



33rd Rescue Squadron takes to the sky



HH-60G Pave Hawks from the 33rd Rescue Squadron take off Nov. 30, at Kadena Air Base. Pave Hawks have a long history of use in contingencies, starting in Operation Just Cause. During Operation Desert Storm they provided combat search and rescue coverage for coalition forces in western Iraq, coastal Kuwait, the Persian Gulf and Saudi Arabia.

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

Okinawa residents enter Kadena for tsunami evacuation drill

By Airman 1st Class Corey Pettis

18th Wing Public Affairs

12/6/2016 — A bilateral natural disaster exercise was held on Kadena Air Base, Dec. 4 to test and improve evacuation procedures between members of Team Kadena and the local community.

Approximately 130 Chatan Town residents participated in a simulated evacuation drill from low elevation areas near the Sunabe Seawall to higher ground, in the event of a tsunami.

This annual drill began with a car driving around Chatan Town, announcing the drill over a loud speaker.

Security Forces personnel provided gate entry to all par-

ticipants and provided escorts as participants made their way from Gate 1 to the designated recovery zone at Gate 5.

Airmen from the 18th Medical Group stood by to provide medical care throughout the nearly two mile walk. Attendees were greeted with refreshments upon arriving at their destination by Col. Paul Oldham, 18th Mission Support Group commander, and Osamu Tamanaha, Chatan Town director of general affairs.

"We help cooperate with this exercise by opening Kadena Air Base, allowing for a quicker route to higher ground and ensuring the townspeople know the route in the case of a real emergency," said Oldham.

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Residents of Chatan Town make their way through Kadena Air Base, as part of a bilateral tsunami evacuation exercise Dec. 4.

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