



THE NORTHERN LIGHT

Monthly Newsletter
And Spotlight

Proudly serving the People of Misawa Air Base, Japan

Vol. 34 No. 9



Misawa Air Base Hosts Joint Bilateral Integration Training

U.S. Marines with Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 121 (VMFA-121), 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, deployed F-35B Lightning IIs to Misawa Air Base to conduct aerial fighter integration training alongside the 14th Fighter Squadron throughout the month of August 2021.

The Marines of VMFA-121 are another weapon in the arsenal that the U.S. employs to ensure a free and open Indo-Pacific region. The Marines conduct training throughout Japan in order to sustain their high level of proficiency and operational readiness while increasing interoperability with both the U.S. Air Force, and Japan Air Self-Defense Force (JASDF).

Readiness pg2



SECAF Visit PACAF

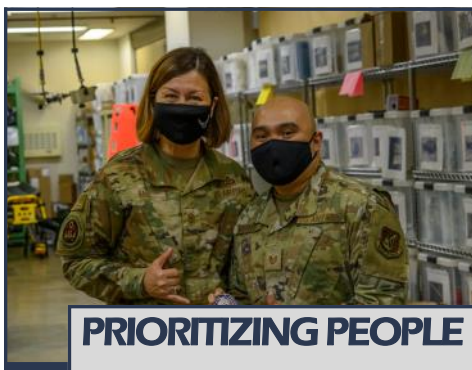
SECAF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Secretary of the Air Force Frank Kendall visited Airmen and Guardians from Headquarters Pacific Air Forces and the 15th Wing at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Aug. 16-18.

As the 26th Secretary of the Air Force, Kendall is the department's civilian leader responsible for organizing, training, equipping and ensuring the welfare of nearly 700,000 Airmen, Guardians and their families.

SECAF pg 2

Around the Wing



PRIORITIZING PEOPLE & MISSION READY

U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Raymond Madayag, 35th OMRS Bioenvironmental Flight NCOIC was recognized as an outstanding performer by Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Joanne Bass during her visit, Misawa Air Base, Japan, Aug. 24, 2021



MIL TO MIL, HEART TO HEART

Master Sgt. Richard Colón, 35th Fighter Wing Commander's Action Group superintendent, has a very special relationship with the officer who administered his Oath. Major Deborah Colón, 35th Warrior Medicine Clinic commander.



SAMFE: SUPPORTING AIRMAN & FAMILIES

Found at overseas bases or deployed locations, SAMFE is a joint initiative based on a U.S. Army program that was established when officials realized the lack of medical care available to victims of sexual assault who are stationed overseas or in a contingency area.



MORE

Check out the Misawa Air Base Facebook for more information!



Legal Blotter

The following personnel at Misawa AB were punished under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ):

Nonjudicial Punishments (Article 15):

An Airman First Class from the 35th Force Support Squadron received an Article 15 for violating restriction of movement (ROM) procedures, which resulted in the cancellation of the member's attendance for mandatory training. The member received a reduction to Airman, a suspended reduction to Airman Basic, and a reprimand from the commander.

A Senior Airman from the 35th Force Support Squadron received an Article 15 for use of THC. The member received a reduction to Airman First Class, a suspended reduction to Airman, and a reprimand from the commander.

A Senior Airman from the 35th Force Support Squadron received an Article 15 for stealing clothing from the Misawa Base Exchange. The member received a suspended reduction to Airman First Class, 14 days of extra duty, suspended forfeiture of \$1,185.00 pay, and a reprimand from the commander.

A Senior Airman from the 35th Maintenance Squadron received an Article 15 for driving under the influence of alcohol. The member received a reduction to Airman First Class, forfeiture of \$1,185.00 pay, a suspended forfeiture of \$1,185.00 pay, and a reprimand from the commander.

A Senior Airman from the 35th Communications Squadron received an Article 15 for failing to attend driver's training and lying to his leadership about attending. The member received a reduction to Airman First Class, a suspended reduction to Airman, 14 days of extra duty, and a reprimand from the commander.

A Senior Airman from the 35th Maintenance Squadron received an Article 15 for bullying and providing alcohol to a minor. The member received a suspended reduction to Airman First Class and a reprimand from the commander.

Discharges:

No Discharges closed from 1 July 21 through 31 July 21.

POLICY UPDATES

Air Force announces mandatory COVID-19 vaccine implementation guidelines for Airmen, Guardians

Secretary of the Air Force Frank Kendall directed the COVID-19 vaccine implementation guidelines for Department of the Air Force total force military members Sept. 3, in accordance with the Secretary of Defense mandate last month.

The service implementation plan requires Airmen and Guardians to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by:
· Nov. 2 - Active Duty personnel
· Dec. 2 - Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve personnel
2021 memorandum.
Unless seeking an exemptions

Follow us on:



www.misawa.af.mil

More Stories, Photos & Videos on



Readiness

"One reason we came to Misawa was to use Draughton Range and the Joint Threat Emitters that simulate surface-to-air missile threats," said U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Col. Timothy J. Farag, VMFA-121 commanding officer. "Another great reason we came to Misawa was to integrate with the F-16s here, as well as in hopes that we could do something with the Japan Air Self-Defense Force."

VMFA-121 pilots conducted suppression of enemy air defense (SEAD), strike mission, and defensive counter-air training with F-16 Fighting Falcon pilots from the 14th Fighter Squadron.

The fighter attack squadron needs to be able to operate anywhere if called upon to deter and defeat adversaries. The ability to integrate with partners and allies is a vital part of that capability. This integration training affords all parties involved a greater understanding of how to work together in the event of real-world operations.

"From a joint perspective, sometimes we think the same thing, but say it in different ways," said U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. David M. Dubel, 14th Fighter Squadron commander. "So being able to brief, fly and debrief with our Marine Corps partners gives us a common understanding of what we're saying on the radio and what we're doing tactically so we can integrate better in the future."

In addition to integrating with the 14th Fighter Squadron, VMFA-121 was able to hold bilateral F-35 talks between Marine Corps and JASDF pilots and maintainers. "What impressed us the most was how faithful the Marines of VMFA-121 are. They are also positive and cheerful at the same time," said JASDF Lt. Col. Yoshihiko Ida, 301st Tactical Fighter Squadron commander. "Japan Self-Defense Forces do not have a direct counterpart of the Marine Corps. However, through the past three weeks we are convinced that they are also a truly reliable ally."

The Marines were also able to train with the newly installed Joint Threat Emitters at Draughton Range.

"We unfortunately don't have those emitters available where we're stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, or really anywhere else in theater," said Farag. "The training we do in the simulator, we're trying to replicate in the air, using the airplane's capabilities, to mimic the real-world SEAD mission. It's great to be able to try and exercise those systems."

Draughton Range is a premiere air-to-ground training site located in northern Japan. U.S. Force and partner nations train at the range to enhance capabilities such as SEAD, munition employment, Combat Search and Rescue and Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape, ultimately enhancing the readiness of joint and multinational forces in the region.



SECAF

During a town hall event, Kendall underscored his "one team, one fight" slogan, which cements his intent for PACAF Airmen and Guardians to continue to work alongside sister services, other federal government organizations, and allied and partner nations.

"'One team, one fight' is my shorthand way to talk about what we need to do collectively, and what our purpose should be collectively," Kendall said. "And it's something that will be a mantra that I'll use that I'll think about, and I would like other people in the organization to do the same. If you're not contributing to that mission, if you're not serving as an effective part of the team, you need to be rethinking what you're doing."

Kendall also highlighted the importance of why Airmen need to become fully vaccinated as a countermeasure to protect themselves, their wingmen, and their families from the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It's a very simple correlation," Kendall said. "If you're unvaccinated, you're much more at risk and you're putting your loved ones at risk."

Kendall discussed that keeping Airmen and civilians protected from COVID-19 also helps the Department of the Air Force maintain a high level of readiness because it prevents organizations from losing critical members of the Air Force team.

"I can't encourage people enough to get vaccinations," Kendall said. "The Secretary of Defense has indicated that it's going to become mandatory in the not too distant future. So don't wait. Get out there and get vaccinated now."

Kendall also emphasized his goals to posture the U.S. Air Force for strategic competition, modernize the force through innovation and diversity, and build a culture of resilience and readiness.

"We're in a technological competition, as much as anything else," Kendall said. "We're in competition where our skill sets, our abilities to lead, and all the features that we bring to the table matter. What we need to be doing as leaders is helping everybody in our team grow and become more capable as a member of that team."

Kendall highlighted the importance of diversity and inclusion and how it contributes to interoperability, efficiency, creativity, and lethality across the U.S. Air Force.

"We're in a tough fight, we have serious competitors," Kendall said. "We need to get as much out of every single member of the team as possible. And the way you do that is you treat each other with respect and with dignity, and you help each other perform to a higher level."

Kendall stressed that teamwork is the universal foundation of military success, especially today as the Air Force, Department of Defense, and U.S. nation faces a wide range of challenges to overcome. He highlighted his outlook for the future, not only for PACAF, but for Airmen, Guardians, civilians, and partners across the Indo-Pacific.

"I just want to say from my trip out here that I am so impressed with the people I've had a chance to talk to," Kendall said. "We have tremendous capability. We have a tough job on our hands staying ahead of our competitors. But I'm very confident that the people I've seen and all the others like them serving throughout the region are up to that job."