



THE NORTHERN LIGHT

Monthly Newsletter
And Spotlight

Proudly serving the People of Misawa Air Base, Japan

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Missiles or signals? How Misawa's Joint Threat Emitters keep Wild Weasel pilots combat ready

Misawa Air Base pilots are constantly training and attending exercises to hone their skills to fine points, but ultimately nothing beats real-world experiences when preparing to project agile combat air power.

Providing real-world scenarios is expensive and it can also be dangerous. Misawa AB, with the help of a commercial defense industry partner, recently installed two new Joint Threat Emitters (JTEs) to get as close to real-world conditions, as safely possible.

Partnership pg2



FY 22 Budget

AIR AND SPACE FORCES LEADERS

With a couple of notable exceptions, House and Senate lawmakers on a pair of influential committees expressed general agreement June 16 and 17 with the Air and Space Forces' strategic priorities and budget choices as well as the services' plans for confronting modern-day challenges and threats.

Across two days of hearings before the House Armed Services Committee and the Senate Armed Services Committee, Acting Secretary of the Air Force John P. Roth, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. CQ Brown, Jr., and Chief of Space Operations Gen. John "Jay" Raymond laid out both the near term and longer range budget and operational plans.

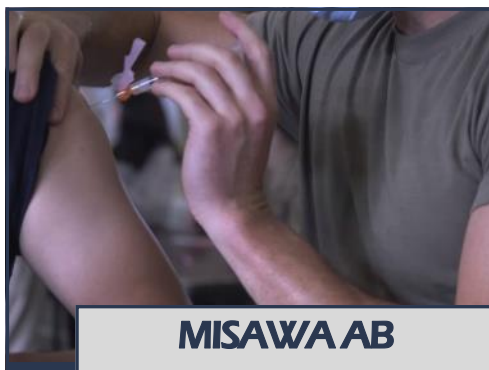
Agreement pg 2

Around the Wing



**STONG PARTNERS:
COPE WEST 21**

Airmen from the 35th Fighter Wing, Misawa Air Base, generate airpower for Cope West 21, a bilateral air-to-air training exercise featuring the U.S. and Indonesian air forces.



**MISAWA AB
VACCINATES LOCALS**

Thanks to the new U.S. Forces Japan policy, local employees at Misawa Air Base, Japan, received the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine from 35th Fighter Wing Public Health personnel.



**MISAWA'S LGBTQ+ 5K
COLOR RUN**

Members of Team Misawa participated in a LGBTQ+ 5K Color Run/Walk in honor of Pride Month. The run was about embracing the LGBTQ+ community as part of our team and family here at Misawa.



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 in May 2021(UCMJ):

Nonjudicial Punishments (Article 15):

A Staff Sergeant from the 35th Mission Support Group received an Article 15 for being derelict in the performances of his duties and disorderly conduct. The member received a reduction to Senior Airman, suspended, forfeitures of \$1,414 pay for 2 months, with \$414 suspended, and a Reprimand.

An Airman First Class from the 35th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron received an Article 15 for being drunk on duty. The member received a reduction to Airman, a suspended reduction to Airman Basic, and a Reprimand.

An Airman First Class from the 35th Civil Engineer Squadron received an Article 15 for Assault consummated by battery. The member received a reduction to Airman, suspended, and a Reprimand.

An Airman First Class from the 35th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron received an Article 15 for Assault consummated by battery. The member received a reduction to Airman, suspended, Forfeiture of \$1,000, suspended, and a Reprimand.

An Airman from the 35th Logistic Readiness Squadron received an Article 15 for failing to go to his appointed place of duty. The member received a reduction to Airman Basic, and a Reprimand.

Discharges:

An Airman First Class from the 35th Forces Support Squadron was involuntarily separated for Misconduct: Minor Disciplinary Infractions and received a General Service characterization.

POLICY UPDATES

Air Force readdresses women's hair standard after feedback

Female Hair Update



The Air Force revises Air Force Instruction 36-2903 to address differences in hair density and texture June 25, 2021.

When hair is secured behind the head, the hair may extend six inches to the left and to the right and six inches protruding from the point where the hair is gathered.

The 12-inch total width must allow for proper wear of headgear.

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Partnership

“To best train pilots, we have to give an accurate representation of enemy anti-air systems,” said Maj. Daniel House, 35th Operations Support Squadron range operations officer. “These JTEs allow us to prepare against enemy air defenses, and stop them from destroying friendly aircraft in combat scenarios.”

These JTEs provide ground threat warnings to the aircraft via an electronic signal to simulate a surface-to-air missile or anti-aircraft artillery -- giving Wild Weasel, joint, and partner nation pilots realistic aerial combat training.

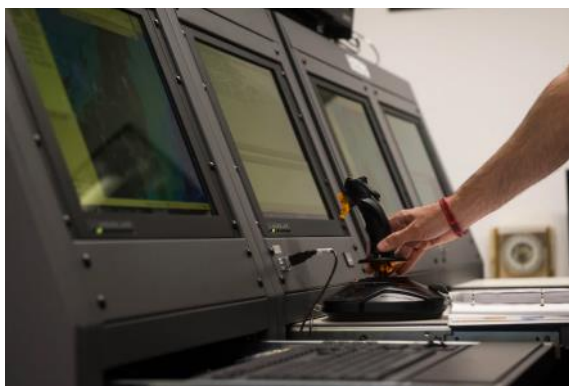
The threats aren't physical, but they emulate numerous types of radar, electronic warfare and other threats. The emitters also have the ability to respond to aircraft's countermeasures, and can help further train pilots by mirroring enemy tactics, techniques, and procedures.

“The new JTEs provide multi-threat training by combining two subsystems into one package,” House said. “These JTEs allow Misawa to triple the amount of simulated anti-aircraft systems we've trained and operated with in previous years.”

Maj. Thomas Nichols, 13th Fighter Squadron chief of weapons and tactics, explained JTEs can go beyond just benefiting Air Force pilots at Misawa AB.

“These new assets will allow us to integrate with all forces across U.S. Forces Japan as well as Japanese Air Self-Defense Forces,” Nichols said. “We'll have the ability to yield a better repeated and improved training together.”

Ultimately, the new JTEs will produce better trained joint and bilateral pilots who are more capable to protect U.S. interests in the Indo-Pacific region, and defend Japan.



Agreements

All three emphasized that both services are moving aggressively to offset threats from China and Russia while continuing to modernize, reshaping the force to face threats expected in 2030, and redoubling efforts, as Roth said, “to rid our ranks of any corrosive elements and injustices that degrade our ability to provide a lethal, ready force.”

“The long-term strategic competition with China and Russia demands we focus on the capabilities we need today to win tomorrow,” Roth told the House Armed Services Committee on June 16 and the Senate Armed Services Committee the next day.

“Our nation's competitive strategic advantage relies on air and space superiority, which is underpinned by rapid technological advancement and the extension of space as a warfighting domain,” he said, delivering the same message to the Senate Armed Services Committee on June 17.

The so-called “posture hearings” before both committees are an annual rite, triggered each year after the White House releases the federal government's budget proposal for the next fiscal year. The hearings give lawmakers serving on committees insight into the priorities and policies of the Air and Space Forces as well as the trade-offs at work. The hearings also give lawmakers an opportunity to ask questions.

Throughout both hearings, all three Department of the Air Force officials emphasized the need for the Air and Space Forces to continue breaking free from an entrenched culture, the need to move faster and to try new methods and approaches. They also highlighted the importance of space and how it has evolved into a “contested” domain.

“The strategic environment has rapidly evolved and we haven't changed fast enough to keep pace,” Brown told the Senate committee, repeating word-for-word the warning he delivered the day before to lawmakers in the House.

“Competition and future warfare will be conducted across all domains simultaneously,” Brown said. “It will be a trans-regional and global undertaking with complex actions and actors intertwined.”

The importance of space, and the need for the Space Force as an independent branch of the military, was not in dispute.

“I think it was absolutely necessary,” House Armed Services Chairman Rep. Adam Smith (D-Wash.), said of creating the Space Force, which is mid-way through its second year in existence.

“Space is essential to everything we do. We have to make sure our satellites are survivable, redundant and they continue to do the critical work that they do,” Smith said, adding, “we have to make sure we have the architecture up there that we need and that we can protect it, even in time of conflict.”

Raymond agreed.

“We have long understood that our nation is strongest economically, diplomatically, and militarily when we have access to, and freedom to maneuver in space,” he said. “For the past three decades, we have been able to take that access and freedom for granted.”

“Unfortunately, as the National Defense Strategy and the newer Interim National Security Strategy identified, this is no longer the case,” Raymond said, pointing out both China and Russia “are rapidly developing their own space capabilities.”

Both countries, he said, “are building weapon systems specifically designed to deny U.S. capabilities” that include jamming of U.S. satellites.”

They also are fielding “directed energy systems that can blind, disrupt, or damage our satellites; anti-satellite weapons in space that are designed to destroy U.S. satellites; and cyber capabilities that can deny our access to the domain,” he said.

The Air and Space Forces released their combined budget proposal on May 28 as part of the Biden administration's overall spending request for the 2022 fiscal year. The Department of the Air Force's request calls for \$173.7 billion, a 3% increase over the current budget. The Air Force's budget of \$156.3 billion represents a 2.3% increase, and the Space Force's budget of \$17.4 billion is a 13.1% increase from FY 2021.

The budget is designed to be a catalyst to modernize the Air Force and continue the evolution of the Space Force. It calls for investing in the Ground Based Strategic Deterrent, the replacement for the aging Minuteman III; Next-Generation Air Dominance, envisioned as the Air Force's next state-of-the-art aircraft; and space-based capabilities such as the Next-Gen Overhead Persistent Infrared missile warning system. It also pushes forward the Advanced Battle Management System, the Department's contribution to Joint All Domain Command and Control.