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Thousands converge for KSO 2015



(U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Lynette M. Rolan)

▲ Kohei Setake, a Kadena Special Olympics athlete, wins first place in a 200 meter dash during the Kadena Special Olympics Nov. 7, at Kadena Air Base. Established by the 18th Wing commander in 2000, KSO is a sporting and entertainment event that provides an opportunity for all communities involved to stand together in support of people with special needs.

By Senior Airman John Linzmeier

18th Wing Public Affairs

11/3/2015 — Approximately 1,700 volunteers from different branches of the U.S. military and the local community helped with the 16th annual Kadena Special Olympic Games Nov. 7, here at the Risner Fitness Center Sports Complex.

The games were held as an opportunity for more than 850 special needs athletes and their families within the Okinawan community to join Team Kadena

in a day full of competitive sports and festivities.

“The Kadena Special Olympics is world renowned,” said Lt. Gen. John Dolan, U.S. Forces Japan and 5th Air Force commander. “The 16 years that it’s been going on has built each year and I think it’s proven its worth with how it’s reached out to the community.”

The event was off to a loud start when hundreds of volunteers and spectators formed a human pathway to greet and cheer on the arriving athletes as they were

shuttled to the fitness center.

The games kicked off with an opening ceremony with Brig. Gen. Barry Cornish, 18th Wing commander, Dolan, and Masaru Machida, Okinawa Prefectural Government Executive Office of the Governor director general, sharing words of encouragement to the athletes.

During the ceremony, Cornish led the crowd in taking the ‘athlete’s oath,’ a tradition that was once repeated by Greek warriors before going into battle,

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Veterans Day observed at Kadena



(U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Lynette M. Rolan)

Members of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9723 and Brig. Gen. Barry Cornish, 18th Wing commander, salute the Prisoner of War/Missing in Action wreath during a Veterans Day ceremony Nov. 11, at Kadena Air Base. The wreath was placed to honor those who have paid the ultimate price in the defense of our country.

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The Service members Civil Relief Act and how it protects you

By Adrienne Staton

18th Wing Judge Advocate

11/5/2015 — The Service-members Civil Relief Act (SCRA) is a federal law that affords military service members protections so they can “devote their entire energy to the defense needs of the Nation.” SCRA can significantly help service members who are facing stressful legal issues in the civil court system.

Who does SCRA protect?

Active duty service members, reservists, and members of the National Guard while on active duty for at least thirty days who are facing legal issues of a *civil* nature are protected by SCRA. If a service member is facing legal issues of a *criminal* nature, SCRA protections do not apply.

What protections can SCRA provide?

Interest Rate Reduction - Debt incurred *prior to military service* can be capped at a 6% interest rate during active duty service, if the debt was taken on either by the service member alone or jointly by the service member and their spouse. This is a significant benefit! The interest rate cap applies to credit

card debt, mortgage debt, car loans, business obligations, and some student loans. To use this benefit, service members must provide the creditor with: written notice, a copy of their military orders, and any orders extending their military service.

Postpone Civil Lawsuits - Service members who receive notice that they must appear in a U.S. court or hearing may be able to use SCRA to postpone the suit. For *civil* law suits or hearings, if the service member asks the court to postpone the suit under SCRA, the court must postpone it for at least ninety days. To invoke this protection, the service member must provide the court with one of two things: either a letter from the service member describing why their military duty materially affects their ability to appear at the civil suit. Or, they can provide a letter from their commander describing why their military duty prevents them from appearing at the civil suit, and that leave is not authorized.

Termination of Telephone Contracts - Service members

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Kadena welcomes Chatan Town residents for tsunami exercise

By Senior Airman John Linzmeier

18th Wing Public Affairs

11/8/2015 — A bilateral natural disaster exercise was held here Nov. 5 to test and improve evacuation procedures between members of Team Kadena and the local community.

Approximately 50 residents of Chatan Town participated in a simulated evacuation of local Okinawans from low elevation areas near the Sunabe Seawall to higher ground through the base in the event of an earthquake or tsunami.



(U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman John Linzmeier)

▲ Col. Debra Lovette, 18th Mission Support Group commander, shakes hands with Kamiyama Masakatsu, Chatan Town deputy mayor Nov. 5, at Kadena Air Base.

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