

VOICE

PAPER

on the island

VOICE PAPER features Okinawa's local events, off-base locations, and U.S. military activity on the island and across the Asia-Pacific region.

3rd Radio Battalion conducts Sensor

Expeditionary Advanced Base exercise



Okinawa Marathon 2025



(U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Luis E. Rios Calderon) Runners exit through gate 5 during the Okinawa Marathon at Kadena Air Base, Feb. 16. Refreshed by a rainy start, service members and their families cheered on the participants, offering encouragement and much-needed supplies along the course. Volunteers stationed at various checkpoints along the route provided water, fruit, motivation, medical and emergency support, ensuring the athletes had all they needed to continue. During this year's race, approximately 9,000 participants ran the 1.7-mile portion of the marathon that spans from Kadena's gate 2 to gate 5.

Chiba Institute of Science students visit Camp Foster EOD



(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Aya Ichihasl

U.S. Marines from Marine
Corps Base Camp Butler
Explosive Ordnance
Disposal, Marine Corps
Installations Pacific and
students from Chiba Institute
of Science pose for a group
photo at Camp Foster, Feb.
4. Students learn and gain
knowledge of the daily EOD
roles and responsibilities to
keep the base safe.

Meijo Univeristy students visited Camp Hansen

U.S. Marines of Camp Hansen and students from Meijo University pose for a group photo on Camp Hansen, Jan. 29. Camp Hansen officials gave a briefing and medical simulation center tour to the students from Nagoya, Aichi to familiarize them with the purpose of the U.S. Marine Corps presence on Okinawa and functions of the base.



(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Aya Ichihashi)

French Marine Nationale visits White Beach Naval Facility



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Zack Guth)

French Marine Nationale Aquitaine-Class Frigate Alsace (D656)
prepares to moor alongside Navy
Pier onboard White Beach Naval
Facility during an international
visit, Feb. 13. 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.

KLI: Cultural exchange event

Kadena Language Institute students and U.S. service members pose for a photo at the end of a cultural exchange event in Kadena Town, Jan. 31. The volunteers and KLI students increased friendship ties by exchanging their culture and language during the event.



(U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Alexis Redin)



U.S. Marines with 3rd Radio Battalion, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, conduct maritime sensing during a sensor

expeditionary advanced base exercise at Kin Blue, Hansen, Feb. 1-6. The exercise reinforced Marines' abilities to gather maritime and airspace intelligence by employing radar and relaying the information back to commanders. The America

Amphibious Ready Group (ARG), compromising amphibious assault carrier USS America (LHA 6), amphibious transport

dock ship USS San Diego (LPD 22), and amphibious dock landing ship USS Rushmore (LSD 47) along with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), are underway conducting routine integrated operations in U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations.

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MARCH bulletin

























THE REVIEW * * OF A PLACE * * *



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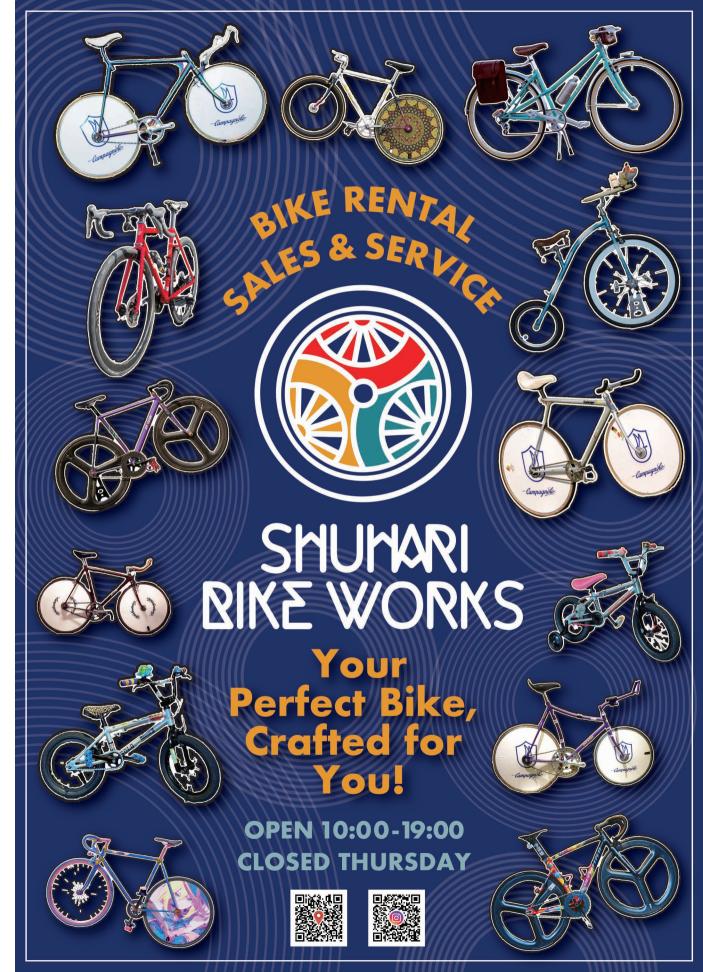
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33rd Rescue Generation Squadron activates at Kadena

Story by Senior Airman Tylir Meyer 18th Wing Public Affaris



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

KADENA AIR BASE - The 18th Wing held the 33rd Rescue Generation Squadron activation ceremony at Kadena Air Base, Jan. 24.

The activation of the 33rd RGS will separate the 33rd Helicopter Maintenance Unit from the 718th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron to create a new squadron tailored to the HH-60W Jolly Green II.

U.S. Air Force Maj. Sean Massey assumed command of the 33rd RGS from U.S. Air Force Col. Randy Schwinler, 18th Maintenance Group commander.

This transition reorganizes the unit and its resources in alignment with the Combat Oriented Maintenance Organization framework to be focused on weapon system-specific combat readiness and optimized to meet the dynamic demands of the Indo-Pacific area of responsibility.

"Restructuring as the 33rd RGS solidifies the link between maintenance and operations at the most tactical levels," said Massey. "It postures the 18th Wing with an agile and resilient unit of action capable of projecting combat power, delivering humanitarian aid, and executing contingency operations on-demand, in any environment"

Changing to the 33rd RGS provides a direct link across the organizational and functional chains of command to the operational Rescue Squadrons. It combines the right people, authorities, resourcing, and capabilities with a refined scope that allows leadership at all levels to be more engaged in the mission and the lives of Airmen.

"The world around us is changing, and we too, must change with it," said Massey as he addressed the Airmen of the 33rd

The activation of a new squad-

ron and the continued transition from the HH-60G Pave Hawk to the HH-60W will require Airmen to focus on quality training, innovation, adaptability, and an increased mission ownership in an already high-velocity combat wing.

"We need to think critically about who we are - informed by our mission, culture, and strong rescue heritage to form a new vision that will shape this squadron and impact the lives of generations to come," said Massey. "That doesn't happen overnight, and it doesn't happen without all of you."

The activation of the 33rd RGS is a testament to Kadena's pivotal role in the Indo-Pacific. It demonstrates the 18th Wing's commitment to operational excellence, a proactive approach to crisis response, and the ability to deliver unmatched airpower at a moment's notice.













Aircraft from the Carl Vinson Carrier Strike Group (VINCSG) and French Carrier Strike Group (CSG) fly in formation over the Philippine Sea with ships from VINCSG, French CSG, the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF), and U.S. Military Sealift Command (MSC) during Pacific Steller 2025, Feb. 12. From left, an F/A-18F Super Hornet, F-35C Lightning II, E-2D Advanced Hawkeye, and two French Navy Rafale Marine (F4) fighter jets. The ships from VINCSG include the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70), Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Princeton (CG 59), and Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyers USS Sterett (DDG 104) and USS William P. Lawrence (DDG 110). The ships

from French CSG include the aircraft carrier FS Charles De Gaulle (R 91) and its escort of air-defense destroyers and multi-mission frigates. The ships from JMSDF include the Izumo-class multi-functional destroyer JS Kaga (DDH 184) and Akizuki-class destroyer JS Akizuki (DD 115). The ships from MSC include the Henry J. Kaiser-class fleet replenishment oiler USNS Tippecanoe (T-AO 199) and Lewis and Clark-class dry cargo and ammunition ship USNS Charles Drew (T-AKE 10). VINCSG is underway conducting Pacific Steller 2025, a multi-large deck event with French CSG and JMSDF, fostering our alliance and maritime security in support of a free and open Indo-Pacific.

(U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Apprentice Pablo Chavez





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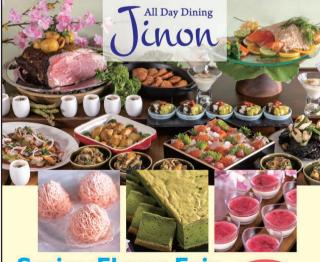


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Island shallots are a type of shallot grown in Okinawa and are one of the region's iconic local vegetables. Compared to mainland shallots, they have smaller, more slender roots and are characterized by their distinctive aroma, spiciness, and crisp texture.

The harvest season for island shallots is generally from January to June, with their peak season being from March to May, Island shallots can be purchased at farmers' markets. roadside stations, supermarkets, and are commonly prepared in

Island shallots can be enjoyed in various dishes, from appetizers to main courses, such as pickled, tempura, or stir-fried dishes (champuru). They pair perfectly with drinks like beer, sake, or



VERSES FROM THE HOLY QUR'AN

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

Al Ruum (The Romans)

Among HIS Signs is this: That HE created you from dust (the Earth); and then, - behold, you are Men scattered (far and wide)

And among HIS Signs is this: That HE created (intimate) companions from among yourselves, that you may dwell in tranquility with them, and HE has put love and mercy between your (hearts):

Verily in that are Signs for those who reflect.

And among HIS Signs is the creation of the Heavens and the Earth, and the differences in your languages and your (skin) colors: Verily in that are Signs for those who know.

And among HIS Signs is the sleep that you take by night and by day; and the persuit that you (make for your

earnings) out of HIS Beneficence: Verily in that are Signs for those who listen.

And among HIS Signs, HE shows you the lightening, by way both of fear and of hope, and HE sends down rain from the sky and with it gives life to the Earth after it is dead: Verily in that are Signs for those who are wise.

And among HIS Signs is this: That Heaven and Earth stand by HIS Command: Then when HE calls you, by a single call from the Earth, behold, you (immediately) come forth.

To HIM belongs every Being that is in the Heavens and on Earth: All are devoutly obedient to HIM.

*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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U.S. Space Force's Space Systems Command and Japan launch First Bilateral Space Effort

Story by Space Systems Command and Space Operations Command

KAGOSHIMA, Japan – A

U.S. space domain awareness payload hosted on Japan's Quasi-Zenith Satellite 6 (QZS-6) successfully launched on a Japanese H-3 launch vehicle from the Yoshinobu Launch Complex at the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency's (JAXA) Tanegashima Space Center (TNSC) in Japan on February 2, 2025. This is the first bilateral U.S. Japan cooperative space effort focused on national security, and the first of two launches as part of the JAXA Quasi-Zenith Satellite System Hosted Payload (QZSS-HP) program.

The satellite will be operated by Space Operations Command's (SpOC) Mission Delta 2 (MD 2), which conducts Space Domain Awareness operations to identify, characterize, and exploit opportunities and mitigate vulnerabilities in the national security space terrain on behalf of the U.S. Space Force (USSF) and U.S. Space Command. The satellite will deliver near real time data to the Space Surveillance Network bolstering the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) understanding of the Geosynchronous Orbit regime above the Indo-Pacific region.

"This launch is a historic milestone for the U.S.-Japan alliance," said USSF Col. Bryon McClain, program executive officer for Space Systems Command's (SSC) Space Domain Awareness and Combat Power. "In an increasingly contest-



(U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Jacob Wood)

ed space domain, Japan's contribution to the U.S. DoD's deterrence strategy has been, and will continue to be, key to INDOPACOM awareness and operations. We look forward to continuing to collaborate with Japan on space modernization, data sharing, satellite communications, and more."

"Congratulations to both nations on this achievement. Mission Delta 2 is honored to operate these payloads as they get on orbit on behalf of the USSF. These sensors will support the fusion of spaceand ground-based Space Domain Awareness to further reinforce all-domain collective defense with allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific," explained USSF Col. Raj Agrawal, commander or SpOC's Mission Delta 2.

"I'm proud of the team for this achievement as the first launch in this first-ever bilateral collaboration," said CMSgt. Jacqueline Sauve,' SSC's senior enlisted leader, who was on-site at TNSC for the launch. "This mission is just the beginning of what we can accomplish together with allies and partners."

The QZSS-HP program encompasses the integration, launch, and operations of two U.S. payloads hosted on Japanese satellites. In preparation for launch, USSF and Massachusetts Institute of Technology Lincoln Laboratory (MIT/LL) teams have worked side-by-side with the NSPS and Mitsubishi

Electric Corporation (MELCO) teams in Japan over the past two years to integrate and test the first hosted payload alongside its Japanese QZS-6 host.

Both U.S. payloads for this mission were designed and built by MIT/LL in Lexington, MA. The Japanese host Quasi-Zenith Satellites were designed and built by MELCO in Kamakura, Japan to augment the U.S. global positioning system (GPS) capabilities in the region. QZSS-HP utilizes the Multi-Mission Space Operations Center/Enterprise Command and Control – Schriever (MMSOC/EC2-S) enclave located in Colorado.

"A key component to ensuring the success of the QZSS-HP mission is the ground infrastructure," said USSF Col. Joe Roth, director of SSC's Innovation and Prototyping Acquisition Delta. "Ensuring the ground piece exceeds expectation

(Continued on page 25)











Restaurant in American village for lovers of Tex-Mex cuisine

The hot spot in Mihama American Village. With a ceiling draped in papel picado and a large mural on the terrace, this bright and lovely restaurant looks like a Mexican animated movie. Try meat dishes rich in Mexican spices and tender and juicy birria tacos with craft beer or tequila.

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(Continued from page 22)

paves the way for continued successful partnership opportunities with our Asia-Pacific allies."

The strategic partnership between the USSF and Japan's National Space Policy Secretariat (NSPS) originated through a December 2020 international agreement to jointly execute the Quasi-Zenith Satellite System-Hosted Payload (QZSS-HP) program. The mission's second payload aboard QZS-7 is on track for launch in early FY2026.

Space Systems Command is the U.S. Space Force field command responsible for acquiring, developing, and delivering resilient capabilities to protect our nation's strategic advantage in, from, and to space. SSC manages a \$15.6 billion space acquisition budget for the Department of Defense and works in partnership with joint forces, industry, government agencies, academic and allied organizations to outpace emerging threats. Our actions today are making the world a better space for tomorrow.

Space Operations Command is the service force provider, focused on generating combat-ready Space forces, sourcing and providing forces for service and combatant commands, and advocating for combat-ready space power from future force to fielded force.

Mission Delta 2 is the Space Force's lead Delta for application of Space Domain Awareness to achieve our Nation's interests in, from, and to space.







High Blood Pressure

Lifestyle Tips to Help Manage This Silent Killer

Dr. Ceabert J. Griffith



igh blood pressure—medically known as hypertension—is the most common chronic disease worldwide, affecting an estimated 1.3 billion people and responsible for about 10.8 million deaths. According to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), hypertension affects an estimated 47% of the US population and is responsible for about 690,000 preventable US deaths each year. High blood pressure is blood pressure readings that are consistently 130/80 or higher. Normal blood pressure is blood pressure readings consistently less than 120/80.

Untreated high blood pressure produces few, in any, symptoms (hence its nickname "the silent killer") but can eventually damage the heart, brain, kidneys, eyes, and other organs, and can cause sudden death. Modifiable risk factors for developing hypertension include the following: high salt intake; a sedentary lifestyle; overweight and obesity: excessive emotional stress: tobacco use: alcohol overuse: low calcium intake: low potassium intake: and low magnesium intake. Non-modifiable risk factors for hypertension including the following: family history; advancing age; and African American race. Clearly, you cannot change non-modifiable risks. However, many studies have shown that managing the modifiable risk factors can effectively lower high blood pressure and can enhance the efficacy of anti-hypertensive medicines. The following strategies are potent strategies that can help manage hypertension:

Eat Healthfully.

Hypertension experts recommend a sodium-restricted diet, containing no more than 2400 mg of sodium (i.e., 6 grams or one teaspoon of table salt), daily. Sodium (or salt) raises blood pressure by causing the kidneys to retain water that, in turn, raises the volume of the circulating blood, increasing the force the blood exerts on blood vessels as it circulates (your blood pressure). Many popular

foods are high in sodium. A 3-ounce serving of canned ham, for example, contains 1114 mg of sodium34half the recommended daily intake. Other antihypertensive dietary strategies include the following: consuming complex carbohydrates such as beans; avoiding refined sugars; eating foods high in calcium. magnesium, potassium, and vitamin C, such as fresh vegetables and fruits.

Daily Physical Activities. Sedentary people are at higher risk of developing high blood pressure and its complications than their physically active peers. A regular, mild-to-moderate aerobic exercise program (such as brisk walking or biking) done one hour daily can lower your blood pressure. Another strategy is to wear a step counter and accrue 10,000 steps daily.

Maintain Your Ideal Body Weight. Studies

conducted by the National Institutes of Health showed that persons who exceed their ideal body weight are at risk for myriad conditions, including hypertension. All else being equal, Obese persons are two to six times more likely to develop high blood pressure than their non-obese contemporaries. A 10-pound weight loss can result in a 10 mm Hg and an 8 mm

Ha reduction



in systolic and diastolic blood pressures, respectively¾in many cases, the difference between taking and not taking antihypertension medication. Most weight loss experts recommend a balanced diet, daily physical activities, restorative sleep, and stress management.

Kick Your Tobacco Habit. Nicotine in

tobacco narrows blood vessels, raising the pressure of blood as it circulates. The added pressure forces the heart to work harder, setting the stage for high blood pressure and its complications. Quitting tobacco isn't easy. Most tobacco users who quit do so only after multiple attempts. Most users do better with nicotine replacement patches or with the newer anti-anxiety medications. Some individuals require a combination of a nicotine patch and a drug. Tobacco cessation

support groups are a mixed bag: some people appreciate the support they offer; others loathe them.

Manage Your Stress.

Although stress is difficult to measure, researchers have demonstrated that consistent and excessive stress (or distress)

raises blood pressure levels.
Stress-busting strategies
include practicing mindfulness,
meditation, yoga, and guided
visualization. Walking, biking,
swimming, and golfing are
excellent stress relievers.
In recent years, breathwork
(breathing technique) has gained
considerable traction as a blood
pressure lowering strategy. Dr.
Andrew Weil of the University of
Arizona advocates the following

method for lowering blood pressure: Sit comfortably with your back straight; exhale deeply through your mouth while making a "whoosh" sound; inhale deeply through your nose and stop at the count of four; hold your breath for a count of seven; exhale audibly through your mouth and stop at the count of eight. Repeat for three or four cycles.

Watch Your Alcohol Intake. Recent

studies have shown less favorable reviews of alcohol use. Although the exact mechanism is uncertain, excessive alcohol intake has been shown to raise blood pressure. Most experts believe alcohol narrows blood vessels, driving up blood pressure. If you drink, keep your daily intake to no more than one ounce of ethanol. This is about 2 ounces of 100-proof whiskey, 8 ounces of wine, or 24 ounces of beer.

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 co-author of the recently released book "II Power Habits to Defeat High Blood Pressure" and the author of "II Power Habits of Wellness," Both books are sold on Amazon.com.



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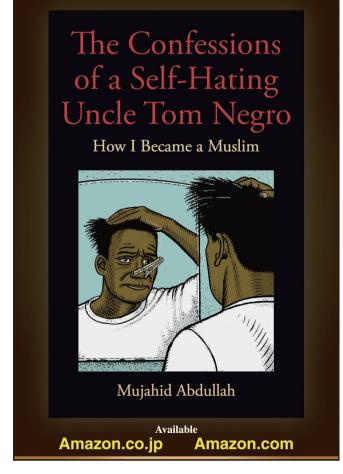
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REVSPRINT



(U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Johnny Diaz

III MEF, JGSDF bands together for music festival



(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Tucker Mocan

U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Erik Wright, a saxophone instrumentalist with the III Marine Expeditionary Force band, plays with members of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force band during a rehearsal in preparation for the 2025 Western Army Music Festival at the JGSDF Camp Kengun, Kumamoto, Japan, Feb. 8. The 2025 Western Army Music Festival is an event in which the III MEF and the JGSDF bands perform classical, jazz, and Japanese folk songs together.

BLT 2/4 conducts live-fire MOUT exercise



(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Alora Finigan)

U.S. Marine Corps 1st Lt. Francisco Colunga IV, an infantry officer with Echo Company, Battalion Landing Team 2/4, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, secures a building during a live-fire military operations on urbanized terrain exercise on Camp Hansen, Feb. 3. The Marines conducted live-fire MOUT training to further develop skills needed for effective operations in urban environments, ensuring readiness for real-world combat scenarios in complex, high-risk settings.

US, Japan, Australian forces come together for CN25 ENDEX

Military service members from the U.S., Japan and Australia pose for a group photo during Cope North 25 at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, Feb. 21. CN25 enhances U.S. relationships and interoperability with our regional Allies and partners by fostering the exchange of information and refining shared tactics, techniques and procedures to better integrate multilateral defense capabilities and compatibility in support of regional security.

U.S. Navy Sailors Participate in the Sapporo Snow Festival 2025



(U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Matthew Fischer)

U.S. Navy Builder 2nd Class Dawson Doty, right, and Commander, Fleet Activities Yokosuka's (CFAY) mascot Yokopon, interact with festival goers during the 75th Annual Sapporo Snow Festival, Feb. 5. Approximately two million visitors from around the globe visit the festival each year to see hundreds of snow and ice sculptures. This is the 40th year the U.S. Navy has participated in the festival, allowing Sailors a unique opportunity to experience Japanese culture and tradition while strengthening the close friendship between the U.S. Navy and citizens of Japan.

HSC-12 medevac training with 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion



(U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Geoffrey L. Ottinger)

Marines assigned to 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), load a stretcher to an MH-60S Seahawk during medical evacuation training with Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 12 at Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji, Japan, Feb. 4. HSC-12, originally established as Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron (HS) 2 on March 7, 1952, is the oldest active operational Navy helicopter squadron.



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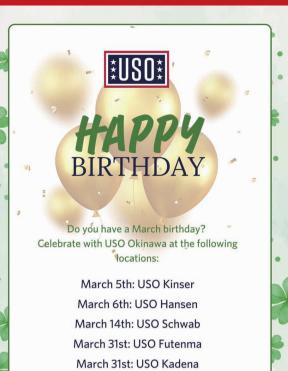
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USO COFFEE CONNECTIONS

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:



March 13th: USO Foster @10:30am March 20th: USO Kadena @10:00am March 26th: USO Kinser @10:30am

USO.org/CoffeeConnections

Please visit Facebook for more information/details



LOUNGIN' WITH LILY

For more information, visit our FB page @USOOkinawa



Ruff day? Come lounge with Lily, our **lovable Golden Retriever from** 11AM-12:30PM at the following locations:

‡USO‡

March 7th: USO Hansen

USO.org/CANINE

March 12th: USO Futenma March 25th: USO Kinser



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