



# The Air Force is protecting Airmen while protecting the nation



A U.S. Air Force F-15 Eagle assigned to the 67th Fighter Squadron, Kadena Air Base, assigned to the 14th Fighter Squadron, Misawa Air Base, breaks away from a KC-135 Stratotanker assigned to the 909th Air Refueling Squadron, Kadena Air Base, after being refueled during Exercise Cope North 20, Feb. 25, Andersen Air Force Base, Guam.

(U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Gracie Lee)

## By Lt. Gen. Dorothy Hogg

U.S. Air Force Surgeon General

3/24/2020 — How do you stand “shoulder to shoulder” in a time of COVID-19? For the United States Air and Space Forces, and indeed the entire United States military, this is no small question. It is so pressing, in fact, that the Air Force’s medical staff, in collaboration with experts nationwide, have been working nearly around the clock to answer it.

It’s not hard to understand why.

The critical responsibilities and missions of our 685,000 total force active duty Guard and Reserve Airmen do not fade even during a pandemic. Across a worldwide enterprise, our Airmen must remain healthy so they can maintain full readiness and the capability to protect our nation’s security and interests.

Achieving those goals often demands Airmen work literally “shoulder to shoulder” in tight spaces over long hours. You can find it with crews aboard our aircraft, maintenance personnel on the ground, analysts at remote radar stations, recruits at training centers, and of course, at every Air Force barracks. Even within the sprawling Pentagon, thousands of active duty and civilian staff work in tightly bunched cubicles.

With the coronavirus’s arrival, those arrangements must be modified to ensure not only the health and safety of all personnel but to assure the Air Force’s unblinking ability to complete all missions.

Air Force medics and health personnel around the globe are resolutely following and ensuring compliance with guidelines issued by the Department of Defense and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It’s why leaders at each of our bases are working closely with local public health officials to actively monitor the health of Airmen and their families, as well as to monitor those who have been stricken by COVID-19. By now, most Americans know that safety demands maintaining a social distance beyond which the virus can spread. It means being alert to symptoms including low-grade fever, respiratory distress and body aches.

To slow the spread of the coronavirus, DoD has enacted travel restrictions, including the halt of domestic travel for service members. The goal is to “flatten the disease curve” by slowing the spread of the virus and preventing medical systems from being overwhelmed.

Within the Air Force, our medics are executing all available measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in accordance with CDC and force health protection guidelines, and remain aligned with state and local public health organizations.

It demands ingenuity and flexibility. In Europe and Asia, where the outbreak has been severe, we have adjusted health procedures to account for the threat and continue to safely fly fighter and bomber missions to deter aggression. And across the globe, our airlift forces have con-

tinued their missions apace, refueling U.S. aircraft and delivering vital cargo. It is in the best tradition of our service, echoing the work of those who flew during the Berlin Airlift and other global crises.

We are reminding – and reminding again – commanders and senior non-commissioned officers about best practices such as avoiding contact with those who are sick, washing your hands for at least 20 seconds, and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Our Airmen have always displayed such agility, adaptability and resiliency.

Although it is easy to forget the military’s long history in the fight against infectious diseases, that history informs our actions and decisions today. The Office of Malaria Control in War Areas was established in 1942 and charged with protecting soldiers from malaria and other vector-borne diseases, such as typhus. It is the direct forerunner of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

It’s worth remembering, especially now, that military physicians and researchers played important roles in developing vaccines against smallpox, yellow fever, influenza and typhoid.

We do not yet know how COVID-19 will evolve, how many Americans will be infected or die. What we do know is that the Air Force will take the actions necessary to protect our Airmen while also protecting the nation.

## STANDARD PRECAUTIONS



Clean your hands often with soap and water and/or hand sanitizer.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.



Avoid close contact, putting distance between yourself and other people.



Stay home if you’re sick, except to get medical care.



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Wear a face mask if you are sick.



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(U.S. Air Force Graphic by Rosario “Charo” Gutierrez)

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# Air Force fighter pilot joins Navy-Marine Corps Team



Air Force pilot Capt. Melanie Ziebart poses for a photo on the flight deck of amphibious assault ship USS America (LHA 6), March 7.

(U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Jonathan Berlier)

**By MCSN Jonathan Berlier**

USS America (LHA 6)

3/18/2020 - PHILIPPINE SEA —

“When I get into the cockpit, it’s like the world shuts off around me and the only thing that matters is the mission,” said Air Force Capt. Melanie Ziebart, a pilot assigned to Yokota Air Force Base. “Being a single-seat fighter pilot is incredibly rewarding and confidence-building because it’s only you in that jet and you’re trusted to figure it out when things go wrong.”

Becoming a fighter pilot in the United States Air Force has been something of a family tradition. It was Ziebart’s parents who inspired her from a very young age, both of whom were fighter pilots. Her father was an F-16 pilot with the 35th Fighter Squadron at Kunsan Air Base, Korea. Her mother was in the first graduating class of women at the Air Force Academy; an essential asset to paving the way for women in military aviation. After pilot training, she became an instructor for the T-37 and later went on to fly the KC-135.

“I absolutely look up to her,” said Ziebart. “She never let the attitude of men-thinking-women-didn’t-belong-as-pilots deter her. Her positive outlook and determination inspired me throughout my Air Force journey and her experiences taught me that gender doesn’t matter in the cockpit.”

Her parents took her to an Air Force

Academy football game where she first watched the Thunderbirds fly over the stadium, that moment would become a significant memory and helped fuel her passion for flying which, combined with inspiration from her parents, cemented her decision to become a pilot.

“Before college I was really dedicated to school and sports,” said Ziebart. “I always knew I wanted to be a fighter pilot, so I worked really hard to set myself up for that goal. My parents both taught me that I could be and do anything that I wanted if I worked hard enough. I always knew that I wanted to serve my country in some way and based on their stories, flying jets didn’t seem like a bad way to do it.”

As she grew older, Ziebart continued towards her childhood goal. During her time at the University of Southern California, she joined the ROTC program. She became Detachment 060’s Air Force ROTC Distinguished Graduate and Cadet of the Year, to kick-start her career as a pilot.

After graduating, Ziebart was chosen for the Euro-NATO Joint Jet pilot training program at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas. There, she was officially selected as a fighter pilot and chosen to fly the F-16 Viper, the same aircraft her father flew.

She went on to fly the F-16C with the 80th Fighter Squadron at Kunsan Air Base, Korea. Ziebart said it was a special

moment receiving her first orders to the same fighter assignment in Korea her father had 30 years before her and she remembered the moment when she found her father’s name-tag on display at Kunsan.

“I was able to go over there and put my name-tag next to his and get a picture,” said Ziebart. “That was a pretty cool experience.”

Her fighter pilot dreams would take her much farther than she realized. Ziebart is now an Air Force exchange pilot flying with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 121 Green Knights, reinforcing Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron (VMM) 265, aboard the amphibious assault ship USS America (LHA 6).

She now flies the F-35B Lightning II aircraft aboard the ship, making her an essential asset to three branches of the U.S. military.

“I’m lucky to be surrounded by passionate, dedicated, and talented people,” said Ziebart. “Being in the military has afforded me more opportunities than I ever imagined and flying jets is the best job in the world!”

There are currently six Air Force pilots flying the F-35B in Marine squadrons as a way to disseminate inter-service tactics and strengthen joint-force capabilities. She is the only one among them to deploy

with an embarked squadron.

“Because of my assignment with the Green Knights in Iwakuni, I’m the first one lucky enough to deploy on a Navy ship and get the full experience of being an amphibious war-fighter,” said Ziebart. Switching to the F-35B was completely different for Ziebart. She explained how the jet gives her access to more situational awareness of surface and air threats than the F-16, making her a more efficient fighter pilot. She also enjoys the cutting-edge technology found in the F-35B. Although some of the flying experiences are very different, Ziebart’s fundamental skills of dogfighting and tactically maneuvering a jet transferred quickly to the F-35B.

“The F-35B’s advancement in technology is truly impressive and the amount of information that we get on our giant display is game-changing,” said Ziebart. “It’s such a surreal feeling to take-off, fly at the speed of sound, simulate shooting a missile at an adversary, then drop a bomb and watch it explode on a screen in my jet, and call that my job.”

Her passion for flying is driven by gratifying experiences in the air. She said the most enjoyable part is the unique challenge that comes from flying a new aircraft in a new environment.

“It’s been challenging and humbling to throw myself into an environment that I knew absolutely nothing about,” said Ziebart. “Luckily every Sailor and Marine has been quick to teach me boat-life and keep me from getting lost in the passageways.”

Ziebart’s inter-service experience has been eye-opening. She said she has been involved in planning missions she never knew existed and learned the incredible capabilities of the Navy and Marine Corps team.

“Each ‘first’ is making me a more rounded and confident pilot,” said Ziebart. “I welcome each challenge that Navy-life brings and I’m enjoying the process of learning more about our missions and capabilities here.”

After her exchange with the Marines, she will return to an Air Force squadron and her goal is to teach and mentor young fighter pilots as an instructor.

“I’ve been inspired by the dedication and passion of so many instructors and I would love to contribute back to our community in that way.”

America, flagship of America Expeditionary Strike Group 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit team is operating in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations to enhance interoperability with allies and partners and serve as a ready response force to defend peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

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# AMC temporarily suspends most Space-A travel due to COVID-19

**By Air Mobility Command Public Affairs**

3/24/2020 - SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. — Air Mobility Command today temporarily suspended most Space-Available travel aboard AMC and contracted aircraft, except for certain Category I, IV, and VI travel, effective March 21 in order to limit the new coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) spread and its impact on the force.

The temporary suspension remains in effect through May 11.

Travelers under certain categories, including service members and dependents on emergency leave and Wounded Warriors, remain eligible for Space-Available travel, as noted in the table below. However, travel via Space-Available is never guaranteed and, as always, travel is available only on a space-available basis.

At the recommendation of U.S.

Transportation Command and Air Mobility Command leadership, Hon. Ellen Lord, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, authorized the temporary suspension in order to increase force health protection measures and decrease risk to the Department of Defense mission amidst the outbreak.

Medical screening protocols still apply for all travelers.

All other categories of Space-A travel are ineligible for travel consideration. These limitations are necessary to preserve force readiness, limit the continuing spread of COVID-19, and preserve the health and welfare of everyone.

Space-A travel aboard AMC and contracted aircraft is afforded to eligible DoD personnel, their eligible dependents, retirees, and other eligible passengers.

This measure is designed to stem

the transmission of the Coronavirus, and will significantly reduce threats to mission and force, by reducing the possibility that aircrew or screeners at passenger terminals may come into contact with those who may have contracted the virus.

“Our focus remains on force health protection, and this temporary suspension of Space-A travel represents a sensible course of action to increase force health protection measures, while simultaneously decreasing risk to mission from COVID-19,” said Lord. “This move enables our DoD and contract aircrew and passenger terminal personnel to focus on sustaining the warfighter and assuring the accomplishment of the DoD mission.”

For additional information on Space-Available Travel, visit Air Mobility Command’s Travel website online at <https://www.amc.af.mil/Home/AMC-Travel-Site/>

# Air Force Master Sergeant (20E7) promotion board rescheduled due to COVID-19 restrictions

**By Angelina Casarez**

Air Force’s Personnel Center Public Affairs  
3/20/2020 - JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas—

The Air Force Master Sergeant (20E7) promotion board originally set to convene here March 23 is rescheduled to ensure personal health and safety concerns associated with Coronavirus disease-19, or COVID-19, can be maintained.

The 20E7 board is now scheduled to convene the first week of June, with a public promotion release projected for the end of July. The delay does not impact the currently planned first “sew-on” increment, which remains scheduled for 1 August.

“We realize the importance and impact promotion boards have on Airmen’s careers, but for health and safety it’s important we make these prudent adjustments at this time,” said Maj. Gen. Andrew J. Toth, Commander, Air Force’s Personnel Center. “Given the importance of promotion boards, we are working on a number of process adjustments and facility mitigations allowing us to hold future boards while complying with health and safety guidelines. Unfortunately, we were unable to get those measures in place for the 20E7 board which is the largest board we conduct. This is a rapidly-changing situation and we’re constantly coordinating with Headquarters Air Force to take care of our Airmen and their families the best way possible.”

AFPC will closely monitor record updates for the 20E7 promotion cycle.

At this time we plan to have modifications in place allowing us to conduct all other promotion boards as scheduled.

# Air Force provides WAPS testing guidance

**By The Air Force’s Personnel Center Public Affairs**

3/24/2020 - JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas

— Air Force officials announced today that Weighted Airman Promotion System testing is postponed through May 11 to help reduce the spread of the Coronavirus Disease-19 (COVID-19).

Installation commanders have

the authority to determine testing center availability to maintain health and safety. As a result of some centers not being available for testing due the COVID-19 outbreak, current WAPS testing is postponed through May 11.

Airmen can voluntarily elect to test prior to May 11 pending testing center availability. Additionally, Airmen who have already tested will not retest.

Any Airman who is unable to test within the extended testing cycle window will be automatically considered for in-system supplemental promotion once they are able to test.

Air Force officials will continue assessing the situation and make adjustments as necessary.

Airmen should contact their testing control office and chain of command for additional information.



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# COVID-19 RESPONSE

## SAFE supports Italy

A C-130J Super Hercules stationed out of Ramstein Air Base, Germany delivers pallets of medical equipment to Aviano Air Base, Italy, March 20.



(U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Rebecca Woodrow)

### By U.S. Air Forces in Europe

3/22/2020 - U.S. AIR FORCES IN EUROPE — In response to the ongoing the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak, an 86th Airlift Wing C-130J Super Hercules out of Ramstein Air Base, Germany, transported an En-Route Patient Staging System (ERPSS) to Aviano Air Base, Italy, for delivery to the Italian Ministry of Defense. This mobile, or fixed system, provides 10 patient holding/staging beds and can support a maximum throughput of 40 patients in a 24-hour period.

“The COVID-19 pandemic requires that we work with our Allies and partners to meet the challenges together,” said Gen. Jeff Harrigian, U.S. Air Forces in Europe commander.

“This effort demonstrates our mutual support as we team together in response to this

public health crisis. We are working closely with our Italian friends, the Department of State, and U.S. European Command to ensure we provide the right equipment in a safe and timely manner,” Harrigian said. “It’s our privilege to support the Italian response, and our continued commitment reflects the values of the American people to provide assistance whenever and wherever it is needed.”

The ERPSS system comes with seven days of medical supplies, operates within two tents and can achieve initial operating capability within one hour of notification. This particular configuration includes a 15-day resupply pallet.

USAFE prepositioned the equipment at Aviano AB as a prudent measure to potentially support higher COVID-19 risk areas.

## USNS Mercy departs San Diego

### By Petty Officer 2nd Class Jessica Paulauskas

Commander, U.S. 3rd Fleet Public Affairs  
3/23/2020 - SAN DIEGO — The hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) departed Naval Station San Diego today, and is now underway to Los Angeles in support of the nation’s COVID-19 response efforts.

“This global crisis demands whole-of-government response, and we are ready to support,” said Capt. John Rotruck, Mercy’s Military Treatment Facility commanding officer. “Mercy brings a team of medical professionals, medical equipment, and supplies, all of which will act, in essence, as a ‘relief valve’ for local civilian hospitals in Los Angeles so that local health professionals can better focus on COVID-19 cases. We will use our agility and responsiveness as an afloat Medical Treatment Facility to do what the country asks, and bring relief where we are needed most.”

Mercy departed Naval Base San Diego with over 800 Navy medical personnel and support staff with the afloat medical treatment facility (MTF), and over 70 civil service mariners. The ship will serve as a referral hospital for non-COVID-19 patients currently admitted to shore-based hospitals, and will provide a full spectrum of medical care to include general surgeries, critical care and ward care

for adults. This will allow local health professionals to focus on treating COVID-19 patients and for shore-based hospitals to use their Intensive Care Units and ventilators for those patients.

Civil service mariners operate and navigate the ship, load and off-load mission cargo, assist with repairs to mission equipment and provide essential services to keep the MTF up and running.

Mercy’s MTF is an embarked crew of medical personnel from the Navy’s Bureau of Medicine and Surgery responsible for operating and maintaining one of the largest trauma facilities in the United States.

USNS Mercy’s primary mission is to provide an afloat, mobile, acute surgical medical facility to the U.S. military that is flexible, capable and uniquely adaptable to support expeditionary warfare. Mercy’s secondary mission is to provide full hospital services to support U.S. disaster relief and humanitarian operations worldwide.

Mercy is the first of two Mercy-class hospital ships. A converted San Clemente-class supertanker, Mercy was delivered to the Navy’s Military Sealift Command Nov. 8, 1986.

Military Sealift Command operates the



(U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class David Mora Jr.)

^ Rear Adm. Timothy Weber, commander of Naval Medical Forces Pacific, speaks to members of the press before the Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) departs Naval Base San Diego, March 23.

ships which sustain our warfighting forces and deliver specialized maritime services in support of national security objectives in peace and war.

U.S. 3rd Fleet leads naval forces in the Indo-Pacific and provides the realistic, relevant training necessary for an effective global Navy. U.S. 3rd Fleet works in close coordination with U.S. 7th Fleet to provide commanders with capable, ready assets across the spectrum of military operations in the Indo-Pacific.



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# Guard helps medical professionals combat COVID-19



◀ Tech. Sgt. Alex Morhead with the West Virginia Air National Guard's 167th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, answers a call at the West Virginia Poison Center in Charleston, W.Va. March 19.

(Air National Guard courtesy photo)

**By Tech. Sgt. Erich B. Smith and Sgt. 1st Class Jon Soucy**

National Guard Bureau  
3/24/2020 - ARLINGTON, Va. — From staffing informational phone banks to administering tests for COVID-19, many of the more than 9,000 National Guard members on duty in response to COVID-19 are assisting state and local medical professionals.

“Medical providers are essential to the hospitals where they work,” said Air Force Col. Martin Bain, a Nevada National Guard air surgeon, adding that Guard members aid the impact those civilian medical professionals can make in response to the virus.

For members of the Arkansas and West Virginia National Guard, that support has meant answering calls at medical information lines run by health officials in their local areas.

Army Lt. Col. John Snedegar, the West Virginia National Guard's Office of the

State Surgeon medical training officer, said a high influx of calls at a local poison control center prompted the need for Guard members to step in and help.

“We help people who have concerns, who are nervous or scared and uncertain about particular things,” Snedegar said. “So we give them solid advice and help answer questions if they have signs and symptoms of the (virus) or what to do if they are exposed.”

Meanwhile, medics with the Arkansas Army National Guard's 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team have been answering phones at the Arkansas Department of Health Call Center, which faced a similar increase in call volume.

Those medics have been answering close to 800 calls per day on average, said Arkansas Guard officials.

Guard units have also been working with civilian authorities to administer COVID-19 screenings in numerous states. That includes Louisiana, where more than 100 Soldiers and Airmen with

the Louisiana National Guard have been working at drive-through testing sites.

“Our goal is to become more efficient to reduce wait times for people being tested,” said Army Col. Scott Desormeaux, the Louisiana Army National Guard's 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team commander.

In Westchester County, New York, which has seen the highest number of COVID-19 cases in the country, Soldiers with the New York Army National Guard have also been staffing testing centers in addition to setting up tents to augment area hospitals facing space shortages from COVID-19 response efforts.

For Army Pvt. Cindy Ganesh, with the New York Army National Guard's Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 369th Sustainment Brigade, helping set up tents was one of several missions she's worked on in response to COVID-19.

“We're all in this together,” Ganesh said, “so it's good to be working on different missions.”

Soldiers with the Pennsylvania Army National Guard helped the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency establish the first mass COVID-19 testing site in that state. The Soldiers tested and set up medical equipment and organized personal protective gear to help get the test center up and running.

“The National Guard has skilled professionals who are trained and experienced in conducting operations under challenging conditions,” said Army Col. Frank Montgomery, the Pennsylvania National Guard director of military support.

Members of the Maryland Air National Guard have been sorting and loading onto trucks medical supplies from the Strategic National Stockpile, a national supply of pharmaceuticals and medical equipment for use in public health emergencies.

“Today we are taking supplies, such as gowns and gloves and the things that health departments, hospitals, long-term care facilities, dialysis centers, nursing homes and emergency medical services around the state (use) that are in short supply,” said Air Force Master Sgt. Richard Malloy, a ground transportation specialist with the Maryland Air Guard's 175th Wing.

Assisting those medical professionals and the community is a fundamental element for many Guard members.

“I think this is why we joined the military and why we're part of the National Guard,” said Army Capt. Heather Schaller, a nurse with the Wisconsin Army National Guard's medical detachment.

Schaller is among a team of Wisconsin National Guard medical personnel supporting staff at a senior living facility.

“A lot of citizens don't know the National Guard does stuff like this, so that is kind of an eye-opener (for many at the facility) too,” she said.

For Air Force 1st Lt. Sparkle McCuiston, a nurse with the Nevada Air National Guard's 152nd Medical Group and an infectious disease nurse practitioner in her civilian job, support often comes down to providing reassurance.

“I've gotten so many calls from friends and family who are scared,” McCuiston said. “I've tried to calm them down and tell them we need to get through this.”

And getting through the COVID-19 outbreak can be done by following simple protocols, she said.

“If you are healthy and have minor symptoms, please don't go to urgent care. Please self-quarantine,” McCuiston said, adding that hand washing and practicing social distancing are also key.

As of Tuesday, more than 9,000 Guard members are on duty in all 50 states, three territories and the District of Columbia.

# Medical Group protects Wolf Pack amid COVID-19 response

**By Senior Airman Jessica Blair**

8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs  
3/20/2020 - KUNSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea — The 8th Medical Group took proactive and precautionary measures during the COVID-19 pandemic by standing up a screening tent outside of the clinic for service members who returned to Kunsan between March 6th-12th from international travel.

Service members who recently arrived to Kunsan were asked a series of travel history questions and to

report any symptoms they may be experiencing in order to be reviewed by medical personnel. The 8th MDG reviewed each location the member visited to determine if the location was a hotspot for COVID-19. The medical professionals were then able to provide a recommendation to their unit's leadership if the member needed to be restricted in their movement.

“We took out some of our War Reserve Material assets in order to have service member's process through a safe COVID-19 screening process. The

process has helped us better assess the status of service members and if they need to be restricted in movement,” said U.S. Air Force Maj. Clare Reynolds, 8th Medical Support Squadron medical logistics flight commander. “We are here to take care of the team and our providers have been working extremely hard to make sure that everyone is taken care of.”

These precautionary measures help to minimize and prevent the spread of the virus to the base populace.

“We are looking at members who



(U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Jessica Blair)

^ A tent sits in the 8th Medical Group parking lot at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, March 19.

have returned to South Korea in the last 14 days, which is the typical incubation period for COVID-19, just to ensure they are not posing an added risk to our base population,” said U.S. Air Force Capt. Sarah Cokely, 8th MDG Public Health officer. “Our base population we have here is relatively young and very healthy, so they are a very resilient group and we don't expect a lot of health challenges.”

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# Navy preventive medicine teams embark ships in 7th Fleet

**By U.S. 7th Fleet Public Affairs**  
2/23/2020 - SOUTH CHINA SEA — Members of Navy Forward-Deployed Preventive Medicine Units (FDPMU) and Naval Medical Research Center (NMRC) embarked several 7th Fleet ships March 14 to help combat the risk of and provide laboratory batch testing for COVID-19 onboard the ships.

Teams are embarked on the amphibious assault ship USS America (LHA 6), the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71), and the U.S. 7th Fleet flagship USS Blue Ridge (LCC 19) and have the ability to batch test Sailors onboard who present with influenza-like illness symptoms, instead of only sending samples to be tested ashore.

This capability provides early-warning surveillance for the medical teams to be able to identify if a COVID-19 case is onboard a ship, but does not individually diagnose Sailors. If a batch were to test positive for COVID-19, the medical teams would take additional measures, such as isolating the Sailors whose samples were in the batch, and depending on the Sailor's symptoms, potentially medically evacuating them off the ship to a shore facility for testing.

To date, no cases of COVID-19 have been diagnosed aboard any U.S. 7th Fleet Navy vessel.

"The team here in 7th Fleet has taken COVID-19 seriously from the beginning and has many public health measures already in place," said Capt. Christine Sears, U.S. 7th Fleet Surgeon. "The FDPMU and NMRC augmentation teams provide additional depth in our ability to combat this virus."

Teams embarked the ships to provide at-sea testing and to ensure the U.S. 7th



(U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Jonathan Berlier)  
Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Ashton Kang, from Imlay City, Michigan, tests respiratory samples in the medical bay of amphibious assault ship USS America (LHA 6), March 18.

Fleet operating forces are ready to combat a possible outbreak while maintaining mission readiness. The teams provide additional capabilities in addition to the U.S. 7th Fleet's isolation procedures.

The teams are comprised of a variety of specialized Navy Medicine personnel to ensure force health protection of the fleet, and may include: a microbiologist, medical laboratory technician, preventive medicine officer, preventive medicine technician.

"As a medical service corps microbiology officer, this embark gives us the chance to demonstrate some of our skillsets to the fleet, and what we bring to the fight," said Lt. Cmdr. Rebecca Pavlicek, Blue Ridge COVID-19 testing team lead. "This capability allows us, the Navy, to protect mission readiness and protection of our Sailors."

To ensure force health protection of the fleet, other medical specialties or logistical components can be scaled up or down to meet mission specific requirements in the mitigation, health surveillance, and casu-

alty prevention.

The 4-person team aboard America was the first to bring COVID-19 testing capability to a U.S. Navy ship.

"This is the most advanced laboratory capability that Navy Medicine has placed forward deployed," said Cmdr. Brian Legendre, team lead and preventative medicine officer for the preventative medicine team aboard America.

"We can make force health protection decisions in real time, enhancing the health of the crew while minimizing any potential outbreak of COVID-19," added Lt. Cmdr. Danett Bishop, team microbiologist.

The FDPMU teams aboard the USS America and the USS Blue Ridge are from Navy Environmental Preventative Medicine Unit Six based out of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and work to facilitate and educate using preventive medicine practices and provide additional laboratory capabilities. The team embarked with USS Theodore Roosevelt is assigned to the Naval Medical Research Center based in Silver Spring,



(U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Leonard Adams)  
Hospital Corpsman Gian Molina, assigned to Navy Environmental Preventative Medicine Unit Six, tests samples in a BioFire Film Array, which will test for nearly 30 different diseases, aboard the U.S. 7th Fleet flagship USS Blue Ridge (LCC 19), March 14.

Maryland.

Currently, the teams are only authorized to perform surveillance testing and not individual testing. This means that the results cannot be linked to a particular patient for diagnostics, but would enable the team to detect COVID-19's presence on the ship based off of the results.

"Since we are performing surveillance testing, the results of COVID-19 present, or not present can help inform the force health protection posture and provide valuable insight for the senior medical officer and outbreak response team," said Pavlicek.

The teams are equipped with two testing capabilities, including the BioFire Film Array and the Step One RT-PCR System. The BioFire Film Array will test for a dozen different respiratory diseases, while the Step One RT-PCR System allow for complex COVID-19 tests at sea, if necessary.

As the U.S. Navy's largest forward-deployed fleet, 7th Fleet operates roughly 50-70 ships and submarines and 140 aircraft with approximately 20,000 Sailors.



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# VETAC host a ribbon cutting ceremony

Okinawa Veterinary Activity (VETAC) host a ribbon cutting ceremony for their new administrative building on Kadena Air Base March 18. Col. Theodore White, commander and Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Law, 10th Support Group, were among the guests who toured the new building and enjoyed a demonstration from one of the more than 60 military working dogs the clinic supports. The Okinawa VETAC provides exceptional quality of life for military working dogs and privately owned pets through compassionate medical and preventative care as a full service veterinary clinic.



(Courtesy photos)

# Okinawa Defense Bureau visits Camp Kinser



(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Zachary Larsen)

Officials from the Okinawa Defense Bureau visit at Camp Kinser, Mar. 18. The purpose of the visit was to assess the land given back to the local Okinawa community.

# U.S. Marines conduct artillery training during Thunder FTX



(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Ujian Gosun)

U.S. Marines with 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, conduct artillery training during Thunder Field Training Exercise on Camp Hansen, March 18. Thunder FTX allows 3rd Marine Division to create a distributed network of firing assets in order to ensure command and control over long distances. This style of distributed operations ensures redundant, resilient and responsive fires while the division operates inside the enemy's engagement zone.

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# Department of Defense tests hypersonic glide body

## By Department of Defense Public Affairs

3/20/2020 - PENTAGON, Virginia — The Department of Defense successfully tested a hypersonic glide body in a flight experiment conducted from the Pacific Missile Range Facility, Kauai, Hawaii, March 19 at approximately 10:30 p.m. local time (HST).

The U.S. Navy and U.S. Army jointly executed the launch of a common hypersonic glide body (C-HGB), which flew at hypersonic speed to a designated impact point.

Concurrently, the Missile Defense Agency (MDA) monitored and gathered tracking data from the flight experiment that will inform its ongoing development of systems designed to defend against adversary hypersonic weapons.

Information gathered from this and future experiments will further inform DOD's hypersonic technology development, and this event is a major milestone towards the department's goal of fielding hypersonic warfighting capabilities in the early-to mid-2020s.

"This test builds on the success we had with Flight Experiment 1 in October 2017, in which our C-HGB achieved sustained hypersonic glide at our target distances," said Vice Adm. Johnny R. Wolfe, Director, Navy's Strategic Systems Programs,

which is the lead designer for the C-HGB. "In this test we put additional stresses on the system and it was able to handle them all, due to the phenomenal expertise of our top notch team of individuals from across government, industry and academia. Today we validated our design and are now ready to move to the next phase towards fielding a hypersonic strike capability."

Hypersonic weapons, capable of flying at speeds greater than five times the speed of sound (Mach 5), are highly maneuverable and operate at varying altitudes. This provides the warfighter with an ability to strike targets hundreds and even thousands of miles away, in a matter of minutes, to defeat a wide range of high-value targets. Delivering hypersonic weapons is one of the department's highest technical research and engineering priorities.

"This test was a critical step in rapidly delivering operational hypersonic capabilities to our warfighters in support of the National Defense Strategy," said U.S. Army LTG L. Neil Thurgood, Director of Hypersonics, Directed Energy, Space and Rapid Acquisition, whose office is leading the Army's Long Range Hypersonic Weapon program and joint C-HGB production. "We successfully executed a mission consistent with how we can apply this capability in



A common hypersonic glide body (C-HGB) launches from Pacific Missile Range Facility, Kauai, Hawaii, at approximately 10:30 p.m. local time, March 19, during a Department of Defense flight experiment.

(U.S. Navy photo)

the future. The joint team did a tremendous job in executing this test, and we will continue to move aggressively to get prototypes to the field."

The C-HGB – when fully fielded – will comprise the weapon's conventional warhead, guidance system, cabling, and thermal protection shield. The Navy and Army are working closely with industry to develop the C-HGB with Navy as the lead designer, and Army as the lead for production. Each service will use the C-HGB, while developing individual weapon

systems and launchers tailored for launch from sea or land.

The similarities in hypersonic weapon design for sea and land variants provide economies of scale for future production as we build the U.S. hypersonics industrial base.

"Hypersonic systems deliver transformational warfighting capability," said Mr. Mike White, Assistant Director, Hypersonics, OUSD Research and Engineering (Modernization). "The glide body tested today is now ready for transition to Army and Navy weapon system develop-

ment efforts and is one of several applications of hypersonic technology underway across the Department. These capabilities help ensure that our warfighters will maintain the battlefield dominance necessary to deter, and if necessary, defeat any future adversary."

Additionally, MDA is working closely with Army and Navy in sharing data that will inform their development of enhanced capabilities for a layered hypersonic defense to support warfighter need and outpace the adversary threat.



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# Kadena Air Base Community Notes

To submit an announcement for the base bulletin, please visit [www.kadena.af.mil](http://www.kadena.af.mil)

## NOTICE Road Blocked

A section of Schreiber Ave (near bldg. 254) will be blocked from April 6 to May 31 (24 hrs/day) to disassemble temporary pier that was constructed adjacent to the Schreiber Ave for the box culvert construction. Traffic lights will be installed for controlling one-way alternate traffic flow.

## New Mail Collection Box

A mail collection box has been established at the new Fairchild Shoppette, near the main entrance/exit door, to provide the community an additional letter mail service in addition to the Kadena Post Office. There are three more mail collection boxes located at the Olympic Mall near Popeye's Restaurant, Kadena Post Office main entrance, and near the ATM drive-up across from the Schilling Community Center. If stamps are needed to mail the letters, please visit the nearest military post office to purchase. For more information, contact TSgt Artis Gandy at DSN 634-3266.

## Kids Bowl FREE is back!

Go online now to sign your kids up for the Kids Bowl FREE program at Emery Lanes. Two free games (shoes not included) every day until Aug. 31 for kids 18 and under, plus Family Passes also available for a small fee. Go to [www.kidsbowlfree.com](http://www.kidsbowlfree.com), then select Military Bowling Centers, find Emery Lanes.

## 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 911.

## AADD: We Get You Home Safe

Did you drink tonight? Made a plan but it's falling through? Can't catch a cab? If any of this applies to you, call AADD. Don't risk it all, when you can get a ride home for free. To contact AADD from a cell phone number, dial 098-961-1110 and ask for the USO, or dial DSN: 634-3889. We're open Fridays and Saturdays at the USO (gate 2) from 2200 to 0100 and we're here to help. If you have any questions and/or concerns, please email our Org Box or contact us on Facebook: Kadena AB A2D2

## How to File a Complaint with IG

If you believe you are unable to resolve your complaint through supervisory channels, you may seek IG assistance to determine if the complaint should be filed with the IG. You can file a complaint if you reasonably believe inappropriate conduct has occurred or a violation of law, policy, procedures, or regulation has been committed. Complete the personnel data information on an AF Form 102 and briefly outline the facts and relevant information related to the issue or complaint. List the allegations of wrongdoing briefly, in general terms and provide supporting narrative detail and documents later, when interviewed by an IG person. Allegations should be written as bullets and should answer who committed the violation; what violation was committed; what law, regulation, procedures, or policy

was violated; when did the violation occur. Help is available: Call your Kadena IG office at 634-7622 for Maj Sarabia, 634-2768 for SMSgt Aguirre, or leave a message on the Kadena Fraud, Waste, & Abuse (FWA) Hotline at 634-0404.

## Single Airmen FREE BOWLING Program

Every Monday in March between 5:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m., single airmen on unaccompanied orders of all ranks are invited to come to Emery Lanes and get three games with shoes for free! Simply request the program at the front desk when you get here!

## Mail Address Information

The mail addressees should inform their mailers to not include "Japan" or "Okinawa" in the APO or FPO mail address format. If included, the mail may be routed through the international postal system instead of the military postal system, which may result in a higher postage rate and longer transit time to the addressee. To prevent non-delivery of mail, please enclose inside the mail piece the sender's address and the intended addressee. Enclosing the addresses inside the package can help the Postal Service route the mail to the addressee or returned to sender should the exterior addresses become unreadable or is separated from the mail piece. For more information, contact MSgt Robert Quinones at 634-2155 / 5098.

## Finance Inquiries

Finance inquiries may be sent to 18cpts. [finance@us.af.mil](mailto:finance@us.af.mil) - include full SSN. Phone calls will be taken from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. (noon) at DSN: 634-3609. Cashier Cage Operation hours: Mon, Wed, & Fri from 08:00 - 12:00 DSN: 634-4158. Office is closed every 3rd Thursday of the month (Training Day) - Closed All Day. For emergencies call at 080-6487-6969.

## Public Affairs Photo Studio

The Public Affairs photo studio is open Mon - Thurs from 9 - 11 a.m. and 1 - 4 p.m. Appointments are available in half-hour increments. Award, bio or package submission photos are scheduled Mon. - Wed. Full length photos are only available on Thursday. Official Passport photos are by appointment only until further notice, Mon. - Fri., and require a letter or voucher from your UDM or the passport office. For questions or scheduling, please call 634-3813 / 634-4013. Photos are for official use only.

## UPCOMING EVENTS Kadena ACE (E1-E4) Meeting

Join Kadena ACE (Airmen Committed to Excellence) on April 14 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](mailto:jhed.manalo@us.af.mil).

## Ultimate Frisbee

Torii Chapel 2:42 would like to invite you to our Ultimate Frisbee every Tuesday at Torii baseball field and Thursday at Kadena Air Base Marek Park starting at 6:00 pm. Enjoy a fun game of ultimate frisbee and fellowship with our members to create new connections that keeps our fighting force ready.

## Annual Bataan Memorial Death March

The Kadena Top 3 organization will be hosting the Annual Bataan Memorial Death March on Saturday, April 18 starting at 6 a.m. The event will start at Kadena's Keystone

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Theater for a remembrance followed by a march, walk, or jog along Kadena's flightline perimeter road. The march will begin at 6:30 a.m. Individuals and teams are encouraged to participate. For more information, contact TSgt Reyes at 634-3579 or e-mail: philadoni.reyes.1@us.af.mil.

**Kadena Company Grade Officer Council Triathlon**

The Company Grade Officer Council is hosting a reverse sprint triathlon (5k run, 20k bike, 200m swim) on Saturday, April 18 at the Kadena Air Base Fairchild Pool. Check-in will be from 0600-0715 and the race starts at 0730. For more information, contact Capt. Matthew Smith at DSN 634-9700 or Capt. Kaili Moikawa at DSN 632-8811.

**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.

**CCAF Graduation**

The Kadena Air Base Top 3 Organization will host the Community College of the Air Force Graduation at the Rocker NCO Club, June 10 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.

**AF Bowling 2.0 Clinic Lessons/ Equipment**

Do you want to learn to be an even better bowler? In only four weeks (class to pick day and time), you can learn and get a bag, ball and towel to keep! Call or come by as there are two options available for purchase - do

just the lessons or lessons & equipment, it's your choice!

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES  
Airmen Against Drunk Driving**

Airmen Against Drunk Driving is always looking for volunteers to drive military personnel and their families home safely during the weekends. This opportunity is open to all ranks of all services. If you or anyone you know is interested in volunteering with us. Your participation in this program will help us ensure the safety of service members as we continuously work to eliminate DUI's on and off base. Please feel free to reach out to SrA Cynthia Belio (cynthia.belio@us.af.mil) or the AADD org box (AADD/Kadena) if you have any questions and/or concerns.

**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.

**Pride Month Volunteer Call**

The Kadena LGBTQ+ Pride Month Committee will be holding their initial volunteer meeting on Tuesday, March 31, at 3:30 p.m. in the EO training room (Bldg. 128). Anyone with base access is welcome to volunteer. For more information, please see the Kadena LGBTQ Pride Facebook page or e-mail KadenaLGBTPrude@gmail.com.

**Reef Dive Cleanup**

Calling for all scuba, snorkel, and free divers for a Reef Dive Cleanup at the Sunabe Seawall "South Steps" on Friday, April 10 at 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Saturday, April 18 at 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. will be an alternative date if the weather is not ideal. Mesh bags will be provided. Contact A1C Davidson at alexander.davidson@us.af.mil or DSN: 634-0420 or contact SSgt Straub at elan.straub@us.af.mil or DSN: 634-8347 for notifications and more information.

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29- Mar	1100-1900	KAB Concession Mall	Café Shiyu de Pokko
29- Mar	1100-1900	Foster Main Store	Old Spices
30- Mar	1100-1400	KAB Flightline	Nukumi Kitchen
31- Mar	1100-1400	Torii Express	Nukumi Kitchen
31- Mar	1100-1400	KAB Flightline	Café Shiyu de Pokko
31- Mar	1100-1800	Butler Express	Old Spices
1- Apr	1100-1400	KAB Flightline	Old Spices
2- Apr	1100-1400	Torii Express	Old Spices
2- Apr	1100-1400	KAB Flightline	Café Shiyu de Pokko

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## AAFES to Provide Grab-and-Go Meals to Students as DoDEA's 'Virtual' Schools open on Okinawa

**By Army & Air Force Exchange Service Public Affairs**

**3/20/2020 - CAMP FOSTER** — The Army & Air Force Exchange Service will continue to provide meals to students as Department of Defense Education Activity schools on Okinawa go "virtual" amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Starting March 23, the Exchange is providing grab-and-go school meals to military children on Okinawa. A similar program started March 2 in Korea after schools in U.S. Army Garrison Daegu, USAG Humphreys and Osan Air Base in Korea went virtual.

"Since March 6, we have served nearly

2,100 meals to students in Korea as part of the grab-and-go breakfast and lunch program," said Col. Scott Maskery, AAFES Pacific Region commander. "Here in Okinawa, we will continue this service until DoDEA leadership and local command teams have deemed it safe to reopen the schools."

From March 23 to April 3, students can pick up their lunch Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Kinser Elementary School, Bechtel Elementary School, Lester Middle School, Zukeran Elementary School and Kadena Elementary School.

During meal pickups, Exchange associates and school personnel will be

present to monitor and enforce strict social distancing requirements as students pick up lunches.

"Each location will have someone there to monitor so we don't get a crowd of more than 20 people," Maskery said. "We will also allow only 10 students to enter while monitoring safe distances while in line. Students are instructed to take their meals home to eat."

All DoDEA schools in Japan and Okinawa are scheduled to resume classroom learning on April 13.

The Exchange operates the school meal program for military students overseas, serving more than 2.5 million meals a year.

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