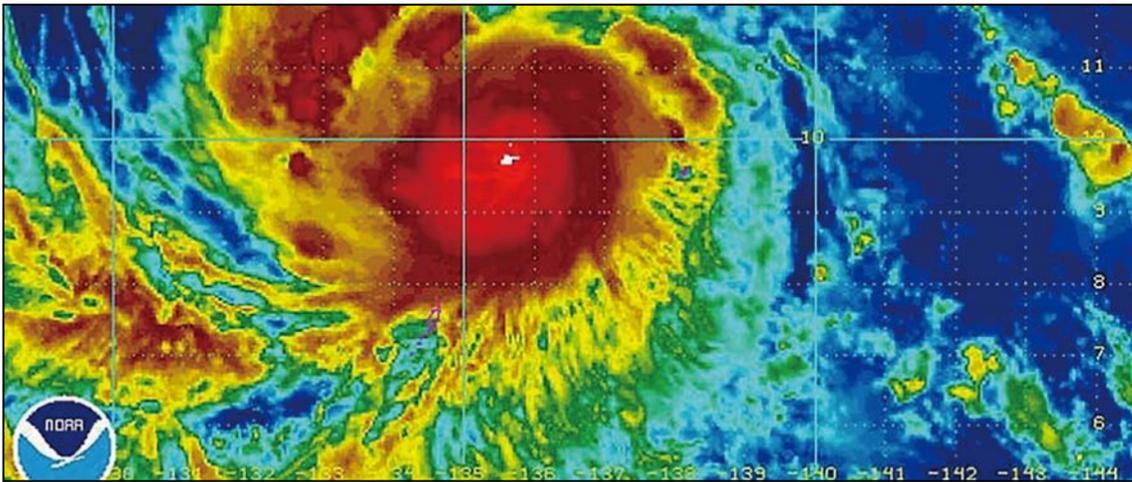




# Kadena weathers its first typhoon of 2015



(Courtesy photo by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration)

**By Senior Airman Stephen G. Eigel**

18th Wing Public Affairs

5/14/2015 — Typhoon Noul, the first typhoon of the year for Okinawa, hit the island May 12.

The typhoon, which hit even before typhoon season begins June 1, only brought Kadena into Tropical Cyclone Condition of Readiness Caution, though it was predicted to be much larger and much stronger when it was first forecast, so Kadena prepared accordingly.

"It was a bit weaker than previous typhoons," said Capt. Matthew Klick, 18th Operations Support Squadron weather flight commander. "We only had gusts of 45 knots and 35 knots sustained winds."

The island of Okinawa is located in what is called "Typhoon Alley." Kadena Air Base,

perhaps more than most other bases, needs to treat these natural storms as a part of the potential daily mission.

It is important to know that while typhoon Noul did die down before it hit Okinawa, there have been multiple devastating typhoons in the past.

Just last year typhoon Vong-fong hit Kadena with gusts of more than 100 knots killing three military members, causing extensive damage to the base and nearly claiming the lives of two more, which is why it is so significant to pay attention to the notices and instructions released by Kadena and other island agencies.

"It is important to pay attention and follow the notices that 18th Wing Public Affairs and the Armed Forces Network put out," said Klick.

Continually preparing for

typhoons is important here, the storms can go from small to large in an instant and while the 18th OSS weather flight tries to give as much notice and information as possible, things can always change.

"We had extremely good preparation for this typhoon," said Master Sgt. Sean Danford, 18th Civil Engineer Squadron readiness and emergency management flight superintendent. "We didn't get hit as hard as we expected so there was minimal damage from Noul. However, we need to continue to out-prepare the typhoons that come our way so we can continue to keep Kadena's Airmen and their families safe."

While sometimes it may seem like the TCCORs progress at erratic rates, it is Kadena's main priority to keep it's warriors and their families safe.

# 909th ARS refuels bombers



(U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Darnell T. Cannady)

A B-1 Lancer bomber belonging to Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, receives fuel from a 909th Air Refueling Squadron KC-135 Stratotanker during a training sortie involving aircraft from Dyess and Kadena Air Force Base, May 8. Both bases coordinated training to practice their in-flight refueling procedures. The U.S. conducts continuous bomber presence operations as part of a routine, forward deployed, global strike capability supporting regional security and allies in the Asia-Pacific region.

# Kadena Shoguns dig deep for dragon boat races



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

^ The Kadena Shoguns men's team (back) races neck-and-neck with two other teams in their heat during the Naha Dragon Boat races at Naha Port, May 5.

**By Senior Airman Omari Bernard**

18th Wing Public Affairs

5/13/2015 - NAHA PORT — Yellow, green and black boats bob up and down with the swell of the sea. Hands clench and bodies stiffen as rowers ready themselves for the sound of a gun.

Bang!

Three ornately carved dragons soar through the water, as oars stroke in unison to the rhythmic sound of a metal gong.

Although the race only lasted about five minutes, it seemed to last forever for the Kadena Shoguns who pushed their bodies to the limit and competed at the 41st Annual Naha Dragon Boat Race in Naha City.

"We did well," said Master Sgt. Timothy Middleton, 18th Operation Support Squadron aircrew flight equipment heavy operations section chief and head coach for the men's dragon boat team. "We did decent enough to show that anyone that has the desire to go out there can learn to do something outside of (their) comfort zone and have fun while doing it."

Dragon boat racing is an Okinawan tradition that dates back to the 14th Century when China influenced the Ryukyu Kingdom. The races involves 32 rowers, a cadence drummer, a navigator, and in most cases, one or two motivators who help the team stay synchronized

SEE DRAGON BOAT, PAGE 2

# Kadena firefighters facilitate joint training

**By Staff Sgt. Maeson L. Elleman**

18th Wing Public Affairs

5/13/2015 — It's one thing to talk about what steps to take if a fire breaks out, and something else entirely to combat an out-of-control blaze. For U.S. Marines and sailors operating onboard a ship deployed to the middle of the ocean with no nearby aid, that distinction becomes even more important.

To prepare for shipboard deployments, each member must SEE FIREFIGHTERS, PAGE 2



A U.S. Navy shipboard firefighting instructor instructs U.S. Marines from the 31st Marine Expeditionary Wing on Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, on the proper use of a fire hose to douse a fire at an aircraft fire simulator on Kadena Air Base, May 8.

(U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Maeson L. Elleman)