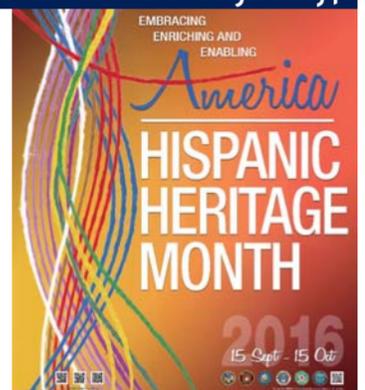




AMURAI GATE



Staff Sgt. Demarcus Oliver, 18th Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter crew chief, carries a dummy down a stairwell during a tower evacuation drill Aug. 15, at Kadena Air Base. The drill simulated smoke, fire, casualty recovery, and personnel evacuation.

Firefighters Take on the Tower

By Senior Airman Peter Reft
18th Wing Public Affairs

8/19/2016 — Sirens and alarms assaulted the senses inside the claustrophobic stairwell of the 13-floor tower as firefighters raced to the top, donning 60 pounds of protective gear in addition to hoses, casualty chairs, axes, and tools. With the deep hiss of each breath from respirator masks, every laborious heave of their boots brought them one step closer to saving the lives of victims trapped in smoke and flames.

Kadena firefighters conducted a fire evacuation drill in the air traffic control tower as part of weekly training to constantly hone and sharpen rescue skills.

“We had an exercise inject for smoke at the top of the tower with victims inside,” said Staff Sgt. Nicholas Hayes, 18th Civil Engineer Squadron fire department crew chief. “We had to go inside, take the stairs up there, and go check each room to find the victims.”

Fire crews carried out the dummy victims while guiding out Airmen who could walk on their own. Meanwhile, fire engines stood by with extra equipment.

“We had two engines set up,” said Hayes. “Engine 22 came for resupply operations while engine nine and the crew went inside to attack any possible fire.”

SEE FIREFIGHTERS PAGE 2

(U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Peter Reft)

The Largest Land Return in Okinawa History

By U.S. Forces Japan Public Affairs

8/19/2016 - YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — U.S. Forces, Japan officials are preparing for the largest land return on Okinawa since the 1972 reversion of the island to Japanese control.

The return of more than half of the Northern Training Area, nearly 4,000 hectares of single and double-canopy rainforest, will reduce the amount of U.S. exclusive-use land on Okinawa by more than 17 percent.

The NTA, also known as Camp Gonsalves, is a 7,500 hectare stretch of largely undeveloped jungle land in the northern part of Okinawa prefecture, and is currently used by the U.S. military and the Japan Self-Defense Forces for jungle training. According to military officials, the return is possible because U.S. forces

will be able to conduct their training on the remaining land in the NTA following the construction of six new helicopter landing zones and access roads.

“The construction of several new helipads in the Northern Training Area supporting Camp Gonsalves and the Jungle Warfare Training Center will enable us to significantly reduce the amount of land we need to conduct jungle warfare training,” said Col. Thomas J. Verell, U.S. Forces Japan Command Engineer. “Specifically, nearly half of the entire training area, by far the largest on Okinawa, will no longer be required for training as soon as the Government of Japan completes construction of the remaining helipads and the associated ground access roads.”

SEE LAND RETURN PAGE 5

18th CES conducts aircraft barrier maintenance training



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

Staff Sgt. Fardad Alimehri, 18th Civil Engineer Squadron electrical power production and barrier maintenance technician, demonstrates how to properly secure an aircraft barrier cable Aug. 16, at Kadena Air Base. To ensure optimum performance of the cable when aircraft approach, it's important to keep it properly aligned.

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