



## 18th SFS constantly protects Kadena flightline

Airman 1st Class Jose Olivera, 18th SFS response force member, scans the flightline with binoculars Sept. 27, at Kadena Air Base.

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

### By Senior Airman Peter Reft

18th Wing Public Affairs

**9/29/2016** — Many premier warfighting squadrons call Kadena home, and they remain mission ready to respond at a moment's notice to preserve assets and interests of the U.S. and its allies within the Indo-Asia Pacific region. However, who protects the protectors of the Pacific?

Armed and trained personnel of the 18th Security Forces Squadron answer the call of duty to ensure Kadena's flightline operations never stumble, a task which must be upheld with constant vigilance.

"The flightline defenders are personnel who are providing nonstop security for

the airfield, whether it happens to be KC-135 Stratotankers, airborne early warning and control aircraft, P-3 Orion aircraft or F-15 Eagles," said Tech. Sgt. Corey Vento, 18th SFS flight chief.

Kadena's role as Keystone of the Pacific is strengthened by the presence of aircraft from all four of the main U.S. combat forces, aircraft which must remain under the watchful eyes of defenders.

"Normally you only see Air Force aircraft, but here we also can have aircraft from the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps and Army," said Vento.

Airman 1st Class Jose Olivera, 18th SFS response force member, helps ensure the

safety of flightline aircraft and personnel.

"On the flightline, we patrol the area and we provide armed response to incidents which may affect the resources in our area," said Olivera. "We stay vigilant and patrol all day."

Defenders perform flightline exercises to test their knowledge of certain security protocols.

"We test them to see how well they respond to incidents such as individuals breaking runs in restricted areas, unauthorized photos being taken, [AWACS] area restrictions, entry badge validations, and enforcing entry authority lists," said Vento.

Reinforcement of training and mission

focus builds defender ability to protect large patrol areas on the flightline.

"My patrol route includes about half of the airfield which makes up a majority of Kadena Air Base, and we drive anywhere from 50 to 100 km per day," said Olivera.

Defenders of the 18th SFS bear much responsibility in protecting Kadena's assets and personnel both on-and-off the flightline, but defenders stay focused on their task to ensure unhindered aerial operations.

"We have roaming security and entry controllers on the flightline to keep this base running. We are always working nonstop and there are always people out here," said Olivera.

## Kadena prepares voters for the 2016 elections

### By Senior Airman Stephen G. Eigel

18th Wing Public Affairs

**9/29/2016** — The 2016 presidential elections are underway, and Kadena is currently offering voting assistance to service members stationed here.

Did you know all absentee ballots submitted timely and according to state requirements are counted for every election? It only takes a few quick steps to make sure your vote is counted no matter where you are in the world.

"The process for voters is not too difficult," said Capt. Derek Ebeling, Kadena Installation Voting Assistance Officer. "Also, every unit has appointed voting assistance

officers to help members get what they need."

According to the Kadena sharepoint page, in order to vote from Kadena by absentee ballot, registration needs to be completed or an update to the voter's address will need to be done through the voter's home county voter registration office.

To register and request your ballots, complete the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) using the FPCA online assistant, or fill out the PDF, or pick up a hardcopy version from your Voting Assistance Officer or nearest U.S. Embassy or Consular Office. Be sure to double-check your contact information is accurate in case your election office needs to reach you.

"The most important thing to remember when dealing with absentee voting is to start the process early," said Matt Boehmer, director of the Federal Voting Assistance Program. "You can use the federal postcard application, or FPCA, to both register to vote and to request your absentee ballot, and you can use our online assistant tools that walk you through the process."

Please ensure your election office is kept up-to-date with your Authorized Military Mailing Address as provided by your servicing Military Post Office, and remember to follow postal guidelines when sending in your registration and ballot request forms, as well as returning your ballot. If mailing from outside the U.S., ensure there is proper postage if using a foreign mail service. As always, you can contact your election office to ensure they received your information by sending them an email or giving them a call!

Boehmer added, "We know that the process of absentee voting can seem overwhelming, but the tools that we have available at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov) help make the process easier."

Other assistance options include contacting your unit voting assistance officer with any questions. They can be found on the Kadena sharepoint.

Remember - absentee ballots count. So make sure you complete and send in your state ballot as soon as it arrives. If you don't receive it by Oct. 8, you can use the backup Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot.

To find your state's election website for specific information on candidates, elections, contact information, and links to your local election offices, visit FVAP's contact page at <https://www.fvap.gov>