



Defenders on Okinawa host National Police Week



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

▲ Tech. Sgt. Avriel Campbell, 18th Security Forces Squadron flight chief, leads the first lap of the National Police Week 24-hour vigil run at Marek Field Park on Kadena Air Base, May 14.

By Senior Airman Omari Bernard

18th Wing Public Affairs

5/19/2015 — Defenders are protectors. They are the men and women that guard the gates so you can sleep. They are the mothers and fathers that patrol the streets so your children can play safely outside. They are the service members who keep the world's greatest military in check. If the U.S. military is the nation's sword, then defenders are the military's shield.

Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Airmen participated in National Police Week to honor past, present and future law enforcement comrades that paid the ultimate sacrifice.

National Police Week began in 1962 as a proclamation by President John F. Kennedy to pay recognition to those law enforcement officers who had lost their lives in the line of duty. Every year the 18th Security Forces Squadron continues that tradition.

"This year we had a very joint effort for national police week," said U.S. Air Force Capt. Steven Brenoskie, 18th Security Forces operations officer. "Leadership from each service [on Okinawa] was big on making sure we worked together and it's been

great to see."

This year's event started off late with a "boots and utes" run with fellow military police from sister services on May 13 and continued with a Defenders Challenge the following day.

The Defenders Challenge tested the physical and mental capability of team members in a variety of timed skill based events designed to push the participants to work together to overcome each obstacle presented to them.

The events showcased the training, determination and dedication of military law enforcement personnel.

"Being a police officer can be a thankless job," said Airman 1st Class Eric Theirgood, 18th SFS technician. "In my opinion [National Police Week] is a time where people get to recognize all the work and behind the scenes things that go into being a police officer.

"A lot of people think that we just check IDs at the gate," he continued. "There's a lot more that goes into it."

The final event featured runners wielding a burning torch during the 24-hour vigil run at Marek Park. Members from each service ran with the torch and the final runners ran

it to Chapel 3 where a memorial service was held to honor all those who served before them.

"Police week, to me, is an opportunity for us to remember why we do what we do," Brenoskie said. "It is very important to understand the 'why' and reflect on the sacrifices made by those who came before us, paving the way for us to continue our efforts in protecting people."

The memorial service was the final Police Week event. Roses adorned a table where pictures of fallen defenders stood carefully placed. Multiple services paid their respects to the fallen by reading off each of the fallen members' names, performing a firing of arms salute and allowing military police members stationed on Okinawa to pay their final respects.

National Police Week is an opportunity to thank defenders and reflect upon those who are prepared each and every day to give the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

"The military defends the nation; we defend the military," Brenoskie said. "That's how we see it. We make sure that everyone else can do their job and that is our contribution to make sure that our country stays free."

Increased mission requirements open doors for continued service

By Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

5/18/2015 - WASHINGTON

— The Air Force is introducing several personnel and manpower initiatives to meet increased mission requirements outlined in the fiscal year 2016 President's Budget.

In order to enhance operational and mission capacity

in support of combatant commanders, and to maintain readiness, the Air Force is setting a minimum active-duty force level of 317,000 as established in the fiscal 2016 President's Budget submission. The Air Force is undergoing a concerted effort to stabilize

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Joint Task Force 505 begins drawdown in Nepal



(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Staff Sgt. Jeffrey D. Anderson)

▲ U.S. service members assigned to Joint Task Force 505 load aid and relief supplies onto an MV-22 Osprey at Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu, Nepal, May 17. The supplies were provided for earthquake victims in remote areas of Nepal.

By Joint Task Force 505

5/20/2015 - KATHMANDU, Nepa

— Joint Task Force 505 is drawing down its earthquake relief operations as the Nepalese government and international aid agencies have postured for long-term recovery and reconstruction efforts.

Nepal announced its transition from relief operations to the recovery phase of disaster response May 19.

"We are grateful for the essential contributions of Operation Sahayogi Haat to the post-earthquake relief efforts," said Peter Bodde, the U.S. ambassador to Nepal. "The joint relief missions conducted by the U.S. and Nepalese militaries brought life-saving aid to those who needed it most and reinforced the United States' close partnership with Nepal and its people."

The redeployment of JTF 505 units in the coming days is able to occur quickly because the capacity of Nepal and the international community to meet the needs of the relief effort continues to grow and "together they are able to meet the requirements the U.S. joint task force would otherwise provide," said Bill Berger, the U.S. Agency for International Development's disaster assessment response team leader.

Emergency food and supplies

During the operation, JTF 505 delivered about 114 tons of emergency relief supplies, including plastic sheeting, shelter kits, blankets, water, medical supplies, and emergency and supplemental food in support of USAID. In addition to delivering aid, the task force transported

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