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P A P E R

OKINANA JULY bulletin THE REVIEW OF A PLACE MORNING DOORS Valiant Sentry Shield Aloha 24-2 U.S., Canada, Japan

and the Philippines Multilateral Operations



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Issue 4 >> July 10, 2024

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VOICE PAPER, bi-weekly publication features U.S. Military activity news on the island and around the Asia-Pacific region.



U.S. Marines with 5th Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company, III Marine Expeditionary Force Information Group, and U.S. Army soldiers with 1st Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne), offload from an MV-22 Osprey during joint close air support training at W-174 Joint Okinawa Range Complex at Irisuna Island, Okinawa, June 5. The joint training allowed units to rehearse coordination of close air support and fires to further strengthen joint interoperability and readiness.

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(U.S. Marine Corps photos by Cpl. Angel Diaz Montes De Oca

A U.S. Marine with maritime raid force, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, prepares to dive during a helocast training off the coast of Okinawa, June 20,

U.S. Marines with the Maritime Raid Force, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, prepare to load the combat rubber raiding aboard a CH-53E Super Stallion during a helocast exercise on Camp Schwab, June 20. This specialized insertion training allowed Marines to hone the necessary skills to conduct waterborne operations. The 31st MEU, the Marine Corps' only continuously forwarddeployed MEU, provides a flexible and lethal force, ready to perform a wide range of military operations as the premiere crisis response force in the Indo-Pacific region.

U.S. Marines with maritime raid force, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, hover in a CH-53E Super Stallion during a helocast training off the coast of Okinawa, June 20,

U.S. Marine Corps Photo by Cpl. Apollo Wilsor

A U.S. Air Force B-2 pilot marshals a B-2 Spirit bomber, deployed from Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam i support of Valiant Shield 2024, June 13.

An Autonomous Multi-Domain Launcher with the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities **Development Command Aviation & Missile Center and Ground Vehicle Systems Center** conducts a live fire during exercise Valiant Shield 2024 at Airar, Palau, June 16

"We take our partnership with

Palau and our obligation as their

military very seriously," said Col.

Matthew Mulvey, commanding

officer of CLR-17. "We want the

Mission Accomplished

populace to recognize that we're here

among you, ultimately, to serve you."

Valiant Shield is a biennial,

multinational field exercise focused

multiple domains. This iteration

on enhancing interoperability across

(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Kyle Chan)

featured a sink exercise (SINKEX)

Austin-class amphibious transport

dock, ex-USS Cleveland (LPD-7), in

the North Pacific Ocean, as well as a

CLR-17 served as the 1st MLG

involving the decommissioned

joint mass casualty exercise.

forward command, providing

command and control of essential

functions and serving as a communi-

cations integrator and senior airfield

and port authority. CLB-13 provided

the logistical backbone to operations,

J.S. Airmen with the 27th Fighter Squadron prepare a U.S. Air Force F-22 Raptor assigned to the 27th Fighter Squadron to receive fuel by U.S. Marines with Marine Wing Support Squadron 373, Marine Air Control Group 38, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, during exercise Valiant Shield 24 at Airai, Palau, June 12.

(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sqt. Nello Miele)

serving as the Base Operating Support-Integrator. As BOS-I, CLB-13 ensured unity of effort among the services by coordinating logistical assets, services and support needed for Valiant Shield 24.

"We offer a connective tissue between units here, starting by receiving them at the port or the airfield," said Lt. Col. Brian McCarthy, commanding officer of CLB-13. Medical personnel with CLB-13

(Continued on page 6)



U.S. Joint Forces Strengthen Capabilities and Partnerships in Palau During VS24

By 2nd Lt. John Carter **I Marine Expeditionary Force**

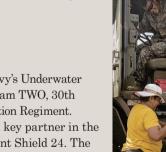
KOROR, Palau – Joint forces with U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, allies and partners concluded the tenth iteration of exercise Valiant Shield, June 18, following 12 days of multilateral operations in Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Republic of Palau, and at sea around the Mariana Island Range Complex.

Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, led a joint contingent of more than 600 service members in Palau including elements of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing and 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, the U.S. Army's 3rd Multi-Domain Task Force, the U.S. Air Force 27th Fighter Squadron,

and the U.S. Navy's Underwater Construction Team TWO, 30th Naval Construction Regiment.

2024

Palau was a key partner in the success of Valiant Shield 24. The U.S. and Palau share a strong and enduring relationship through the Compact of Free Association (COFA) agreement. CLR-17 and joint forces coordinated closely with the U.S. Embassy and local authorities, including the Bureau of Public Safety and the Palau Aviation Administration, to ensure compliance with local laws, support increased aviation traffic at Palau International Airport. and organize training activities throughout the country.



ALIANT

SHIELD



(U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Manasseh Demissie)

(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cp Hannah Hollerud

U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Folly Amouzougan, an automotive maintenance technician with Combat Logistics Battalion 13, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, assists a child out of a U.S. Marine Corps wrecker vehicle during a military equipment exposition as part of exercise Valiant Shield 24 at Palau International Airport, Airai, Palau, June 13.

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VALIANT SHIELD 2024 (Continued from page 5)

also established the first Role 2 medical field hospital in Palau. The Role 2 provided advanced medical coverage for the exercise force and swiftly triaged and treated simulated casualties during the mass casualty exercise.

To manage the increase of military aircraft landing at Palau International Airport, a Marine Air Traffic Control Mobile Team with Marine Air Control Squadron 1, Marine Air Control Group 38, 3rd MAW, provided air traffic control services to both military and civilian aircraft. Marine Wing Support Squadron 373, MACG-38, 3rd MAW, managed airfield operations and provided expeditionary refueling to joint aircraft including C-130J Super Hercules with the 40th Airlift Squadron and F-22 Raptors with the 27th Fighter Squadron.

"Aviation ground support is a critical capability that is going to generate and sustain sorties for joint forces operating in the Indo-Pacific," said Maj. Thomas O'Brien, operations officer of MWSS-373. "This was displayed in our efforts here in Palau during Valiant Shield."

UCT-2 managed port operations and led a major diving and construction project at Malakal Port, Koror, to repair damage from ship impacts. The multi-step repairs included placing underwater concrete to repair a large void, restoring the structural integrity of the port.

On June 16, the 3rd MDTF, along with a combined U.S. Army team, showcased their advanced warfighting capabilities by successfully firing Precision Strike Missiles (PrSM) from an Autonomous Multi-domain Launcher (AML) at Palau International Airport in support of the SINKEX.

The AML is an unmanned rocket launcher based on the M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, designed to engage precise ground and surface targets.

"The partnership between 3rd MDTF and the AML team represents a significant modernization milestone," said Capt. John Kenny, 3rd MDTF officer-in-charge. "Integrating emerging technologies into palpable deterrence on the edge is exactly how MDTFs bring value to the joint force."

To support environmental and marine species protections during the SINKEX, the vessel was thoroughly cleaned before being positioned 50 nautical miles from the coast of Palau. It was sunk in over 6,000 feet of water, away from reefs, with a 2.5 nautical mile mitigation zone monitored by lookouts on aircraft and another vessel to pause the exercise if marine life entered the area.

Partnership Strengthened

Exercise Valiant Shield 24 offered service members opportunities to engage with their Palauan partners, fostering cultural exchange and mutual understanding. Lt. Cmdr. Cole Yoos, CLR-17 chaplain, coordinated a day of activities with Koror Elementary School children on the final day of their school year. Service members joined the children in soccer games, volleyball, push-up contests, and a "say no to drugs" skit aimed at drug education and preventing substance abuse.

During their off-duty hours, service members immersed themselves in the local culture by dining at Palauan restaurants, sampling traditional foods and learning about the customs and traditions of the island. Many service members attended Sunday worship services at local churches alongside their Palauan hosts.

On the final day of the exercise, Mulvey, McCarthy, and other leaders met with Chief Reklai Raphael Ngirmang, Palau's paramount high chief, to express gratitude for Palau's support and hospitality during the exercise. Palau's traditional chiefs have advisory authority at the national level through the Council of Chiefs. Ngirmang is a U.S. Marine Corps veteran with two tours in Vietnam and a tenure as a drill instructor at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, retiring as a first sergeant.

As the meeting concluded, Ngirmang expressed his desire to return to the U.S. with the Marines.

"Trust me, we're taking you with us. Right here, we're taking you with us," Mulvey responded, pointing to his heart.

Though exercise Valiant Shield 24 has concluded, CLB-13 will remain in Palau and the Pacific Island region for several months to conduct Koa Moana 24, an exercise designed to strengthen relationships between the U.S. and partner nations in Oceania.

Ngirmang requested a future meeting with McCarthy, who will lead exercise Koa Moana 24 efforts, including the Peleliu Civic Center enhancement, just in time for the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of Peleliu in September 2024.

"Our partnership with Palau is invaluable," Mulvey said. "Conducting exercise Valiant Shield in Palau not only enhances military readiness but also strengthens the bonds of friendship and collaboration between the two nations."

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Cross-organization collaboration key to eradicating invasive ant species on Okinawa

Story by U.S. Army Garrison Okinawa Public Affairs

TORII STATION – U.S. Army Garrison Okinawa recently celebrated the successful eradication of the Browsing Ant during a Government of Japan, Ministry of the Environment (GOJ MOE), led press conference near Naha Military Port (NMP), May 23.

The eradication highlighted the importance of cross-organizational collaboration between USAG Okinawa and the GOJ MOE.

"Unlike humans, plants and animals do not have physical boundaries. They could easily come and go on roads and through utility pipes, so establishing a



cooperative relationship with local stakeholders is key for success," said Naho Ishiki, Directorate of Public Works, environmental engineer.

The Browsing Ant, an invasive alien species (IAS), was first observed on Okinawa Island in February 2020. The species is listed on the Japan Environmental Governing Standards, requiring eradication from installations upon discovery.

"Invasive species can be very destructive and hurt native species, so invasive species control helps us protect and preserve viable populations of endangered species, native communities and landscapes," said Ishiki.

Immediately following the first detection a cooperative control team of scientists, comprised of researchers from local universities and municipal offices, was established with the goal of eradicating the ants through information sharing.

In response to the notification from GOJ MOE, USAG Okinawa conducted an invasive ants distribution survey in June 2020, confirming their presence at over 100 locations on NMP. NMP is vulnerable to the introduction of IAS since various types of cargos and vehicles are continuously transported into the area.

"Given the high mobility of these ants, it was

(Continued on page 15)







VERSES FROM THE HOLY OUR'AN

Al Maa'idah (The Bountiful Meal) With The Name of The One True *G-D, The Merciful Benefactor, The Merciful Redeemer

In blasphemy indeed are those who say that The One True G-D is Christ the son of Mary. Say (to them): "Who then has the least power against G-D, if HIS Will were to destroy Christ the son of Mary, his mother, and all - everyone that is on the Earth?

For to The One True G-D, belongs the dominion of the Heavens and Earth, and all that is between. HE creates what HE pleases. For G-D has power over <u>everything (and everyone)</u>.

(Both) the Jews and the Christians say: "We are the sons of G-D and HIS beloved."

Say (in reply to them): "Why then does HE punish you for your sins? No, you are but Men - of the Men HE has created: HE forgives whom HE pleases, and punishes whom HE pleases:"

"And to G-D belongs the dominion of the Heavens and Earth, and all that is between: and unto HIM is the Final Goal (of everyone).

[End of Part 3]

*G-D instead of God. God when spelt backwards is *dog*. This is not a proper spelling for a word, that is used for The All-Mighty Creator of the Heavens and Earth.

** WE, Ourselves, US as revealed in the Qur'an is a reference to the Angels who have been assigned by The Creator to control everything in HIS creation.



Sentry Aloha 24-2 unites Total Force Warfighters in Hawaii

Story & Photo by Tech. Sgt. John Linzmeier 154th Wing, Hawaii Air National Guard

JOINT BASE PEARL

HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii -The Hawaii Air National Guard's 154th Wing concluded the latest iteration of its ongoing fighter exercise, Sentry Aloha 24-2, on June 12 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

This National Guard Bureau training event brought together more than 1,000 participants from nine states and four service branches throughout two weeks, providing essential combat training to joint and total-forces units.

Aircraft operations were staged and held across geographically separated locations on the islands of Oahu, Hawaii, including Marine Corps Base Hawaii and Ellison Onizuka Kona International Airport at Keāhole.

Visiting fighter and attack aircraft included A-10 Warthogs and F-16 Fighting Falcons from the Air National Guard Air Force Reserve Test Center (AATC), F-16s from the 177th Fighter Wing, F-35A Lighting IIs from the 422nd Test and Evaluation Squadron. These aircraft joined the 154th Wing's locally based F-22 Raptors, operated by the 199th and 19th Fighter Squadrons.

This year's iteration was built around a concept known as distributed mission planning and oper-

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ations, enabling participants to operate with heightened levels of autonomy as warfighters accomplished a series of combat objectives. Mai. Michael 'Deuce' Oliver. Sentry Aloha Exercise Director, said this strategic shift challenged them to employ decentralized and flexible practices in dynamic combat environments while facing the threat of advanced enemy aircraft.

Daily training sorties focused on air-to-air combat, featuring large-scale combat simulations against adversarial forces, 'red air.' and integration with friendly, 'blue air.' forces.

Several scenarios included blue air fighters protecting A-10 aircraft conducting air-to-ground strikes. These operations took place on the Pohakuloa Training Area on Hawaii Island, with Airmen from the 25th Air Support Operations Squadron on the ground coordinating close air support strikes with the escorted Warthogs.

In addition to the air-to-ground strikes, maritime strike missions were conducted alongside the U.S. Navy, having both scenarios incorporating the support of a U.S. Marine Corps MQ-9A from Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 3. The UAV's advanced airborne sensors and communication node provided intelligence, surveillance,

and reconnaissance information to both red and blue air participants throughout the training.

Throughout each training obiective, the Hawaii ANG's 169th Air Defense Squadron diligently monitored and relayed battlespace information. They upheld command and control to ensure real-time situational awareness and coordinated responses to evolving threats.

"Exercises like this are exactly what we need to allow us to operate at a much larger scale and as a joint force," said Tech. Sgt. Kukila Carreira-Manin, 169th ADS weapons director. "This also gave us an opportunity to integrate with more expeditionary Air National Guard members from [continental United States], such as the 128th, 116th, and 109th Air Control Squadrons. as well as 3d LAAB Marines stationed at Kaneohe Bay and MACS-4 out of Okinawa. We're not going to win the fight as a single branch

We as military members on all levels must continue to work together as one to ensure we are relevant and ready in the race for Great Power Competition."

Fighter activity was maintained through air-to-air refueling by local and visiting tanker aircraft, including KC-135 Stratotankers and KC-46A Pegasus airframes. C-130 aircraft variants from the Air Force Reserve Test Center and the 129th Rescue Wing delivered logistical supplies necessary for operations in remote locations, ensuring continued support and operational capability.

Throughout the exercise, AATC tested a developing communication system with airframes like the KC-135, known as Link 16, which facilitates seamless data exchange between aircraft and other sensors. This real-time information sharing capability significantly enhances situational awareness and coordina-

tion. The integration of Link 16 on atypical aircraft like tankers during the exercise demonstrated the potential to revolutionize communication strategies in combat scenarios, ensuring more efficient and effective mission execution.

Despite a smaller footprint of 'Hawaiian Raptors' due to off-island deployments, the exercise succeeded in minimizing the impact on general aviation at Honolulu International Airport by dispersing aircraft across multiple locations. This dispersion added complexity to the operations, showcasing the capabilities of conducting distributed planning and ensuring secure communications, provided by members of the Hawaii ANG's 291st and 292nd Combat Communications Squadrons and National Guard augmentees from around the nation.

Key achievements included numerous mission commander upgrades and mission qualification training for the participating fighter squadrons.

Sentry Aloha remains a critical element of combat training, offering invaluable opportunities for total-force Airmen and other DoD services. As the exercise concludes, the lessons learned and skills honed will significantly bolster the readiness of the 154th Wing to support several security initiatives throughout the Indo-Pacific Theater and beyond, ensuring comprehensive preparedness for all involved.

"We've gotten quite a lot done over the past two weeks and are glad to see that many are walking away with some significant milestones checked off," said Oliver. "Our hope is that the immense value gained from these experiences will inspire everyone to return for more opportunities to fly with us, the Hawaiian Raptors, again for more world-class training."



A formation of U.S. Air Force aircraft, including an A-10 Warthog and F-16 Fighting Falcon from the Air National Guard Air Force **Beserve Test Center an F-16** from the 177th Fighter Wing, an F-35A Lighting II from the 422nd Test and Evaluation Squadron and an F-22 Raptor, operated by the 199th and 19th Fighter Squadrons, assemble during exercise Sentry Aloha 24-2 June

U.S., Canada, Japan and the Philippines conduct Multilateral Operations

Story by U.S. Indo-Pacific Command

HAWAII – U.S. Navy, Royal Canadian Navy, Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force, and Armed Forces of the Philippines conducted a Maritime Cooperative Activity (MCA) in the Philippines' Exclusive Economic Zone, upholding freedom of navigation and overflight, reaffirming the four nations' commitment to bolstering regional security and stability, June 16-17.

The MCA demonstrates our collective commitment to strengthen regional and international co-operation in the maritime domain.

The MCA featured the U.S. Navy's Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Ralph Johnson (DDG 114), the Royal Canadian Navy's Halifax-class frigate HMCS Montreal (FFH 336), Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force Murasame-class destroyer JS Kirisame (DD 104), and the Armed Forces of the Philippines' Gregorio del Pilar-class

patrol ship BRP Andres Bonifacio (PS-17). The MCA involved a series of activities and maritime maneuvers to test and validate the interoperability of our armed forces' doctrines, tactics, techniques, and procedures. It also provided an opportunity to demonstrate professional interactions among naval and air forces rooted in long-standing military traditions and customs. These exercises were conducted in accordance with international law, ensuring the safety of civil maritime navigation and the protection of the marine environment.

The U.S. Navy regularly operates alongside our allies in the Indo-Pacific region as a demonstration of our shared commitment to the rules-based international order. Cooperation like this represents the centerpiece of our approach to a secure and prosperous region where aircraft and ships of all nations may fly, sail,



(U.S. Navy correspond) The Armed Forces of the Philippines' Gregorio del Pilar-class patrol ship BRP Andres Bonifacio (PS 17), front, sails in formation with the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Ralph Johnson (DDG 114), the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) ship JS Kirisame (DD 104), and the Royal Canadian Navy Halifax-class frigate HMCS Montreal (FFH 336) in the Philippine Sea during a multilateral Maritime Cooperative Activity (MCA) between Canada, Japan, the Philippines, and the United States, June 16.

and operate anywhere international law allows.

Ralph Johnson is forward-deployed and assigned to Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 15, the Navy's largest DESRON and the U.S. 7th Fleet's principal surface force.

U.S. 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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TORII STATION (Continued from page 8)

important to take cooperative measures both on and off base," said Ishiki. "USAG Okinawa's control project employed the latest research findings, managing to use unprecedented control techniques while complying with DoD and Army regulations."

Control methods needed to be environmentally friendly as NMP is a breeding and resting site for the Little Tern, a JEGS-listed Species at Risk, and other migratory birds subject for conservation. At the time, suitable control methods for the Browsing Ant were not known or established in Japan yet.

Control efforts were initiated in April 2021 and continued monthly. Four months after applying the baits in August 2021 the number of the ants drastically decreased.

Currently, the population of the ants at NMP has been greatly reduced. Though continuous monitoring and controlling are still necessary to eradicate the species, USAG Okinawa has achieved near-zero detection for the past two years.

"USAG Okinawa managed to establish a project, fund it to reach the lead researcher(s), conduct a distribution survey of the target species all within a year," said Ishiki. "This achievement could be a model case as it demonstrates the importance of early detection, early response and cross-organizational collaboration in the fight against invasive alien species," said Ishiki.

Information in this article was provided by Government of Japan, Ministry of the Environment and USAG Okinawa's DPW Environmental Division.TORII STATION, Okinawa – U.S. Army Garrison Okinawa celebrated the effective eradication of an invasive insect species from the island, announcing the results of the effort in a May 23 press conference held near Naha Military Port.

A U.S. Army spokesperson said during the Government of Japan, Ministry of the Environment-led press conference that the eradication of the browsing ant highlighted the importance of cross-organizational collaboration between USAG Okinawa and the GOJ MOE.

"Unlike humans, plants and animals do not have physical boundaries," said Naho Ishiki, an environmental engineer assigned to USAG Okinawa's Directorate of Public Works. "They could easily come and go on roads and through utility pipes, so establishing a cooperative relationship with local stakeholders is key for success."

The browsing ant, an invasive alien species, was first observed on Okinawa in February 2020. The species is listed on the Japan Environmental Governing Standards, requiring eradication from installations upon discovery.

"Invasive species can be very destructive and hurt native species," Ishiki said, "so invasive species control helps us protect and preserve viable populations of endangered species, native communities and landscapes."

Immediately following the first detection of the species, a cooperative control team of scientists, comprised of researchers from local universities and municipal offices, was established with the goal of eradicating the ants through information sharing.

In response to the notification from GOJ MOE, USAG Okinawa conducted a survey in June 2020, confirming the browsing ant's presence at more than 100 locations on Naha. The port is vulnerable to the introduction of invasive alien species since various types of cargo and vehicles are continuously transported into the area.

"Given the high mobility of these ants, it was important to take cooperative measures both on and off base," Ishiki said. "USAG Okinawa's control project employed the latest research findings, managing to use unprecedented control techniques while complying with [Department of Defense] and Army regulations."

Control methods needed to be environmentally friendly, as Naha Military Port is a breeding and resting site for the little tern, a JEGS-listed "species at risk," as well as other migratory birds subject for conservation. At the time, suitable control methods for the browsing ant were not known or established in Japan yet.

Control efforts were initiated in April 2021 and continued monthly. Four months after applying bait traps in August 2021, the number of ants drastically decreased.

Currently, the population of the ants at Naha has been greatly reduced from its original numbers. Though continuous monitoring and controlling are still necessary to fully eradicate the species, the ongoing effort has achieved near-zero detection for the past two years.

"USAG Okinawa managed to establish a project, fund it to reach the lead researchers, and conduct a distribution survey of the target species all within a year," Ishiki said. "This achievement could be a model case, as it demonstrates the importance of early detection, early response and cross-organizational collaboration in the fight against invasive alien species." The Government of Japan, Ministry of the Environment, and the Environmental Division of USAG Okinawa's Directorate of Public Works provided information for this article.



MCIPAC Commanding General Change of Command



(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Thomas Sheng U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Brian N. Wolford, left, the incoming commanding general of Marine Corps Installations Pacific. receives the MCIPAC colors from Mai, Gen. Stephen E. Liszewski, the outgoing commanding general of Marine Corps Installations Pacific, during a change of command ceremony on Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, Okinawa, June 14, Liszewski served for two years as the commanding general and was relieved by Wolford, who previously served as the director for plans policy strategy, United Nations Command, Combined Forces Command, United States Forces Korea



Kadena Airmen compete in Shogun Shootout

U.S. Air Force 18th Medical Group Airmen and U.S. Army 1-1 Air Defense Artillery Headquarters Battalion medics participate in Exercise Shogun Shootout at Kadena Air Base, May 29. The casualty care portion of the exercise challenged participating medical service members to operate under strenuous and unpredictable circumstances.

(U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Jonathan R. Sifuentes)

U.S. Navy volunteers commemorate Battle of Okinawa at Peace Memorial Park candle lighting

U.S. Sailors and civilians from Commander, Fleet Activities Okinawa and tenant commands participate in a candle lighting event in collaboration with Japanese volunteers at the Okinawa Prefectural Peace Memorial Museum in Itoman, Okinawa, June 22. The candle lighting was held on the eve of Okinawa Memorial Day, a prefectural holiday honoring those who passed away during the Battle of Okinawa.



(U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Magen M. Reeves)

U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa hosts U.S. Army Japan's Commanding General



Major General David Womack, Commanding General of the United States Army Japan and I Corps, and his wife Noorie visited the U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa. Gen. Womack met with leadership from USNHO to discuss the medical care for his Army Soldiers, civilians and family members who are stationed here, June 6. Gen. Womack's commands the 10th Support Group in Torii Station along with several other forces and bases in Okinawa and mainland Japan. Command Sergeant Major Jeffery Weaver, senior enlisted advisor, USARJ also accompanied the commander.

(U.S. Navy photo by Isaac Savitz)

U.S. Senior Director for East Asia and Oceania visits Okinawa

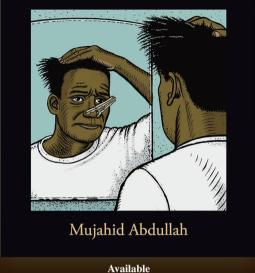
Mira Rapp-Hooper, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for East Asia and Oceania at the National Security Council, visited the III Marine Expeditionary Force (III MEF) Headquarters, June 12. Ms. Rapp-Hooper is the top advisor responsible for coordinating U.S. government policy toward the Indo Pacific-Region.

Ms. Rapp-Hooper engaged with key military leaders and personnel, including U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Roger Turner, the commanding general of III MEF. This meeting aimed to enhance collaboration and mutual understanding between the III MEF and U.S. national security officials, reflecting the broader strategic objectives of the United States in the region. Ms. Rapp-Hooper received a firsthand look at the operational capabilities and readiness of the forward-deployed Marine forces.



(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. Savannah Mesimer)

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- Cover photos (clockwise) U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. Jose Angeles U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Justin Cledera U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Osmar Gutierrez

Back page photos (clockwise) U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Hannah Fry U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Evelyn Doherty U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Tylir Meyer U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Dahkareo Pritchett

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