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P A P E R

OKINAWA SEPTEMBER Bulletin

THE REVIEW OF A PLACE RAMEN GADOU

RESOLUTE DRAGON 24

12th MLR Deploys Advanced
Radar to Yonaguni

KADENA AIR BASE

Farewell to F-15C



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Issue 8 >> September 11, 2024



VOICE

P A P E R

VOICE PAPER, features Okinawa local events, off-base places, U.S. Military activity news on the island and around the Asia-Pacific region.



U.S. Marines Explore Historic Okinawan Sites



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

U.S. Marines with 3rd Network Battalion and Delta Company Radio Battalion, III Marine Expeditionary Force, overlook Hacksaw Ridge on Okinawa, Aug. 3. The Marines visited Kakazu and Hacksaw Ridge to gain an understanding of the two locations' roles in the Battle of Okinawa. Kakazu Ridge was a battlefield where U.S. forces faced Japanese defenses to gain higher ground and advance further during the Battle of Okinawa. Hacksaw Ridge was a crucial battleground in World War II, where U.S. forces advanced through Okinawa to secure a critical vantage point and where Desmond Doss saved numerous lives with his actions without carrying a weapon.

MCIPAC and the Okinawa Prefecture Government Host "The Ripple Effect" a Lecture on DUI Prevention

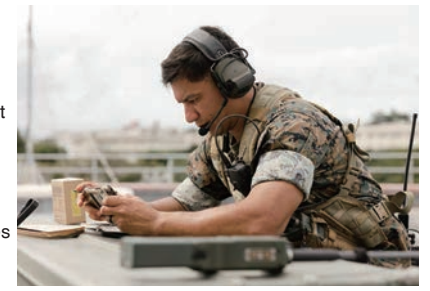


(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Maksim Masloboev)

An officer with the Okinawa Prefecture Police Department demonstrates a breathalyzer test to U.S. Marines during "The Ripple Effect" lecture on the dangers of driving under the influence on Camp Hansen, Aug. 13. The lecture was hosted by Marine Corps Installations Pacific in collaboration with the Okinawa Prefecture Government as part of a DUI prevention campaign.

Close Air Support from Torii Station

U.S. Marine Corps Gunnery Sgt. Edwin Umanzor, the assistant operations chief of 5th Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company, III Marine Expeditionary Force Information Group, utilizes an android tactical assault kit to plot coordinates during a simulated close air support evaluation at Torii Station, Aug. 7. 5th ANGLICO Marines regularly conduct close air support training to maintain their proficiency in planning and coordinating fires and effects in support of joint and multinational forces.



(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Bridgette Rodriguez)

Service members from Camp Schwab host a display for local child-care center



(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. Davin Tenbusch)

Sparky the fire dog interacts with children from Kamimotobu After-School Childcare Center on Camp Schwab, Aug. 7. Marines and firefighters hosted a display for the children to foster community relations and view the latest capabilities of today's maritime services.

US Airman Returns World War II Artifacts Back to the Japanese people

U.S. Air National Guard Lt. Col. Patrick Cichon, Commander of the 129th Medical Group, Emergency Medicine Physician, and Flight Surgeon, repatriates World War II artifacts to the Okinawa Prefectural Peace Memorial Museum on July 20. These artifacts were preserved by Cichon's late father, USMC Staff Sgt. Casimir Joseph Cichon, during and after the Battle of Okinawa. As a gesture of goodwill and a commitment to strengthening partnerships, Cichon returned these and other artifacts to the Japanese people on behalf of his father. Additional artifacts were also given to the Japan Air Self-Defense Force and the Gunma Prefectural Museum of History in mainland Japan.



(U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Joseph Pagan)

Duty on the island

VMFA-242 performs field carrier landing practice at Ie Shima Training Facility



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

A U.S. Marine with Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 242, Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, signals to an F-35B Lightning II STOVL Stealth Fighter participating in field carrier landing practice during exercise Rolute Dragon 24 at Ie Shima Training Facility, Aug. 7. RD 24 is an annual bilateral exercise in Japan that strengthens the command, control, and multi-domain maneuver capabilities of U.S. Marines in III Marine Expeditionary Force and Japan Self-Defense Force personnel, with a focus on controlling and defending key maritime terrain.

Cover photos (clockwise)

Sunrise at Sunabe / Fireworks - courtesy photos
U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Melany Bermudez
U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Osmar Gutierrez

Back photo

Getty Images / Iavin photography

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SEPTEMBER bulletin

AAT!

CHATAN

Seaport Chatan Carnival



Sept 28
Sept 29



GINOWAN

Hagoromo Festival



Sept 28
Sept 29



GINOWAN



Okinawa
Kanasa
Fireworks
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Sept 14



KITANAKAGUSUKU



Kitanaka
Marche
Sept 15



ITOMAN



Itoman
Tug-of-
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Sept 17



URUMA



Bull-
fighting
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Sept 28



KADENA



Noguni
Soukan
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Oct 5
Oct 6



Fond farewell to F-15C A5095

Story & Photo by Airman 1st Class Melany Bermudez
18th Wing Public Affairs

KADENA AIR BASE – Crew chiefs and pilots with the 18th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and 67th Fighter Squadron organized a final flight for F-15C Eagle A5095 Aug. 15.

The final flight is an Air Force tradition celebrating the aircraft's departure from a unit or the last time the aircraft will fly. A5095 was slated for demilitarization the day after its final flight. Symbolizing the end of an era for the mighty F-15C Eagles in Kadena.

As part of its modernization plan, the U.S. Air Force is enabling Kadena to increase its combat capabilities with F-15EX Eagle IIs, while maintaining a rotational presence with the phased with-

drawal of the F-15 C/Ds. The F-15C A5095 will be taken apart for disposal which further symbolizes the end of an era.

As part of its modernization plan, the U.S. Air Force is returning Kadena's fleet of aging F-15 C/D Eagles back to the United States while maintaining a rotational fighter presence during the phased withdrawal.

"It's purely a dominant aircraft with 104 wins and zero losses," U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Clark Pacay, 18th AMXS dedicated crew chief assigned to A5095 said. "To me, the F-15C means a long history of tradition with an undying legacy."

The F-15C is an all-weather maneuverable tactical fighter

designed to permit the Air Force to gain and maintain air supremacy over the battlefield. The Eagle's air superiority is achieved through a mixture of unprecedented acceleration, range, weapons and avionics.

"The Air Force placed that aircraft specifically in Kadena. It's actually the tip of the spear with relation to the threats we have around us. It has helped support us in that concept of air superiority," said U.S. Air Force Maj. Peter Gawor, 67th Fighter Squadron director of operations and pilot for A5095's final flight.

Kadena serves as a hub for airpower in the Pacific, ensuring readiness to project force capabilities and provide support to regional

allies and partners when called upon.

"The maintainers and pilots that work on this aircraft day in and day out, especially with the 18 AMXS's mission to provide tactically, technically disciplined and proficient Airmen so that our pilots can be the professional and dominant pilots that they are," said Pacay. "I believe that's what makes us so formidable."

Both crew chiefs assigned to A5095 expressed what it means to have their name printed on the side of the F-15C.

"It is a sense of pride, it makes you feel like what you're doing is more important," said U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Tyler Lewis, 18th AMXS assistant dedicated crew chief assigned to A5095.

"Having a name on aircraft 5095 or just the F-15 in general, it holds a great value, a sense of pride when you work on the jet, knowing that the Eagle that you put in the air is solely your responsibility and your work," said Pacay. "To have your jet come back, complete its mission with your pilot's safe return, it means a lot to be a part of the Air Force's mission."

As the sun sets for the F-15C in Kadena, the Department of Defense has selected the F-15EX Eagle II to continue the legacy of maintaining air superiority in Kadena. The Eagle II shares similarity with the F-15C, however, several upgrades have been made to enhance its multi-mission capability along with its air-to-air defense.

"The capabilities of the F-15EX are definitely going to benefit Team Kadena and the Indo-Pacific region. I bid farewell to Aircraft 5095 and a warm welcome to the inbound F-15EXs," said Pacay.

Gawor said the F-15C is the only aircraft he's ever known, but he will apply that experience into the new aircraft and the new culture of pilots that come with it. He added that the arrival of the new F-15EXs to Kadena will help Kadena maintain air superiority in the area of responsibility.

In recognition of the U.S. Air Force F-15C Eagle's legacy, Staff Sgt. Pacay said, "Although the F-15Cs are leaving Kadena, it's not the end of an era for the Eagles. That tradition will be carried on by the F-15EX."

VERSES FROM THE HOLY QUR'AN

With The Name of The One True *G-D,
The Merciful Benefactor, The Merciful Redeemer

Al Ankabut (The Spider)

Each one of them WE seized for his crime: of them, against some WE sent a violent **Tornado** (with showers of stones); some were caught by a (mighty) **Blas**; some we caused the Earth to **swallow up**; and some WE **drowned** (in floods and **Tsunamis**).

It was not G-D Who injured (or oppressed) them: They injured (and oppressed) their own souls.

The Parable of those who take protectors other than The One True G-D, is that of the Spider; who builds (for itself) a house; but truly the flimsies of houses is the Spider's house - if they but knew.

Verily G-D does know of whatever that they call upon besides HIM: and HE is Exalted, Wise.

And such are the Parables WE set forth for Mankind, but only those understand them who have Knowledge.

The One G-D created the Heavens and earth in true (expanse): Verily in that is a Message for those who believe.

Recite what is sent of the **Revelation** by Inspiration to you, and establish regular Prayer: for Prayer restrains from shameful and unjust deeds:

And remembrance of G-D is the greatest (thing in life) without doubt. And G-D knows the (deeds) that you do.

[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.



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Project Mercury fosters innovation

Story & Photo by Senior Airman Luis E. Rios Calderon 18th Wing Public Affairs

KADENA AIR BASE – With continued steps towards force modernization and adaptability, the U.S. Air Force is developing innovative solutions to tackle rising challenges; that is where Project Mercury comes in.

Starting as a joint venture in 2019 between Air University and the University of Michigan, Project Mercury began as a 13 week course and now operates as an independent military consultancy aimed at providing detailed, long lasting solutions instead of short-term ‘band-aid’ fixes.

Members across Kadena Air Base participated in the Project Mercury Innovator Workshop over several days, which is aimed at fostering group leaders to handle rising issues with new ways of problem-solving.

“The classes provide a foundation on teamwork, creativity, collaboration and the usage of digital tools for ideation and project management,” said Dr. Ethan Eagle, Project Mercury head coach. “With that, teams find, diagnose and develop creative strategies for a problem and pitch those ideas to group leaders.”

Each innovator workshop is



U.S. Air Force Col. Joshua Lundebly, left, 18th Wing deputy commander, and Airman Flores Zachary, 18th Component Maintenance Squadron centralized repair facility journeyman, discuss details and share ideas on creative problem solving during Project Mercury Innovator Workshop at Kadena Air Base, Aug. 5.

customizable to meet the needs of units that participate in it. The workshops go by the base’s innovation cells, and tailor their workshop’s program to tackle unique, basic specific issues.

“It’s rewiring of the way military members usually think,” said U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. John Reeves, 18th Medical Group diagnostics and therapeutics flight chief, one of the coaches going through the workshop. “In the innovation space, we have to pace ourselves and observe different environments, and then use that information to craft creative, long lasting solutions to persistent problems, instilling innovative mindsets at the lowest level possible and fostering ‘radical thinkers.’”

These workshops are designed to include various levels of experience and rank from both the enlisted and officer sides, providing a platform for different ideas and experiences to come together.

“A lot of people go straight to just putting senior leaders in these programs for innovation, but the people identifying the problems and coming up with

these ideas aren’t people like me,” said Reeves. “They are the junior enlisted, fresh non-commissioned officers who say ‘Why are we doing it this way’ or ‘I have this problem’ and these front end users are the ones coming up with these amazing ideas.”

Project Mercury pushes this type of decision making to the middle and lower ranks, developing them and fostering leadership capabilities early on, providing Airmen with an environment to practice self determination, group decision making strategies and adaptational skills that they can then apply to their real world projects.

“I don’t consider myself as an innovator, but a lot of the things I learned during my time in Project Mercury directly helped me in my real world project,” Reeves said. “It helped me build my team, find out who could come up with those out of the box solutions, and then tailor those insane ideas into something we can apply. Not listening to those radical thinkers is a loss of opportunity, and it’s our job as senior leaders to encourage and build them up. It’s how we stay ahead in innovation.”

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12th MLR Deploys Advanced Radar to Yonaguni for Resolute Dragon 24

Story by 1st Lt. Sarah Bobrowski
Photo by Lance Cpl. Matthew Morales
3d Marine Division

JGSDF CAMP YONAGUNI – A Japan Air Self-Defense Force (JASDF) C-2 delivered 12th Marine Littoral Regiment's AN/TPS-80 Ground/Air Task Oriented Radar (TPS-80) to Camp Yonaguni, Okinawa, July 29, in support of exercise Resolute Dragon 24. This marks the first time the TPS-80 has been deployed to Yonaguni. The deployment was made possible through close coordination and a strong partnership between 12th MLR and the Japan Self-Defense Force, reinforcing mutual security objectives and enhancing regional stability.

The radar was deployed to support training with enhanced sensing and targeting data between 12th MLR and the JSDF during Resolute Dragon. This effort aims to enhance operational readiness in the region, underscoring the U.S. Marine Corps' commitment to maintaining peace and security in the Indo-Pacific through realistic training with innovative and proven technology.

“Operating the TPS-80 is a huge win for the MLR in strengthening our relationship with the JSDF,

preparing for potential contingencies, strengthening our ability to integrate capabilities, and increasing multi-domain awareness and fires coordination,” said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Roy Shiflet, the target acquisition platoon commander for 12th MLR.

The TPS-80 is a multi-mission system designed to provide advanced air surveillance, ground surveillance, and weapons control capabilities from a single, mobile platform. It is built to meet the evolving needs of the Marine Corps and is ideal for Marine Littoral Regiments to provide enhanced sensing and targeting capabilities to the joint force.

“During Resolute Dragon 24, the TPS-80 will be utilized by 12th MLR and the JSDF to enhance situational awareness by supporting comprehensive detection and tracking across air, land, and maritime domains,” said Lt. Col Joseph Mozzi, the fire support coordinator for 12th MLR. “This will significantly boost multi-domain operations and overall

(Continued on page 16)



A U.S. Marine Corps AN/TPS-80 Ground/Air Task Oriented Radar is deployed during exercise Resolute Dragon 24 at Japan Ground Self-Defense Force Camp Yonaguni, Aug. 2.

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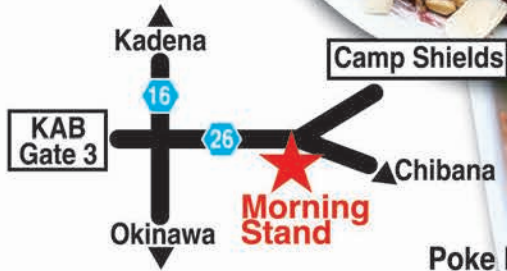
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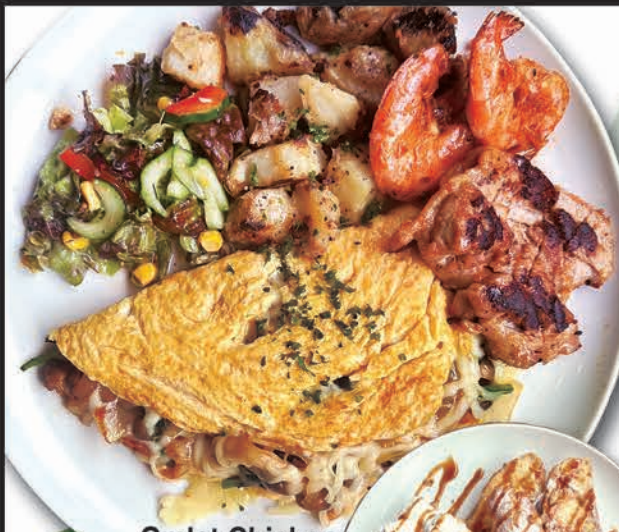
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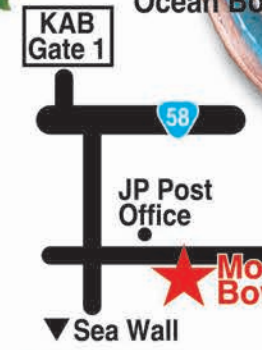


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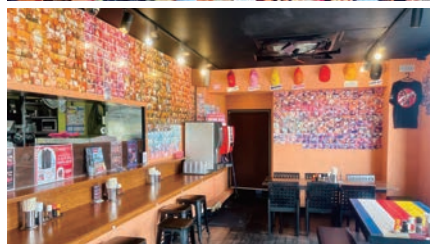
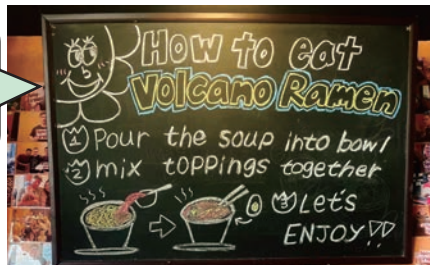
THE REVIEW

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Political Activity Quick Guide for Active Duty Service Members

Service members are encouraged to participate in the political process, but they must be aware of what they can and cannot do regarding political activities.

Here is a list of political activities uniformed service members can and cannot do. For a full list of political activities service members and federal employees may participate in, visit: www.fvap.gov/info/laws/political-activities



CAN

Register to vote, vote, and encourage others to vote

Express *personal* opinions on political candidates and issues

Attend partisan and non-partisan political events as a spectator during off-duty hours, **out of uniform**

Donate money to a political party, candidate, organization or committee

Display one, non-offensive bumper sticker on your personally owned vehicle



CANNOT

Attend a political event in uniform whether it's partisan or nonpartisan

Make derogatory statements about elected officials and/or DOD/DAF leadership

Organize, lead, sponsor or speak at partisan political events

Engage in partisan political fundraising activities -except as a donor

Display any type of partisan political signage, banners, posters or the like (ie: flags/yard signs) in your office, work area, or on-base residence (including privatized housing)

Resolute Dragon 24 (Continued from page 10)

battlespace awareness throughout the exercise.”

“The opportunity to train alongside our JSDF counterparts while utilizing the TPS-80 in real-world conditions is extremely valuable. It ensures we gain essential experience and are fully prepared to use this technology in any situation alongside our Japanese allies,” stated Sgt. Jacob Pesl, a field artillery radar operator with 12th Marine Littoral Regiment.

This is the first-time 12th MLR has participated in a Resolute Dragon exercise since its redesignation in November 2023. Resolute Dragon 24 is an annual bilateral exercise in Japan that strengthens the command, control, and multi-domain maneuver capabilities of U.S. Marines in III Marine Expeditionary Force and Japan Self-Defense Force personnel, with a focus on controlling and defending key maritime terrain.



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Okinawa Zenzai

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The Highlight Product

Infectious diseases caused by various viruses are on the increase everywhere. Many types of disinfectant sprays are on the market, but most contain alcohol and hypochlorous acid. Which are effective while safe for small children and pets?

The Aqua-X line of products is designed to eliminate odors in living spaces and toilets in households with pets and keep the whole house clean. As proof of Aqua-X products' effectiveness, the Pet Box Chatan store in Okinawa, for example, highly recommends them and uses them to clean, disinfect, and deodorize the store.

The products are developed by Antimicrobial Meister, a company that has been developing and manufacturing antimicrobial and disinfection products at its facility in Niigata Prefecture for 25 years.

No alcohol or synthetic detergents

are used in making the products, so there is no need to wipe after cleaning. They also do not damage surfaces as alcohol and other detergents do. All products are safe for pets, even to lick. They are not sticky and are smooth and pleasant to use, which are highly valued factors among users.

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A Celebration of Culture, Unity, and Military Openness at Naha Air Base

Story & Photos by Staff Sgt. Joseph Pagan
163d Attack Wing



Summer Festa at NAHA Air Base in Okinawa, featuring performances by the Japan Self-Defense Force (JASDF) Band and traditional Eisa folk dancers on July 19.

NAHA, Okinawa – On July 19, the NAHA Air Base in Okinawa, Japan, buzzed with enthusiasm as it hosted the annual Summer Festa. This remarkable event brought together communities and cultures, showcasing a beautiful blend of tradition and modern military prowess. The day's festivities kicked off with exceptional performances by the Japan Self-Defense Force Band, filling the air with vibrant music that resonated with both nostalgia and pride. Complementing the musical spectacle were the traditional Eisa folk dancers, whose rhythmic movements and colorful costumes captivated the audience, bridging the past with the present. One of the highlights was undoubtedly the wide array of food and drink provided by local vendors. Attendees relished the opportunity to taste the flavors of Okinawa, from savory street food to refreshing beverages, all reflecting the island's rich culinary heritage.

All were welcome to attend the Summer Festa, including the local Okinawan community and U.S. service members and their families, creating an inclusive and

welcoming environment. Beyond the entertainment and culinary delights, the event had a deeper significance. It offered a unique, transparent glimpse into Japan's military capabilities. Educational booths set up by the Japan Air Self-Defense Force and Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force provided an unparalleled close-up view of the nation's state-of-the-art military aircraft and equipment. This openness fosters greater public understanding of Japan's defense systems, building trust and transparency between the military and civilians. The importance of such transparency cannot be overstated. It ensures that the public remains informed about the defensive measures in place, reassuring citizens of their safety and the country's preparedness in times of need. This level of openness not only demystifies military operations but also engenders a sense of shared responsibility and community resilience.

To further enrich the cultural experience, guests received beautifully crafted paper fans and detailed informational fliers. These keepsakes were more than

just souvenirs; they served as educational tools, offering insights into the intricate workings of the Japan Self-Defense Forces and the cultural significance of their presence in Okinawa. Summer Festa exemplifies how cultural heritage and modern military capabilities can coalesce to create a meaningful event. This annual celebration is a testament to the importance of community, the value of cultural preservation, and the necessity of transparency. Through events like Summer Festa, bridges are built and strengthened between the military and the public, fostering a shared sense of identity and purpose. The celebration at NAHA Air Base was not just a display of tradition and military might; it was a heartfelt expression of unity, pride, and mutual respect among the people of Okinawa and the members of the Japan Self-Defense Forces. Summer Festa 2024 was more than just a festival. It was a platform for celebrating rich cultural traditions and promoting an open dialogue between the military and civilians, all under the warm Okinawan sun.

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(U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Kenneth Melseth)

USS America (LHA 6) conducts Flight Operations

Sailors assigned to the forward-deployed amphibious assault ship USS America (LHA 6), unchain an F-35B Lightning, from Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 121 during routine operations in the Philippine Sea, Aug. 20. America, lead ship of the America Amphibious Ready Group, along with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, are underway conducting routine operations in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations. 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.



(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Matthew Morales)

3/12 HIMARS Embark on the 31st MEU Utilizing a U.S. Navy Landing Craft, Air Cushion

A U.S. Navy landing craft, air cushion maneuvers towards Kin Blue Training Area during a High-Mobility Artillery Rocket System attachment at Kin Blue Training Area, Okinawa, Aug. 13. U.S. Marines with 3d Battalion, 12th Marine Littoral Regiment attached HIMARS to the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit. 3/12 integration with the 31st MEU demonstrates the ability to execute Expeditionary Advanced Base Operations and the flexibility to rapidly respond to crises and contingencies.



(U.S. Army photo by Spc. Kelsey Köllar)

Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise

Korean soldiers assigned to Republic of Korea Army South's 1st Armored Brigade fire K2 assault rifles during a combined arms live fire exercises at Nightmare Range, near Pocheon, South Korea, Aug. 14. Battalions from ROK Army joined the U.S. Army 1st Armored Division to train on interoperability and command and control on the battlefield through mechanized infantry support.



(U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Whitney Erhart)

110th EBS conducts BTF operations from RAAF Base Amberley

A U.S. Air Force B-2 Spirit stealth bomber takes off for a Bomber Task Force mission at Royal Australian Air Force Base Amberley, Australia, Aug. 19. Bomber missions contribute to joint force lethality and deter aggression in the Indo-Pacific by demonstrating USAF ability to operate anywhere in the world at any time in support of the National Defense Strategy.

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