



# AMURAI GATE



The next issue of Samurai Gate will be newsstands on May 15.

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AIR FORCE - ARMY - NAVY - COMMUNITY NEWS

Number 8 - Issue 17

## New COLA Rate Survey begins May 1

The Living Pattern Survey, an important component in determining the Cost of Living Allowance for Japan, begins May 1 and continues through May 22. The Defense Travel Management Office conducts this online survey every three years and captures input from all service members and their families

to establish where and how goods and services are purchased. All service members, or spouses if they are the primary shoppers, in Okinawa are highly encouraged to take the 30-minute survey either at work or home, located at <http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/lps-japan.cfm>.

By taking the time and effort to accurately complete the LPS, the DoD is able to set equitable allowance rates for Japan. For more information contact the 18th Comptroller Squadron finance customer service at [18cpts.finance@us.af.mil](mailto:18cpts.finance@us.af.mil).

# Joint Humanitarian Assistance Survey Team deploys to Nepal from Kadena

By Airman 1st Class Zackary A. Henry

18th Wing Public Affairs

4/29/2015 — U.S. Pacific Command deployed a Joint Humanitarian Assistance Survey Team to Nepal from Kadena Air Base early April 29 in an effort to assist earthquake relief efforts.

Kadena's Airmen worked through the night to load the team's 20-plus members and gear into a U.S. Marine Corps C-130 Hercules for the departure.

The joint survey team will support a U.S. Agency for International Development Office of Disaster Assistance Response Team in Nepal, according to PACOM officials. Marine Brig. Gen. Paul Kennedy, commander of the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Battalion, will lead the team.

U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Glenn Rineheart, commander of the 36th Mobility Readiness Squadron on Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, deployed as a team member.

SEE NEPAL, PAGE 3



Members of a U.S. Pacific Command Joint Humanitarian Assistance Survey Team load onto a U.S. Marine Corps C-130 at Kadena Air Base, on April 29. The team is deploying to Nepal to assist earthquake relief efforts. Kadena's Airmen worked through the night to load the team's 20-plus members and gear for the departure.

(U.S. Air Force photo by 2nd Lt. Erik Anthony)

## Kadena's Health and Wellness Center shuts down

By Senior Airman Omari Bernard

18th Wing Public Affairs

4/28/2015 — The Kadena Health and Wellness Center has closed its doors recently, as part of an Air Force-wide closure to cut costs and reorganize the way Airmen stay healthy.

"HAWCs began closing Air Force-wide starting in October 2014, eliminating the one-stop-shop area along with the Exercise Physiologist positions and fitness classes," explained Kara Nesle, 18th Aerospace Medical Squadron health technician.

Although some services once provided by the HAWC are being taken over by other units, others will no longer be required by Air Force Instructions.

For example, Air Force form

The 18th Medical Group Health Promotions section has relocated to Bldg. 704 Fighter Drive on Kadena Air Base, April 27.



(U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Omari Bernard)

422 for an exercise waiver will no longer be mandated for Airmen with a medical profile. Airmen who need assistance

with a medical exemption should contact their unit fitness program manager for details, SEE SHUTS DOWN, PAGE 3

## 31 RQS, PAF develop bilateral rescue techniques



(Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Rick Hurtado)

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Jason Fischman, a pararescueman with 31st Rescue Squadron, assists victims of a plane crash as part of a notional mass casualty incident during Exercise Balikatan 2015, in Clark Air Base, Philippines, April 24. The drill was conducted alongside rescuemen from the 505th Rescue and Search Group of the Philippine Air Force. The bilateral training event provided both rescue teams with a better understanding of how each other operates and ensures mission accomplishment should they work side-by-side in the future. Balikatan is an annual Philippines-U.S. military training exercise and humanitarian assistance engagement, which highlights the long standing partnership between both the nations.