



Children learn about deployment at Skoshi Warrior

By Airman 1st Class Corey M. Pettis

18th Wing Public Affairs

11/18/2015 — The Japanese word “skoshi” may mean “small” or “little,” but the fun times shared by children, parents and volunteers at Marine Hangar 3 Saturday were anything but small.

More than 200 children participated in this year’s Skoshi Warrior. Skoshi Warrior is an Airman and Family Readiness Center event that is designed to help children understand the deployment process of their parents.

After registering and receiving a pre-deployment briefing from Brig. Gen. Barry Cornish, 18th Wing commander, Kadena’s Skoshi Warriors processed through the different steps in the deployment process, getting treats and stamps on their checklists as they moved through booths such as medical, dental and legal

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► Staff Sgt. Juan Duarte, 18th Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter, teaches children about the different equipment that firefighters use on the job at Skoshi Warrior Nov. 14, at Kadena Air Base.



(U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Corey M. Pettis)

Being good neighbors

By Airman 1st Class Lynette M. Rolan

18th Wing Public Affairs

11/13/2015 — Kadena’s Air Force Smart Operations project for the 21st Century assisted the local community by alleviating traffic congestion problems entering the base.

By changing the entry time of a search pit from 8 a.m. to 7 a.m., the 18th Security Forces Squadron allows large vehicles to get onto Kadena earlier and relieves the local traffic in front of the gate.

The project began when the 18th Wing received a complaint from local government leaders and the Okinawa Defense Bureau about commercial delivery and construction trucks blocking a section of Highway 58 as they waited for the Gate 1 search area to open, said Captain Steven Brenoskie, 18th Security Forces Squadron operations officer.

Thinking of their host nation neighbors, a team composed of different squadrons on Kadena came up with a solution to help eliminate the congestion and ease the local community’s commute.

“The solution was an absolute team effort,” said Brenoskie.



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

▲ Airman 1st Class Alvin Stewart, 18th Security Forces Squadron response force member, waits for trucks to arrive to a search pit Nov. 10, at Kadena Air Base. An Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st Century team on Kadena implemented an earlier search time for commercial vehicles to keep them from congesting traffic while waiting to get on base.

“Everyone, using their unique education, experience, and skill-set, contributed to the development of our Course of Action, which has so far effectively eliminated the issue.”

The team’s goal of having “zero” trucks stopped on Highway 58 has been met as a result of this project. The AFSO21 team will continue to evaluate the project’s effectiveness as time progresses.

“We’ve implemented this, and so far it has resulted in no commercial truck stack-up on

58, which is great,” said Col. Debra Lovette, 18th Mission Support Group commander.

This effort is important to maintaining good relations with Okinawan neighbors and showing them that their concerns matter to Team Kadena.

“It is vitally important that we make every effort to be good neighbors here on Okinawa,” said Brenoskie. “By solving this issue, it builds trust with our local neighbors that we do care and want to address the issues they bring to our attention.”

Japanese medical students visit 18th Medical Group



(U.S. Air Force photos by Naoto Anazawa)

▲ Capt. Angela Harp, 18th Medical Operations Squadron neonatal intensive care unit nurse, explains a nuchal transport system to local medical interpreter students, Nov. 13, at Kadena Air Base. Eighteen students from local hospitals on Okinawa visited the medical group to get a better understanding of military medical missions and foster closer relationships between the local and military medical communities.



◀ A local interpreter student looks at bacteria through a microscope Nov. 13, at Kadena Air Base. Eighteen students who take an English training course at the Chubu Medical Association learned more about English conversation skills while gaining a better understanding of the military medical mission during their visit.