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Remembering 9/11

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A Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force Landing Craft Air Cushion (LCAC) carrying vehicles and simulated victims maneuvers to land at Atta Port, Japan, during an annual Okinawa Prefectural Government bilateral disaster response exercise Sept. 5.

18th Wing participates in Okinawa disaster drill

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

By Staff Sgt. Maeson L. Elleman

18th Wing Public Affairs

9/5/2015 — For the first time ever, the 18th Wing participated in a bilateral disaster response exercise alongside Japan Self-Defense Forces and the Okinawa Prefectural Government at Atta Port, Japan, Sept. 5.

The exercise gave participants and spectators an understanding of how the 82 separate entities from U.S. military, JSDF, and local emergency responders work together to save lives in

the wake of devastation from a natural disaster in the region.

“I would like to express my appreciation to all the organizations that participated in the 2015 OPG disaster drill, which took hours in this high temperature,” said Okinawa Prefectural Governor Takeshi Onaga during his closing remarks after the drill. “Okinawa is hit by many typhoons every year. These cause floods, damage houses and cause other destruction. I appreciate the

SEE DISASTER PAGE 3

Team Kadena wraps up Tsuiki ATR



(U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Stephen G. Eigel)

A 44th Fighter Squadron Pilot is ready to go after completing his preflight checks at Tsuiki Air Base, Japan, Sept. 2. Members from the 18th Wing temporarily deployed to Tsuiki, Japan, to participate in Aviation Training Relocation from Kadena Air Base, Japan, to practice deployed operations and perform bilateral training in a joint environment alongside the Japan Air Self-Defense Force's 8th Air Wing. ATRs allow U.S. and JASDF forces to strengthen relations and develop mutual trust, ultimately strengthening the U.S.-Japan Security Alliance.

READ ATR PAGE 5

2015 OHA survey release

By Airman 1st Class Zackary A. Henry

18th Wing Public Affairs

9/8/2015 — The Defense Travel Management Office is asking service members in Japan who are currently receiving an overseas housing allowance to take part in the annual housing survey. The survey is instrumental in ensuring accurate housing allowance rates for military families living off-base.

This survey is important to ensure the OHA rates are properly set in Japan and directly affects the amount of housing allowance paid to service members.

“Once the surveys are completed it will directly affect OHA pay for service members,” said Capt. Andrew Webb, 18th Comptroller Squadron, financial analysis flight commander. “If people do not take the time to fill out the survey accurately DTMO will go off of previous year’s number which could result in a loss of money for members.”

The DTMO will begin its month long OHA utility survey on Sept. 14 and it will continue until Oct. 16.

“Our customer service reps will be able to help at the CPTS Bldg. 721C on the bottom floor,” said 1st Lt. Amy Bragg, Financial Services Officer 18th CPTS.

(U.S. Air Force graphic by Naoko Shimoji)

The 2015 Overseas Housing Allowance Utility and Recurring Maintenance Survey, which is the basis for determining utility allowance, is now available until October 16, 2015 to service members/spouses in off-base housing.

Low participation numbers could negatively impact OHA rates in FY16.

“The survey is for Active-duty service members but spouses are authorized to take the survey as well if the service member is deployed or unavailable.”

On Sept. 14 the survey will become officially active and available to be completed at <https://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/oha-util-sep.cfm>.