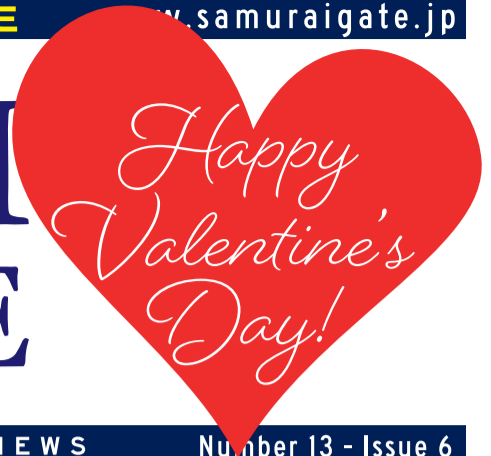


KADENA SHOGUN WEEKLY NEWS



AMURAI GATE



AIR FORCE - ARMY - NAVY - MARINE - COMMUNITY NEWS

Number 13 - Issue 6

18th MSG announces plans for new Teen Center

By Airman 1st Class Mandy Foster

18th Wing Public Affairs
2/11/2020 - KADENA AIR BASE — The 18th Mission Support Group, working with the 18th Civil Engineering Group, is preparing to unveil a new Teen Center at Kadena Air Base.

A wing of the Himawari School Age Care Center, which is across the street from the current Teen Center, will be renovated to create a new space for teens while also addressing the



most common complaint on Kadena Air Base: an overcrowded gym.

Over the years, Kadena's population has grown with new missions, partners and tenant units coming in, but the size of the Riser Fitness Center has remained the same.

"After exten-

sive research and deliberation by the MSG and CEG, it was determined that repurposing the Teen Center as another fitness center for Team Kadena was the best option," said Ms. Victoria Fragomeli, 18th FSS director. "The building, which was a fitness center in the past, is sized correctly with an existing gymnasium."

Ms. Eunike Thomas, 18th Mission Support Group key spouse, stated that parents might be concerned at first about a loss of services and programs for their teens.

"After being fully briefed on the plan, I completely agreed that this is a great idea," said Thomas. "The only change is in location and that is just across the street. All the wonderful services that the 18th FSS provides our teens with will continue but now with a new and improved facility."

The Teen Center's youth sports program will continue to use the gymnasium in the new fitness center and will have first priority when scheduling the use of the gymnasium. Fragomeli

stated that none of the teen's programs will be downsized and teens will play an integral role in making the new space theirs.

"I really think that the teens will be excited about how much of a say they get in this whole process," said Thomas. "We really want to make sure it is a space that feels comfortable."

The Teen Center director will host a contest allowing the teens to submit artwork that they would like to see in the new space. Once the renovations are finished, they will be able to paint murals on the walls to make the new center their own, explained Fragomeli.

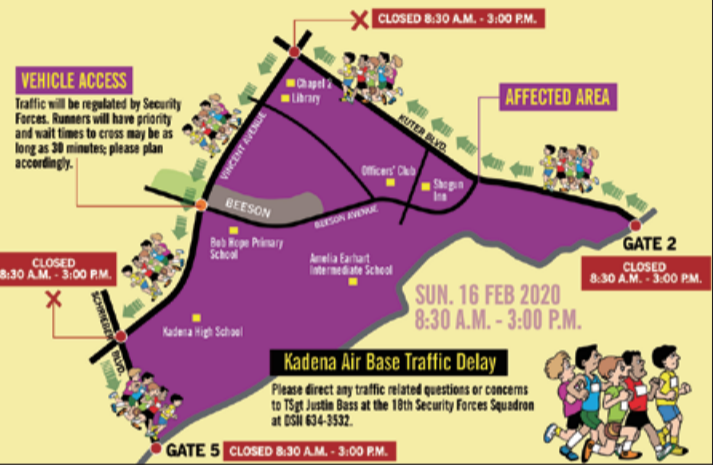
READ TEEN CENTER Page 2



Volunteers needed for 2020 Okinawa Marathon

Volunteers are still needed to provide water and cheer on runners at stations along the base's route on Kadena Air Base during the Okinawa Marathon February 16, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. To sign-up for the event or for more information, please email shoko.tamaki.jp@us.af.mil or call at DSN 634-4142.

2019 OKINAWA MARATHON-KADENA AIR BASE TRAFFIC DELAY SUN. 16 FEB 2020



Gate 2 and Gate 5 will be closed to vehicle traffic from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Roads will be closed from Gate 2 on Kuter Blvd. to Vincent Avenue and from Vincent Avenue to Schreiber Blvd. and from Schreiber Blvd. to Gate 5. However, Gate 2 will remain open for pedestrian traffic with authorized base passes. Gate 1 and Gate 3 will be open as normal.

Runners will enter Kadena AB through Gate 2 on Kuter Blvd., turn left onto Vincent Avenue at Chapel 2, turn left on Schreiber Blvd. at Kadena High School, and exit the base through Gate 5.

The following facilities will be affected by the marathon: Chapel 2; the Kadena Library; Shogun Inn; Officers Club; Kadena High School; Bob Hope Primary School; Amelia Earhart Intermediate School; dormitories located along the route, family housing on Beeson Avenue; the temporary lodging facility; and visiting officers quarters.

Residents living inside the on-base route should consider parking their vehicles outside the affected area if they plan to travel anywhere from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. There will only be one authorized vehicle egress route into/out of the affected area. Vehicle traffic will be allowed to cross at the intersection of Vincent Street and Beeson Street. Traffic will be regulated by Security Forces. Runners will have priority and wait times to cross may be as long as 30 minutes; please plan accordingly. Pedestrians will only be authorized to cross the marathon route on the crosswalks near the Base Exchange, at the Kadena USO, and behind the Officers Club to cross over Kuter Blvd. These crosswalks will also be regulated by security forces.

Please direct any traffic related questions or concerns to TSgt Justin Bass and SSgt Rebecca Cochran at the 18th Security Forces Squadron at DSN 634-3532.

Okinawa teachers train at Kadena



A Kadena Elementary student, Okinawa teachers and assistant language teachers participate in activities during the English Language Initiative at Kadena Elementary School on Kadena Air Base, Jan. 30.

By Staff Sgt. Daniel Fernandez

18th Wing Public Affairs
2/5/2020 - KADENA AIR BASE — Okinawa School teachers from across the island converged at Kadena Air Base Jan.

30, ready to take part in what is now known as the English Language Initiative or ELI.

The initiative provides English language training for Japanese educators by U.S. partners in support of the April 2020 Ja-

pan-wide curriculum roll-out requiring students in fifth and sixth grade to receive English instruction.

The initiative started in May

READ TEACHERS Page 2

(U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Daniel E. Fernandez)

Kadena Tax Center Hours

Tax Season is here! Free tax preparation by trained volunteers is offered at the Kadena Tax Center, bldg. 753 on Fisher Ave (off Douglas Blvd, next to the Fire Station).

Feb. 10 - 14: Mon - Fri 0900-1130 & 1300-1500 (Drop off for simple returns only)
Feb. 19 - 21: Wed - Fri 0900-1130 & 1300-1500 (Drop off for simple returns only)
Feb. 24 - June 15: Mon - Fri 0900-1130 & 1300-1500 (Drop off & Appointments)
Mon, Tues & Wed 1500-1600 (Appointments are available for teachers only)
Closed for lunch daily, Holidays & PACAF Family Days: Feb. 17, 18 & May 25, 26.

Appointments by availability, call 634-5013

Bring in the following required documentation to complete your Tax Return:

- DOD/Military Identification card
- Power of Attorney (if electronic filing on behalf of your spouse)
- Social Security Card(s)
- Bank Routing and Account Number(s)
- Form W-2 (from all employers); 1099-R (from pensions and annuities)
- Form 1099-INT (interest earned); 1099-DIV (dividends earned)*
- Form 1099-B (Sale of stocks/mutual funds)*
- IRA contributions*
- Rental Property (includes total income, mortgage interest, taxes, insurance, and end of year management statement)*
- Child care cost/providers receipt*
- Form 1098-T and Education related expenses*
- Foreign Employer's information (name, address, amount earned)*
- Copy of your 2018 Federal and State Income Tax Return

* if applicable

TEEN CENTER From Page 1



“The current Teen Center is not being used to its full capacity right now,” said Thomas. “Our kids are important and now we have the chance to more efficiently use the space we have on Kadena. It will be better for everyone.”

Fragomeli described how the new Teen Center will be completely separate from the current Himawari SAC Center.

“This new wing for the teens will be separate from the rest of Himawari with their own entrances as well as restrooms,” said Fragomeli. “It will be like two separate buildings under one roof.”

Approximately 70 kids from Himawari SAC will shift to the Shima No Ko SAC since the teens will be using a wing of Himawari. Fragomeli stat-

ed that they are making sure the children’s transportation needs are taken care of as part of the plan with children still being transported to and from school.

“The team has done a great job of ensuring this is a win-win for Kadena,” said Col. Nate Vogel, 18th Wing vice commander. “This relocation is going to solve a long-standing quality of life issue on our installation, while also providing the same programs – and a refurbished and redesigned facility – to our teens.”

Two Town Hall meetings are planned on Feb. 19 and 20 at 5 p.m. at the Enlisted Club’s Rocker Lounge for parents who would like to hear more about what’s happening. The Feb. 19 Town Hall will be geared toward families of the school age children program and Feb. 20 will be for the teens and their families. For more information, contact Mr. Dan Afleje, Youth Programs chief, at 632-0293, or Ms. Cathy Catling, Child and Youth Services flight chief, at 634-2775.

TEACHERS From Page 1



Okinawa Japanese teachers and assistant language teachers share a laugh during the English Language Initiative at Kadena Elementary School on Kadena Air Base, Jan. 30.

2018 as a joint effort between the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, U.S. Department of State, and Department of Defense Education Activity. Thirty teachers and teacher’s assistants from all over Okinawa

attended the two-day long course at Kadena Elementary School.

“This professional development training is for Japanese elementary school teachers and assistant language teachers,”

said Dr. Tracy Rice, regional English language coordinator for the DoDEA Pacific region. “It focuses on interactive cooperative learning and team building activities that enhance English language acquisition skills.”

Rice, who received her doctorate in educational curriculum and instruction, facilitated the training. She created and aligned the activities to the standards and curriculum used by Japanese teachers in a way that can be easily implemented in the classroom.

“This training program has been carried out with great cooperation from the U.S. side,” said Eiichi Umeyama, from the Okinawa Liaison Office of MOFA. “[It] helps Japanese teachers who face a new challenge in teaching English as English education become[s] compulsory in all Japanese elementary schools, beginning April 2020.”

ELI is an innovative avenue to build relationships through education, thus further strengthening the already robust alliance between the U.S. and Japan.

“We should never focus on our differences and instead focus on what we have

in common,” said Elena Gushiken, assistant language teacher Yamauchi Elementary School in Okinawa City, Okinawa. “The children are the future and by teaching Japanese students English, we eliminate the language barrier between them and American children which leads to an exchange of cultures.”

Dr. Rice and her students have implemented the ELI through a “Teachers Training Teachers” model. Over 100 teachers and 2000 students have been directly and indirectly impacted through this program.

“U.S. and Japanese kids can sit in a room together and not have barriers,” said Mioki Lacsamana, a Japanese English-language teacher from Hirugi Elementary School in Nago City, Okinawa. “They are the same kids with the same interests and without the language barrier they can become friends and play sports together.”

Lacsamana has already implemented Dr. Rice’s strategies learned during professional development training in cooperation with the Nago Board of Education, DoDEA and the US Consulate General, Naha.

DoD releases guidance to protect forces from novel coronavirus

By Military Health System Communications Office

1/31/2020 — As the novel coronavirus continues to spread, the Department of Defense has established a Spotlight page to disseminate the latest information on the outbreak and to highlight coordination efforts with other organizations throughout the U.S. government. Acting Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Matthew P. Donovan released a guidance letter for force health protection specifically relating to the novel coronavirus. In it, Donovan states that DoD will follow guidance by the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention. While DoD personnel are not specifically at risk of exposure to the novel coronavirus, the fact that service members and their families travel internationally and throughout the U.S. means they should take additional precautions to avoid risk.

The CDC issued new guidance on precautionary steps health practitioners, service members,

and their families should take to avoid contracting the virus. For health care professionals, the CDC has provided guidance to avoid additional risk from patients who may have been exposed to coronavirus. After identifying a person at risk or patient under investigation based on symptoms and exposure history, those suspected of illness should wear a face mask and be evaluated in a private room with a closed door or placed in an airborne infection isolation room if available.

The best way for most people to avoid getting sick, according to the CDC, is by implementing standard infection control procedures:

- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- If soap and water is not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60-percent alcohol
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with anyone who is sick
- Clean and disinfect frequently

touched objects and surfaces

The CDC has also warned against all nonessential travel to China. For recent travelers to China, the CDC recommends close monitoring for any changes in their health for at least 14 days after travel. If recent travelers develop a cough or have difficulty breathing, they should avoid contact with others and inform their health care providers about symptoms and recent travel. Anyone currently sick should avoid travel.

The World Health Organization has issued a rare public health emergency of international concern regarding the novel coronavirus, while the U.S. State Department issued travel guidance recommending travelers reconsider any plans to visit China. Further, on Jan. 23, the State Department ordered the departure of all nonemergency U.S. personnel and their family members from Wuhan, China, where the novel coronavirus was first discovered.

Please visit the Health.mil coronavirus web page for the latest information.

Kadena Air Base Weekly Newspaper

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18th Wing Public Affairs: 18wgpublicaffairs@us.af.mil DSN:634-3813

Shogun maintainers cool off with new shorts



U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Richard Flagg, 67th Aircraft Maintenance Unit crew chief, shows off his new maintenance shorts Jan. 23, at Kadena Air Base. The shorts are intended to alleviate some of the heat stress maintenance Airmen experience while operating under the hot Okinawa sun.

(U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Rhett Isbell)

By 18th Wing Public Affairs

2/5/2020 - KADENA AIR BASE — As the Okinawa sun beats down on the flight line, Airmen at Kadena Air Base, must get creative in order to beat the heat and humidity. To help Airmen combat the blazing temperatures, the Air Force had an ace up its sleeve: blue uniform shorts.

18th Maintenance Group Airmen were issued shorts to wear on the flight line to alleviate some of the heat stress soon to be brought on by the hot, Okinawan summers. Flight line authorization of the shorts was a direct result of feedback provided from maintenance Airmen to their leadership.

“We started noticing maintenance or-

ganizations in hot weather environments across the Air Force allowing their Airmen the option to wear shorts,” said Chief Master Sgt. Gregory Austin, 18th Maintenance Group superintendent. “Our commander was fully onboard in getting shorts approved for our maintainers and told me to make it happen. When my Airmen need something, it’s my job as a Chief to make sure they get it.”

Other bases that struggle with hot climates, such as Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada, Luke AFB in Arizona and Tyndall AFB in Florida, began issuing shorts to Airmen last summer. While many Airmen around the world are now enjoying the benefits of this modified uniform, they are

not authorized to be worn everywhere a traditional uniform is allowed. The shorts may only be worn on the flight line and the flight line dining facility and members must change out of them before leaving those areas.

After working through the mechanics of how to purchase the shorts, the 18 MXG resource advisors researched what type of shorts were most appropriate for the flight line, finally choosing those typically worn in the maintenance and construction fields in the civilian sector. The shorts are tough, flexible and stain-resistant and Airmen noticed the desired effect almost immediately.

“I’m always hot out on the flight line,” said Airman 1st Class Richard Flagg, 67th Aircraft Maintenance Unit crew chief. “Even at night I’m hot outside so these shorts are really nice for keeping cool.”

Along with the work shorts allowing Airmen to be more productive and comfortable in their work environment, they also came with the added bonus of allowing them to enjoy the cool, island breeze.

“I think this will improve morale and productivity,” Flagg said. “If you feel bad then you’re probably not going to be as productive compared to if you’re comfortable. I know when I feel good I want to work harder.”

Austin explained the shorts will assist Airmen from overheating in temperatures over 90 degrees Fahrenheit and humidity levels that climb to 95 percent—which is typical of Okinawan summers—while allowing them to proficiently perform at a more consistent level throughout their shifts.

“Wearing these shorts on the flight line is such a cool and unique opportunity for us,” Austin said. “Being able to have happier, more productive Airmen is always the goal, so we can continue to build and maintain a more lethal force.”

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.

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Sailors with 3rd Marine Logistics Group volunteer at AmerAsian School



U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Jennifer Knapp praises creativity in unique insect splices from students at the AmerAsian School, Ginowan City, Jan. 31. Sailors with 3rd Medical Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, volunteered to teach entomology at the AmerAsian School to better the students' understanding of insect adaptations and life cycles.

(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Alpha Hernandez)

CFAO Post Office mail delivery



(U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class David R. Krigbaum)

Logistics Specialist Seaman Emmanuel Vega and Logistics Specialist 2nd Class Jordan Weppner, assigned to Naval Supply Systems Command Fleet Logistics Center Yokosuka Site Okinawa, offload mail for sorting at the Commander, Fleet Activities Okinawa post office Feb. 4.

Military OneSource offers free tax prep

By Terri Moon Cronk

Defense.gov

2/6/2020 - WASHINGTON — Tax season can be a dreaded time of year for many people, but the Defense Department's Military OneSource offers the MilTax program to ease filing stress for service members and their families.

There is no need to worry about costs in tax preparation because the services are free. MilTax kicked off on Military OneSource Jan. 22, offering electronic filing via do-it-yourself software and personalized support from a tax consultant.

Those who qualify to use the free MilTax program are active duty service members and their families, National Guard

members and reservists, survivors and veterans who have left the service in the last 365 days, said Kelly Smith, DoD's Military Community and Family Policy program analyst.

Smith emphasized that whether filing on one's own or seeking out assistance from a tax consultant, MilTax services are available year-round for extensions and circumstances unique to the military community.

"It is important for service members and families to know that they have options when it comes to support during tax-filing season," she said.

"Services are offered well past the tax deadline," she said, noting that some ser-

vice members may file extensions, have additional properties, are looking to sell their homes and other situations that are unique to military members.

"Tax consultants can let families know how to maximize their refund," she added.

A particular advantage of using MilTax is the military tax expertise that the Military OneSource tax consultants bring with them to each session.

They are certified public accountants or enrolled IRS agents, she said. They are knowledgeable about costs incurred during permanent changes of station, living in more than one state during the year, how to navigate benefits survivors may be entitled to and other military-specific is-

sues.

The tax consultants are up to date on tax-law changes that would affect service members.

"Something we're constantly working on and striving to do within military community and family policy is to raise awareness about the services that are offered through Military OneSource, so we're constantly letting people know what's available, and that support is essentially an entitlement to them to help them live their best military life," Smith said.

To use MilTax, visit the MilTax website, call 800-342-9647, or live chat to schedule an appointment with a Military OneSource tax consultant.

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U.S. Marines with 1st Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, and members of the 5th Brigade, Japan Ground Self-Defense Force, conduct a ceremony concluding the end of exercise Northern Viper on Yausubetsu Training Area, Hokkaido, Feb. 8.

(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Jackson Dukes)

By 1st Lt. Brett Vannier

3rd Marine Division
2/10/2020 - HOKKAIDO, Japan — U.S. Marines from across III Marine Expeditionary Force, and members of 5th Brigade, Japan Ground Self-Defense Force, say goodbye as exercise Northern Viper 2020 comes to an end, concluding the training that has taken place for the last few weeks in Hokudaien and Yausubetsu Training Areas, Hokkaido, Jan. 26 to Feb. 8.

Over the past two weeks, a total of over 3,000 U.S. and Japan forces conducted a variety of training events. Starting off, the Marines were taught how to simply move on skis; a skill well rehearsed by the members of the Northern Army. They progressed to moving with weight and eventually reached a level of proficiency that enabled them to fire and maneuver on a live-fire range, all while on skis.

The forces also conducted bilateral, combined arms and live-fire training in conjunction with ground and aviation units. These training events included a variety of machine guns, mortars, artillery, and High Mobility Artillery Rocket

System (HIMARS).

Not all of the training occurred on foot though. The Joint Light Tactical Vehicle was brought to the exercise for its debut introduction to the force. Several heavy vehicles, Amphibious Assault Vehicles and Light Armored Vehicles joined the fray as well. Also supporting with an overhead display of firepower, were several AH-1Z Viper and UH-1Y Venom helicopters conducting a live-fire rocket attack for the first time ever in Hokkaido. The MV-22B Osprey provided several heliborne troop inserts with its vertical lift and takeoff capability as well.

Adding to the list of firsts for the U.S.-Japan alliance, the forces were permitted to fly an RQ-11B Raven Small Unmanned Aircraft System (SUAS). This is the first time approval has been granted to fly fixed-wing SUAS in Japan, and the opportunity was a significant step forward for the alliance and demonstrates a deepening bond between Japan and the U.S.

The weather in Hokkaido was ideal for the cold weather training sought by the U.S. and Japan forces. There was plenty of

snow to maneuver through, clear skies for flying, and a cold bite to the air to test the warriors and equipment alike. The forces showed up looking to improve their tactics, techniques, and procedures in cold weather, and they had ample opportunity to do so.

“The Marine Air-Ground Task Force you worked with in the past will not be the MAGTF you work with in the future,” said Capt Adam Gusme, the 4th Marine Regiment adjutant. “Through this iteration of training and others like it, we’ve developed a new understanding of the environments we can fight in, and discovered ways to find success in the harshest climates.”

Because of the clear threats to peace and security in this region, the highest levels of readiness must be maintained to respond at a moment’s notice to any threat, crisis, or humanitarian disaster. The bilateral training at Northern Viper built upon an already strong alliance and capable force. There’s already excitement in the air about the benefits and opportunities possible for the next iteration of Northern Viper.

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Pathfinder Scouts offer services in the following focus areas:

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Amphibious Rapid Deployment Brigade embarks for the first time with America ESG, 31st MEU



▲ Marines with Charlie Company, Battalion Landing Team, 1st Battalion 5th Marines, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, and Japanese Amphibious Rapid Deployment Brigade service members communicate during a simulated bilateral small-boat raid on Kin Blue, Feb. 9.

By 1st Lt. Demond Glover

31st Marine Expeditionary Unit
2/10/2020 - KIN BLUE — The embarked forces conducted boat raid scenarios over a few weeks' time to improve tactics and techniques between Marines of the 31st MEU and the soldiers of ARDB boat platoon, in coordination with the Whidbey Island-class dock landing ship USS Germantown (LSD 42). By completing these scenarios, the Navy-Marine Corps team and ARDB demonstrated the ability to cooperatively execute complex mission sets in littoral environments.

"Marines and Sailors of the America ESG are proud to work together with the ARDB boat platoon and JGSDF, as we refine our naval integration in order to deny adversaries opportunity to exploit maritime terrain, said Col. Robert Brodie, commanding officer of the 31st MEU." It is imperative that we continue to challenge each other and grow as an interdependent team that can flex combat power and adaptability in any contested environment. This patrol will mark a new milestone in our deterrence efforts in the Indo-PACOM AOR."

During boat raid training, the ARDB



▲ Landing Craft Air Cushion 09 assigned to Naval Beach Unit 7 unloads a Marine Corps High-Mobility Artillery Rocket System with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit on the shoreline after Marines with Charlie Company, Battalion Landing Team, 1st Battalion 5th Marines, 31st MEU, and Japanese service members with the Amphibious Rapid Deployment Brigade secured the beach during a bilateral small-boat raid on Kin Blue, Feb. 9.



▲ U.S. Navy Capt. Rich LeBron, left, the commander of Amphibious Squadron 11, and Col. Brodie, the commanding general of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, talk with news media during a bilateral small-boat raid on Kin Blue, Feb. 9.

boat platoon and Charlie Company, Battalion Landing Team, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines (BLT 1/5) insert by combat rubber raiding craft (CRRC) from the Germantown to Kin Blue Beach. Following the completion of the scenarios, the participating forces had demonstrated the ability to rapidly insert from ship-to-shore in austere conditions in order to execute critical missions on the ground.

Boat raids typically involve the rapid deployment of infantry Marines in CRRCs that can deploy from naval vessels such as Dock Landing Ships to attack an objective

and leave a contested area before an adversary has the ability to react.

Boat Co. consists of over 170 Marines from BLT 1/5 specially trained in combat swimming and raid force mission sets, and highly adaptable and responsive in crisis scenarios.

In order to successfully execute raid training, the 31st MEU team utilizes the Rapid Response Planning Process in order to quickly respond to and improve the decision-making cycle that prepares Marines and Sailors for complex mission profiles within hours upon receiving an execution or warning order.

"It's great to see the U.S. Sailors and Marines work together with our JGSDF counterparts," Said Capt. Rich LeBron, commodore, Amphibious Squadron 11. "Pursuing integration of naval forces, to include those of allies and partners, goes a long way in delivering security and stability in the Indo-Pacific region."

The Germantown is a dock landing ship used to assist in transportation of Marines of the 31st MEU that embark and land elements of a landing force in amphibious operations. LSDs support conventional landing craft, serve as aviation platforms, and transport additional cargo that assists a Marine Air-Ground Task Force.

The 31st MEU, the Marine Corps' only continuously forward-deployed MEU, provides a flexible and lethal force comprised of a command element, Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron (VMM) 265 (REIN), Combat Logistics Battalion 31, and BLT 1/5 ready to perform a wide range of military operations across the Indo-Pacific region.

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Kadena Air Base Community Notes

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

NOTICE Kadena Base Library Closures

Kadena Base Library will be closed on Sunday, Feb. 16 due to the Okinawa Marathon and on Monday, Feb. 17 for the federal holiday, also Friday, Feb. 28 for a staff work day. During this time, the online library resources will be accessible via the library's card catalog which is linked from the Kadena FSS website, and via the AF Portal under the "Library & Resources" tab. For more information, contact Holly May at DSN: 634-1502.

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.

Job Opportunity with WIC Overseas

Choctaw Staffing Solutions (CCS) has the following full-time positions available at Okinawa Women, Infants & Children (WIC) Overseas: Administrative Assistant: Requires a high school diploma or equivalent with secretarial/business office experience or education. Business training or associate's degree preferred. Experience in health-related field desirable. Must keyword 40-60 wpm. Job requirements include good computer skills and excellent customer service skills. Must be a U.S. citizen. For consideration, please e-mail your resume and cover letter to: mpapplewhite@choctawglobal.com or fax to: (210) 525-1398 or you may mail your information to the address below.

Choctaw Staffing Solutions / Attn: WIC Overseas / 70 NE Loop 410, Suite 400, San Antonio, TX 78216s / Ph: (210) 341-3336

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 911.

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.

U.S. Navy Women's Dragon Boat Team is looking for prospective paddlers

The U.S. Navy Women's Dragon Boat Team is looking for prospective paddlers (active duty, dependent 18+, all military services welcome) interested join the team. Tryout begins on Wednesday, Feb. 19, at the Kadena Marina. No paddling experience necessary. We'll provide the paddles and teach you the skills and techniques. Make your tour memorable and experience the rich culture and tradition of dragon boating while stationed here in Okinawa. Questions? Send us a message on our official Facebook team page, U.S. Navy Dragon Boat Team. Paddles up!

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

UPCOMING EVENTS Hiring Our Heroes Career Summit

The Hiring Our Heroes Career Summit is being held Feb. 26-27 at the Rocker Enlisted Club and provides transitioning service members, spouses and veterans the opportunity to learn from HR experts on current hiring trends, how to land the interview, and the ever growing importance of networking. The summit kicks off with a series of workshops, offers a networking opportunity with nationally recognized companies, provides a Military Spouse Symposia, and wraps up with a career fair. Visit www.hiringourheroes.org/events for more details and registration. For more information, contact Emily Cassell at DSN: 634-3366.

2020 Annual Volunteer Recognition Ceremony Nominations

The Airman and Family Readiness Center (AFRC) will host the 2020 Annual Volunteer Recognition Ceremony (AVRC) on April 24 to recognize the contributions and accomplishments of Kadena volunteers in 2019. Nomination for awards are currently being accepted. The following awards will be presented at the AVRC pending nominations: Volunteer Excellence Award (VEA), Angel Award, Presidential Volunteer Service Award (PVSA), and the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal (MOVSM). For more information, please contact the AFRC at 634-3366 for award package nomination information and submission deadlines.

Convoy Warrior Association POW/MIA 5K

The Convoy Warrior Association is proud to present a POW/MIA 5k at the Risner Fitness Center on Feb.

22. The funds raised will go to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency. Come out and support the POW/MIA to help bring home our unaccounted for brothers and sisters. Everyone, including your families, are more than welcome to come out and participate. There will be refreshments provided at the event. Registration is a \$5 fee for adults, kids 12 and under will run for free! Sign up at 7 a.m., run time starts at 8 a.m. For more information, contact A1C Nicholas Turk at nicholas.turk.1@us.af.mil or DSN: 634-4505.

Kadena ACE (E1-E4) Meeting

Join Kadena ACE (Airmen Committed to Excellence) on March 17 at the Wired Bean Café from 1100-1200, as we enjoy a FREE LUNCH and talk about how we can make the experience at Kadena the best it can be! We use this time to discuss upcoming events, volunteer opportunities and professional development workshops that we conduct on a regular basis. Please contact our president, SrA Jhed Manalo at 634-1177 or via email at jhed.manalo@us.af.mil.

Expanding Your Horizons: The Pathway of Managing Your Air Force Career

When you are looking for information in regards of your Air Force career, do you feel lost? Do you know where to start? If not, look no further than the upcoming ACE Professional Development Team & Kadena Top III development opportunity. There will be a seminar covering need-to-know functions found on the Air Force Portal including: assignment cycles, finding your records in various systems, career advancements tools, etc. Please come out and gain some tools to set you on the right path to find the information you need. Join us at the McDaniel Center (Kadena Advisor Career Classroom) on Feb. 19 at 10:00-11:00 for the ACE Professional Development Seminar. For more information, contact MSgt Rodney Dunn or MSgt Patricia VanBeek.

FY20 Pre-Season Motorcycle Brief

March 6 is the FY20 Pre-Season Motorcycle Brief.

Whales Are Waiting!
Whale Watching Tour
Departures from **Chatan Hamakawa Port** Dec. 21 through Apr. 5, 2020
Departures at 9:30/13:30
• Assemble 30min before departure
• Tour is about 3 hours

Including	Adult (over 12 yrs)	¥4,700
• Boat fare • Insurance	Child (5-11 yrs)	¥3,600
• Life jacket	Infant (under age 4)	¥1,500
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If no whales encountered
An extra tour for free. **or** Full refund on tours from Jan. 14 through Apr. 5.

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This briefing is open to all motorcycle riders to fulfill their pre-season briefing requirement. Audience must be in place by 0850, and opening remarks will start promptly at 0900 at the Wing Safety Complex. This event will last seven hours and lunch will be available for purchase: \$5 Combo - 2 Hotdogs, 1 Bag of Chips, and 1 Drink / \$6 Combo - 1 Burger, 1 Hotdog, 1 Bag of Chips, and 1 Drink / \$7 Combo - 2 Burgers, 1 Bag of Chips, and 1 Drink *Individual prices will be available* If you have any questions, contact SSgt Clemons at DSN: 634-SAFE (7233)

Amazing Kadena Race

The Risner Fitness Center will be hosting our FIRST EVER Amazing Kadena Race on March 20 at 1000. The event is free and open to all DoD ID card holders 18yrs and older. Contestants will race across Kadena in two-person teams competing in unique activities and solving clues to the finish line. Winning team will receive a \$100 dollar FSS gift card. Please stop by the Risner Fitness Center to sign up of for more information.

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
Vision and Hearing Screening**

The Kadena Elementary School is looking for volunteers to assist vision and hearing screening on March 11 and 12 from 08:30-14:00. Volunteers will need to arrive 30 minutes prior to the event to receive necessary training. Volunteers will help the vision portion by pointing at letters on the vision board; they will also help the hearing portion by pressing the button checking for responses to the beeping sound. Contact Adjoua Kouadio at DNS: 634-0722 for more information.

Seeking Earth Day Volunteers

The 718th CES Environmental Office is gearing up for this year's Earth Day 2020 early. Even though Earth Day is celebrated in April, we have a lot of planning to get started. We have our first meeting scheduled for Feb. 6 at 10:00 in building 3621, Environmental Office. If you would like to be a part of helping out some of the events we have lined out, or you have something special in mind based

on this year's theme, "Opportunities for a Zero - Carbon Future," please join us: 12 Hour Walk/Run kick off, Art Contest (At DoDEA Schools), Beach Clean-up, Clothes Donation, Housing and Facility Clean-up, Reef Diving Clean-up, Sacred Site(s) Clean-up, Tree Planting. For more information, contact Robert Lewis at DSN 634-4038 or Andrea Gatch at DSN 634-3253.

Shogun Crossfit Volunteers

Shogun Crossfit is looking for volunteers with a Crossfit Level 1 Certification or higher and a CPR card to help lead our community during the scheduled training times (05:45, 11:45, 17:30). Volunteers help keep our affiliate free for all DoD military and dependents in Okinawa. Email us at shoguncrossfit@gmail.com if you want to join the Shogun Crossfit Team.

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Adult and Pediatric CPR/First Aid/AED Course (Blended Format)

- Wednesday, 12 February - 1800-2000
- Saturday, 7 March -0900-1100
- Wednesday, 11 March -1800-2000

Adult and Pediatric CPR/First Aid/AED Course (Full Length Format)

- Saturday, 22 February - 0900-1600
- Saturday, 21 March -0900-1600

Babysitter's Training

- Saturday, 14 March - 0800-1700
- Saturday, 28 March -0800-1700

**** Please contact to Kadena Red Cross DSN:634-1979/1294 for course registration.**

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