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P A P E R



Issue I >> May 29, 2024

VOICE PAPER

***VOICE PAPER, bi-weekly publication features
U.S. Military activity news on the island.***

Duty **on the island**

**31st MEU, 5th ANGLICO, 116th ASOS and
HSC-12 conduct CAS**



(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Tyler Andrews)

U.S. Marines with 5th Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company and 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, transport in a C-53E Super Stallion following a Tactical Air Control Party exercise, at Irisuna Island, Okinawa, April 11, 2024. The TACP consisted of Marine joint fire observers and joint terminal attack controllers who coordinated with aircraft to conduct close air support drills. The 31st MEU, the Marine Corps' only continuously forward-deployed MEU, provides a flexible and lethal force ready to perform a wide range of military operations as the premier crisis response force in the Indo-Pacific region.

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HH-60W Jolly Green II's first flight at Kadena

A U.S. Air Force HH-60W Jolly Green II assigned to the 33rd Rescue Squadron takes off from the flightline for its first flight at Kadena Air Base, Feb. 27, 2024.



Story & Photo by Airman 1st Class Luis E. Rios Calderon
18th Wing Public Affairs

KADENA AIR BASE – The HH-60W Jolly Green II, successor to and replacement of the HH-60G Pave Hawk, took its first flight over the Pacific theater and at Kadena Air Base, Feb. 27, 2024.

Known as the “Whiskey” model, the HH-60W is designed with integrated mission systems that improve the aircrew’s situational awareness while conducting combat search and rescue operations in and out of contested environments.

“The Whiskey came to Kadena to replace the Pave Hawk which has been in service here since 1993 and has saved countless lives not only in Afghanistan but across the Indo-Pacific,” said U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Louis Nolting, 33rd Rescue Squadron commander. “The HH-60W gives us a modern, combat capable helicopter with improved power avionics, defensive systems,

weapon systems, survivability and personnel recovery.”

The HH-60W is aimed for a variety of mission critical operations to include: recovering isolated personnel from hostile or denied territory, day or night, in adverse weather and other threat environments where the 33rd RQS will operate during various sorties.

“I’ve been flying this HH-60W for three years and I was fortunate enough to return to Kadena for a second assignment,” said U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Brian Rhoades, 33rd RQS combat rescue helicopter team lead. “This is the first sortie this aircraft has flown since arriving at Kadena, and this is the first active duty Air Force crew to fly this helicopter. It flew exactly like how I expected it to and met all our expectations.”

Nolting said they will have

all of their HH-60Gs divested by August and that more HH-60Ws will be arriving before mid 2025.

The 33rd Helicopter Maintenance Unit are the ones who perform all routine maintenance operations on the HH-60 models and ensure their operators are safe and capable of performing their operational duties with minimal delay and maximum efficiency.

They were also vital to the arrival of the HH-60W, unloading it safely when it arrived at Kadena Air Base and preparing it for its historic first flight over the Indo-Pacific.

“We appreciate all the support from the base, especially from the 33rd Helicopter Maintenance Unit,” said Nolting. “They did a ton of great work to pull this off the cargo aircraft and get it to fly for its second flight ever at Kadena.”



Sailors assigned to Patrol Squadron (VP) 4 load a UNI-PAC II SAR Multi-Mission Air Drop Kit into a P-8A Poseidon multi-mission maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircraft, April 7, 2024.

VP-4 and VP-8 Locate Sailors who were Lost At Sea in the Pacific Ocean

Story by Commander Task Force 72
U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Nolan Loughry

KADENA AIR BASE – Members of Patrol Squadron 4 (VP-4) “Skinny Dragons” and Patrol Squadron 8 (VP-8) “Fighting Tigers” located and rescued civilians mariners from a vessel that had lost its propulsion at sea, April 7. The vessel and crew had been stranded at sea for 10 days without communication. The crew successfully found the vessel and employed search and rescue (SAR) procedures, leading to the recovery of the three distraught mariners.

Combat Air Crew ONE was standing by on an alert posture ready onboard the P-8A Poseidon aircraft in order to swiftly respond to any mission that might arise. After receiving the urgent tasking, the air crew of nine departed from Kadena Air Force Base. Once airborne, Combat Air Crew ONE utilized the P-8A’s unique capability of speed and extended range to cover as much distance as possible. The crew was able to find the small fishing vessel, which had lost its engine and run aground on a small island east of Guam. The stranded fishermen had created a makeshift shelter and scribed “SOS” and “HELP” messages in

the beachhead that were easily identifiable by the air crew with the use of their electro-optical camera. The crew of the P-8A proceeded to drop two UNI-PAC III search and rescue aerial delivery containers, which provided the fishermen with medical and survival equipment, while also notifying the United States Coast Guard.

The UNI-PAC III SAR is just one of many expendable resources the P-8A can carry. Equipment including sonobuoys, torpedoes, and anti-ship missiles can be loaded onboard the aircraft to execute the broad mission set tasked to the P-8A. Having a versatile payload means the P-8A can conduct a wide variety of important missions such as Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW), Anti-Surface Warfare (AsuW), Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR), and humanitarian support. VP-4’s rotational deployment will reach all corners of the Indo-Pacific Command area of responsibility and exploit every strength of the P-8A to support the U.S. Navy and its allies. VP-4 will work alongside all branches of the U.S. military joint force and allied forces to

provide peacekeeping operations and to ensure international policies are upheld.

“You only get a few chances to make a meaningful impact on someone’s life,” said Lt Robert Allen, mission commander of the aircraft involved with the rescue recounts. “This rescue effort wouldn’t have been possible if we had been missing a single person on the crew that day. The ability for an entire community to come together, from maintenance personnel, the Tactical Operations Center, and our aircrew, and then deliver time-critical supplies and aid to the individuals in distress is an incredible experience to be a part of. I want to thank everyone who took part in making this SAR mission successful and I wish the best to the mariners and their families.”

This flight demonstrated VP-4 and VP-8’s combined versatility and determination to get the mission done.

“It’s a truly humbling and emotional experience being part of a rescue effort. Finding the distressed mariners alive and being able to provide them time critical assistance is something I’ll never forget, said Lt Patrick Nagle, Tactical Coordinator on the flight. “I hope they are in good health and back with their families soon!”

The “Skinny Dragons” of VP-4, are based in Whidbey Island, Washington, and are currently on a rotational deployment operating from multiple locations including Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, Japan. The squadron conducts maritime patrol and reconnaissance as well as theater outreach operations, supporting Commander, Task Force 72, U.S. Seventh Fleet, and U.S. Indo-Pacific Command objectives throughout the Indo-Pacific region.

7th Fleet is the U.S. Navy’s largest forward-deployed numbered fleet, and routinely interacts and operates with allies and partners in preserving a free and open Indo-Pacific region.

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Kadena, local communities celebrate America Fest 2024

Story by Airman 1st Class Edward Yankus,
Photos by Airman 1st Class Catherine Daniel
18th Wing Public Affairs



America Fest attendees walk the flight line to view multiple aircraft on display at Kadena Air Base, April 27.



Maj. Brock McGehee, 199th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron pilot, autographs a stamp booklet for two America Fest attendees at Kadena Air Base, April 27.



America Fest attendees display their booklets with stamps from multiple squadrons, at Kadena Air Base, April 27.

KADENA AIR BASE – Kadena Air Base has geared up once again and opened its gates to the Okinawan community for America Fest, April 27, 2024 for the second year in a row.

America Fest is an annual open-house event that showcases Kadena Air Base's deterrence mission and enhances cultural exchange by fostering interaction with the local community. The event returned last year after a nine-year hiatus.

This event featured a lineup of advanced static aircraft on display, a taste of American culture through live entertainment, food and the well-received Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Hangar.

"America Fest is a celebration of the enduring friendship between the United States and Japan, and we are excited to share the day with our valued Japanese neighbors," said U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Nicholas Evans, 18th Wing commander. "This open house is an opportunity for cultural exchange, fostering understanding and creating lasting memories together."

Attendees were able to see a variety of static aircraft from both the U.S. military and the Japan Air Self-Defense Force, including new arrivals such as the MQ-9 Reaper and the HH-60W.

The Friends & Partners Showcase was a new addition this year consisting of performances from groups in the three cities surrounding Kadena Air Base. The lineup included Taiko Drummers from Kadena Town, hula dancers of Chatan Town and the Ryukyu Golden Kings basketball team cheerleaders from Okinawa City to further highlight the ties Kadena Air Base has with the community.

"Community events like this are vital in putting our partnership with our allies while also showcasing our mission and bilateral co-operation capabilities in an open display of friendship," said Evans. "We hope that attendees will leave America Fest with a deeper appreciation for the purpose of Kadena Air Base and the value of the friendship we have with our Japanese allies."

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Leading By Example: 12th MLR Sergeant Major Provides Life-Saving Aide to Japanese National

Story by Lance Cpl. Cara Castaneda, Photo by Sgt. Alyssa Chuluda
3rd Marine Division

CAMP HANSEN – April 11, 2024, U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Ismael Bamba, the sergeant major of 12th Marine Littoral Regiment, received the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal for heroically saving the life of a civilian in Okinawa.

On the afternoon of Jan. 26, 2024, Bamba, a native of Ivory Coast, West Africa, was driving home on the expressway after a change of command ceremony when he witnessed

a motor vehicle accident. The vehicle in front of him had flipped over and slid into the side of a guardrail, coming to a stop on the left side of the road. Without hesitation, Bamba instinctively used his vehicle to block the accident. He then ran over immediately to assess the driver's condition.

"The first thing that went through my head was not, 'Are they a Marine?' or, 'Are they a Japanese local?' It was, 'They're a human being,'" said Bamba. "I'm going to fight for what's right, protect what's right, and do what's right."

The vehicle was positioned with the driver's side parallel to the road. Bamba discovered that the driver, a Japanese national, was locked inside the vehicle. "The driver was inside the vehicle, lying down," explained Bamba. "I needed to get them out of there."

After quickly assessing his surroundings, Bamba used a piece of metal and his fist to punch through the window, breaking the glass and safely removing the woman from the vehicle. Bamba stabilized the driver and relocated her away from the expressway until emergency services arrived.

"She was panicking, she didn't know where she was, she seemed delusional," said Bamba. "I think the woman may have suffered a concussion, but overall, she seemed to be okay."

Due to Bamba's selflessness and quick decision-making, he was awarded his sixth Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal by Col. Peter Eltringham, right, on Camp Hansen, April 11, 2024.



U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Ismael Bamba, left, is awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal by Col. Peter Eltringham, right, on Camp Hansen, April 11, 2024.

Eltringham, the 12th MLR Commanding Officer, who served as the presenting officer.

"Being able to pin a Navy and a Marine Corps Commendation Medal on Sgt. Maj. Bamba, and recognizing these types of moments, is important," said Eltringham. "I think anybody that has ever served with Sgt. Maj. Bamba knows that he is your shield."

Bamba's experience and extensive training

prepared him to properly respond to the situation. He was able to properly stabilize the driver, being mindful of any potential spinal injuries.

"I stopped to help because of the training the Marine Corps has given us," said Bamba. "It was instant. We're Marines and we save lives."

Bamba stated that he wasn't aware he would be receiving an award. He was grateful, but to him, his actions were simply the right thing. He believes if any other Marine were in his position, they would respond exactly how he did.

Bamba is known throughout the Marine Corps for his enthusiastic leadership style, positive attitude, and welcoming presence. Later this year, Bamba will be departing 12th MLR to serve as the senior enlisted advisor at U.S. Marine Corps Forces Korea.

"The Marine Corps did everything right in accepting Sgt. Maj. Bamba to work at U.S. Marine Corps Forces Korea," said Capt. Caitland Considine, the 12th MLR adjutant. "The officers and the enlisted Marines around him will be under some of the best care possible in the entire Marine Corps."

Bamba hopes that Marines learn from this experience and act ethically.

"What it means to be a Marine is to give selfless devotion to duty," said Bamba. "We will give our lives to save others, and we will give our lives to protect this country."



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U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa is Using State-of-the-Art Space Age Equipment to Get our Sailors and Marines Back in the Fight Faster than Ever Before!

Story & Photo by Isaac Savitz
U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa



LCDR Austin Haag the newly selected Director for Branch Clinics was visiting one of his clinics and stopped by to see the demonstration.

U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa – Dr. Robert Eberly, Department Head and Family and Sports Medicine Physician recently took the time to talk about some of the new technology he is using to get our fighting force back in the fight and rehabilitated sooner. It only makes sense that this is happening at a place called the Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation Team or SMART Clinic, a sub-clinic of one of the six clinics that make up the U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa footprint. Dr. Eberly and his team provide physical therapy and rehabilitation services to active-duty service members being seen post-op or having severe injuries. The AlterG®, according to CDR Eberly, allows them to “titrate out the gravity to the patient’s comfort level and allow them to progress earlier from their rehab.”

So, what exactly is this Willy Wonka magical floating anti-gravity device anyway? From the ALTERG® website: “The AlterG® Anti-Gravity Treadmill features patented, NASA Differential Air Pressure (DAP) technology, a precise air calibration system, based on the user’s actual body weight, to change what’s possible in rehab and training. Using a pressurized

air chamber to uniformly reduce gravitational load and body weight in precise 1% increments, AlterG® enables patients and athletes to move unrestricted and pain-free – restoring and building muscle strength, range of motion, balance, function, and fitness. No other unweighting technology offers as much precision, accuracy, and comfort.”

HM3 Victoria Abby, a Corpsman originally from San Diego, CA, is typically the one helping an injured Marine get into and run the machine, but that day, she became the demonstrator, giving her a whole new

perspective on the machine. Abby expertly entered the treadmill and got it up and running. When asked how it felt, she said it was straightforward to run and that the measurements were exact, allowing her to float just above the belt with the slightest pressure on her feet but just enough to still know you are running. There is a camera inside the “bubble” that shows the patient’s feet, giving the therapist the ability to see the walking gait of a patient to be able to make recommendations. This weightlessness allows recovering patients to get back on their feet, in some cases up to five weeks earlier for the rehab process and, in theory, back in the fight that much sooner. Dr. Eberly said it instills confidence in the patient who may be hesitant to try out a new knee or hip replacement.

The course of action and rehabilitation services are closely monitored and dictated by the Orthopedic surgeon or Physical Therapist. The technology has been around for a few years, with elite professional athletes and Tier 1 Special Operations warfighters using it first; it is a welcome addition to the arsenal of equipment available to the rehabilitation

team at the Hansen SMART Clinic. The anti-gravity treadmill is not the only cutting-edge medicine being done at the clinic. Platelet-Rich Plasma or PRP injections help patients by using their own bodies to create the serum used in healing joints and trauma injuries. Eberly explained the process and even demonstrated how the product was derived from an actual patient who had come in to have the process done. The machine was a small centrifuge that spun down the blood and separated the other components of the blood from the platelets, concentrating them within the plasma and loading up a syringe ready to inject into the patient. According to Johns Hopkins Medicine: “After creating platelet-rich plasma from a patient’s blood sample, that solution is injected into the target area, such as an injured knee or a tendon. In some cases, the clinician may use ultrasound to guide the injection. The idea is to increase the concentration of specific bioproteins or hormones, called growth factors, in a specific area to accelerate the healing process. The mechanism behind PRP injections has yet to be understood entirely. Studies show that the increased concentration of growth factors in platelet-rich plasma may stimulate or speed up the healing process, shortening healing time for injuries, decreasing pain, and even encouraging hair growth.”

Navy Medicine is teaming with talent and clinicians who are keeping up with the most recent medical advancements and techniques to provide our warfighters with the optimal edge in medical readiness. The ability to train how they fight is imperative to maintaining the lethality of our forces. Knowing that our warfighters will sustain injuries in combat or realistic training, Navy Medicine is determined and committed to providing lifesaving and rehabilitative medical care in the most austere environments and maintaining a medically ready force that can enter the fight tonight!

The U.S. Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command Okinawa (USNMRTCO) supports the Defense Health Agency’s U.S. Naval Hospital, Okinawa (USNHO) as the largest OCONUS Navy Medicine medical treatment facility and stands t ready to respond to contingency operations to support the INDOPACOM region. It is a critical regional asset for direct care delivery, regional referrals, and medical contingency operations. The staff of USNHO understands their vital role as pre-positioned, forward-deployed naval forces within the first island chain, aligned and in support of the joint military commands and operations.

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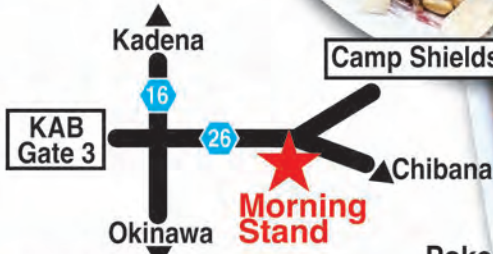


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Dragon Bowl





“Eisa” dancers perform at the U.S. Army Garrison Okinawa Spring Festival April 20, at Torii Station.

Torii Station Spring Festival strengthens spirit of friendship with Okinawa community

Story by Natalie Stanley, Photo by Ichiro Tokashiki
U.S. Army Garrison Okinawa

TORII STATION – A daylong festival aimed at strengthening the spirit of friendship between the Army and its host-nation community drew 5,000 visitors, including Okinawan locals, here April 20. The Spring Festival offered service members, Department of Defense civilians, family members and off-post guests a day filled with live music, a selfie booth, e-bike tours, games, children’s attractions, refreshments, and more.

“This event bridges the gap between the military and local civilians,”

said Lt. Col. Rachel Bowers, commander of U.S. Army Garrison Okinawa. “It brings us together as a full community living in Okinawa and gives us the opportunity to show our appreciation for our Okinawa community.”

For Marine Staff Sgt. Christian Smith, assigned to Marine Wing Support Squadron 172, the event was an opportunity to interact with the community and enjoy family time.

“We have been on Okinawa for a month [and] we wanted to get out and explore the island some more today,”

Smith said. “The event has been awesome, the kids love it, and we’re having a great time. I like all the opportunities here on Okinawa for families.”

Spring is a busy season for festivals on Okinawa, and the USAG Okinawa leadership said they were honored to host an event that welcomed the local community.

“We are the Army’s home on Okinawa, and we work hard on it every day,” Bowers said. “This event was our way of giving back to the community and having a chance to just relax for the day.”

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(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Justin Cledera)

Annual Gas Chamber Training for Marines

U.S. Marines with III Marine Expeditionary Force, attend a class on how to properly and safely utilize their gas masks during the gas chamber training on Camp Hansen, April 26, 2024. The gas chamber training exposes Marines to 2-Chlorobenzylidene Malononitrile, or commonly known as CS gas, to ensure confidence in their protective gear.

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(U.S. Navy photo by Candice Barber)

White Beach Festival 2024

White Beach Festival attendees are photographed onboard Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) Asagiri-class destroyer JS Hamagiri (DD-155) at White Beach Naval Facility, April 13, 2024. JS Hamagiri was open for public tours as part of the event. White Beach Festival, hosted annually by Commander, Fleet Activities Okinawa with support from JMSDF and Uruma City, celebrates friendship between the U.S. Navy and Okinawa.

le Shima Lighthouse Memorial Service 2024



(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Brody Robertson)

U.S. Marine Corps Col. David Banning, commanding officer of Headquarters and Support Battalion, Marine Corps Installations Pacific, bows to the le Shima Lighthouse Memorial Monument for Martyrs, during the le Shima Lighthouse Memorial Service on le Shima, Okinawa, April 21, 2024. The memorial service was held to commemorate the casualties of World War II, the le Shima lighthouse keeper, and his family.

Volunteers on Okinawa work together to beautify beach on Earth Day



(U.S. Army photo by Natalie Stanley)

Personnel assigned to U.S. Army Garrison Okinawa haul garbage from Torii Beach during an Earth Day beach cleanup, April 20, 2024. Torii Station. More than 40 community members, including service members, Department of Defense civilians, family members and Okinawan locals, spent two hours at Torii Station beach cleaning up garbage that is harmful to the island's ecosystem and learning more about various environmental impacts affecting Okinawa.

79th anniversary Ishigaki Memorial Ceremony



(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Jeffrey Pruet)

U.S. Navy Capt. Zachary Stang, commodore of Command Task Force 72, lays a wreath during the Ishigaki Memorial Ceremony on Ishigaki, Okinawa, April 15, 2024. The ceremony honors three fallen World War II U.S. Navy airmen, whom died shortly after crash landing on the island. The memorial was developed by the people of Ishigaki and U.S. Service members as a symbol of peace and friendship.



(U.S. Army photo by Henry Gundacker)

Reflections on Okinawa's Dragon Boat Races

The US Army Black Knights, US Navy Kaigun Dragons, and Yasha Dragon Boat teams start the race with fury, unleashing their energy on the water at the Dragon Boat race in Naha-shin Port, Okinawa, on May 5, 2024. All Military teams were comprised of U.S. Military affiliated personnel, as well as, bilateral partners and or Japanese Self-Defense Forces.



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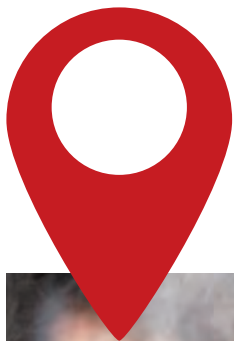
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58

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June 23, 2024

YOMITAN

Yama-tei Bombie
竹あかり
2024 5/1 - 7/7

**Yama-tei Bombie
Lantern Festival**
May 1 - July 7, 2024

NAHA

The History of Okinawa's Fine Arts
2024年1月23日(火)～6月30日(日)
January 23 - June 30, 2024

The History of Okinawa's Fine Arts
Until June 30, 2024

ITOMAN

Itoman Hare
June 9, 2024

KITANAKAGUSUKU

OKINAWA KINGYO MUSEUM
2024. 3月29日(日) - 6月9日(日)

Okinawa Kingyo Museum
Until June 9, 2024

NAGO

Yohena Hydrangea Garden
Until June 20, 2024

OFF-BASE Please call before visit the hospital / medical clinic.

Local Hospital & Medical Clinic **DIRECTORY**



General	Urasoe General Hospital	1-56-1 Maeda, Urasoe / 098-878-0231	Emergency
	University of the Ryukyus Hospital	207 Uehara, Nishihara Town / 098-895-3331	Emergency
	Chubu Tokushukai Hospital	801 Higa, Kitanakagusuku / 057-098033	
	Nakagami Hospital	601 Noborikawa, Okinawa / 098-939-1300	

Internist Clinic

Life Care Clinic Nagahama	1530-1 Nagahama, Yomitan / 098-982-9000
Tokeshi Clinic	2-5-11 Higashi, Okinawa / 098-937-1515
Nishihira Clinic	2-2-2 Akamichi, Ginowan / 098-896-1116
Iwashita Internal Medical Clinic	Corpo YONAHA II 511 Agena, Uruma / 098-982-6666

Eye Specialist

San Ai Ganka-Eye Clinic	1-3-28 Yamauchi, Okinawa / 098-933-3322
Gushiken Eye Clinic	1371-1 Gushikawa, Uruma / 098-975-1010
Hayakawa Eye Clinic	2-2-2 Nodake, Ginowan / 098-893-8155

Pediatrics

Aiwa Clinic	766-2 Ikeda, Nishihara / 098-946-5558
Matsushima Clinic	894-2 Senaha, Yomitan / 098-958-6888

Gynecology & Obstetrics

OBGYN Yui Clinic	2444-3 Noborikawa, Okinawa / 098-989-3801
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Dental Clinic

Sunabe Smile Dental Clinic	1-105 Miyagi, Chatan / 098-926-4618
Minnano-Haisha-san	2-16-2 Goya, Okinawa / 098-933-0055
Life Dental Clinic	6-24-9 Oyama, Ginowan / 098-890-5322
Hanarabi Orthodontic Clinic Cure&Care	2-3-9 Yamazato, Okinawa / 098-930-4187
Grace Dental Clinic	364-1 Minamiuehara, Nakagusuku / 098-895-6868
ACE Dental Clinic	62-2 Higashionna, Ishikawa, Uruma / 098-965-6336
Nakawaka Dental Clinic	468-3 Kuwae, Chatan / 098-926-4180
Piece Dental Clinic	62-2 Higashionna, Ishikawa, Uruma / 098-965-6336
Komesu Dental Clinic	4-18-2 Matsumoto, Okinawa / 098-939-6123



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1-21-9 Kitamae, Chatan

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