



# AMURAI GATE



U.S. Marine Corps F-35B Lightning IIs from Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 121, fly in formation with a KC-135 Stratotanker from the 909th ARS March 14, over the Pacific Ocean.

## 909TH ARS CONDUCTS F-35 INAUGURAL REFUELING

**Kadena supports Marine Corps' 5th-generation fighters**

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(U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman John Linzmeier)

# 18th Wing Contractors and Comptrollers conduct joint training

**By Senior Airman Omari Bernard**

18th Wing Public Affairs

3/16/2017 — Imagine billowing wisps of smoke rising into the sky, signaling the telltale signs of a fire, as first responders rally to rescue casualties from an earthquake that struck just off the coast. Okinawa is flooded with debris from damaged buildings. Rescue efforts are underway and civilians are evacuated to some of the nearby military installations. What happens after the natural disaster is over and everyone is rescued?

Contracting officers from the U.S. Air Force, Army, and Marine Corps come together to meet the challenges of acquiring the basic necessities for survival. Challenges such as who buys the supplies, what people need for prolonged survival and funding sources in times of crisis.

More than 60 members of the 18th Contracting Squadron and the 18th Comptroller Squadron, conduct annual

operational contracting support joint exercises with Marines, Soldiers and the Defense Logistics Agency to ensure Okinawan residents are able to recover after surviving a natural disaster.

During the exercise, contractors and finance agents split into joint teams and are monitored by more experienced members of their units who are there to observe and evaluate each team's performance on contracting.

"We really put a burden on the evaluators and observers," said U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Mason Harney, 18th CONS unit training manager. "They are not only responsible for answering their team's questions correctly, but they also have to ensure they are working in the right direction towards the general values we're looking for in this training."

During one of the training scenarios, teams had to compose lists of items to provide relief such as food, water, shelter

SEE CONTRACTING PAGE 2



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

Contracting officers and finance agents from the U.S. Air Force, Army and Marine Corps work together as a team during an operational contracting support joint exercise Jan. 24, at Camp Foster. Training together prepares members of each branch to be able to function together in the event of a natural disaster.