Experience," he said. "In my opinion, there is no better way to prompt collaborative problem-solving and build a cohesive unit than doing so through means of physical team building events like we did. I highly encourage anyone who is extended the opportunity to immerse themselves in any type of joint PME course or environment to do it. It will open your eyes and afford the opportunity to see where you and your service fit in to the big picture. You will also gain a further appreciation for fellow service members and what they bring to the fight."

"At the end of the day, we fight and win together," Mauricio stated.

18 MUNS annual sacred site cleanup helps preserve culture



An Okinawa family clears jungle overgrowth from their family tomb in preparation of shimi, a Japanese tradition to honor ancestors, during an annual sacred site cleanup April 14, on Kadena Air Base.

An Okinawa family practices shimi, a Japanese tradition to honor ancestors, with a luncheon on the burial site during an annual sacred site cleanup April 14, on Kadena Air Base. The 18th Munitions Squadron hosted the event for more than 300 family members as one of many community engagement programs designed to preserve culturally significant landmarks on Kadena Air Base.



(U.S. Air Force photos by Staff Sgt. Peter Reft)

Air Force announces selection process for officer instructor and recruiting special duty assignments

By Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

4/11/2019 - WASHINGTON — The Air Force announced that beginning in April 2019, officers will be screened and selected for formal instructor and recruiting special duty positions.

This latest modification, which is one of many improvements to how the Air Force manages talent, is designed to ensure education, training and recruiting is the best it can be.

“Being an instructor or recruiter helps to shape the future force, but, in the past, we have not rewarded officers who do this important work,” said Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson. “We gave it lip service. We’re changing that. This is just one more part of our effort to improve the way we develop, assign, evaluate and promote Airmen.”

Similar to previous efforts for enlisted developmental special duty, promotion boards will value these leadership experiences and the Air Force will offer incentives to those who participate.

“We need inspirational leaders through-

out our Air Force and this begins with recruiting and instructing our Airmen,” said Air Force Chief of Staff David L. Goldfein.

“As well, our officers who serve in formal instructor and recruiting positions gain tremendous insight and leadership development as they invest in our next generation of warfighters,” Goldfein said. “As we move forward, we will only select those officers who demonstrate the highest character and competence.”

In April 2019, the Air Force will publish guidance that outlines the changes to the nomination and selection process for instructor and recruiting special duties. Institutional instructor and recruiting positions will involve senior rater nomination and a central screening board, and functional instructor positions will require selection by development teams.

“Incentivizing these positions for officers is part of our evolving talent management system,” said Lt. Gen. Brian Kelly, Air Force Manpower, Personnel and Services deputy chief of staff. “It’s our job to deliver lethal and ready Airmen—they remain our competitive advantage and we

need each Airman to reach his or her full potential. We’re really focused on making the right adaptations to ensure we are enabling a system that is simple, transparent, agile and responsive to the Air Force’s and Airmen’s needs.”

Eligible officers who are interested in applying should log into MyVECTOR and update their initial preferences. The application window will open April 15 and close May 24. Senior raters are required to endorse their officers in order for their applications to be submitted to the central board.

Starting in 2020, these opportunities will be added to the Officer Selection Brief and SecAF Memorandum of Instruction for officers who have previously served or are serving in formal instructor and recruiting special duties.

Other incentives will include deployment exemptions, two-year assignments (where possible), alma mater preference for ROTC assignments (when possible) and follow-on assignment preferences (as determined by the Airman’s respective career field). Further details on these new

processes and incentives will be announced by the Air Force Personnel Center.

In recent months, the Air Force has rolled out similar initiatives under the talent management umbrella, including modifications to the High Year of Tenure policy, the Intermediate Developmental Education selection process, a review of the overhauled Enlisted Evaluation System and the removal of promotion testing for senior non-commissioned officers.

Airmen can expect more modifications to the talent management system over the coming months, to include significant changes to the way it categorizes and promotes Line of the Air Force officers, as well as implementing a streamlined version of the officer promotion recommendation form.

Air Force leadership is continually reviewing, and when necessary, modifying the way they manage, develop, assign and promote Airmen.

To learn more about the Officer Instructor & Recruiting Special Duties assignment process log into MyPers or contact AFPC.

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US, Philippine Air Forces take Exercise Balikatan to new heights

By Senior Airman Sadie Colbert

3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade
4/11/2019 - CLARK AIR BASE, Philippines — U.S. and Philippine air forces shared best practices and showcased their interoperability at various locations across the Philippines during Exercise Balikatan April 1-12.



▲ A Philippine Air Force UH-1 Huey, left, and a U.S. Air Force HH-60 Pave Hawk, right, prepare for lift-off before a combat search and rescue training mission during Exercise Balikatan at Clark Air Base, Philippines, April 2.



U.S. Air Force Capt. Scott, center, talks with Philippine Air Force UH-1 Huey pilots about a U.S. Air Force HH-60 Pave Hawk at Clark Air Base, April 10, Philippines, during Exercise Balikatan. Scott is an HH-60 co-pilot with the 31st Rescue Squadron out of Kadena Air Base.

(U.S. Air Force photos by Senior Airman Sadie Colbert)

The Philippines-led exercise is often known for its humanitarian and amphibious activities, but throughout the exercise's long history, aviation operations have become an increasingly important piece of the two nations' training objectives.

"Working hand-in-hand, training side-by-side, and enhancing friendships together is the essence of Balikatan," said Philippine Air Force Master Sgt. Wilma Cango, the first sergeant assigned to the 602nd Aerodome Operations Squadron, and native of Pampanga, Philippines. "We are lucky to have Balikatan because the Philippines and U.S. have a longstanding friendship, and they are always here for the PAF."

Approximately 380 U.S. Air Force personnel from more than 60 career fields participated in the joint, multinational exercise to exchange operational and organizational knowledge.

"The U.S. Air Force comes to the Philippines to share and gain knowledge in different tactics, techniques and procedures whether it's close-air support, air traffic control, or combat search and rescue," said Lt. Col. Jason Chambers, 13th Air Expeditionary Group commander and native of Athens, Alabama.

The U.S. Air Force and PAF began the exercise with combat search and rescue (CSAR) training which included three HH-60G Pave Hawks assigned to Kadena Air Base, Japan.

"I was able to see how the 31st Rescue Squadron (RQS) performs a CSAR whereas we function as a non-combatant rescue team," said PAF 1st Lt. Anthony Feril, a 505th Search and Rescue Group UH-1 Huey co-pilot. "I appreciated being able to experience joint rescue missions with the 31st RQS, allowing for both PAF and U.S. Air Force teams to perform better in the future."

Throughout the exercise, four A-10 Thunderbolt IIs with the 25th Fighter Squadron out of Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, participated in nearly 50 flights alongside U.S. Marine Corps and PAF aircraft.

"The missions have been going really well," said U.S. Air Force Capt. Brian Higgins, an

A-10 pilot and native of Vestal, New York. "We were able to work with some of the Filipino joint terminal attack controllers, which we've never been able to do before."

While aircrew worked together high in the skies, medical and security forces personnel on the ground held their own subject matter expert exchanges to strengthen partnerships between first responders.

"I participated in five Exercise Balikatan before this one," said Tech. Sgt. David Rivera, a member of the cadre assigned to the 736th Security Forces Squadron (SFS) from Anderson Air Base, Guam. "I'm really humbled to share our knowledge and exchange with the PAF how

they operate during deployed situations."

By working together with their PAF counterparts, U.S. Airmen fortified their skills and increased the fluidity of mission execution between the two nations.

"I think anyone who comes to the Philippines sees they are phenomenal people and they're more than hospitable," said Chambers. "From a military standpoint, we learn as much from them as they learn from us."

U.S.-Philippine military collaboration has served as the cornerstone for stability in the Indo-Pacific region for decades. Exercise Balikatan will continue to strengthen the nations' longstanding alliance and friendship for years to come.

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Armed Forces of the Philippines, U.S. Forces conclude annual Balikatan Exercise



(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Cameron E. Parks)

U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Eric M. Smith, commanding general, III Marine Expeditionary Force, speaks during a press conference after the Exercise Balikatan closing ceremony held at Tejeros Hall, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City, Manila, Philippines, April 12.



(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Tyler Harmon)

U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Stephen Weaver shows fire fighting equipment to students from Sapang Bato Elementary School at Clark Air Base, Philippines, April 6. Weaver, a Houston is the assistant chief of fire prevention with the 18th Civil Engineer Squadron.



(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Timothy Hernandez)

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Aundre Lawrence teaches a basic resuscitation class at Pagasa Elementary School in Pagasa, Bataan, Philippines, during a cooperative health engagement as a part of Exercise Balikatan, April 8. Lawrence is a public health journeyman with 18th Medical Group.

By Maj. Eve Baker

3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade
4/12/2019 - CAMP AGUINALDO, Quezon City — Military units from all branches of the United States and Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) concluded the 35th iteration of Balikatan on April 12 with a ceremony at the AFP Commissioned Officers' Clubhouse. Members of the Australian Defence Force also participated in the exercise and attended the closing event.

Balikatan, which ran from April 1 to 12, was comprised of 28 major combined or joint interoperability events that tested and enhanced the services' skills and abilities in areas such as counterterrorism, amphibious operations, live-fire, urban operations and aviation operations.

"The AFP and U.S. Armed Forces greatly benefited from the different

trainings, exchange of knowledge and cooperative activities as we close Exercise Balikatan 2019," according to Lt. Gen. Gilbert I. Gapay, commander of Southern Luzon Command and the Philippine Exercise Co-Director. "It served not only as a venue to further enhance our capabilities as military organizations but also as an opportunity to help our people in less fortunate communities in the country. Ultimately, Balikatan 2019 brought out the best in our forces as we commit towards advancing regional security and stability, sustaining bilateral ties and strengthening defense partnership."

The exercise also incorporated 18 humanitarian and civic assistance, community relations and subject matter expert exchange events. These included extensive renovation projects at several elementary schools, one-day veterinary and medical

clinics, friendship visits to schools and orphanages, and a multi-day mental health conference for providers.

Balikatan, which means "shoulder-to-shoulder" in Tagalog, embodies the alliance and friendship between the two countries. Australia's participation in the exercise enriched the relationship between all three countries' military forces.

Australian Chief of Joint Operations Air Marshal Mel Hupfeld said Exercise Balikatan enhances regional readiness and response capabilities to real-world challenges. "The Philippines is an important regional partner to both Australia and the U.S.," Air Marshal Hupfeld said. "Balikatan 2019 allowed all of the participants to build on existing military-to-military relationships and support the AFP's modernization efforts."

This was the first iteration of Exercise

Balikatan to incorporate the USS Wasp paired with the U.S. Marine Corps' F-35B Lightning II aircraft. Together they represent an increase in military capability committed to a free and open Indo-Pacific. Their participation in Balikatan demonstrated their ability to forward deploy in support of an ally should a crisis or natural disaster occur.

"This training allows us to come together and operate as one team. Balikatan continues to prepare our armed forces to work together to confront any and all challenges that may jeopardize the mutual defense we have worked so hard to provide for one another," said U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Eric M. Smith, commanding general, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

This year marked the 35th iteration of the Balikatan exercise, and planning will soon begin for next year's event.

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Australian Defense Force Academy Cadets visit Okinawa



(U.S. Marine Corps photos by Cpl. Chelsea Simons)

Cadets with the Australian Defense Force Academy (ADFA) pose for a group photo at the Battle of Okinawa Historical Display on Camp Kinser, April 15. ADFA cadets visit Okinawa to conduct a battle study as part of their military education requirements for the academy.



U.S. Marine Corps 1st Lt. Patrick Nolan speaks to cadets with the Australian Defense Force Academy (ADFA) on Camp Kinser, Okinawa, April 15.

VP-47 completes deployment to U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations



Lt. Cmdr. Seth Harbin, Patrol Squadron (VP) 47 Maintenance Officer, is accompanied by his children after departing from a P-8A Poseidon into hangar six at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island upon returning from deployment, April 10.

(U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Kevin A. Flinn)

By Petty Officer 1st Class Kevin Flinn

Patrol Squadron 47

4/11/2019 - OAK HARBOR, WA — The “Golden Swordsmen” of Patrol Squadron (VP) 47 returned to Naval Air Station Whidbey Island after completing a six-month deployment to the U.S. 7th Fleet (C7F) area of operations (AOO), Apr. 10.

During VP-47’s first P-8A Poseidon deployment, the squadron had 13 detachments across nine sites throughout the Indo-Pacific. The squadron conducted over 3,700 flight hours, including 87 individual flight missions to assist the United Nations Security Council Resolutions against illicit ship-to-ship transfers that violate North Korea sanctions.

“I’m beyond proud of every single person’s dedication and exceptional performance during the dynamic operations we’ve thrived in these past six months,” said Cmdr. Nathan Gammache, VP-47 Commanding Officer. “These Sailors have set a new standard and their diligent actions and work ethic will be impressed upon the maritime patrol and reconnaissance community in C7F’s AOO for years to come.”

Three detachments were to Guam, one of which included flying multiple missions during Operation Rai Balang, a Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)-led multilateral monitoring control and surveillance operation with eight FFA members. Operation Rai Balang supported FFA’s mission to detect, deter, report and/or apprehend potential illegal, unregulated or unreported fishing activity and to enhance Pacific Island countries’ involvement and participation in maritime fisheries surveillance and response operations.

Another Guam detachment included patrolling the Northern Mariana Islands conducting Humanitarian Assistance and

Disaster Relief in response to the aftermath of Typhoon Yutu. Typhoon Yutu was a Category 5 super typhoon, the strongest tropical cyclone to ever impact the Mariana Islands and the second-strongest to hit any U.S. territory.

VP-47 also assisted in the search and rescue operations following a mishap between a KC-130 Hercules and F/A-18 Hornet about 200 miles off the coast of Japan on Dec. 6. The mishap resulted in the casualties of six U. S. Marines and one survivor.

The maintenance department executed over 21,000 man hours, completed 8,573 maintenance action forms and 25 scheduled maintenance inspections to enable aircraft to be on time and on station at a rate of 97 percent and a 99 percent operational readiness completion rate.

Sailors assigned to VP-47 also participated in 10 community relations (COMREL) events throughout the deployment, including four international COMRELS outside Japan in Brunei, India, Malaysia, and Thailand.

“I couldn’t have asked for a better group of Sailors these past six months,” said VP-47 Command Master Chief Shon R. Nuanez. “On deployment, we were able to come together, strengthen camaraderie, and execute our missions. I think, now, our Sailors have more than earned this time to reunite with family and friends, recollect on all that they have accomplished, and enjoy being home.”

The “Golden Swordsmen” recently completed a six-month deployment conducting maritime patrol and reconnaissance and theater outreach operations within the C7F AOO in support of Commander, Task Force 72, C7F, and U.S. Pacific Command objectives throughout the Indo-Asia Pacific region.

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Alpha Company battles for the Paddle during the Raider’s Challenge



(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Harrison Rakhshani)

Marines with Alpha Company, Battalion Landing Team, 1st Battalion, 4th Marines, complete the run-swim-run portion of the Raider’s Challenge event at Hansen Aquatic Center, April 12. During this event, the Marines of Alpha Company represented their platoons swimming and running in various relays, competing for a chance to claim the hallowed Raider’s Paddle. Alpha Company composes the small boat raid specialists for BLT 1/4, the Ground Combat Element of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit.

Senaha Beach cleanup in Okinawa



Members of the U.S. and local communities pick up trash at Senaha Beach, April 14. Weekly beach cleanups are being held in April to celebrate Earth Day.

(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Pfc. Karis Mattingly)

By Pfc. Karis Mattingly

Marine Corps Installations Pacific

4/13/2019 - CAMP FOSTER — Members of the U.S. and local communities joined together April 13 to clean Senaha Beach, Okinawa.

"I just get emotional because we only have one earth and it's filling with trash," said Sandy Gibbons, the compliance training and environmental support branch supervisor for Marine Corps Base Camp Butler. "We have to take care of it, and it's been my life's mission."

With Earth Day right around the corner, multiple organizations and Camp Butler have been promoting cleanups across Okinawa for the month of April. To celebrate Earth Day, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler Environmental Affairs Branch, in partnership with Single Marine Program, the MCCS Volunteer Program, and the Okinawa Beach Cleanup Facebook

page, will be hosting beach cleanup events around Okinawa.

"The Marine Environmental Affairs Office reached out to us to join efforts because they created a goal for over 1,000 volunteers to clean the beaches of Okinawa by the end of summer," said Michael Cappola, the founder of Okinawa Beach Cleanup.

According to Cappola, the beach cleanups will continue even after the goal is reached and anyone is welcome to volunteer.

"April is our month to renew our mission and commitment, and really focusing on getting things done," said Gibbons. "We need to focus on environmental awareness, and the way we want to do that is beach cleanups."

For details, including map pins, dates, and times, go to the Facebook page "Okinawa Beach Cleanup."

White Beach Festival 2019



(U.S. Navy photos by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Matthew Dickinson)

Distinguished visitors tour the deck of the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Millius (DDG 69) during White Beach Festival 2019, April 13. White Beach Festival is an annual, open-base event hosted by Commander, Fleet Activities Okinawa (CFAO) and Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force Sub-Area Activity Okinawa held to reciprocate the hospitality that the Okinawa community has shown the U.S. forces stationed in Okinawa.



Dragon boat teams row during a dragon boat race on White Beach Naval Facility as part of White Beach Festival 2019.



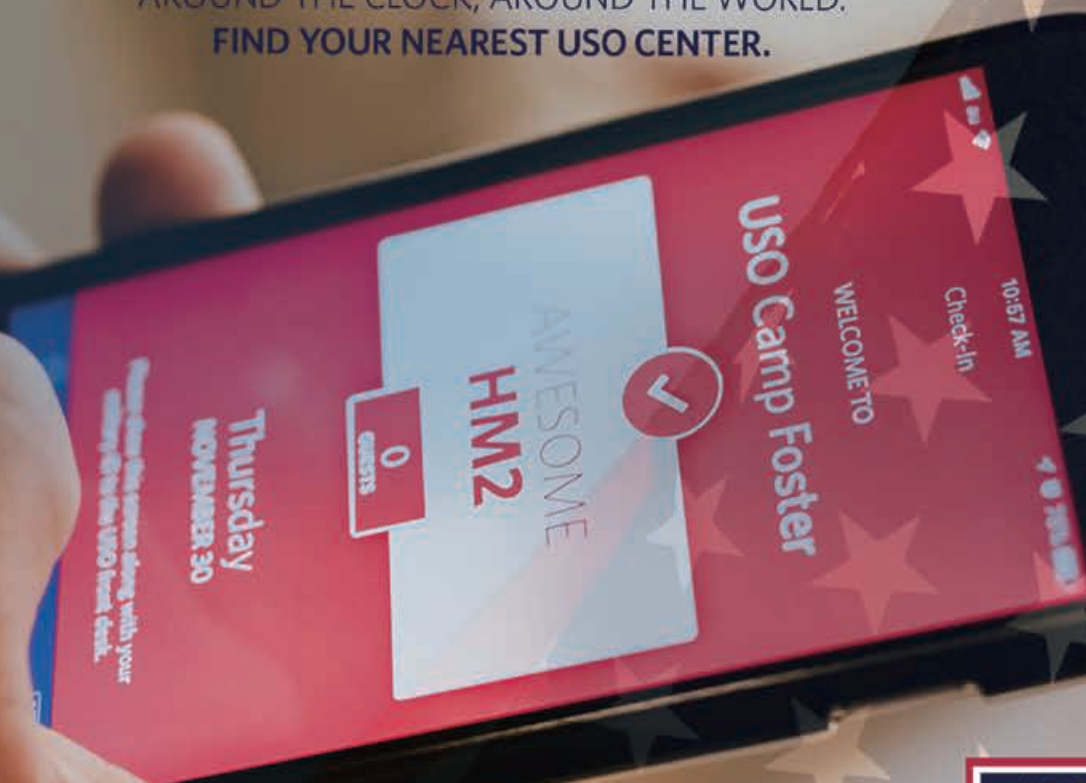
Visitors tour an MV-22 Osprey during White Beach Festival 2019 on White Beach Naval Facility.

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Okinawa

Health care transition looks to improve processes for wartime missions, beneficiaries

By Jim Garamone

DoD News, Defense Media Activity

4/11/2019 - WASHINGTON — Since 2001, the military medical establishment has learned much about caring for trauma.

Many American service members alive today who have fought since 9/11 would have died in previous wars. Thousands more have benefitted from state-of-the-art care and the experience that military medical providers have learned in 18 years of war.

The lessons of the battlefield were learned through experience and repetition, and DoD and Congress want to ensure those lessons are not forgotten.

At the direction of Congress, the military health care system is going through a substantial set of changes in its structure and how it will operate, said Robert Daigle, the Defense Department's director of cost assessment and program evaluation.

"Our No. 1 priority ... is to maintain the quality of care for both the wartime mission and the beneficiary population," Daigle said in a recent interview. "Our goal ... is to improve the readiness of the military health care personnel for the wartime mission."

From Capitol Hill to the Pentagon to military treatment facilities around the world, all are working together to make the transition as seamless as possible, the director said.

Management of the military treatment facilities will transition from the services to the Defense Health Agency. The agency will focus on providing high-quality care for beneficiaries, enabling the services to focus entirely on medical readiness for the

wartime fight.

The military treatment facilities will move to the agency over a three-year period. Officials will be able to examine the changes, assess how the transition is working and make changes as needed, Daigle said. Currently, the facilities at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, and those at Fort Belvoir, Virginia; Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Jacksonville, Florida; and Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi, come under the Defense Health Agency. This transitions more than 1,000 headquarters medical staff from the services to DHA.

"The second major muscle movement in this is to reshape the military medical force for the wartime mission," Daigle said. "In some specialties, we have too few providers – emergency medicine for example. In other cases, we have more than we need."

The latest budget request calls for more than 100,000 active-duty military medical professionals, with more than 60,000 in the reserve components.

The budget reallocates 14,000 positions from medical specialties into other critical shortfalls in the services' operational force structure, Daigle said. If the service needs cyber, infantry or aircraft maintenance personnel, it will be able to apply these slots to those fields, he added, noting that most of the slots reassigned will be personnel who seldom deal with patients directly.

Improving Readiness for the Wartime Mission

Finally, he said, the initiative is intended to ensure the medical force improves its readiness for the wartime mission.

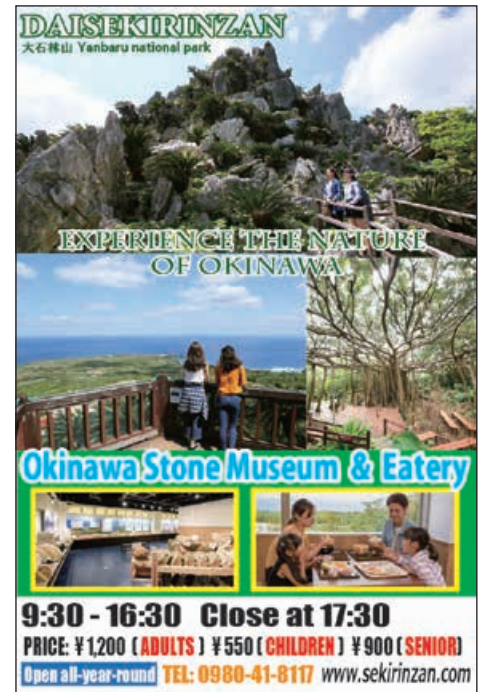
This is more complicated. The question is to ensure medical personnel get the patient load they need to develop and maintain qualifications. The number of times a surgeon performs a specific surgical procedure is directly tied to the outcome, Daigle explained. "Higher reps, better outcomes," he said.

One of the challenges from a medical readiness perspective is relatively low workload levels per provider. "We just don't have enough patients of certain types to generate the readiness levels we need," Daigle said. "In some cases, we are going to want to remove some people from hospitals so the amount of workload that remains, divided over fewer providers, will give them the opportunity to hone their procedures."

This mirrors the trends in the civilian world, where surgeons specialize in certain procedures. Some surgeons do only knee replacements, and may do hundreds of them per year. Those surgeons have seen the range of complications that can arise from a procedure and are best equipped to deal with them when they arise. They certainly would be better equipped to handle a complication than a surgeon who might do one a month, Daigle said.

Daigle emphasized that all of this process will be studied and assessed even as the process continues forward, and that there is time to make changes as needed in the process.

The director also said he hopes that standardization of the administrative processes in the military treatment facilities will make moving among the facilities easier for service members and beneficiaries.



S-1 gets the job done

By Lance Cpl. Dylan Hess

31st Marine Expeditionary Unit

4/12/2019 - CAMP HANSEN

— What do you picture of when you hear the word Marine? Is it an administrative clerk or a staff judge advocate? Probably not; but these Marines play a critical role within the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit's S-1.

"S-1 is the administrative section for the 31st MEU," said Sgt. Christopher Gutierrez, the Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge of S-1 for the 31st MEU. "We provide administrative support for the commanding officer and all personnel assigned or attached to the MEU."

The S-1 takes care of many tasks for the 31st MEU. These tasks are separated into four areas; general, personnel, manpower and operational administration. The administration areas include tasks like awards, pay, promotions and transfers. These things happen every day and are taken for granted, but wouldn't happen without the S-1.

"When the call comes to deploy and respond to crisis, the Commander must have administratively deployable forces at a moment's notice," said Capt. Robert Miller, the adjutant for the 31st MEU. "The S-1 ensures this at all times by aligning manpower, personnel, operational

and general administrative requirements against our mission sets. Ultimately, the S-1 is the fabric that holds the Marine Air Ground Task Force together and supports each warfighting function."

Without the S-1, Marines would have to keep track of and file their own paperwork on top of their own job. Almost every administrative form, document or package goes through the S-1 at some point whether the Marine knows it or not.

"Every document that is filled out we track, scan and electronically file it," said Cpl. Jahlil Moore, an administrative clerk with the 31st MEU. "These include off-island request forms, check in and check out sheets and car packages."

According to Moore, S-1 takes care of Marine Online's features. They add and drop people from the unit when they join or leave, electronic processing personnel action requests and giving Marines permissions on the site.

Keeping track of the forms and packages that go through S-1 helps the 31st MEU Command Element Marines be ready for the future. Marines can place their faith and confidence into the administrative section because of their level expertise in that field.

Taking care of mail is another large part of what the S-1 does in

garrison. They get the mail from the post office and make sure the mail is sorted and distributed to the Marines.

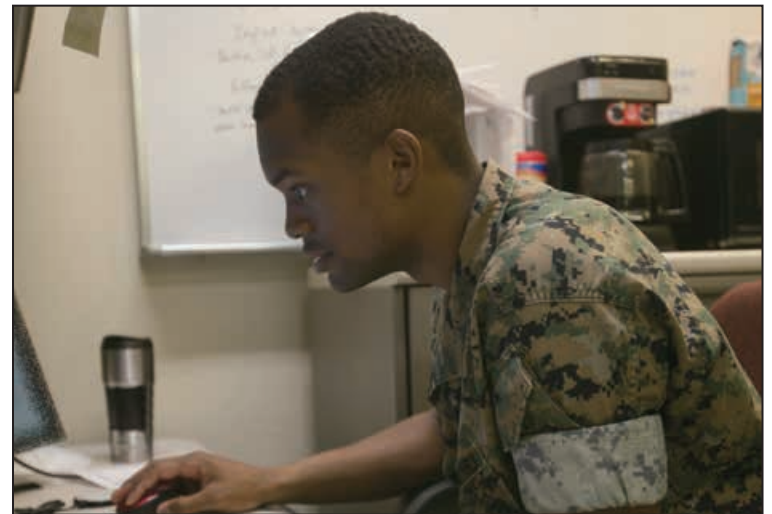
When they're not filing documents and submitting packages in garrison the Marines at the 31st MEU have the added challenge of deploying on a ship for months at a time.

"On ship we are constantly taking accountability," said Lance Cpl. Reginald Welch, an administrative clerk with the 31st MEU. "It can be a challenge because there are a lot of last minute updates to the rosters."

The rosters that S-1 makes are provided to unit leaders and combat cargo. They include life boat assignment, who is supposed to be on an aircraft, who is on and off ship and who stayed behind. This keeps the commanding officer informed on where their Marines and Sailors are located.

The constant accountability of Marines is essential to ensure the 31st MEU is ready to go at a moment's notice. If a Marine went missing, S-1 would know who is accounted for and who is not. This enables the 31st MEU by always having forces that are available to fight and win.

The Marines of S-1 may not be the first thing that comes to mind when you think about a Marine. But everything they do has an



(U.S. Marine Corps photos by Lance Cpl. Dylan Hess)

▲ Cpl. Jahlil Moore, an administrative clerk with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, uses a computer at Camp Hansen, April 5.



▲ Lance Cpl. Blake Sanders, an administrative clerk with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, stamps a package at Camp Hansen, April 5.

impact to the accomplishment of the mission and they play a vital role in the success of the 31st MEU. The 31st MEU, the Marine Corps' only continuously forward-

deployed MEU, provides a flexible force ready to perform a wide range of military operations as the premier crisis response force in the Indo-Pacific region.

USAG Okinawa fire chief receives Army lifetime achievement award, hall of fame induction



(U.S. Army photo by Jim McGee)

Fire Chief Charlie Butler of U.S. Army Garrison Okinawa, Torii Station, is the recipient of the 2018 Army Fire and Emergency Services Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Military Firefighter Heritage Foundation, a private organization based in San Angelo, Texas, will induct him into their hall of fame next month.

By Wendy Brown

U.S. Army Garrison Japan Public Affairs

4/12/2019 - CAMP ZAMA, Japan — Fire Chief Charlie Butler of U.S. Army Garrison Okinawa, Torii Station, didn't aspire to become a firefighter as a child, but once on the job, he found he had an affinity for it.

"Nobody likes to have injuries, fire damage, deaths or things like that, but when you experience those calamities, you're glad to have someone there to make things better," Butler said. "And as a firefighter, I enjoyed being that person that would help people and make things better."

After 39 years in the profession, Butler received the 2018 Army Fire and Emergency Services Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Military Firefighter Heritage Foundation, a private organization based in San Angelo, Texas, will induct him into their hall of fame next month.

Butler joined the Air Force in 1979 and did a 25-year career as an active-duty firefighter. He began working for the Army's former Installation Management Agency, now Installation Management Command, when he retired from the Air Force in 2004, and he has been working for the Army since then.

He has served as the fire chief at Okinawa since February 2016, but previously was the fire chief at USAG Fort Bliss, Texas, for nine years, and he intends to return there next year. Under Department of Defense rules, installations limit overseas civilian jobs to five years and hold employees' stateside jobs while they are away.

In addition, Butler has served as fire chief at Ali Al Salem Air Base in Kuwait;

Manta Air Base in Manta, Ecuador; and Manas Air Base in Kyrgyzstan, where he helped build a U.S. air base fire department at a civilian airport in support of cargo and fighter and bomber missions into Afghanistan in 2001 and 2002.

Butler said he tells firefighters, "do things the way they're supposed to be done," and he has followed that advice throughout his career.

"If for some reason you can't do things the way they're supposed to be done, then change the way it's supposed to be done," Butler said. "What I mean by that is: We do things based upon laws, regulations, policies and commander's intent, but if for some reason we can't comply with those laws, rules, regulations and commander's intent, then we have to change those rules."

He also believes in making changes based on an unmet need.

In the days before organizations such as Army Community Service or Airman and Family Readiness, Butler said he didn't like leaving people in the lurch at fire scenes.

"When we got finished as firefighters, we would just kind of leave and the people would be there like, 'What do I do next? I don't have food; I have no furniture; I have nowhere to live; all my important documents are gone.' So I created a checklist that we would give to people that kind of told them, 'This is what you should do next,'" Butler said.

Butler said the biggest change he has seen in firefighting since he began in the field is in safety improvements.

"When I first became a firefighter,

when I first went to my first fire station, there was only one breathing apparatus on the truck," Butler said, "and the crew chief, who is like the senior fire guy who is in charge of the truck, he said, 'That's our breathing apparatus right there. We don't ever use it.'"

Now, all firefighters wear breathing apparatus, as well as their own personally fitted mask, Butler said.

"No matter how much safety equipment you have or how safe you are following safety procedures, it's a very dangerous job—roof collapse, explosions, you name it," Butler said. "So firefighting is a very dangerous profession, but we do the very best we can to protect our firefighters and we have a saying: 'Dead firefighters don't save lives.'"

Butler said it is important to fight against complacency by constantly training.

When garrison officials hold meetings throughout the year for annual full-scale emergency exercises, Butler said he likes to tell them the fire department is always ready.

"I always go to these meetings and I say, 'Let's just have it tomorrow. I'm ready.' We have to be ready. In a fire department we cannot prepare a whole year for a single exercise," Butler said. "We have to prepare every single day and that's training, training, training."

Deputy Fire Chief Ralph Barone at USAG Okinawa nominated Butler for the Army award, and because Butler was initially reluctant, he had to talk him into giving him information for the nominating document.

Barone said he nominated Butler be-

cause he has known him since 1982 and believes he is one of the best in the field of Army firefighting.

"He's a consummate professional and a visionary in the fire and emergency services career field," Barone said. "He is personally responsible for many of the programs that govern Army Fire and Emergency Services today. There is truly no one more deserving of the Army Fire and Emergency Services Lifetime Achievement Award than Chief Butler."

John Staub, chief of Army Fire and Emergency Services, Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management, said he has been a DOD firefighter for 40 years, and has known Butler since the early 1990s when they were both active-duty Air Force firefighters.

"Chief Butler is the model for integrity, honesty and ethics," Staub said. "He has always demonstrated these traits, and leads from the front by example. His dedication to duty and unselfish service to our nation and communities goes a long way in setting the bar high for others to emulate. He mentors current and future leaders, with continued excellence always in the forefront of his thoughts, words and deeds."

Butler is most deserving of the lifetime achievement award, Staub said.

"He has served not only at the installation level, but on (headquarters) staffs as well," Staub said. "I rely on his honest opinion and appraisal, and when coupled with his strategic vision, it affords me the best of both worlds. (He's) a superb fire chief with strategic vision that stretches across the enterprise that I can always reach out to for assistance."

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599th Transportation Brigade supports Army, Marine Corps at Pearl Harbor



(U.S. Army photo)

A tug offloads an Apache helicopter from the M/V Green Lake during nighttime port operations at Pearl Harbor on March 29.

By Mrs. Donna Klapakis

SDDC

4/15/2019 - PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii — 599th Transportation Brigade and its partners completed two separate moves, an offload for the Army and an upload for the Marine Corps, on the Motor Vessel Green Lake here March 29-30.

599th traffic management specialist Jimmy Quilon was the contracting officer representative for the offload of 2/6 Helicopter Attack Reconnaissance Squadron on March 29.

"The nighttime move on March 29 was a liner move under a universal service contract, and the move the next day, even

though it was the same ship, was an MSC charter," Quilon said.

"The COR needs to be at the port to provide oversight, to answer any questions that arise, and to ensure there's no interference with vessel operations."

Quilon said the offload went smoothly. "Captain Francis Nazareth runs his crew very well," he said. "They provided all the operations support where we needed them.

"It went fast and safely. It was done in three hours," he added. "I was also happy to see that all the Soldiers had their protective gear."

Although everything was relatively fast,

Quilon said a tweak in the operation on-ship could have gained efficiency.

"I think they could have utilized our army aviation crew to move helicopters by hand in the hold to make it easier for the tug operator to hook up and get them off the ship," he said.

The next morning, the second operation began as Marine Rotational Force started to upload their helicopters and equipment.

Carlos Tibbetts, 599th terminal operations chief, worked onboard the Green Lake during the upload on March 30.

"The move went very smoothly," he said. "I heard that Friday night went extra well. So the next day we were able to start up and finish quickly."

Francis Nazareth, Central Gulf Lines vice president for operations, was again working the move on behalf of the carrier.

"The Marines were using boards and pads to keep from damaging the skids on the end of the aircraft, but midway through, they began riding on the front of the helicopters to counter-balance them," Nazareth said. "This put less weight on the back skid, so they could just walk up while lifting the rear rather than running back and forth to the front and back."

"Three of the 599th NCOs were down at the port working, and the Marines were acting as duty stevedores," Tibbetts said.

Sgt. Deontre Austin, 599th surface operations center NCO, worked the upload. He said he appreciated the chance to work at the port.

"This was the first time besides my

training missions that I was able to work a vessel upload. It was different than training missions. It was better because this was not practice. This was no-fail type of thing.

"I came to the 599th to work ports. I want to work at the port," he added.

However, it was far from Austin's first time loading cargo.

"Since I've been in the army I've worked planes, trains and a lot of trucks," he said. "Now I'm able to work vessels. I'm an 88 Hotel [cargo specialist], so that's my job.

"Everyone worked well out there together," he added. "We had good teamwork and good communications between all of us on the ship. When we needed lashers, the Marines were right there to lash the cargo."

Staff Sgt. Andre Carroll, operations NCO, agreed that cooperation amongst services played a big part in the successful upload.

"There was no difference between working with the Marines and the Army at the port," he said. "I always just let the person in charge know what we need, and we get it."

Austin also appreciated the chance to see real-world hazardous material upload.

"I am HAZMAT qualified, so it was interesting to me how they strategically loaded the HAZMAT containers so that in case of an emergency they can take them off quickly," he said.

"We got the move done as quickly and safely as possible," Carroll said. "The operation began on March 30 at 7 a.m. and ended at 2:30 p.m."



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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.

NOTICE Kadena Base Library Closure

Kadena Base Library will be closed April 26 for staff training and development. During this time, the online library resources will still be accessible via the library's card catalog, which is linked from the Kadena FSS web site, and via the AF Portal under the "Library & Resources" tab. For more information, contact May Holly at 634-1502.

POV Shipment Authorize

Effective immediately, Air Force members are authorized to ship a Privately Owned Vehicle on subsequent Permanent Change of Station orders from Okinawa/Japan when a member does not use the storage entitlement under JTR, para 0532. These members in this category can ship a car from Okinawa to their next Permanent Duty of Station, on a case by case basis. *Federal, state, local, and/or international requirements and cost therein fall entirely on the member.* Members must still visit TMO PPSO well in advance to coordinate this request, to ensure they are fully briefed on the entire process. For more information, contact TMO Personal Property at 632-0068.

Imperial Accession Events on May 1

LN employees may be excused from their regularly scheduled duty day on May 1 with the exception of those who, in the judgement of their chain of command, cannot be excused due to reasons of national security, defense, mission, or other essential public need. Employees excused from duty on that day will be granted administrative leave (with pay). Employees already on an approved leave status will continue to be charged pre-scheduled leave. For more information or questions, contact to the JN Civilian Personnel Section at Ms. Nikki Uehara at 632-7909.

18th LRS Air Force Equipment Management System (AFEMS) Freeze

The 18th Logistics Readiness Equipment Accountability Element wants to inform all property and equipment custodians starting April 1 the Air Force Equipment Management System (AFEMS) records will be frozen. The Equipment office will no longer be accepting AF Form 601's for authorization change requests until the freeze is lifted and the migration to Defense Property Accountability System (DPAS) is completed July 1, 2019. For more information please call 634-3653.

TMO Personal Property

Hours of Operations: Monday, Wednesday, Friday (0830-1530)/Tuesday, Thursday (0730-1500) Location: Building 756, DSN: 632-0068 PCS Group Briefings: Every Tuesday & Thursday (1500). Kadena customers will need valid PCS orders before scheduling any Household Goods and Unaccompanied Shipments.

INFORMATION Mail Collection Box Locations on Kadena Air Base

For your letter mailing convenience, five mail drop box locations are available and their respective pickup schedules are below. Each letter must have the appropriate postage adhered to the letter before placing in the mail drop box. If postage is needed please visit the post office to purchase. Drive-up mailboxes and pick up times are listed below: Nearby the Community Bank drive-through ATM (across from Schilling Community Center). Mail will be picked up Monday - Friday at 2:30 p.m. and on Saturday at 12:30 p.m. / Near the Fairchild Shoppette. Mail will be picked up Monday - Friday at 2:36 p.m., Sat at 12:36 p.m. / Near the Kadena Base Exchange main entrance, Mon - Fri 2:43 p.m., Saturday 12:43 p.m. / Near the Kadena post office main entrance, Mon - Fri 2:48 p.m., Saturday at 12:48 p.m. / Nearby Popeye's Restaurant at Olympic Mail, Mon - Fri 2:53 p.m., Saturday at 12:53 p.m. For more information, contact Nick Tolosa at 634-7909.

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: We Get You 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. To contact AADD from a cell phone number, dial 098-961-1110 and ask for the USO, or dial DSN: 634-3889. We're open Fridays and Saturdays at the USO (gate 2) from 2200 to 0100 and we're here to help. If you have any questions and/or concerns, please email our Org Box or contact us on Facebook: Kadena AB A2D2

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, 634-1109 for SMSgt Southern, 634-2768 for Mrs. Korpinen, or leave a message on the Kadena Fraud, Waste, & Abuse (FWA) Hotline at 634-0404.

UPCOMING EVENTS Kadena High School Sky Lantern Festival

Come out and celebrate the month of the military child with Kadena High School's Class of 2022, April 20, 2019 from 5 - 9 p.m. at the Kadena Marina.

CCAF Graduation

The Kadena Air Base Top 3 Organization will host the Community College of the Air Force Graduation at the Rocker NCO Club, May 17 at 3 p.m. Reception to follow. Military guests of the graduates may wear the uniform of the day. For more information, contact the Education Office at 634-1500.

Month of the Military Child Fun Fest: Celebrating Our Smallest Heroes

April is designated as the Month of the Military Child; a time to honor the sacrifices made by military families worldwide, with the emphasis on the experience of the military child. Vehicle and Weapons display, Bounce Houses, Doggie Demo, Music and Food (while supplies last. FREE and open to all.

Seeking Earth Day Volunteers

Kadena Environmental would like you know of the Earth Day 2019 events we have currently underway. Help support through volunteer and donations! Clothes donation now thru 30 April. There will donation bins located throughout Kadena base facilities to include the Kadena BX and others. As you consider your spring cleaning or get ready to plan for your PCS, think about donating your unwanted clothes. The clothes will be going to the local orphanages and homeless shelters within our surrounding community. Look for the clothes bins marked Earth Day 2019! Beach clean-up at Sunabe Sea Wall (3 May, 0800). Please come out and join us as we clean up our community's beaches. We ask that you bring your own hydration sources, gloves to enjoy the day with us.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES Kadena High School needed for Volunteer Native Speakers

Kadena High School is seeking volunteer native Spanish and French speakers to engage in

conversational practice with students. This is a great opportunity to volunteer and help our students develop their language skills. Civilian attire is appropriate. Military spouses, non-military and civilians are also welcomed to participate in this opportunity. The volunteer days are April 19, May 24. Spanish speaking volunteers are needed between 0814-1405. French speaking volunteers are needed between 0720-1000. You will have the option to sign up for one or multiple time slots. Call for more info 634-1216 or email: Jason.Gusler@pac.dodea.edu

Kadena High School Football Program

The Kadena High School football program is looking for volunteers that would like to help with its weightlifting program. Volunteers would be assigned one day a week from Feb 25 through May 25, to come in and monitor the prescribed workout for correct form, effort and safety. There would be no more commitment than one day per week for about 60-80 minutes per day unless the volunteer would choose to do more. The workouts would last from 1420-1540 on Mondays through Fridays. Volunteers would motivate the athletes through their workouts, helping students write down their weight/sets/ reps in their logs, and ensure proper form and safety. The students will be on a prescribed program but extra activities could be added if they finish early or feel that they could benefit from more exercises. This will be great opportunity for community members to earn volunteer hours and resume experience. If you are interested, please contact Coach Mendoza at sergio.mendoza@pac.dodea.edu. A volunteer packet and background check will be required.

sergio.mendoza@pac.dodea.edu. A volunteer packet and background check will be required.

Kadena Middle School Military Mentor Monday

Kadena Middle School is looking for mentors who are willing and able to assist/support middle school students in academics and age-appropriate social interactions. "The intent of the Military Mentor Monday Program or (MMMP) is to build an on-going relationship between our local military community and DoDEA schools as well as provide positive role models to the students" (Pacific South Continuous School Improvement, 2019). This will take place at KDMS in various locations on the campus. Volunteers are needed every Monday to assist between 0730-1430. To volunteer please contact Ms. Traci Cooper at Traci.Cooper@dodea.edu or call 632-0217

Kadena Middle School STEM Week is seeking volunteer speakers

Kadena Middle School will be hosting the Kadena Middle School STEM Week from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., April 22-25 at Kadena Middle School. We are seeking volunteer speakers from our community and looking for people to share their jobs, careers, and experiences in their technical fields. Geeks and nerds this is your chance to get our students excited about what you find exciting (video, medicine, mechanics, electronics, radio...this list is endless). For more information, contact Mr. Karl Hoffman at karl.hoffman@DODEA.EDU or call at 634-2231.

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ベース (Bass): パトリシア・レイ (Patricia Ray)
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23-Apr	1100-1400	KAB Flightline	Café Shiyu de Pokko
23-Apr	1100-1400	Torii Express	Nukumi Kitchen
24-Apr	1100-1400	KAB Flightline	Old Spices
25-Apr	1100-1400	KAB Flightline	Café Shiyu de Pokko
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Air Force's F-35A Lightning II arrives for first Middle East deployment



Three F-35A Lightning IIs assigned to the 4th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron taxi after landing at Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates, April 15. The F-35A Lightning II is deployed to the U.S. Air Forces Central Command area of responsibility for the first time in U.S. Air Force history.

(U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Chris Thornbury)

By Micah Garbarino

388th Fighter Wing Public Affairs
4/16/2019 - HILL AIR FORCE BASE, Utah — Airmen from the 388th and 419th Fighter Wings here deployed to Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates, to support the United States Air Force Central Command mission in the Middle East. The aircraft arrived in country on April 15.

“For those of us who have been a part of the F-35 program for a while, this is a huge milestone,” 388th FW commander, Col. Lee Kloos, told a group of Airmen gathered in Hill’s Deployment Control Center. “You’re the first. We’re proud of you, and we’ll be watching you as you bring this jet’s capabilities to bear in support of our nation’s defense.”

As the first deployment to the U.S. Air Forces Central Command area of responsibility, the Airmen are prepared and trained for the AFCENT mission.

“As the first operational F-35 wing in the Air Force we’ve been working toward this since we received our first jets in

2015,” said Lt. Col. Yosef Morris, 4th Fighter Squadron commander. “We have been successful in two Red Flags. We’ve deployed to Europe and to Asia. Our Airmen are ready for this mission.”

The F-35A, the conventional takeoff and landing variant of the Joint Strike Fighter, provides greater operational capability by combining advanced stealth capabilities with the latest weapons technology.

“We are adding a cutting edge weapons system to our arsenal that significantly enhances the capability of the coalition,” said Lt. Gen. Joseph T. Guastella, commander of U.S. Air Forces Central Command. “The sensor fusion and survivability this aircraft provides to the joint force will enhance security and stability across the theater and deter aggressors.”

The group of Airmen is made up of pilots from the active duty 4th Fighter Squadron and Reserve 466th Fighter Squadron, as well as active duty and Reserve Airmen in the 4th Aircraft Maintenance Unit, and personnel in other support functions.

For many Airmen, like Staff Sgt. Riley Curry, who have been in the F-35A program their entire career, this is their first deployment. They said getting ready for the deployment was the hard part, but carrying out the mission is second nature.

“It’s neat to be on our first deployment and part of the first operational F-35A deployment, but we’re going out to do our job – the same one we do here every day,” said Curry, a munitions controller with the 388th Maintenance Squadron.

Hill’s total force Airmen have previously deployed to Royal Air Force Lakenheath in April 2017, as well as Kadena Air Base, Japan in the fall of 2017.

“As a Total Force effort with a mix of active duty and Reserve Airmen working side by side, this is no different than what we do on a day-to-day basis here at Hill AFB,” said Col. Gina Sabric, 419th FW commander. “We train together and fight together, and as the first deployment for the F-35A to the Middle East, I’m one hundred percent confident we’ll deliver.”

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