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Issue 14 >>February 12, 2025

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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 with Combat Logistics Battalion 31, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, prepare to attach a Howitzer M777A2 onto a CH-53E Super Stallion assigned to Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 262 (Rein.) during lift operations at LZ Dodo, on Camp Hansen, Jan. 9. Marines participated in a training exercise designed to simulate attaching supplies and weaponry onto an aircraft in a field scenario.

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Fighting Falcons

practice ACE

Seabee Bunker Training

Sailors assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 3 construct a bunker during a training exercise to maintain their construction proficiency, Camp Shields, Jan. 7. NMCB-3 serves as the stand-in engineering force for Commander, U.S. 7th Fleet, providing advanced construction and expeditionary capabilities in the Indo-Pacific region.

J.S. Navy photo by Mass ommunication Specialist 1st Class tin Ingram)

BLT 2/4 conducts Fast Rope Exercise

U.S. Marines with Battalion Landing Team 2/4, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, conduct fast rope training from MV-22 Ospreys assigned to Marine Medium Tiltrotor 262 (Rein.), Camp Hansen, Jan. 15. Marines participated in fast rope training to enhance air-to-ground insertion capabilities.



(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. BishopWilliams)

CFAO Commanding Officer Meets with Okinawa Defense Bureau Director General



Shinya Ito, director general of the Okinawa Defense Bureau, right, and Capt. Joseph Parson, commanding officer, Commander, Fleet Activities Okinawa, meet during an office call at the Okinawa Defense Bureau Headquarters, Kadena Town. CFAO maintains and operates facilities to support United Nations Command-Rear missions, coalition and allied partners, U.S. Navy ships, submarines, and aircraft, and Joint Force assets in the Indo-Pacific region.

(U.S. Navy photo by Candice Barber)

Kadena's fighter presence remains unwavering

(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Sav Ford)

A U.S. Air Force F-16C Fighting Falcon pilot

assigned to the 77th Expeditionary Fighter

Squadron, preforms pre-flight checks in

ness exercise at Marine Corps Air Station

Futenma, Jan. 15. During the exercise, the

77th EFS staged out of Futenma to simulate

generating combat airpower from an austere

location. Airmen practiced syncing with

multiple locations.

joint force teams to project air power from

support of an 18th Wing routine readi-

U.S. Air Force F-22A Raptors assigned to the 525th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron taxi down the runway during a base-wide readiness exercise at Kadena Air Base, Jan 15. The transition to more modern aircraft at Kadena exemplifies the U.S. Air Force's continued commitment to enhancing posture and building on the strong foundation of the U.S.-Japan alliance.



(U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Arnet Shayne Tamayo





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Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz Under Construction Story and Photo by Bachelskanders Office in Charge of Construction Marine Corps Marianas

FINEGAYAN, Guam – Construction progress on the new Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz can be seen from the air in early January.

The Office in Charge of Construction (OICC) Marine Corps Marianas (MCM) was established in 2016 to handle over \$8B worth of construction work required through the Defense Policy Review Initiative (DPRI)

Currently, \$3.6B worth of construction is underway on site, of which \$2.5B is funded through an international agreement with Japan. Construction projects range from utilities improvements and housing, to warehouses and training facilities.

Twenty different contractor entities are responsible for the execution of the work, overseen by the OICC. On average, 6,000 or more personnel are on the site conducting work on a daily basis, along with dozens of different types of heavy equipment and cranes.

Buildings are turned over to the tenant command upon completion. OICC MCM will turn over approximately 30 projects in 2025 alone.









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U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa Staff Tour the University of the Ryukyus New Facility

Story by Isaac Savitz U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa

GINOWAN - The newly built University of the Ryukus Hospital is on land that once housed U.S. military families. The repurposed area will continue to serve many people: Japanese citizens, Japanese Military, American citizens, American service members, and numerous others will all count on the state-of-the-art facility for their medical needs. As you walk around the new facilities, you cannot help but notice the purpose-driven layout that leaves little chance for errors or lost time. The other seemingly obvious observation is the close proximity to Camp Foster in the city of Ginowan where the U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa Hospital is located and shares a fence with the new and impressive Japanese hospital.

Dr. Gen Ouchi is a longtime friend and partner to the leadership and staff at USNHO. Dr. Ouchi and Dr. Takehiro Umemura led the

tour of the new hospital for a group consisting of leadership from Naval Hospital Okinawa and leadership from the Japanese Self-Defense Force out of the JSDF Naha hospital. The new hospital is going through a "soft opening" while they are still working to finish the areas related to the university, and it is expected to open this spring. While the hospital "ramps up" operations, they will receive 10 ambulances daily and have scheduled surgeries in the new operating rooms. One area of focus that stood out in the tour was the emphasis on emergencies, disasters, and infectious medicine. Okinawa faces many potential threats from an active annual typhoon season, frequent earthquakes from being a volcanic island, tsunamis, and proximity to an ever-increasing threat over disputed land and sea areas.

Medical resources and specialties have a higher associated cost and are often hard to fill due to the long training pipeline and practical usage requirements. So, where able and when needed, the U.S. works with host nation hospitals to help provide care to our beneficiaries. When the Naval Hospital recently replaced its aging MRI machine, local host nation hospitals provided relief and coverage for the USNHO patients.

The doctors who provide the emergency care were involved all along the way and made suggestions to help the patients flow through the intake areas. There is a helicopter pad on the 12th floor of the hospital and separate landing zones on the ground that can accommodate military helos. JSDF physicians train in all the prefectural hospitals, which makes integration a little more seamless. This summer, the JSDF medical personnel worked side by side

(Continued on page 12)

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(Continued from page 10)

with the Navy and Air Force in joint medical support for a more extensive Marine Corps exercise.

A large hypobaric chamber that can accommodate 8-10 people and four negative pressure rooms in a 20-bed Emergency Intensive Care Unit (EICU)/ High-Intensity Care Unit (HICU) are incredible assets that convey the investment the Japanese Government and Okinawan Prefectural Government are making in their citizens and guests here on Okinawa. Another service available that will have an incredible impact on the most vulnerable of patients, pediatric cancer patients, is a school that will ensure the kids stay on track with their classes while in the hospital. The school is for long-term patients going through cancer treatment and is the only one of its kind in Okinawa.

The tour wrapped up with a



renewed feeling of progress and purpose. The bulk of the group were providers who have dedicated their lives to helping others. By forming these close relationships with access to expertise, training opportunities, and advanced equipment, the patients in Okinawa and the surrounding area of operations will benefit immensely because of the relationships formed between the U.S. and our Japanese allies.

The U.S. Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command Okinawa (USNMRTCO) supports the Defense Health Agency's

Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command leadership tours the new University of Ryukyus Hospital, Jan. 9.

(U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Trey Fowler)

U.S. Naval Hospital, Okinawa (USNHO) as the largest OCONUS Navy Medicine medical treatment facility and stands at the 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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U.S. Marine Received Two Purple Hearts, Bringing Awareness to Effects of Traumatic Brain Injuries



U.S. Marines across III Marine Expeditionary Force, pose for a group photo after a Purple Heart ceremony on Camp Kinser, Jan. 6. Chief Warrant Officer 2 William Faffler, a visual information officer with 3rd Marine Logistics Group, received two Purple Hearts, both for wounds sustained during combat operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, May and October of 2010.





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Vermont Air National Guard deploys to Kadena

Col. Trevor Callen, 134th EFS

commander. "We are committed

to leveraging our experiences and

techniques alongside our bilateral

partners and Kadena flying units,

which will significantly enhance

our operational versatility in the

Kadena is a pivotal hub for Agile

Combat Employment. The 18th

rotational units that strengthen

project combat power in concert

Wing will continue to receive

capabilities, such as ACE, and

These continuous rotations of

aircraft at Kadena ensure the

18th Wing remains flexible and

credible airpower to deter acts of

"Kadena's commitment to

postured to deliver lethal and

with Allies and partners.

As the Keystone of the Pacific,

Indo-Pacific."

aggression.

Story by Staff Sgt. Dwane Young 18th Wing Public Affairs

KADENA AIR BASE – F-35A Lightning IIs assigned to 134th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron, Vermont Air National Guard, touched down at Kadena Air Base, Jan. 13, the latest round of U.S. Air Force fighter deployments to the Pacific.

As part of its modernization plan, the U.S. Air Force is retiring the aging F-15C/D fleet of aircraft that has been in service for more than 40 years. Kadena maintains a steady-state fighter presence by hosting fourth- and fifth-generation fighters to backfill the F-15C/D Eagles as they return to the United States.

The 134th EFS will be integrating with F-22 Raptors from the 525th EFS and F-16C Fighting Falcons from the 77th EFS to continually provide forward fighter capabilities in support of theater deterrence and U.S. Indo-Pacific Command objectives.

"Our squadron eagerly antic-

National Guard Base, South Burlington, Vermont, Jan. 6. More than 200 Airmen, along with equipment and F-35A Lighting II aircraft from the Vermont Air National Guard recently deployed to Kadena Air Base. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Michael Davis) ipates the chance to elevate our regional deterrence is ironclad," training by testing ACE concepts said Col. David Deptula, 18th Wing during this deployment," said Lt. Operations Group commander.

an F-35A Lightning II aircraft at the

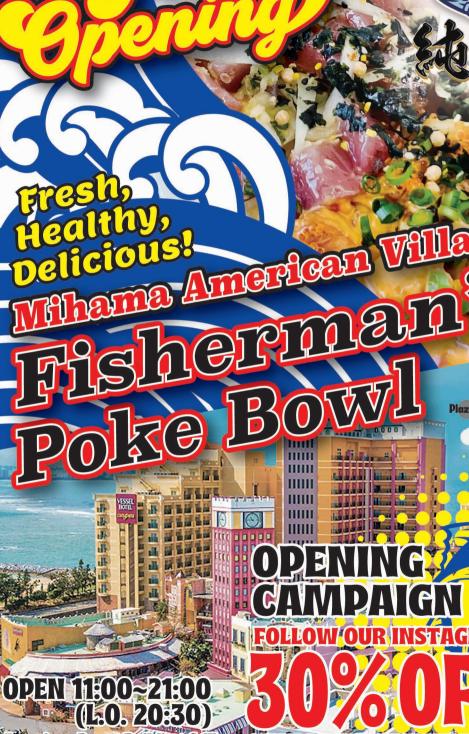
"Rotational aircraft are a normal part of Kadena's operations, and their presence ensures the continuation of our long-standing mission to defend Japan and maintain an open and free Indo-Pacific."

d to the 158th Fighter Wing taxis

ermont Air

Throughout these deployments, the 18th Wing will continue to comply with applicable bilateral agreements with the Government of Japan regarding. All visiting aircrews receive thorough briefings on local noise abatement procedures and mission planners will continue to give due consideration to the local community.

Modernizing capabilities in the Indo-Pacific theater remains a top priority. The transition to more capable aircraft at Kadena exemplifies the DoD's continued commitment to enhancing posture while building on the strong foundation of its Alliance with Japan.



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Story by 18th Wing Public Affairs

KADENA AIR BASE – U.S. Air Force Airmen assigned to the 18th

Security Forces Squadron conduct a gate runner exercise in support of a base wide routine readiness exercise, Jan. 15.

One of the 18th SFS responsibilities is safeguarding the base and maintaining its security. They manage entry control points, ensuring that all individuals have the proper clearance and are accounted for. In the event of a threat or an attempted breach, they are trained to apply their knowledge and experience to effectively protect the base. During the exercise the unit simulated a 'gate runner', a person or a vehicle who had breached base parameters without the proper clearance or authorization.

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Alexander Hernandez, 18th SFS law enforcement patroller, explained that a person driving through the gate without utilizing credentials initiates a chase. Then, that alarms the team to conduct a high-risk traffic stop, which involves pulling him out of the vehicle and apprehending him. Airmen assigned to the 18th Security Forces Squadron conduct a gate runner exercise as part of a basewide routine readiness exercise at Kadena Air Base, Jan. 15.

(U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Amy Kelley "The more we practice the

better we are when we face a real-world scenario," said U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Keyanna Rogers, 18th SFS base defense operation controller.

Maintaining readiness is essential to generating credible deterrence in an increasingly complex and highly demanding environment.

Exercises are a vital component to ensure mission readiness, it opens the ability for leadership to identify any limiting factors and make necessary changes.

VERSES FROM THE HOLY OUR'AN

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

Al Nisaa (The Women)

**WE have sent you inspiration, as WE sent it to Noah and the Messengers after him:

WE sent inspiration to Abraham, Isma'il, Isaac, Jacob and the Tribes, to Jesus, Job, Jonah, Aaron, and Solomon, and to David WE gave the Psalms.

Of some Apostles WE have already told you the story; of others WE have not;- and to Moses G-D spoke direct;-

Messenger. who gave good news as well as warning, that Mankind, after (the coming) of the Apostles, should have no plea against G-D.

For The One True G-D is Exalted in Power, Wise.

But G-D bear witness that what HE has sent unto you HE has sent from HIS (Own) knowledge, and the Angels bear witness:

But enough is G-D for a witness.

Those who reject Faith and keep off (others) from the way of G-D, have verily strayed far, far away from the Path (of righteousness).

Those who reject Faith and do wrong,- The One G-D will not forgive them nor guide them to any way-

Except the way of Hell, to dwell therein for ever. And this to The One True G-D is easy.

O Mankind! The Messenger (Muhammed) has come to you in truth from G-D.

Believe in him: It is best for you. But if you reject Faith, to G-D belongs everything in the Heavens and on Earth:

And G-D is All-knowing, All-wise.

*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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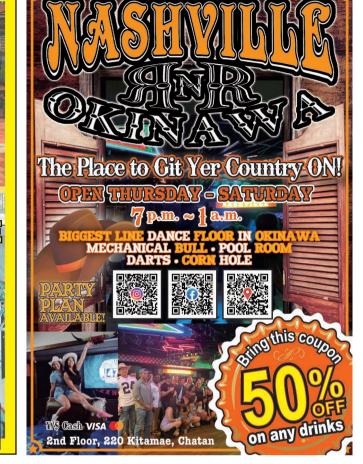


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Power Habits for Avoiding Influenza

Dr. Ceabert J. Griffith

The World Health Organization reports that influenza illness (commonly referred to as "the Flu") is a global public health burden each year. According to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the flu season occurs during the winter months, peaking between December and February. Accurate estimates are hard to come by, but an estimated 9 million to 41 million flu-related illnesses occur annually in the United States. Unfortunately, the influenza virus is responsible for approximately 50,000 deaths among Americans annually. The very young and the elderly are most vulnerable to the extreme adverse effects of the influenza virus. CDC experts note that prevention is the best way to steer clear of influenza.

Common Symptoms of Influenza

The common cold can present with some of the same symptoms as influenza. Influenza imposes a long list of symptoms including fever, chills, cough, sore throat, nasal congestion, runny nose, headache, body ache, and fatigue. Some people with the flu vomit and develop diarrhea.

Tips for Preventing the Flu



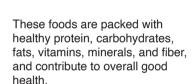
The following are evidence-based strategies for avoiding flu illnesses, flu-related hospitalizations, and flu-induced complications: • Everyone eligible should get a flu vaccine annually. Less than half of eligible adults receive the annual

eligible adults receive the annual influenza vaccine. Check with your primary healthcare provider for his/her recommendation. Avoid close contact with individuals who are apparently ill.

- Wear a mask in crowded situations such as on trains, airports, or airplanes.
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water. Alternatively, if you are not sensitive to topical alcohol, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Frequently clean items and surfaces likely to harbor germs, such as doorknobs, computer keyboards, and public phones.
 Improve ambient air quality by allowing fresh outside air or purifying indoor air.
 If you develop influenza illness, ask your primary healthcare provider if you qualify to take antiviral drugs.

Healthy Lifestyle to Prevent Influenza

Practicing daily health habits
is a powerful strategy for
strengthening your immune
system and resisting the influenza
virus. The following daily habits
can be helpful:
Eat fresh, high-quality,
unprocessed, plant-based foods.



- Stay hydrated primarily with water.
- Get 150 minutes or more of physical activity each day.
 Walking, swimming, and biking are excellent choices.
- Get between 7 and 9 hours of sleep each night.
- Manage your stress.
- Quit tobacco products.
- Avoid alcohol intake.



Additional Resources

For more information on preventing Influenza, visit the CDC's Website at: https://www. cdc.gov/flu/prevention/actionsprevent-flu.html

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Dr. Ceabert J. Griffith is trained in public health and family medicine and is an Adjunct Professor of health sciences at Touro University Worldwide. He is based in Okinawa and is the author of "15 Power Habits of Wellness" and co-author of "11 Power Habits to Defeat High Blood Pressure," sold on Amazon.com.





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US and Japan Conduct Bilateral Flight New Year Jump in Japan



Japan Air Self-Defense F-15s and Mitsubishi F-2s conduct a bilateral flight with U.S. Air Force B-1B Lancers in airspace near Japan, Jan. 15. The bilateral flight underscored the commitment of the U.S - Japan Alliance and enhanced bilateral response measures and tactical skills.

USS Carl Vinson Conducts Routine Flight Operations in the South China Sea



(U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Kenneth Ostas) Sailors prepare to launch an F/A-18E Super Hornet, assigned to the "Golden Dragons" of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 192, from the flight deck of the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70), Jan. 13.



(U.S. Air Force photo by Yasuo Osakabe) A U.S. Air Force C-130J Super Hercules assigned to the 36th Airlift Squadron deploys U.S. Army paratroopers assigned to the 11th Airborne Division and Japan Ground Self-Defense Force paratroopers assigned to the 1st Airborne Brigade during the 2025 New Year's Jump at JGSDF Narashino Training Area, Jan. 12.

909th ARS conducts elephant walk



(U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Jonathan R. Sifuentes) U.S. Air Force KC-135 Stratotankers assigned to the 909th Air Refueling Squadron line up on a flight line during an Elephant Walk at Kadena Air Base, Jan. 10. Kadena's ability to rapidly generate airpower is a key function of air operations, ensuring stability and security of the Indo-Pacific region.





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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED Be a part of the legacy!

For over 80 years the USO has been supporting our service members and their families around the world.

We Need Help With:

 Program Support
 Administrative Support Center Support Event Support Content Creation



Contact your local USO for more information

USO Kinser USO Kadena **USO Futenma** USO Hansen

USO Foster USO Schwab

USO COFFEE CONNECTIONS

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USO OKINAWA COFFEE CONNECTIONS



USO Coffee Connections are gatherings happening around the world to connect military spouses with new friends or reconnect with old ones! Join USO Okinawa for Coffee Connections at the following locations:



February 6th: USO Kinser @10:30am February 13th: USO Foster @10:30am February 20th: USO Kadena @10:00am February 26th: USO Futenma @11:30am USO.org/CoffeeConnections

JOIN USO OKINAWA FOR THE **ULTIMATE FOOTBALL WATCH PARTIES**

Join us for the game of all games on February 10th at the following locations:

> USO Schwab @ 8am USO Hansen @ 8am USO Futenma @ 10am USO Foster @ 7am

Please visit Facebook for more information/details

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