

KADENA SHOGUN WEEKLY NEWS



SAMURAI GATE

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AIR FORCE - ARMY - NAVY - COMMUNITY NEWS

Number 10 - Issue 46



F-35As conduct bilateral training with JASDF F-15s

F-35A Lightning IIs and Japanese Air Self-Defense Force F-15 Eagles fly in formation during bi-lateral training Dec. 4, over the Pacific Ocean. The F-35A is deployed under the U.S. Pacific Command's Theater Security Package program, which has been in operation since 2004. This long-planned deployment demonstrates the continuing U.S. commitment to stability and security in the region.

(U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Matthew B. Fredericks)



320th STS and Nepalese partners enhance SAR capability

Nepalese Mahabir Rangers helicopter cast from a Mi-17 during exercise Teak Nail Oct. 26, in Pokhara, Nepal. The team conducted training on collapsed structures, swift water rescue, rope systems, helicopter insertion, glacier movement and a complex mountain rescue exercise.

(U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Sandra Welch)

By Staff Sgt. Sandra Welsh
353rd Special Operations Group Public Affairs
12/4/2017 - KATHMANDU, Nepal
— U.S. Air Force 320th Special Tactics Squadron operators teamed up with Nepalese Mahabir Rangers to enhance search and rescue (SAR) capabilities and improve interoperability during exercise Teak Nail Oct. 15 to Nov. 15, 2017, throughout various locations in Nepal to include Kathmandu, Pokhara, Jomsom and Kaisang.
“Since 2001, the U.S. military has sent

operators to Nepal to work with the Ranger Regiment’s Disaster Aid and Response Teams (DART),” said U.S. Air Force Maj. Joel Buelow, 320th STS commander. “Our engagements are unique from the training conducted by U.S. Army special operations forces (SOF) because we focus exclusively on SAR; essential training in a country where natural disasters like flash floods, landslides, earthquakes and avalanches result in multiple deaths a year.”
The 60 Nepalese Mahabir Rangers and

16 U.S. Special Tactics operators benefited from the challenging mountainous terrain and altitude acclimatization. The team conducted training on collapsed structures, swift water rescue, rope systems, helicopter insertion, glacier movement and a complex mountain rescue exercise.
“The natural features of Nepal provide training opportunities difficult to find anywhere else in the world,” said U.S. Air Force Capt. Dunn, Teak Nail mission commander. “From training in the

mountains at 17,000 feet in elevation, to working on glaciers, to wild whitewater rivers on which to conduct swift water rescues, Nepal has it all.”
The two forces began the exercise in Kathmandu, Nepal with collapsed structure training, rope systems, tower rappelling and fast roping.
“The rangers had a vital role within Nepal following the devastating earthquake in 2015,” said U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Jason Humes, Teak Nail senior enlisted
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