



# CLOSING THE GAP

## Airmen, Marines and Sailors practice Air Field Damage Repair



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

▲ Airmen and Marines gather around a display model to go over the joint airfield damage repair exercise May 19 at Kadena Air Base. During the exercise, both services learned from each other and improved the operations between each of the services involved.

### By Senior Airman Omari Bernard

18th Wing Public Affairs

5/24/2016 — Civil engineer Airmen, combat engineer Marines and Navy Seabees trained together during a joint airfield damage and repair contingency exercise held at Kadena Air Base on May 18-19.

The two day exercise allowed 18th Civil Engineer Squadron Airmen to demonstrate and then guide the Marine Wing Support Squadron combat engineers and Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 4's Seabees through a hands-on demonstration of the Air Force method to ADR.

For Master Sgt. Steven Cordova, 18th CES expeditionary engineering flight chief, the focus of the training was understanding the differences learning to operate efficiently together.

"The main focus is to close the gap between services," explained Cordova. "Right now, everyone kind of operates on their own terms and has their own way of doing things. When push comes to shove we need to be able to work together and that's what today is all about."

Although there may be

differences between the training of the services, their object is the same – fill craters and get the airfield operational again.

"The steps are a little bit different, but in essence the steps are the same," said Staff Sgt. Justin Luk MWSS 172 combat engineer. "Assess the crater, make it flat and from there we fill it in."

Luk said the first day of the exercise was mainly spent watching the Airmen perform the damage repair and the second day the Marines took over and performed the repairs the same way.

"We had multiple objectives coming out here," Luke said. "One was to reaffirm that we are capable of doing it. Another, was to learn what we could from our Air Force counterparts."

According to Luke, USMC combat engineers deploy to different forward operating bases and more often than not, those FOBs are going to be mixed units.

"It's one team and one fight," Luk said. "Here in peacetime we are able to train that way."

The exercise gave members from all of the services the opportunity to familiarize

themselves with each other and their junior members experience working in a joint environment.

"It was a good learning opportunity for some of our guys to get some experience on something they haven't done before," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Darcel Tinner, NMCB 4 Seabee.

From Tinner's experience, performing ADR for the Navy involves more manual work than use of heavy machinery.

"We'll fill holes by hand compared to us using machines," Tinner said. "If there's anything we'll take away from this, it's to use more machines."

Cordova said the overall objective of the ADR exercises are to improve their craft and interoperability with the multiple services on Okinawa.

"I love working with the other services," said Cordova. "Everyone has their own way of doing things. I think we met our objectives for this training. For us it's to get the muscle memory going and integrate the Marines into what we do. The next step is to integrate ourselves into how the Marines operate, so when push comes to shove we can work together as one cohesive team."

## TYPHOON SEASON BEGINS

In the Northwest Pacific Ocean west of the dateline, hurricanes are called typhoons. These typhoons typically pack powerful winds and can be very destructive.

Once formed, the storms usually travel in a path beginning near Guam, then moves toward the Philippines and Okinawa and before heading north toward mainland Japan or Korea. Most weaken at sea before they reach inland.

Typhoons are most frequent from June to November with as many as 26 typhoons forming in a season. However, usually only three or four pass close enough to Okinawa to be of any concern to people stationed here.

On Okinawa, the greatest number of typhoons is concentrated in August and September. Sophisticated weather forecasting and tracking equipment and reinforced concrete buildings have taken the surprise and most of the danger out of typhoons.

The Kadena weather flight monitors these tropical storms

and typhoons, and serves as a focal point for typhoon information on Okinawa as part of the Pacific Command's Tropical Cyclone Warning System.

Warnings of approaching storms, as well as typhoon tips and precautions, are broadcast over

AFN-Okinawa radio and television.

Current local weather information, including tropical cyclone conditions of readiness, is available on the Kadena weather flight's homepage "Shogun Weather" and the Kadena Facebook site.

Kadena residents can also get up-to-date pathway projections for typhoons via the Joint Typhoon Warning Center's homepage.

Read the Kadena Air Base Emergency Actions Guide from the base disaster preparedness office for more details on typhoon preparedness.

Expectant mothers should also consult the U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa typhoon instructions here.

### CONDITIONS OF READINESS

Following are Tropical Cyclone (Typhoon) Conditions of Readiness (TCCOR), their meanings and actions to take for safety:

**TCCOR 5:** Destructive winds are possible within 96 hours. (Only used outside of established

SEE TYPHOON PAGE 2

## 18th OSS welcomes new commander



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

Col. Christopher Amrhein, 18th Wing vice commander, passes the 18th Operations Support Squadron guidon to Lt. Col. Paul Townsend, 18th OSS commander, during a change of command ceremony, May 20, at Kadena Air Base. The 18th OSS supports air superiority, radar surveillance, airborne refueling, airlift and air rescue forces for Pacific Command operational plans and headquarters-directed contingency operations.