



Transferring and Translating: Munitions Airmen Break Down Barriers

Airmen from the 35th Maintenance Squadron Munitions Flight partnered with their Japan Air Self-Defense Force (JASDF) 3rd Air Wing counterparts to begin the first-ever demilitarization (demil) process for JASDF F-35 Lightning II system components at Misawa AB, during April of 2021.

The F-35 program contract dictates that once an asset is removed from a fifth generation fighter aircraft it becomes U.S. property again. This means partner-nations like Japan are required to work with U.S. personnel to facilitate the F-35 demil process.

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Doolittle Award

CSAF CHARLES Q. BROWN, JR.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Jr. received the General James Doolittle Award from Massachusetts Institute of Technology for his significant contributions to the advancement of U.S. airpower during a virtual event April 22.

It is a real honor, and I wish I could be there in person," Brown said. "I'd really like to thank you for this prestigious award, and the honor of being associated with such a legendary Airman and a national hero. He was really involved in a lot of ground breaking aviation areas. He lived with ingenuity, innovation and he was one that was willing to take risks."

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Around the Wing



**PACIFIC AIR FORCES
BEST CHILD CARE**

PACAF awarded the Misawa Air Base Child and Youth Program with the Child and Youth Services Flight of Year, recognizing their accomplishments that uniquely contributed to the readiness of the Air Force's most important asset – its Airmen.



**HAPPY NEW YEAR
MISAWA**

U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Hannah Tatum, received a letter of appreciation from Misawa City officials for attending and supporting Misawa's "Jido-kan", or after-school program, for Okamisawa Elementary School.



**WILD WEASEL OF THE
WEEK**

Ohtaka-san, an Administrative Specialist from our Misawa Legal Office. The legal office services a variety of legal needs here such as notaries, power of attorneys and wills.



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) in APRIL 2021:

Nonjudicial Punishments (Article 15):

An Airman First Class from the 35th Healthcare Operations Squadron received an Article 15 for being derelict in the performances of their duties for accessing protected health information and making a false official statement. The member received a reduction to Airman, suspended, forfeitures of \$1,000.00 pay for 2 months, suspended, 14 days extra duty, and a reprimand.

An Airman First Class from the 35th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron received an Article 15 for larceny. The member received a reduction to Airman, suspended, and a reprimand.

A Senior Airman from the 35th Medical Support Squadron received an Article 15 for failing to go to the appointed place of duty. The member received a reduction to Airman First Class, suspended, 10 days extra duty, and a reprimand.

A Senior Airman from the 35th Fighter Wing Staff Agency received an Article 15 for failing to go to the appointed place of duty. The member received a reprimand.

An Airman First Class from the 35th Security Forces Squadron received an Article 15 for damage to government property by damaging a window and for being drunk and disorderly. The member received a reduction to Airman Basic, suspended, 20 days extra duty, and a reprimand.

A Senior Airman from the 35th Force Support Squadron received an Article 15 for wrongful use of marijuana. The member received a reduction to Airman, with a suspended reduction to Airman Basic, 60 days restriction to base, forfeiture of \$892.00 pay per month for 2 months, and a reprimand.

A Staff Sergeant from the 35th Operational Medical Readiness Squadron received an Article 15 for dereliction in the performances of their duties for providing alcohol to a minor. The member received reduction to Senior Airman, and a reprimand.

A Staff Sergeant from the 35th Maintenance Squadron received an Article 15 for making a false official statement. The member received reduction to Senior Airman, suspended, 45 days extra duty, 45 days restriction to base, and a reprimand.

A Senior Airman from the 35th Security Forces Squadron received an Article 15 for unauthorized use of his Government Travel Card. The member received a reduction to Airman First Class, suspended, 10 extra duty days, suspended 5 extra duty days, and a reprimand.

A Senior Airman from the 35th Civil Engineer Squadron received an Article 15 for assault consummated by battery and communicating a threat. The member received a reduction to Airman First Class, suspended, 30 days extra duty, suspended, and a reprimand.

The following personnel at Misawa AB were administratively separated:

Discharges:

An Airman from the 35th Forces Support Squadron was involuntarily separated for Misconduct: Drug Abuse and received a General Service characterization.

Partnership

The munitions flight is well versed in the demil process for the U.S. Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcon. They employed that expertise alongside JASDF personnel to reduce their stockpile of previously removed F-35 components that reached the end of their lifecycle.

“It’s pretty much the same process that we’re used to. The only difference is the specific items that we need to prepare,” said U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Justin Gibson, 35th MXS Munitions Flight senior munitions inspector. “If we can set a precedent for how they do this in other parts of the world that would be cool too.”

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Ayaka Lopez, 35th MXS Munitions Flight munitions operations supervisor, who is half Japanese, acted as a coordinator and translator between the munitions flight and the JASDF team.

“My mom always pushed me to learn more of a strategic level of Japanese because she knew it would be good for my Air Force career, and she was right,” said Lopez. “My biggest struggle was trying to translate Air Force technical verbiage. I’m fluent in day-to-day Japanese, but it’s not every day that you talk about F-35s.”

Her language skills paid off, helping to build trust and efficient cooperation during the process.

“They were very happy to know we had someone on our team that could speak Japanese,” said Lopez. “One of the JASDF team members said it was the happiest news that has happened to him all year.”

The partnership between the U.S. Air Force and Japan Air Self-Defense Force enables us to be stronger together and bolsters the stability of the Indo-Pacific Region.



Doolittle

Since 1994, the Security Studies Program has held an annual event to honor the memory of MIT alumni and World War II hero Gen. James Doolittle.

“MIT has a long history with the United States Air Force of innovation and bold leadership, and I’m very thankful for institutions like MIT that have great leaders who have served not just in the Air Force but across the Department of Defense and other fields in our nation,” Brown said. “Just like the Doolittle Raiders, we have a window of opportunity to accelerate change.”

Doolittle served as a test pilot and aeronautical engineer before entering MIT, where he earned his master’s degree and the first Ph.D. in Aeronautics from any American university. He received the Medal of Honor for leading the famous Doolittle Raid and was promoted from lieutenant colonel to brigadier general, skipping the rank of colonel.

Doolittle remains the only American to receive both the country’s highest military and civilian honors — the Medal of Honor and the Medal of Freedom.

After reflecting upon Doolittle’s accomplishments, Brown explained his strategic approach to positioning the Air Force for future success in high-end conflicts.

“I really think the future of warfare will be conducted across all domains,” Brown said. “We’re talking air, maritime, land, cyber space, and I would ask you add (to your consideration), the information domain. All those will happen simultaneously and happen at a pace globally that we need to prepare for, so I think there’s an imperative that we must change.”

He also included information regarding the advancements in the discussion of near-peer adversaries China and Russia and emphasized the need to be clear about the future of the force.

“I’ve laid out what I would call the first principles for the five core mission areas of the United States Air Force,” Brown said. “Those core missions are air superiority; global strike; rapid global mobility; command and control; and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance. The key aspect is being able to clearly articulate what we want to look like in the future in each one of those areas.”

Brown expanded on his key focus areas and included leadership suggestions for cadets in attendance from MIT’s Detachment 365.

“There are no dumb questions,” Brown said. “Don’t be afraid to ask and then always ask for what you want. The worst the Air Force can do is tell you no, and the answer is a guaranteed no if you don’t ask.”

He further championed how the diverse balance of perspectives regarding science, technology, engineering and math, and liberal arts helps the Air Force progress technologically and in areas such as international relations, citing the United States’ dynamic and innovative Airmen.

“We have the agility and the speed that we can do air-power, anytime, anywhere and truly focus on air superiority globally to make decisions by putting Airmen in the right jobs and allowing them to grow,” Brown said. “Our young Airmen will really wow us with their talent if we give them the opportunity.”

POLICY UPDATES

U.S. Forces Japan Implements New Mask Policy Following CDC



On installation, fully vaccinated personnel may choose not to wear masks when they are not in the vicinity of host nation personnel. Masks MUST be worn off base at all times. Additional details in accordance with the updated CDC guidance on mask wearing, issued to all personnel will be posted to the official Misawa AB website <https://www.misawa.af.mil/COVID-19-Information/>