



AMURAI GATE

AIR FORCE - ARMY - NAVY - MARINE - COMMUNITY NEWS



Number 12 - Issue 17

KADENA SHOGUNS COMPETE IN NAHA DRAGON BOAT RACES



The Kadena Shoguns Men's Dragon Boat Team race at the 45th Annual Naha Dragon Boat Race May 5 at Naha Port. As they race, the team rows in sync, which helps propel the boat faster through the water. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Omari Bernard)

My body slam and when resilience training finally made sense



(Courtesy photo)

By Linda Ambard

Community Support Coordinator

5/7/2019 - KADENA AIR BASE — One of my children once said that resiliency training is stupid. That's easy to say when everything in one's life is going well. It isn't so easy to say when the body slam happens or when the hits keep coming. It isn't a matter of if, but when we will all have some type of body slam. While my body slam was huge and different and looks different from others, we have all had them.

On April 27, 2011, I got up and went to work like any other week day. I fired up my computer and saw the MSN headline... Seven confirmed dead at the Kabul Airport. I had a moment of relief that my

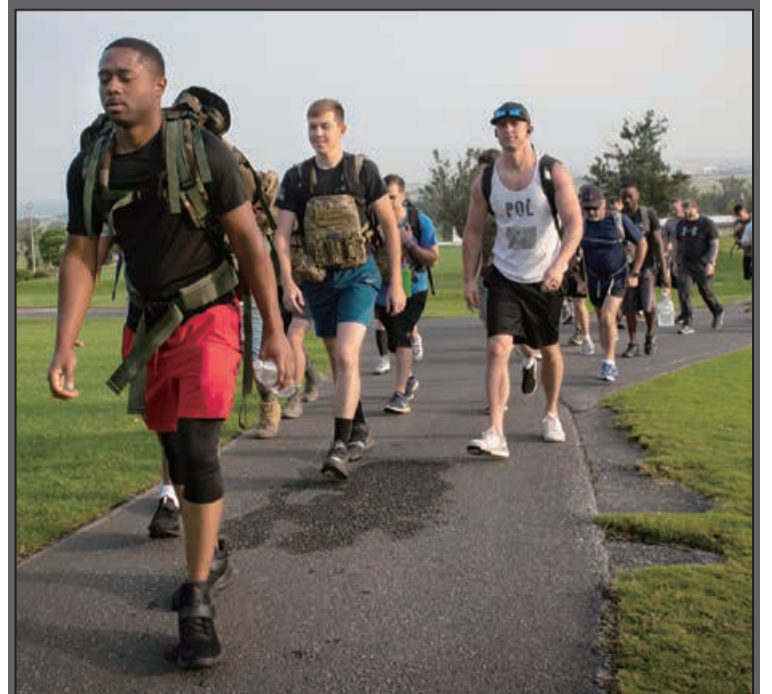
husband wasn't there. I felt a little impatient because he hadn't called me when he had told me he was going to call. I even went so far as to tell a colleague that I was thankful that neither my husband or daughter weren't there.

At 1:28p.m., the principal and counselor walked into my gym. I thought that I was losing my job because it was the final day for those teachers whose contracts were not being renewed due to budget constraints. I had volunteered to be let go, knowing that I was going to have another military move in my future. I never expected the end of life as I knew it.

My husband of 23 years was killed in action. He

Read RESILIENCE on PAGE 2

KADENA REMEMBERS THE HOLOCAUST



(U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Raughton)

Participants hike around the Banyan Tree Golf Course during the Holocaust Remembrance Week Ruck March at Kadena Air Base, May 2. The purpose of the ruck march was to bring people together with a fitness activity and educate them about the holocaust and why people should work together to prevent such an event from happening again.

Read HOLOCAUST Story on PAGE 2

Team Kadena celebrates Earth Day 2019



Team Kadena members pose for a group photo before planting trees in celebration of Earth Day 2019, April 29, at Kadena Air Base. Earth Day celebrates the planet's environment and raises public awareness by reminding people to think about humanity's values, the threats the planet faces and ways to help protect the environment. The theme for Earth Day 2019 is "Protect Our Species."

(U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Sutton)

RESILIENCE from PAGE 1

was assassinated by someone he liked and trusted in a NATO uniform. Phil had joined the Air Force at age 18, to gain American citizenship. He spent 16 years as enlisted; then another 10 as an officer before his death. I worried about him as a young airman during the drug wars of South America, but surely an Air Force Academy professor was in a safe position. That is the thing about body slams. We never see them coming...I wasn't prepared.

The Air Force has been utilizing resiliency training as a way to help civilian employees and military members to think about the coping strategies they use and to consider the ones they may not have tried. While most of us may think we do not need this training, the sad reality is...we all DO need it. The longer a person is in the military or a family member of the military member, the stronger the warrior ethos is. Longevity means people know how to respond to wellness questions and they feel they have to set the positive example for those affiliated with the military with less time in.

Resiliency training is mandated through AFI 90-5001, for all civilian employees (both Numbered Air Force and General Schedule positions) and military members. Kadena Air Base is planning a different kind of training strategy than what has been utilized in the past. This training will take place through a series of story-telling events hosted both through the quarterly base events and through the unit training through the Master Resiliency Trainers.

On May 14, I will be sharing my story and the choices we all have to make when we are faced with our body slam.

The times are as follows:

0630, 0800, 1445

Location: Schilling Center Ball Room

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KADENA REMEMBERS THE HOLOCAUST

By Staff Sgt. Benjamin Raughton

18th Wing Public Affairs

5/7/2019 - KADENA AIR BASE —

First, they came for the Socialists and

I did not speak out

because I was not a Socialist.

Then they came for the Trade Union-

ists. I did not speak out

because I was not a Trade Unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did

not speak out

because I was not a Jew.

And then they came for me, there was

no one left to speak for me.

-Martin Niemöller



(U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Kristan Campbell)

U.S. Marine Corps Capt. Justin Nakajo-Kleinman, 1st Marine Air Wing deputy staff judge advocate and operational law attorney, shares his family's story of overcoming adversity during the Holocaust, May 2, at Kadena Air Base.

Prefecture, Japan, to speak at the invocation and prayer ceremony.

"I'm 70 years old, but I want to challenge you once more... It's not enough just weep tears for the children, but also to do something for peace," Otsuka said. "The more I study the Holocaust, the more I feel I don't know [anything] at all. Your work is very, very important, and

you have to make peace in the world, and I dedicate my life to educate the Japanese what happened in the time of the Holocaust. Why and how, is something I continue to ask myself."

Naka echoed Otsuka's sentiment and added everyone can stand in solidarity to prevent a Holocaust from ever occurring again.

"By gathering on this day to remember the Holocaust, we deny the murderers their violent solution to wipe the Jewish people from existence. We also renew our resolve to stand up and resist evil wherever it exists. Never again," Nakajo-Kleinman said.

"Today we gather to remember the tragedy descended on the Jewish people and millions of others at the hands of the Nazis during World War II," said U.S. Marine Corps Capt. Justin M. Nakajo-Kleinman, Assistant Staff Judge Advocate for the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing who led the invocation. "We listen to the survivors who remember the stories of those who were murdered, and we pay respect to those names that are forever lost to history."

Remembrance Week organizers also invited Reverend Makoto Otsuka, director general of the Holocaust Education Center in Hiroshima

The National Socialist German Worker's Party, led by Adolf Hitler, systematically exterminated between six and nine million European Jews in concentration camps throughout their regime beginning in 1933. By 1945, more than 11 million people in total are estimated to have been murdered by the Nazis.

More than 70 years later, Kadena Air Base remembers the lives of the Jewish people who perished under that brutal dictatorship.

From April 29 to May 3, the base hosted a screening of the film "Woman in Gold," held a remembrance ruck march, and had a remembrance chapel service.

Kadena Air Base Weekly Newspaper

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Medics on a mission

By Senior Airman Grace Thomson

911th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

5/2/2019 - JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKHAM, Hawaii — Airmen from the 911th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron took the opportunity to go to Honolulu, Hawaii for some hands-on training both on the ground as well as in the air, April 22-26.

The 911th AES flyers went through on-the-ground training to practice in-air procedures in Honolulu while the duty controllers went to get deployment training with the 18th Aeromedical Evacuation Detachment 1 based out of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii but attached to Kadena Air Base, Japan.

The ground training for flight nurses and medical technicians consisted of litter training, burn victim treatment, and mental health patient procedures among many others.

Airmen practiced with mannequins on stretchers to simulate loading and securing patients in an aircraft in litter training, while burn treatment and mental health patient training mostly consisted of discussion and regulation review. They also discussed unregulated patients and how to handle that type of situation.

"[An unregulated patient situation occurs when] they needed to move a patient quickly within the system and there's not enough time to put them into the patient database," said Capt. Holly Gongaware, flight nurse with the 911th AES. "It's pretty much a patient shows up to the plane and they say 'you are taking them,' and nobody

else knows about it. So it's just putting everything in place to take those patients and they haven't been validated, basically a flight surgeon hasn't signed off on them. It's much faster paced and uncontrolled than we are used to."

The flyers' training fit nicely with the training the duty controllers did as well. While the 911th AES flyers were being trained on how to handle special cases and transporting patients, the duty controllers visited their counterparts at the 18th AE Detachment 1 because they are the hub for almost all patient movement in the Pacific Ocean region.

The training consisted of launch and recovery missions as well as how they learned about all of the paperwork and the checklists associated with each type of mission to ensure accountability of patients and resources.

"They have a checklist of everything they have to complete for launch and recovery missions," said Staff Sgt. Kelsey Watson, 911th AES duty controller. "They track how many patients, medical personnel, and crew are going to be on the flight, as well as all equipment that was loaned out to the aircraft."

The 911th AES had the chance to see all of this in action when a scheduled flight with patients came in from Kadena Air Base, Japan and got a surprise when the aircraft showed up with a Pittsburgh



▲ Airmen from the 911th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, 914th AES, and 18th Aeromedical Evacuation Detachment 1, based out of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii but attached to Kadena Air Base, walk out to a 911th Airlift Wing C-17 Globemaster III at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, April 25.

(U.S. Air Force photos by Senior Airman Grace Thomson)

tail flash.

They watched as the patients were off-loaded from one of their own aircraft and were able to concretely envision the procedures they had discussed, unfolded before their eyes.

As duty controllers in the U.S. Air Force Reserves, the Airmen said that what they do on drill weekends is vastly different than what happens in a deployed environment. They agreed that coming to see the procedures done and getting hands-on training from active duty personnel was very beneficial.

"Pretty much they take care of all the moving parts," said Watson.

Though the 911th AES did not participate in off-loading of real-world patients, they were able to see how the system worked.

"It was nice to see firsthand with actual patients," said Senior Airman Rachel Hause, 911th AES duty controller. "It's not something you can really do back in Pittsburgh."

Overall, Airmen who attended the



▲ Staff Sgt. Karina Lopez, Aeromedical Evacuation duty controller with the 18th AE Detachment 1, based out of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii but attached to Kadena Air Base, goes through intake procedures with members of the 911th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, April 25.

training agreed that it was a success as both parts of the 911th AES gained experience in their respective fields and learned more about uncontrolled situations. The flight to and from Barbers Point Airfield, Hawaii was used as training time as well, which started and then capped off the trip for the flyers.

"The mission is to train, but coming to Hawaii was a good opportunity because we don't normally get these long flights," said Gongaware. "Back home it's usually a two- or a four-hour trainer, so having it over an extended period is more realistic."

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KLI hosts 22nd Annual Entrance Ceremony

Kadena Language Institute students and honorary guests take a commemorative photo during the 22nd Annual KLI Entrance Ceremony April 11, at the Kadena Rotary Town Plaza. The 18th Wing has and continues to support KLI since its inception in May of 1998.



(U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Omari Bernard)

Team Kadena CGOC, TOP 3 mentor JROTC cadets



Staff Sgt. Jacori Ownes, 18 AES, Aeromedical Evacuation Technician mission planner, shows High School Air Force Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps cadets some of the training equipment used to train their medics March 13, at Kadena Air Base.

(U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Omari Bernard)

By Staff Sgt. Omari Bernard

18th Wing Public Affairs

3/13/2019 - KADENA AIR BASE — Most students, at some point or another in their lives, hear the questions, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” and, “What are you going to do after you graduate?”. It’s a question students may hear as early as kindergarten and all throughout high school. Some people know what they want to do and take a straight path toward their future. For others it can be a windy road with twists and turns.

Students at Kadena High

School who join the Air Force Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps may take the first step toward a career in the U.S. Air Force after graduation and Team Kadena’s Company Grade Officer Council and Top Three are there to help pave their way. This information can be a lot to take in, that’s why Team Kadena’s CGOC and Top Three have set up a mentorship program to help KHS JROTC cadets put a face to a career field.

There are hundreds of career fields in the Air Force to choose from and this information can be a lot to take in for students interested in planning their careers.

Jobs can range from maintainers to policemen, from lawyers to doctors, and from chaplains to special forces. The roles of those jobs can also vary based upon the location of the unit and its mission requirements.

“This program gives students the opportunity to pave their own way and get them to their end goal,” said U.S. Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Kim Wiessner, 18th Equipment Maintenance Squadron armament flight chief. “Basically, we’re trying to set this program up so we can get them in touch with anyone in any career they may be interested in.”

The program accomplishes

this by working together with the JROTC instructors and units stationed at Kadena Air Base to provide career briefings, unit tours and program mentors. During one of the tours, cadets got the opportunity to tour the 18th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron and learn about Air Force careers in the medical field. Cadets got to see the equipment used to train medics, learn about the enlisted and officer roles from active duty Airmen, and gain insight to a career field that some of the cadets may have never known existed.

“Aeromedical Evacuation is a small career field,” explained Master Sgt. Susanna Rogers, 18th AES flight operations chief. “So, a lot of people don’t really know what we do or that we even exist.”

In some of the briefings, cadets learned the 18th AES has the largest area of operations of its kind in the military, reaching from the Horn of Africa to Alaska. The 18th AES deploys, establishes and operates elements of a theater aeromedical evacuation system, including a mobile staging facility, evacuation command and control, and crews for worldwide taskings.

“No matter where you are in the Air Force, at any point in time that you are hurt, you know the Air Force is there for you and will get you to a hospital so you can get the care you need,” Rogers said. “When I joined, I went to my recruiter and viewed what

jobs were available in the Air Force, they set a huge book in front of me with all the different Air Force Specialty Codes,” Rogers continued. She couldn’t really explain what it was or exactly what I would be doing and all I saw were all these different titles with numbers next to them.”

Rogers said she didn’t know what any of them meant, but had a sister already in the medical career field in the Air Force.

“I went in that direction because I knew about it and thankfully it worked out,” said Rogers. “If these kids can go around the base and see all these different career fields and different things available to them then they may be better informed and choose a job that they really want to do.”

According to Weissner, Team Kadena’s CGOC and Top Three’s JROTC mentorship program was started in 2018 to help JROTC cadets and hopes other CGOCs and Top Three’s across the U.S. Air Force start up similar programs and help Air Force JROTC cadets along the path to joining the Air Force.

“If I have this opportunity when I was younger, I think I would have been better prepared to join the world’s greatest air force in a career that I really wanted to do,” said Weissner. “Our end goal is for the student’s to be able to connect with anyone worldwide and answer any of their questions about the career of their choice and help pave their way.”

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Kadena celebrates Month of the Military Child



Children play a ladder toss game during the Month of the Military Child Fun Fest April 26, at Kadena Air Base. April is designated as Month of the Military Child, a time to honor the sacrifices made by military families.

(U.S. Air Force photos by Airman 1st Class Mandy Foster)



Children tour the interior of police cars during the Month of the Military Child Fun Fest April 26, at Kadena Air Base. Kadena Airman and Family Readiness Center put on the event to celebrate military children and their sacrifices.



A child browses through movies during the Month of the Military Child Fun Fest April 26, at Kadena Air Base. The Kadena USO sponsored a booth in honor of Month of the Military Child where children could choose one movie each to take home.

KEEPING THE FLEET Kadena Vehicle maintenance operations



(U.S. Air Force photos by Senior Airman Kristan Campbell)

Senior Airman Conner Worthington and Senior Airman Montez Williams, 18th Logistics Readiness Squadron customer service technicians, inspect a vehicle's fluid levels ensuring it meets mission needs April 20, at Kadena Air Base. Each vehicle asset belonging to KAB is checked during routine maintenance.



Staff Sgt. Robert Lucas, 18th Logistics Readiness Squadron special purpose maintenance supervisor, inspects a vehicle with an oil leak, April 20, at Kadena Air Base. In addition to fixing vehicles, the 18th LRS also responds to vehicle maintenance issues on the flightline with their mobile maintenance unit.

18th MDG conducts training



(U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Matthew B. Fredericks)

Airmen from the 18th Medical Group and 18th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron work together to load a simulated patient onto a KC-135 Stratotanker during a joint field training exercise, March 27, at Kadena Air Base. The 18th MDG and 18th AES tested their ability to treat and transport a large amount of patients.

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NORTHERN EDGE 2019 KICKS OFF IN ALASKA



A U.S. Air Force F-22 Raptor, assigned to the 3rd Wing, takes off from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, during exercise Northern Edge 2017, May 11, 2017.

(U.S. Air Force photo by Alejandro Pena)

By Master Sgt. Miguel Lara III

Pacific Air Forces Public Affairs

5/8/2019 - JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii — Approximately 10,000 U.S. military personnel will participate in exercise Northern Edge 2019 (NE19), a joint training exercise hosted by U.S. Pacific Air Forces, scheduled for May 13-24, 2019 on and above central Alaska ranges and the Gulf of Alaska.

NE19 is one in a series of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command exercises in 2019 that prepares joint forces to respond to crises in the Indo-Pacific. The exercise is designed to sharpen participants' tactical combat skills, to improve command, control and communication relationships, and to develop interoperable plans and programs across the joint force.

Personnel from U.S. military units stationed in the continental United States and

from U.S. installations in the Indo-Pacific will participate with approximately 250 aircraft from all services, and five U.S. Navy ships. For the first time in 10 years, a Pacific Fleet aircraft carrier will be participating in the exercise.

Participants will serve as part of a joint task force, which will help enhance multi-service integration and exercise a wide range of joint capabilities

Major participating units include: U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, U.S. Pacific Air Forces, U.S. Pacific Fleet, Marine Corps Forces Pacific, Air Combat Command, Air Mobility Command, Air Force Materiel Command, U.S. 3rd Fleet, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve and U.S. Naval Reserve.

NE19 is the largest military training exercise scheduled in Alaska this year with virtual and live participants from all over the United States exercising alongside live players.

“Haarii!”
Marines, sailors compete in annual Okinawan dragon boat race

The Single Marine Program dragon boat team celebrates their victory during the 45th Annual Naha Dragon Boat Race May 5, at Naha Port.



(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Nicole Rogge)

MILITARY SPOUSE APPRECIATION

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Marines with VMM-268 complete trans-Pacific flight



A V-22 Osprey with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 268 refuels before departure from Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, March 26.

(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Pfc. Ethan LeBlanc)

By III Marine Expeditionary Force

5/3/2019 - MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII — Four MV-22B Ospreys from Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 268 successfully completed a trans-Pacific flight from Okinawa, Japan to Marine Corps Base Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, on May 2. This has become a recurring milestone flight that the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing and VMM-268 have successfully completed.

This flight comes at the completion of exercise Balikatan, where VMM-268 successfully accomplished a reconnaissance and surveillance insert and airfield seizure to Lubang Airfield, multiple assault support movements, and an amphibious assault exercise from the USS Wasp.

Flights like these demonstrate the Marine Corps' reach and responsiveness in the Indo-Pacific and showcase the capability of aircraft to aggregate and get where they need to be within hours. The tiltrotor aircraft flew more than 5,300 nautical miles and conducted minimal, scheduled stops to refuel and rest.

These trans-Pacific flights present an invaluable training opportunity for the Marines, which require extensive planning and flawless execution in order to successfully make one of the longest MV-22 flights in the world. Additionally, these flights require coordination for aerial refueling using KC-130J Hercules from Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152 as well as maintaining continuous satellite communication across the Pacific.

The Marine Corps has several Osprey squadrons stationed in the Pacific in Hawaii and Japan which can transit over large overwater distances to aggregate into a larger force for crisis response missions.

Two MV-22 squadrons stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay, as well as two at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, enhance III Marine Expeditionary Force's ability to support exercises and operations throughout the region. The MV-22 continues to serve as a highly capable and reliable platform suitable for missions on amphibious ships to desert terrain and mountainous regions.

MARINES WITH CLR-3 CONDUCT A WIDE VARIETY OF AIRBORNE OPERATIONS



(U.S. Marine Corps photos by Lance Cpl. Isaiah Campbell)



U.S. Marine Corps parachute riggers conduct air delivery operations using a KC-130 Hercules April 29 at Ie Shima, Okinawa. 3rd Air Delivery Platoon, Landing Support Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 3, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, conduct regular training to certify their Marines in various airborne resupply missions.

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Military Sealift Command's USNS Guam christened in Okinawa



U.S. Ambassador to South Korea Harry B. Harris Jr. speaks to a crowd during the christening ceremony of Military Sealift Command's high-speed transport USNS Guam (T-HST 1), Naha, April 27.

By Grady Fontana

Military Sealift Command Far East

4/29/2019 - NAHA, Japan — Military Sealift Command (MSC) christened the high-speed transport USNS Guam (T-HST 1) during a ceremony at Naha Military Port in Naha, Japan, April 27.

Key speakers were U.S. Ambassador to South Korea Harry B. Harris Jr.; Guam

Rep. Michael San Nicholas; Lt. Gen. Eric M. Smith, commanding general, III Marine Expeditionary Force (III MEF); Rear Adm. Robert T. Clark, deputy commander of MSC; and USNS Guam's sponsor, Mrs. Bruni Bradley, a 25-year Navy veteran and wife of Harris.

"The Navy has a glorious history of naming ships after heroes, epic battles and

key places in the U.S.; and this ship is no exception," said Ambassador Harris, who is also a former Navy Admiral. "Guam is the site of one of the bloodiest battles in the Pacific campaign (of World War II).

"Although most of the greatest generation are no longer with us, we can hear their stories of duty, honor and courage. Their spirits walk among us, and with us, and call out to us. Today, we've answered their call with an innovative ship, which serves as a reminder of their heroism and a tribute to a beautiful place called Guam, U.S.A.," said Harris in a speech.

The ceremony was capped by a time-honored tradition, when Bradley officially declared the Guam christened prior to breaking a bottle of sparkling wine against the ship's side railing of the main deck.

The Guam was acquired by the Navy from the Department of Transportation in 2012 and underwent renovations before it became operational in late 2017 when it replaced the Westpac Express as a III MEF asset.

Earlier plans to christen the ship in Guam were thwarted by unforeseen typhoons in the region and a high tempo by the ship's schedulers. Due to additional operational requirements on the ship, effort to have the christening in Guam was not possible.

USNS Guam is an aluminum catamaran designed to be fast, flexible and maneuverable, even in austere port conditions, making the vessel ideal for transporting troops and equipment quickly.

According to Smith, the value of USNS Guam to the III MEF is that the ship can be quickly reconfigured for any cargo requirement: from supporting humanitarian assistance and disaster relief; to transporting Marines, Sailor and equipment throughout the Indo-Pacific theater.

"This ship is vital to us," said Smith in a speech. "It carries the most precious cargo that there is...the Marines and Sailors of the III MEF."

The USNS Guam is preceded in service by the patrol gunboat USS Guam (PG 43), which was renamed Wake in 1941 and captured by the Japanese later that year, the Alaska-class large cruiser USS Guam (CB 2) in service 1944-1947, and the Iwo Jima-class amphibious assault ship USS Guam (LPH 9) in service 1965-1998.

MSC operates approximately 125 non-combatant, civilian-crewed ships that replenish U.S. Navy ships, conduct specialized missions, strategically preposition combat cargo at sea around the world and move military cargo and supplies used by deployed U.S. forces and coalition partners.

MARINES CONNECT MARINES, ENABLE CRISIS-RESPONSE FORCE

By Lance Cpl. Harrison Rakhshani

31st Marine Expeditionary Unit

4/29/2019 - OKINAWA —

During Spring Patrol 2019, the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit completed a first in its 50 year history: split operations spanning a vast swath of the Indo-Pacific region. Marines and Sailors dispersed across thousands of miles of open ocean completed a series of complex amphibious maneuvers – called Expeditionary Advanced Based Operations – planned and commanded from a central hub in Okinawa, Japan.

How does a 2,200 person unit connect its widely separated components, simultaneously planning, rehearsing and launching missions to flex its amphibious capabilities in one of the World's most strategic corridors? Ask the Marines in the 31st MEU's communications and data section, the S-6. "It takes a variety of communicators to provide complete command and control to the commanding officer and his staff officers," said 1st Lt. Dakota Deter, a communications officer and the Communications Platoon commander with the 31st MEU.

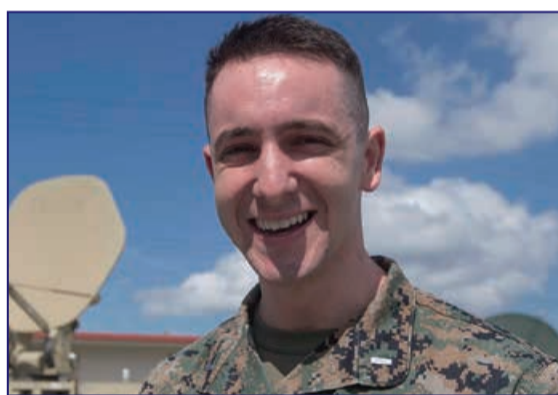
The S-6, composed of Marines from a variety of occupational specialties – including satellite communications operators and maintainers, cyberspace operators and radiomen – link each component of the 31st MEU together with expeditionary communications capabilities. In layman's terms, they connect decision makers to each other and the world in garrison, at sea and in the field, according to Deter.

"Whether it's secured email correspondence, Department of Defense work, or a Google search, it's going through us," said Deter.

The 31st MEU, which partners with the U.S. Navy twice each year aboard ship for patrols of the Indo-Pacific region, trains and operates in a wide variety of littoral landscapes from the mid-Pacific west to the Indian Ocean, and from mainland Japan south to Australia. Covering roughly 20% of the Earth's surface, the Indo-Pacific region is vital to the interest of the United States and her allies, and the 31st MEU is forward-deployed to address a myriad of crises at a moment's notice.

And the Marines of S-6 enable the 31st MEU's ability to remain forward, flexible and ready, according to Sgt. Jimmy Siackasone, who recently completed a patrol aboard the USS Green Bay. While many Marines deploy as a small team, S-6 Marines are often alone and unafraid, helping connect the MEU and prevent incursions from cyber threats.

"It's a lot of responsibility for one individual," said Siackasone, a defense cyberspace operator who oversaw 150 users on the Marine Corp's network aboard Green Bay. While satellite communication operator-maintainers maintain connections on the ground, defense cyberspace operators build and protect connections at sea. As one of the few with permissions and technical knowhow to regulate cyber traffic, Siackasone functions as the gatekeeper of the ship's network. "I am constantly scan-



(U.S. Marine Corps photos by Lance Cpl. Harrison C. Rakhshani)
▲ 1st Lt. Dakota Deter, a communications officer with S-6, Command Element, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, smiles in front of a satellite terminal on Camp Hansen, April 18.

ning the network, checking for vulnerabilities," says Siackasone. Daily tests keep these mobile connections safe from cyber threats around the world.

"It's a highly, highly technical MOS, but our success as an organization also hinges on the routine services we need to do our jobs," said Deter. Data systems administrators are responsible for the programming and configuration of practical applications and servers. Without everyday utilities such as Microsoft Outlook, secured chat servers, and Marine Online, operations on-and-off ship can come to a near standstill. Though these utilities are hard to appreciate, troubleshooting data problems can range from many hours to days.

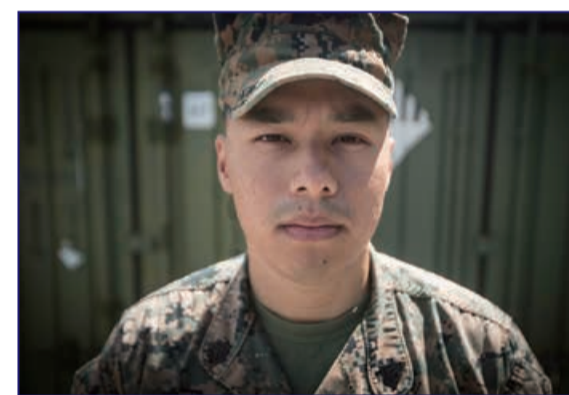
Data system administrators aren't the only ones proving it takes dedication to be a part of the S-6. Radio operators are proof "comm. is a 24 hour section," said Deter. Around the clock, they take eight to twelve hour shifts on radio watch, "not-

ing everything that passes over the net" on yellow cards.

These dense notes, or yellow canaries, are promptly received by the watch officer monitoring information flow and dissemination. During important training exercises, such as Amphibious Integration Training and Certification Exercise, yellow canaries keep the command informed in real time. Deter said "their vigilance ensures missions are being conducted as they're supposed to be conducted."

The privilege to keep the MEU connected doesn't come without sacrifice. Weeks before anybody boards, the Marines of the S-6 are hard at work configuring the ship's network for the upcoming deployment. "Those ships are like skyscrapers sitting on their side," said Deter, "when we step on deck, we're back on square one."

A multitude of ever shifting variables, such as transitioning staff and new ships, calls for a constant reserve of flexibility. By the time the MEU boards just



▲ Sgt. Jimmy Siackasone, a defense cyberspace operator with S-6, Command Element, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, stands outside the 31st MEU S-6 compound on Camp Hansen, April 18.

prior to disembarking, "we've already been there for a long time, getting it ready so that everything goes smoothly."

The pressure doesn't subside while underway. Inclement weather, technology failures, and aging infrastructure aboard the ships present regular challenges to overcome. "It only takes a few discrepancies to significantly degrade communications," said Deter.

In order to keep the MEU capable and connected at every level, "we have to be performing at our best," said Deter. Flawless and timely execution is only possible through the coordination of the whole spectrum of comm. designations. Satellite communication operator-maintainers, data system administrators, radio operators, and the rest are similarly reliant on one another to do their part. Luckily, the Communication Section is committed to keeping the 31st MEU intact whatever the odds, even if it requires connecting Marines across the globe.

Army family makes a difference



Sgt. 1st Class Ricky Hill, 504th Expeditionary Military Intelligence Brigade, Robert (3), Anastasia (2) and Shoko Hill pose for a family photo, April 26, Fort Hood.

(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard)

By Sgt. Melissa Lessard

504th Military Intelligence Brigade
5/1/2019 - FORT HOOD, Texas — On any given day there are over 400,000 children in foster care in the United States. Of that number, only about 135,000 are adopted each year.

Sgt. 1st Class Ricky Hill, an intelligence analyst for the 504th Expeditionary Military Intelligence Brigade, met his wife Shoko, while stationed in Okinawa, Japan. The Hills always knew they wanted to foster and adopt children and discussed the possibility before deciding to start their family.

“We were in Japan, but Japan did not allow us to foster because we lived on base and they did not have that kind of program like the states,” said Shoko.

The Hills became licensed foster parents while stationed here at Fort Hood. Ricky said when he joined the 504th in 2016, the first sergeant at the time fostered

through an agency and introduced the Hills to that agency.

With that, the family started the process to become foster parents and began working to adopt children.

“Thankfully, in the military and with this unit and our leadership, they were able to work with us,” said Hill. “Foster families are different than regular families because there are additional responsibilities for the foster children.”

Hill said when they started fostering, they had to conduct weekly visits with the biological family of their two currently adopted children. They also worked with an agency social worker, and he and his wife were able to check on their foster children to see if they were to reunite with their biological family or if they were going to be adopted.

The thought of not being able to adopt the children that were in their care was also on their mind during the process and

caused anxiety for the family.

“It was a rollercoaster the whole time,” he said. “It kept going back and forth from adoption to reunification, adoption, reunification. It did that like four times. We never really knew the whole time. It was that kind of anxiety that we had to go through.”

Through the ups and downs of fostering to becoming adoptive parents, Shoko and Ricky continually build both their personal and family resiliency. They are both familiar with the adoption process through personal experiences and were able to use those experiences.

Shoko said that through the process though she and her husband communicate better, their marriage is stronger, and they work more as a team.

“We always talk and cry together,” Shoko said.

Adopting while in the military can be challenging. Ricky and Shoko said they constantly remind each other that deploying is always a possibility.

“It might be harder, but that shouldn’t keep people from doing it,” said Hill. “If you have the desire, determination, and love for these kids - that goes a long way.”

“We do get training, which gives awareness,” said Hill. “I would say I’ve built a lot of patience. Whoever does foster care should know that times are going to be difficult, but you must continuously love these kids. Show them that you will be there when they need it. Even if the children do not stay, you gave them something to leave with. Hopefully they will remember that.”

“We don’t think you have to be blood-related to be a mother or father. It’s the attributes of the mother and father that matter,” said Hill.

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Kadena Air Base Community Notes

To submit an announcement for the base bulletin, please visit www.kadena.af.mil or send info@samuraigate.jp

NOTICE Commander's Action Channel UPGRADE

The Kadena Air Base, 18th Wing's Commander's Access Channel is being upgraded. If you or your organization have a submission request please email it to 18wg.papublicaffairs@us.af.mil. Please ensure all submissions are Power Point format files (.ppt) in LANDSCAPE mode in 16:9 Widescreen.

TRICARE Corner for March - May

Great news for all TRICARE-eligible beneficiaries, the Kadena AB clinic TRICARE Plus program re-opened on March 15. TRICARE Plus allows beneficiaries who are not enrolled in TRICARE Prime, US Family Health Plan or a Medicare HMO seek treatment at the clinic. It provides cost-free coverage for primary care services. Any services outside the Kadena clinic such as referrals or specialty care services will not be covered. If you are enrolled in TRICARE Plus at USNHO it will not automatically transfer to Kadena clinic. Your enrollment is only for the clinic where you enrolled. TRICARE Plus is for sponsor beneficiaries and their dependents who are 18+. How can I enroll to TRICARE Plus? Present to TRICARE front desk at Kadena Clinic Complete TRICARE plus screening application packet Allow 14 days for approval or disapproval notification Apply now while there is availability!

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.

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.

TMO Passenger Travel

Hours of Operations: Monday, Wednesday, Friday (0830-1530) Tuesday, Thursday (0730-1500) Location: Building 756 DSN: 634-7792/7794 Mandatory PCS Briefings: Every Wednesday at 1530. Leave in Conjunction with Official Travel (LICWO) Walk-in Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday (0830-1100) Tuesday, Thursday (0800-1100) Circuitous Travel Hours: Monday - Friday by appointment only (1230-1500) Please call TMO to book an appointment at 634-7792/7794.

For Scheduled Airline Ticket Office (SATO) assistance, please call 1-855-431-7707 (option 3). Submit 'PCS Port Call Reservation Worksheet' as soon as you are notified of assignment to the 18 LRS/PAXPCS Org box (even without orders). PCS Port Call Reservation Worksheet can be found on

the Kadena SharePoint: <https://kadena.eis.pacaf.af.mil/18MSG/18LRS/LGRD/TMO/PT/SitePages/Home.aspx> If you are Separating or Retiring, submit your 'Ret Sep Port Call Request' to the 18 LRS/PAXPCS Org box (even without orders). RET SEP Portcall Request can be found on the Kadena SharePoint: <https://kadena.eis.pacaf.af.mil/18MSG/18LRS/LGRD/TMO/PT/SitePages/Home.aspx>

Common Mistakes for Port Call Request:

- Missing Full Middle Name
- Date of Birth Format
- Next of Kin (someone not traveling with you)
- Expired/inactive Passport Information
- Expired/inactive GTC card

TMO Outbound Freight/Cargo new phone numbers

TMO Outbound Freight/Cargo has recently moved to Bldg. 795 and with it new phone numbers have been added. You can now reach us at:

Packing & Crating Office: 634-1391//634-6631//634-6623//634-6612//634-6451//634-6465

Outbound Freight Office: 634-6412//634-6414//634-1162//634-6431//634-1750//634-6437

Water Port Office: 632-6530//634-6671

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.

INFORMATION Think Before You Drink

Did you know there have 15 SOFA members caught drinking and driving in 2019. Don't become a statistic. Think before you drink. Don't drive - call a ride. For a safe ride home call these numbers:

Kadena Taxi at 098-970-8888(option 8)
Panda Taxi (off base) 098-937-8989.
Daiko 098-932-4035.

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 1230 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.



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Nishihara City Branch
130 Kadokaru, Nishihara Town
TEL: 098-882-9109

Kyozuka City Branch
652-1 Kyozuka, Urasoe City
TEL: 098-871-3329

Naha Main Place Branch
4-4-9 Omoromachi, Naha City
TEL: 098-951-3311

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Valid through Jun. 30, 2019

2019 Road Tax Collection Schedule

<p>CAMP KINSER "SURF SIDE" Tues, 7 May 0930-1530</p>	<p>CAMP FOSTER "THEATER" Wed-Fri, 8-10 May 0930-1530</p>	<p>KADENA AIR BASE "RISNER GYM" Mon-Fri, 13-17 May 0930-1530</p>
<p>TORII STATION "THE HAVANA" Mon, 20 May 0930-1530</p>	<p>CAMP COURTNEY "SNCO CLUB" Tues-Wed, 21-22 May 0930-1530</p>	<p>CAMP HANSEN "THEATER" Thurs, 23 May 0930-1530</p>
		<p>CAMP SCHWAB "CHAPEL" Fri, 24 May 0930-1200</p>

DOORS MAY CLOSE BEFORE SCHEDULED TIME
BASED ON NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS IN LINE.

All Documents must be original. COPIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED!

Required Documents: Military Registration, 2018 Road Tax Receipt, Vehicle Title, Japanese Compulsory Insurance, and American Insurance.

ROAD TAXES MUST BE PAID IN JAPANESE ¥EN ONLY!

U.S. CURRENCY, CHECKS, & CREDIT CARDS ARE **NOT** ACCEPTED. COMMUNITY BANK SERVICES WILL BE AVAILABLE NEAR EACH COLLECTION POINT.

LICENSE PLATE CATEGORY 40/400, 50/500, 77/78	¥7,500
LICENSE PLATE CATEGORY 33/300 (4,500 cc & below)	¥19,000
LICENSE PLATE CATEGORY 33/300 (above 4,500 cc)	¥22,000
LICENSE PLATE CATEGORY 11/100, 88/800	¥32,000

MINI-CAR and **MOTORCYCLE** taxes **MUST** be paid **1 April - 31 May** to local City, Town, or Village Offices between 0830-1200 and 1300-1700. Bring your receipt to the Joint Service Vehicle Registration Office or tax collection site to receive a 2019 Road Tax sticker.

MINI-CAR ROAD TAX	¥3,000
MOTORCYCLE ROAD TAX	
126cc and above	¥1,000
125cc and below	¥500

All vehicles not de-registered before 1 April must pay road tax.
All vehicles must display a 2019 Road Tax sticker before 1 June 2019.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
 Contact the Joint Service Vehicle Registration Office at 645-7481

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

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

2019 Total Air Force Sexual Assault and Suicide Prevention

The 2019 Total Air Force Sexual Assault and Suicide Prevention Program is coming your way. New classes, New Curriculum, New Materials, and a New Team for 2019. For more information contact your WG/CSVP - MSgt Jennifer G. Malone at 634-4870.

New Master's Program at University of Maryland University College

University of Maryland University College is offering a new Master's Program for active duty and veterans. The Master's of Science in Transformational Leadership is designed to help prepare you for senior leadership positions in public, private, and non-profit organizations in various fields. We will accept up to 12 credits from selected professional military education institutions. For more information, please contact us at 634-4383 or kadena-asia@umuc.edu.

TRICARE Overseas off Base Do's and Don'ts

Tricare Operations would like to ensure all AD members, dependents, Civilian and DoD employees are familiar with the cultural etiquette that is expected when visiting Japanese medical facilities. This will insure clarity on all questionable customs and courtesies with our host nation providers. Do's and Don'ts worksheets are available at the TRICARE front desk located at the Kadena Clinic. For additional information please contact Referral Management at 630-4402 Mon- Fri from 0730-1630.

Off Base Language School

1) Japanese Classes by licensed and experienced teacher. Study one-on-one or create your own group. Call 090-6862-0404
2) Christian English School is looking for a Christian teacher to teach 5-10 classes a week. Please send your resume to openheavenjapan@yahoo.com

UPCOMING EVENTS "We End Violence" Education and Awareness Seminar

Mr. Jeff Bucholtz provides consultation in the fields of sexual violence, relationship violence, masculinity, gender normativity, violence prevention, stalking, bullying, working in alliances, collaboration and the intersectionality of oppression. You won't want to miss his dynamic presentation style and it's FREE! Join us at one of the following 90-minute seminars: May 24 at 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the Keystone Theater. For more information, contact TSgt Latoya Cole at 634-0180.

Finding the way back to life after a body slam

Come out and listen to a story about resiliency at the Schilling Ball Room May 14 at 0630, 0800 and 1445. This event will count towards the AFI mandated resiliency requirement for 2019. Learn how to take a body slam and bounce back in life. It is not a matter of if, but when we will all have some type of body slam.

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.

Parent Focus Group

The Pacific Theater Education Council wants to hear from you. Any parent with a student

in one of these Kadena schools, can come be a part of the PTEC focus group. Your feedback is important and could help make a difference.

Focus groups will be held at the Shilling Community Center.

- May 13 KHS Parents 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.
- May 13 AEIS Parents from 10:45 - 11:45 a.m.
- May 17 BHPS Parents from 9:00 - 10 a.m.

For more details, contact at Christopher Lamb at 634-2231.

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

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 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.

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

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ドラムス (Drums) アンドリュー・クレンツェン上級空員 (SSgt Andrew Clemenson)
ベース (Bass) (C)リリア・ペレス上級空員 (MSA Patricia Perez)
キーボード (Keyboard) ジョーダン・ハンロン上級空員 (SSgt Jordan Hanlon)
ボーカル (Vocal) フォーカル (Vocal) クリスティーン・フィッシャー上級空員 (MSgt Christine Fisher)
ボーカル (Vocal) エリザベス・アヨラ上級空員 (MSA Elizabeth Ayala)
オーディオエンジニア (Audio Engineer) ネイサン・マーティン上級空員 (SSgt Nathan Martin)

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

10-May	1100-1330	KAB Flightline	Nukumi Kitchen
11-May	1100-1700	Foster Main Store	Triple A
11-May	1100-1900	KAB Concession Mall	Old Spices
12-May	1100-1700	KAB Concession Mall	Churros Chilin-no-Suzu
12-May	1100-1900	KAB Concession Mall	Café Shiyu de Pokko
12-May	1100-1900	Foster Main Store	Old Spices
13-May	1100-1330	KAB Flightline	Nukumi Kitchen
14-May	1100-1400	KAB Flightline	Café Shiyu de Pokko
14-May	1100-1400	Torii Express	Nukumi Kitchen
14-May	1100-1800	Butler Express	Old Spices
15-May	1100-1400	KAB Flightline	Old Spices
16-May	1100-1400	KAB Flightline	Café Shiyu de Pokko
16-May	1100-1700	Torii Express	Old Spices

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353rd SOG Financial Management best below major command team in the DoD

By 1st Lt. Renee Douglas

353rd Special Operations Group
 4/29/2019 - KADENA AIR BASE — The 353rd Special Operations Group (SOG) Financial Management (FM) flight, a small office of four personnel, earned the 2018 Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) Financial Management Award for best Below Major Command Level Team for Contributions in Budget Execution.

“This award is validation not only of the impressive work that our tiny team does for the SOG, but more importantly it is a reflection of how important and challenging the SOG mission is within the DoD, not just the region, USAF or SOCOM,” said U.S. Air Force Capt. Vincent Colletti, 353rd SOG comptroller. “At all levels, FM funds the fight; the mission lives and dies with funding. We try our best to direct funding where and when it is most needed.”

Unlike most military finance offices that take care of financial matters for the entire base, the 353rd SOG has embedded financial managers that deal solely with special operations forces (SOF) appropriated funding.

“With 4 days left in the fiscal year we received over \$4 million from our higher headquarters for the CV-22 stand-up at Yokota Air Base,” said U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Michael Duchesne, 353rd SOG FM flight chief.

While this is challenging enough, for two of those days the 353rd FM flight was sheltered at home due to a typhoon.

“Due to intermittent power in each of our homes, we were working off of our lap-



(U.S. Air Force photo by 1st Lt. Renee Douglas)

The 353rd Special Operations Group (SOG) Financial Management (FM) flight, a small office of four personnel, earned the 2018 Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) Financial Management Award for best Below Major Command Level Team for Contributions in Budget Execution. Seen here are Capt. Vincent Colletti, 353rd SOG comptroller, Master Sgt. Michael Duchesne, 353rd SOG FM flight chief, Master Sgt. Chad Sontag, 353rd SOG FM superintendent, and Staff Sgt. Lindsey Vaillancourt, 353rd SOG FM financial analyst.

tops and cell phone data,” said Duchesne. “We coordinated 62 purchases through multiple agencies and vendors at Yokota and stateside to ensure every penny was spent before the end of year.”

Throughout the year, the FM flight was able to overcome the challenges faced with executing a budget in a complex area


of responsibility. From policy changes to typhoon evacuations to humanitarian missions, the financial management flight has to ready for anything.

Readiness comes at a price; the Air Commandos of the FM team ensures that the SOG is prepared to respond when called, “Any Time, Any Place”.

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