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AIR FORCE - ARMY - NAVY - COMMUNITY NEWS

Number 10 - Issue 9

## 44TH FS FLIES WITH NAVY VFA-27 AND VFA-102



44th Fighter Squadron F-15 Eagle and Navy Strike Fighter Squadron 27 and 102, F/A-18 Super Hornets, assigned to Naval Air Facility Atsugi, Japan, fly in formation after a training sortie Feb. 16, over Okinawa.

(U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Peter Reft)

### By Senior Airman Nick Emerick

18th Wing Public Affairs

**2/28/2017** — Members of the 44th Fighter Squadron on Kadena Air Base, hosted training as part of a multi-branch exercise with U.S. Navy pilots and maintainers from Naval Air Facility Atsugi, Japan.

The exercise took place Feb. 13 – 17, and allowed members from both services to learn about the different types of operations conducted by each other, as well as the capabilities of the other's aircrafts.

“Training with a different service is important because when executing the air defense mission it’s integral to know

how to adapt and work with members of other branches at a moment’s notice; exercises such as these greatly increase our mission capability and readiness,” said CDR Dan Cochran, VFA-27 Strike Fighter Squadron commander. “Normally when we operate together, the Navy is generally based off of a ship, while the Air Force is land based. This training gave us the opportunity to brief and debrief together, learn from each other and work side by side.”

According to Cochran, opportunities such as these are important teamwork training opportunities, both Navy and Air Force pilots can provide the most

effective defense possible by understanding both the capabilities and limitations of their counterparts.

“This is the first time in a while that the 44th has been able to integrate with the Navy at a tactical level; we’ve done a lot of operational level training, but the ability to work at the tactical level allows us to improve our skills in entirely different ways including the defensive counter-air mindset. This allows us to ultimately achieve our objectives,” said Lt. Col. Kevin Jamieson, 44th FS commander. “We learned a lot about how the F/A-18 Super Hornet works, and what part it plays in mission execution in

conjunction with the F-15, which helps us to develop tactics, making us more lethal and successful overall.”

According to Jamieson, not only do these types of joint trainings exercises strengthen the U.S. military team, but they also reconfirm to our partner nations that America is always there in every mission, every domain, and in every location.

“The training we are conducting has allowed us to enhance U.S. forces interoperability, which serves to bolster both services’ capability to defend assets and allies in Japan and throughout the Indo-Asia Pacific Theater,” said Cochran.