

AIR FORCE - ARMY - NAVY - MARINE - COMMUNITY NEWS

Number 12 - Issue 43

# Japanese Twitter fans explore Kadena



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

## By Staff Sgt. Benjamin Raughton

18th Wing Public Affairs

11/6/2019 - KADENA AIR BASE — What do a breathalyzer, a recycling center, a go-cart, and an MC-130J Commando II have in common?

They were all showcased to more than 35 visitors to Kadena Air Base during an observation tour which displayed the 18th Wing's commitment to drunk driving prevention, stewardship of the environment, partnerships with local Japanese authorities, and world-class airpower.

"This tour is for local nationals who live not just around this base, but around Japan," said Jin Hiya, 18th Wing Public Affairs media relations specialist and tour guide. "They're our Twitter followers, so they have very little opportunity to

see what's going on at our base, who lives here and what they do, what roles we are playing in this corner of the world. This time we decided to bring them on base so they can see with their own eyes and hear with their own ears what's going on and have some of those questions answered."

"Many of them might have questions as the only exposure they have about the base [besides Twitter] is local media," he added.

Hiya said his goal for the event was for visitors to have a feeling of familiarity with the base.

"I want them to feel closer to Kadena Air Base than ever before," he said.

The tour began with the typical introduction and icebreaker, but a quick 18th Wing mission brief gave the visitors the context they needed for activities that would take place throughout the day. During the tour, some visitors were surprised to see Okinawa Prefectural Police and 18th Wing security forces displaying their equipment side-by-side for photo opportunities while teaching the participants about how drunken driving incidents are handled on and off base.

"I was really interested in the DUI part. I never knew that Okinawa Police Department and security forces work together to prevent DUIs," said Akira Sakugawa, tour participant. "I'm looking forward to seeing aircraft. I want to know more about the [Special Operations Group] and operational aircraft."

Sakugawa said he's excited to see what else the tour holds.

"I'm interested in aircraft, mainly the F-15 fighter and KC-135 Stratotanker, and the Twitter website," he said. "It explains about the history about the base and I got

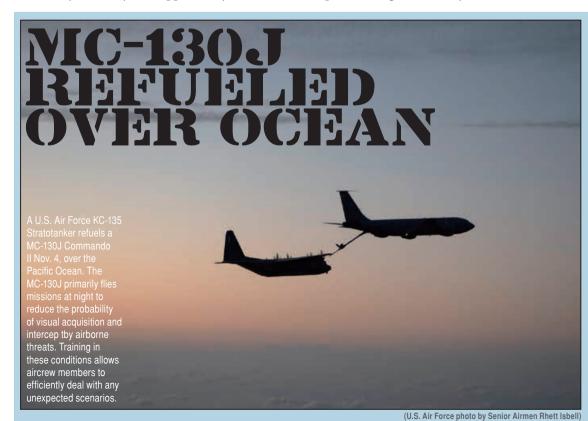
very interested in that, so I follow them

to get more information about the base." The group was then bussed to the recycling center where Victor Bertrand and Josh Komine, facility managers, described how trash is sorted and recycled, not unlike the everyday Japanese home.

After lunch at the base Exchange for some American food, the participants were bussed to the flightline where they saw a 353rd Special Operations Group MC-130J Commando II, met the aircrew and took photos.

The tour, also dubbed the "Twitter Tour," was held partly in celebration of the Japanese-language 18th Wing Twitter account, which hit the 20,000-follower mark in October.

Translation of quotes from Japanese was provided by Shoko Tamaki, 18th Wing Public Affairs.



# IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM YOUR SHOGUN MEDICS

In order to provide better care to our patients, and allow our healthcare teams to focus on readiness, the 18th Medical Group is undergoing a transition starting November 2019 until February 2020. During this transition you may see a change to your Primary Care Manager (PCM), yet the care you receive will remain largely unchanged.

We thank you for your patience and understanding during this time. If you have any comments or concerns you can contact our TRICARE Operations office at 630-4310. In case you were wondering...

Why did my PCM change? In order to focus on delivering specialized care to our diverse population, we are structuring our healthcare teams in way that allows them to dedicate their attention either on active duty readiness requirements or on the needs of our valued family members

**How will I know if my PCM changed?** Patients should receive an email notification letting them know of the change to their PCM.

Am I able to request to keep my original PCM? Quality of care and patient satisfaction are both important to us. However, requests for a PCM change will be routed through MDG leadership and be determined on an individual basis. (All patients have the right to request an appointment for a second opinion with an alternate provider.)

**Is there a way to communicate concerns?** Our Patient and Family Partnership Council (PFPC) meets the first Thursday of every month and allows MDG leaders to hear the voice of the patient and family. For specific details on PFPC, or concerns with your PCM change please contact our Patient Advocate at 630-4146.

How can I communicate with my PCM team? Please check TRICARE Online's Patient Portal to enroll/log in to Secure Messaging at www.TRICAREOnline. com! You can communicate with your PCM team for questions, appointments, medication refills and much more.

# National Aviation Safety Commissioners visit Hickam

By 15th Wing Public Affiars 11/2/2019 - JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii — The National Commission on Military Aviation Safety visited the 15th and 154th wings here on Nov. 1, to speak with leaders as well as Airmen who make the mission happen. The commission is a team of professionals that have joined forces to help assess, identify, and solve issues surrounding military aviation.

Hickam Airfield was one stop of many and is a critical location due to some of the vital operations the installation is a part of.

"Hickam Field is a great location for the commission because we're a joint base," said Lt. Col. Matthew Hood, 15th Wing Chief of Safety. "We also have a joint airfield with the international

airport, Total Force Integration with the Hawaii International Guard, and we have a very diverse mission set."

The base is a major center for disaster relief operations across the Indo-Pacific, is home to the F-22 fighter squadron, and also provides airlift support to Pacific Air Forces commanders. According to the 15th Wing Operation Support Squadron, approximately 20,000 aircraft arrivals and departures occur at Hickam's joint airfield per year. With the amount of potential air time, aviation safety is a major concern.

"I'm thankful that I get to continue to contribute and take the knowledge we've learned, and then help our nation continue to operate effectively," said retired Gen., Raymond E. Johns, NC-

MAS Commissioner. "We want our service members to feel safe and secure in what they're doing."

The commissioner's goal is to survey past problems and then make recommendations on how the military can improve mission readiness. The commission has made over 70 stops to different sites across the Department of Defense, surveying Aircraft mishaps from 2013 to 2018, and listening to concerns from service members. These findings will be presented to the President, Congress and Department of Defense in 2020.

"You have the Guard and the active duty here on Hickam, plus a series of aircraft," said Johns. "You want to look at all aspects of aviation safety. You have to assess the resources, the people, the equipment, the training, and then



(U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Alison Bruce-Maldonado) Members of the National Commission on Military Aviation Safety (NCMAS) take a tour of the F-22 Raptor facility Nov. 1, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

the mission. It all has to come together in harmony."

Change won't happen overnight, but the commissioners hope to provide leaders with information that can better their work environments for the long-run, so mishaps can be diminished overall.

"Right now we're collecting all these pieces in the hopes that the whole system gets better," Johns said. "We hope to allow everyone to feel more appreciated and valued, and we never want them to feel like they have to compromise their safety."

Anyone can send the NCMAS concerns relating to aviation safety by visiting www.militaryaviationsafety.gov. Emails and phone calls are welcomed and completely anonymous when submitted.



# Kadena Air Base Weekly Newspaper 嘉手納基地公式新聞です



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By Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Codie L. Soule

Commander, Task Force 70, Public Affairs

11/12/2019 - YOKOSUKA —The Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) and the U.S. Navy have begun their bilateral Annual Exercise '19, in the waters surrounding Japan.

The exercise that started Nov. 10 provides the two allies the ability to practice and evaluate coordination procedures and interoperability elements while further building on bilateral relationships.

"The bonds between JMSDF and U.S. Navy have become stronger than they

have ever been. Our sturdy relationship will contribute to promoting the Free and Open Indo-Pacific." said Vice Adm. Hiroyuki Kasui, commander, self-defense fleet. "I have strong faith that this bilateral exercise will enhance the interoperability between JMSDF and U.S. Navy, the facilitation of the cooperative response against the contingency situation, and finally, the reliability and the deterrence effects of Japan-U.S. security arrangements."

Throughout the exercise, the JMSDF and U.S. forces will work together in air, surface, and subsurface battle spaces, requiring all participating units to train in

a comprehensive scenario that is designed to practice critical capabilities required to support the defense of Japan and respond to a potential crisis or contingency in the Indo-Pacific region.

"Everything we do in 7th Fleet promotes and reinforces the singular goal of promoting security and stability throughout the region," said Vice Adm. Bill Merz, commander, U.S. 7th Fleet. "Collaboration with partners like the Kaijo Jieitai protects the peace and prosperity that benefit all countries in the region."

Ships assigned to Commander, Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 15 alongside

(Photo courtesy of Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force JMSDF ships participated as the primary surface forces for the exercise.

"As a forward-deployed Destroyer Squadron, it is an absolute privilege to work alongside the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force, as well as the Royal Australian Navy and Royal Canadian Navy, during ANNUALEX '19," said Capt. Steve H. DeMoss, commander, Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 15. "Through multinational exercises such as ANNUALEX, we are able to practice how well we will train and fight together to respond in the defense of Japan, a regional crisis, or a contingency situation in the Indo-Pacific region."







# AFPC improves military retirement eligibility process with automation

By Kat Bailey

Air Force's Personnel Center Public Affairs 11/7/2019 - JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — The Air Force's Personnel Center implemented an automated process today that provides Airmen with an immediate determination of their retirement eligibility and prevents unnecessary application processing.

The retirements branch currently receives about 1,300 eligibility reviews each month, each requiring an AFPC employee to manually process and validate through multiple data sources, resulting in the requesting member waiting several days for a response.

"This automation of the retirement eligibility review eliminates the current customer wait time and gives them instant, accurate feedback," said Ann Lacey, AFPC Military Retirement Policy and Procedures. "That's the most valuable part of this automated process. The instant eligibility determination allows the customer to immediately proceed with next steps in their retirement process."

The eligibility review is the first step for lieutenant colonels and below in the Regular Air Force or Active Guard Reserve to apply for retirement. Using existing Air Force enterprise software called Oracle Policy Automation, AFPC created code to evaluate an Airman's record using 15 eligibility review checklists. OPA imports data from the Military Personnel Data System for the review process and provides immediate on-screen responses based on the results of the check.

If eligible, Airmen may exit the system or continue with the application process. If

ineligible, or if the Airman needs a waiver, the system will provide a detailed response explaining why and any necessary next steps.

"As part of cost effective modernization, we are committed to reducing costs across program lifecycles," Lacey said. "Keep in mind that the automated retirement eligibility review is only as good as the data it receives. Airmen must ensure their information is accurate in MilPDS and work with their Military Personnel Flight to correct any discrepancies."

The automated review is now hosted on the Airman's Retirements home page on myPers rather than virtual MPF. The retirement application process remains the same, with an email to the commander for their recommendation and then final decision from AFPC sent from myPers.

## Commander, Task Force 72 hosts Commander, U.S. 7th Fleet

By Commander Task Force 72
11/12/2019 - KADENA AIR BASE
— Commander, Task Force (CTF) 72
welcomed Vice Adm. Bill R. Merz, Commander, U.S. 7th Fleet, during a tour Nov. 8.

During the visit, Merz inspected the installation's premiere Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Aircraft (MPRA), a Boeing P-8 Poseidon. A career submariner, he said the value of maritime airborne surveillance platforms to anti-submarine warfare cannot be understated.

"There are few capabilities I rely on more than the reach and resilience of my MPRA - The "World Famous Pelicans" are a force multiplier for the entire 7th Fleet."

Merz also took time to speak with Sailors

assigned to Patrol Squadron (VP) 45, the World Famous Pelicans, who are operating P-8s on a seven-month deployment to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations.

"It was an absolute thrill for our Sailors to host Vice Admiral Merz today, show-casing the incredible power projection that the Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance force brings to this Area of Responsibility," said Commander Paul W. Nickell, VP-45's Commanding Officer.

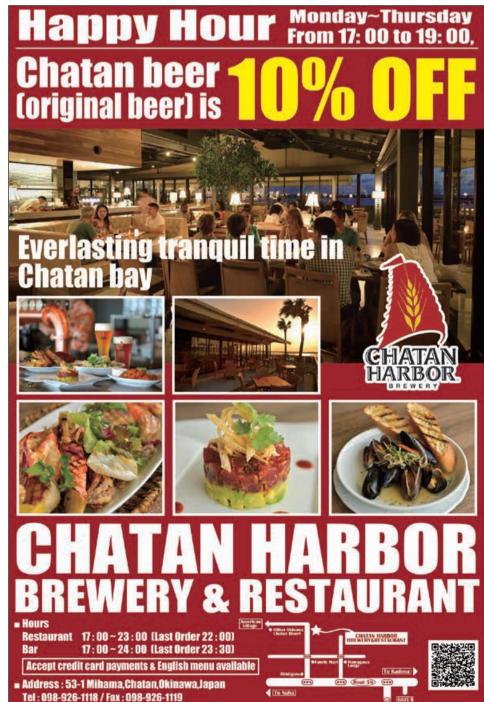
The tour marks the first visit by Vice Adm. Merz since taking command of U.S. 7th Fleet in September, 2019.

CTF 72 leads patrol, reconnaissance and surveillance forces in support of U.S. Seventh Fleet and seeks close interoperabil-



(U.S. Navy photo by Seaman Thomas Higgins) Vice Adm. Bill Merz, commander of U.S. 7th Fleet, meets with Yeoman Specialist 3rd Class Kailin Carter during a visit to Commander, Task Force (CTF) 72.

ity with allied forces, friendly nations, and other U.S. military services in execution of this mission.





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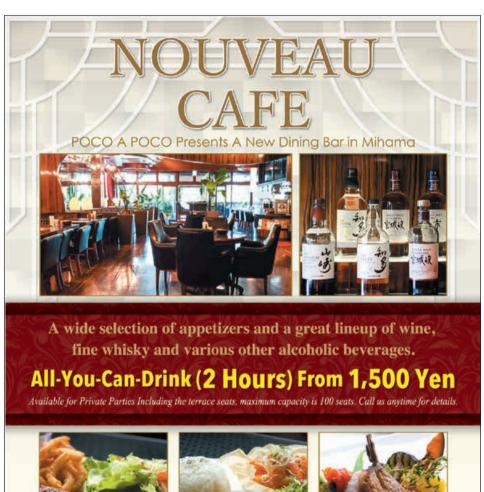
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# **Tsunami Evacuation Drill**

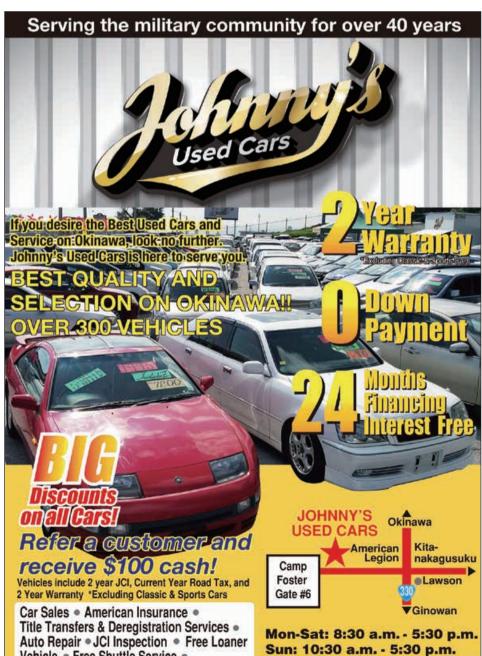


(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Kayla V. Staten) Participants walk during a Tsunami Evacuation Drill at Camp Foster, Nov. 9. The drill was held to convey the readiness and capabilities of the camp to members of the U.S. and local communities in the event of an emergency.



Lunch: 11:30-17:00





# Kadena Air Base Community Notes

To submit an announcement for the base bulletin, please visit www.kadena.af.mil

#### **NOTICE** AFSA Chapter 1553 General Membership Meeting

The Air Force Sergeant's Association (AFSA) Chapter 1553 is holding its monthly general membership meeting Nov. 21, at 11 a.m. in the Kuba Room at the Rocker NCO Club. All ranks and services are welcome to attend. Click here to view current and historical agendas. For more information, contact Donald Fisher at 632-5085.

#### 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.

#### **INFORMATION**

#### 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

#### TRICARE Corner

Nov. 11, 2019 until Dec. 9, 2019, TRICARE is having the open season. This allows eligible beneficiaries to make changes to their health and dental plans, as well as enroll into FEDVIP. However, if you decide to not change your dependents health plans, they will be locked in until the next enrollment season or until a QLE occurs. QLEs are any change in a beneficiary's status, such as PCS, separation, retirement, new baby, college age dependents, or death in the family. You can contact the TRICARE Operations Office at DSN: 630-4310/4026, or come into the MDG, Mon-Fri 0730-1630, we are located across from the Pharmacy on the Main Floor.

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

#### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES KDHS Volunteer Opportunity**

The Kadena High School World Language Department is seeking native French and Spanish speakers to volunteer to interact with students in French and Spanish as part of our community collaboration. Speakers are needed during the school day on Nov. 22 and Dec. 13 between 7:20 a.m. - 2:05 p.m. If you would like to participate, please contact Elizabeth El Ansari at elizabeth.elansari@ dodea.edu for more information and to sign up.

#### Kadena Tax Center Volunteers

The Kadena Tax Center needs volunteers for the upcoming tax season, and we request your help. Kadena Tax Center Volunteer Tax Advisors (VTA) helped prepare over

1,379 returns, saving service members over \$345,331.00 in tax preparation fees, last year. This is a great benefit for Airmen and their families, but as you're aware, this "FREE"service cannot be offered without help from the VTAs. While no longer an extra duty requirement, we request your assistance in determining if any of your personnel are willing to volunteer, and if so, determining if your mission requirements would allow for such support. / — Each VTA is required to attend a 5-day IRS training (unless they have been a VTA within the past 2 years) and work 20 days in the tax center during peak season (February - June 2020). The work days can be accomplished by working 1 full day every week, 2 half days every week, or a block(s) of consecutive days. / — IRS training: This will be provided January 13 - 17, 2020; Volunteers need a laptop for training. / - Volunteers do not need tax experience as training will be given. However, individuals with prior experience are highly encouraged to volunteer. / - DEADLINE: Initial cutoff: January 3, 2020. / Submit VTA names to Mrs. Leigh Dedrick at 634-3300 or email leigh.dedrick@us.af.mil or 18wg.jagenerallaw@us.af.mil.



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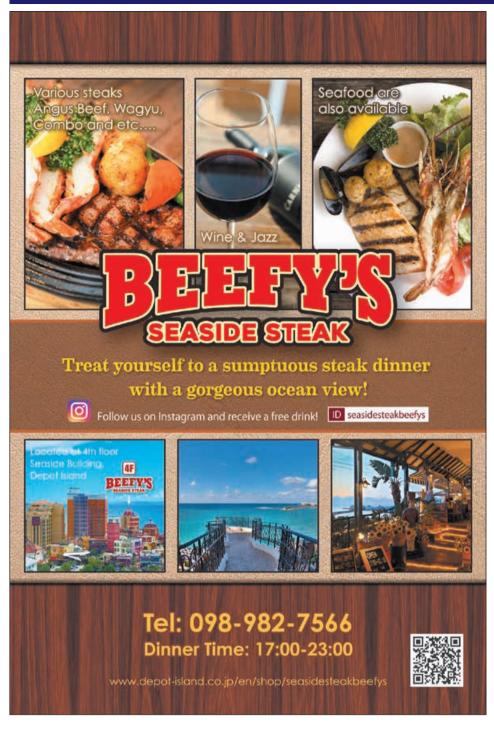


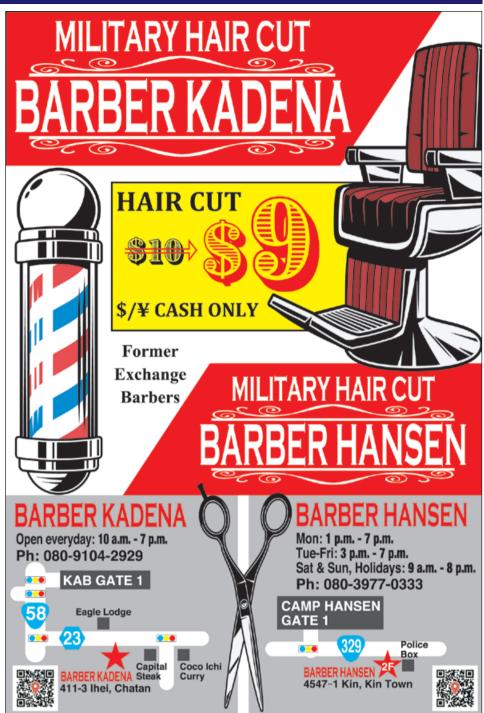


















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