

SPECIAL EDITION

THE KADENA
SHOGUN

2003



THE YEAR IN REVIEW

18th WG commander reflects on this year's accomplishments

By Brig. Gen. Jeffrey A. Remington
18th Wing commander

As this year comes to a close we have many reasons to celebrate.

Each of you should be extremely proud of your accomplishments as a member of Team Kadena and a member of the armed forces.

Our Air Force Motto is "No One Comes Close." It's not that we're bragging...it's just a simple fact. As witnessed by the war in Iraq, no other air force in the world comes anywhere near our tremendous air and space power capability.

The bottom line is, our success comes from you, our professional, well educated, highly trained, and success oriented service members.

Since January we fine tuned our war fighting skills and proved to the Pacific Air Forces' inspector general team that we are the best, as the 18th Wing received a rating of "excellent" during the Pacific Air Forces operational readiness inspection.

Throughout the entire process, from beginning to end, I witnessed professionalism, courage, determination and fortitude. My reaction...Wow! I was humbled by your talents and abilities making Team Kadena the best.

The 733rd Air Mobility Squadron also tipped the scales for being ready for any contingency. They also earned an "excellent" rating.

Just last month, the 18th Medical group garnered top marks from the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Health Care Organizations.

After a one-week inspection by a team of 12 personnel they proved once again they are legendary medics.

Looking back, I cannot remember a week or

even a day when the term "excellent" or "best of the best" was not mentioned in connection with a unit, service member or civilian.

Team Kadena garnered three Department of Defense awards, one Secretary of Defense level award, 27 Air Force level awards, scores of PACAF level awards and two Kadena airmen were selected as Outstanding Airmen of the Year.

These achievements coupled with Bronze Star recipients along with an individual who received a Distinguished Flying Cross represents the fabric that binds us together and proves to the world why this community remains so very special.

We deployed over 700 people to the Middle East during Air Expeditionary Force 5 and then 7.

AEF 7 was extended for Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom as our troops went to war. And then we went into AEF Blue and Silver.

I witnessed a unique understanding and appreciation from the husbands, wives, sons and daughters whose loved one was deployed.

Their commitment, sacrifice and dedication to family and community represent just one more reason why Kadena remains a community of excellence.

As we celebrate this holiday season, let's not forget the ultimate sacrifice paid by more than 500 coalition deaths since the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

As our families gather to open gifts and share in this holiday season, let us take a moment to remember and commemorate the sacrifices of those who died in the quest for freedom and in the hope of lasting peace.

Let's remember our friends and colleagues that are deployed and away from their families.

I also encourage

you to take the time to share with those who may be less fortunate or alone during this special time of the year.

There's an old movie I enjoy watching over the holidays... "It's a Wonderful Life."

Just like George Bailey in the movie learned that he helped make other people's lives better, so are you by truly making a difference, one that you can be proud of. You represent the best in the world - be proud of who you are and what you do. I am!

Thank you all for your accomplishments over this year and have a safe and joyous holiday season.

"Let's remember our friends and colleagues that are deployed and away from their families. I also encourage you to take the time to share with those who may be less fortunate or alone during this special time of the year."

PACAF commander sends holiday messages

By Gen. Bill Begert
Pacific Air Forces commander

HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE, Hawaii—The holiday season is quickly approaching.

Soon you will gather with family and friends to celebrate the blessings you have received in the previous year. While traditionally a time of great joy, it is also a time of increased risk.

Once again, we find ourselves spread out across the globe in defense of our country.

I am grateful to each and every one of you for the effort you are giving, but I want to stress the importance of caution and safety during the holiday season.

This past year, we lost a record number of airmen to needless vehicle mishaps. There was a recurring theme in the majority of them...excessive speed and the use of alcohol.

If history is any indication, we will lose more airmen this holiday season. I do not want the statistics to reflect you in that number.

In order to ensure you remain off the stat sheet, you only need to do one small thing...act-assess, consider, take.

Assess the environment for risks, consider the options to limit the risks, and take appropriate action to mitigate the risks. In order to win the fight, we must arrive at it. I wish you a safe holiday season.

To Kadena:

As we enter the holiday season and look forward to the New Year, I want to congratulate every member of the 18th Wing for an outstanding 2003.

Despite a very challenging year, Team Kadena advanced bi-lateral relations with Japan while playing a major role in maintaining peace and sta-

bility in the Asia-Pacific region.

I sincerely appreciate your service and sacrifice. As always, our active-duty, host-nation, civilian and family team members all made extraordinary contributions to protecting U.S. and Japan's mutual interests.

I also want to acknowledge our airmen who are currently deployed; being away from friends and family during the holiday season is never easy.

If you are at home, you can help the PACAF team sustain an age-old Air Force tradition by looking after one another and by embracing family members left behind.

To the entire Shogun team, Jody and I wish you and your families a blessed and safe holiday season.

Thank you for all you do, and may the New Year bring you and your loved ones joy, peace and happiness.



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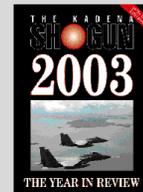
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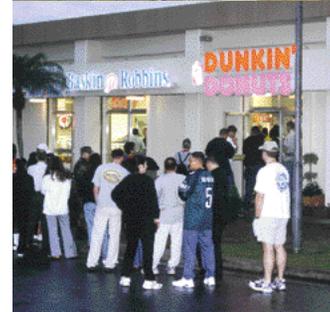
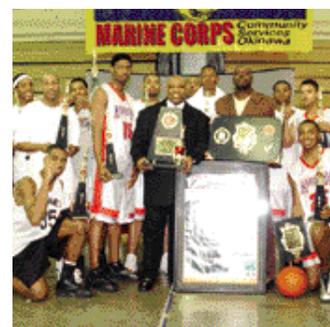
ON THE COVER: A pair of Kadena F-15s catch a glimpse of Okinawa from a unique perspective - high in the sky. This year more than 2,500 Kadena airmen

deployed to various areas of the world in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. (Photo by Master Sgt. Marvin Krause; cover design by Staff Sgt. Jason Lake)



Air Force/ Master Sgt. Angelo Tunstall helps Airman 1st Class William Edwards (right) with his gear during their final day of training with 25 Marines and 15 Navy corpsmen at the Marine Corps Jungle Warfare Training Center in northern Okinawa. The two airmen were the first to complete the training in their unit.

Quick Shots



From left to right, Capt. Christian Lichter, Tech. Sgt. Frank Hill and Staff Sgt. Michael Maroney saved the life of a Japanese woman who was pinned in her car after a car accident Jan. 22.



Air Force/ Staff Sgt. Marc Barnes helps Airman 1st Class Dale Hayes put on a glove as Hayes prepares to demonstrate proper wear of protective gear during mission oriented protective posture 4 to an audience at the Keystone Theater Jan. 8. Kadena's first operational readiness exercise of the year began Jan. 11.

JANUARY 10

- Two 18th Security Forces Squadron members became the first in their unit to train alongside 25 Marines and 15 Navy corpsmen at the Marine Jungle Warfare Training Center in northern Okinawa.
- Capt. Dustin Sutton, 18th SFS was named the Air Force's 2002 Security Forces Company Grade Officer of the Year.
- Kadena members geared up for the first of many operational readiness exercises held throughout the year in preparation for the Pacific Air Forces' Operational Readiness Inspection in October.
- Tops in Blue performed its "Magic of Music" routine during a two-day stop at the Schilling Community Center Jan. 9-10.



JANUARY 17

- 18th Wing Inspector General officials reviewed the results of the wing's first two-phase operational readiness exercise.
- 18th Medical Group officials announced plans to begin smallpox vaccinations by the end of the month.
- Air Force Personnel Center officials approved changes in the high year of tenure requirements. Senior Airman can now serve up to 12 years total service; technical sergeants, 24 years; master sergeants, 26 years and senior master sergeants, 28 years.



JANUARY 24

- Three members of the 353rd Special Operations Group saved the life of a Japanese teenager severely injured in a car wreck Jan. 22.
- Kadena officials released new child supervision guidelines.
- More than 1,400 unaccompanied airmen living on Kadena prepared to pack up their things, and moved to different dormitories as part of a Pacific Air Forces' dormitory reorganization plan.
- The Department of Defense Dependent Schools opened its Student Transportation Office at Bldg. 6800.
- The Kadena Falcons basketball team won the PACAF Martin Luther King Jr. basketball tournament defeating the Marines 77-68.



JANUARY 31

- Kadena members prepared for the arrival of the Commander-in-Chief's Installation Excellence evaluators. Hurlbert Field, Fla. was later named the winner of this year's competition.
- The 18th Civil Engineer Squadron's Fire Protection flight and Explosive Ordnance Disposal flight were both named best in the Air Force.
- Chief Master Sgt. Jim Martin, 18th CES, was named the Air Force's 2002 Maj. Gen. Joseph A. Ahearn Enlisted Leadership award winner.
- Kadena High School hosted the largest Model United Nations ever held in the Far East. More than two hundred DoDDS students and three international schools participated.



Quick Shots

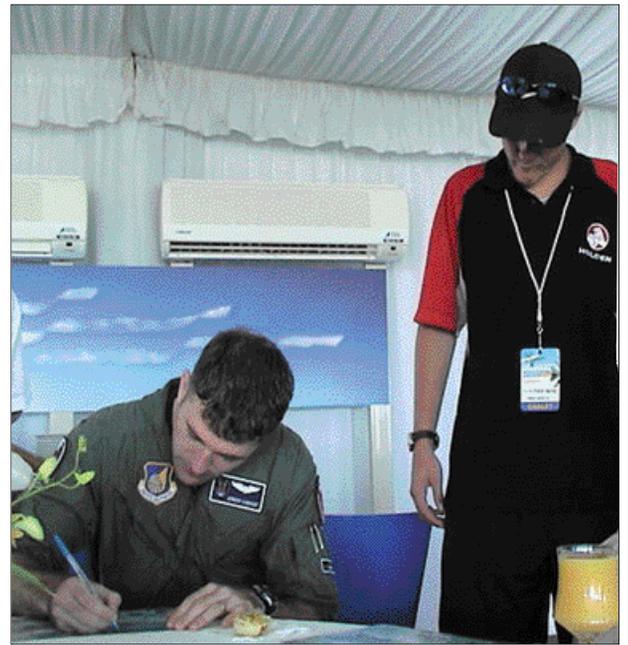


Air Force graphic by Staff Sgt. Marc Barnes

Kadena officials released the names of the 2002 Annual Award winners in the Feb. 7 edition of the Kadena Shogun newspaper. The winners included: Senior Airman Hector Bauza, Staff Sgt. Ray Bradshaw, Tech. Sgt. Ramona Jones, Master Sgts. Sherri Olson and Michael Morelli, Capt. Dustin Sutton, Makoto Matayoshi, Kimiko Tomihira, Wendy Hively and John Duffy.



Air Force/ Master Sgt. Michael Farris



Air Force/ Staff Sgt. Jason Lake

First Lt. Jeremy Lushnat, a 44th Fighter Squadron pilot, signs an autograph for a student from Cinders Peak Secondary College during a visit to Avalon, Australia, for the 2003 Australian International Airshow. The two were also accompanied by Noel Lamont, an Australian fighter pilot who served during World War II. More than 200,000 people and 600 media from around the world came out to catch a glimpse of Kadena's F-15s that performed aerial demonstrations.



Air Force/ Senior Airman Mercedes McAlister

ABOVE: Kadena volunteers cheer on runners as they pass through the base during the Okinawa Marathon Feb. 16. More than 7,000 runners passed through Kadena and six local communities during the marathon. The Okinawa Marathon is one of two major marathons held on Okinawa each year.

LEFT: Two members of Kadena's 320th Special Tactics Squadron prepare for a mission during Balance Piston '03, a month-long joint combined exchange training program with their Philippine counterparts.

FEBRUARY 7

- Kadena airmen from the 353rd Special Operations Group joined nearly 400 U.S. soldiers and airmen at Clark Air Base, Philippines, to conduct a month-long joint combined exchange training program.



- Kadena officials released new safety ratings on popular dive sites around Okinawa.

- Air Force officials announced a time extension to Air and Space Expeditionary Force 7 and 8 to help balance the AEF rotation cycle. More than 1,000 Kadena airmen were deployed when the message was released.

FEBRUARY 14

- Kadena gets ready to host a portion of the Okinawa Marathon Feb. 16. More than 10,000 runners were forecasted to run through Kadena.



- Chief Master Sgt. Stephen Pelham pinned on bars for Capt. Steven Rose, who was recruited into the Air Force by Pelham in 1987.

- Deployed Kadena airmen send Valentine's Day greeting to their loved ones.
- Airman 1st Class Angie Long, a visiting Tops-in-Blues performer, reunited with her Okinawan grandmother, Gatsu Tamaki, during a performance at Kadena.

FEBRUARY 21

- Master Sgt. Marvin Beacham, 353rd Operations Support Squadron, adopted two of his nieces while deployed for an exercise in the Philippines.



- The Kadena High School National Honor Society donated toys to the Chatan Single Mother's Association Feb. 10.

- Air Force officials roll back a policy stating that wing commanders must approve permissive temporary duty and terminal leave of more than 90 days. Unit commanders now have the authority.

FEBRUARY 28

- Fifteen Kadena senior NCOs became officially chief master sergeants during an induction ceremony at the Rocker NCO Club.



- Members of the 353rd Special Operations Group donated tons of toys, clothing, and hired a dentist, two doctors and a nurse to help children at the Clarkview Christian Center in the Philippines.

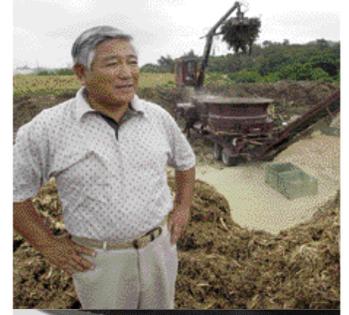
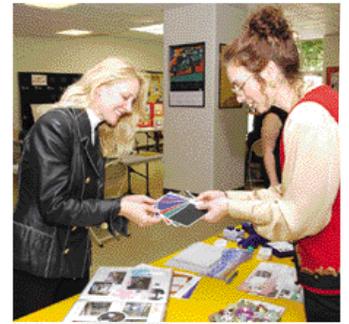
- A pair of 44th Fighter Squadron pilots went "Down Under" to demonstrate their F-15s capabilities in front of more than 200,000 spectators at the Avalon International Airshow in Geelong, Australia.

Quick Shots



Air Force/ Staff Sgt. C.E. Lewis

Col. David Razo, former 18th Wing vice commander, answers a question during a town hall meeting at the American Forces Network broadcast station March 12. The town hall meeting was aired on television and both radio stations to inform base residents on current events and answer pressing issues.



Air Force/ Staff Sgt. Jason Lake

A 33rd Rescue Squadron crew answered the call to airlift three injured Marines out of Camp Gonzalves Jungle Warfare Training Center in northern Okinawa March 21. The three Marines, who were injured inside a 60-foot-deep ravine, suffered various injuries ranging from a dislocated shoulder to a bruised tailbone.



Air Force/ Staff Sgt. C.E. Lewis

Master Sgt. Craig Limkeman, 733rd Air Mobility Squadron, refuels a plane on Kadena's flight line March 3. The 733rd AMS won an Air Force safety award for its safety and mishap prevention programs.

MARCH 7

- Finance officials urge Kadena airmen to participate in a Department of Defense cost of living survey for Okinawa-based troops.

- The 733rd Air Mobility Squadron was recognized by Air Force officials for having the best safety and mishap prevention program.

- Retired Tech. Sgt. George Watson, a former Tuskegee airmen, spoke at schools and various military functions commemorating Black History Month.

- More than 600 people attend Kadena's 5th Annual Okinawa Joint Women's Forum.



MARCH 14

- This issue highlighted various family support programs and 18th Services' activities designed to help families during deployments.

- Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Remington spoke to Kadena airmen during a quarterly commander's call meeting.

- Air Force officials promote the new GI Mail Web site that offers an electronic link between deployed airmen and their loved ones back home.



MARCH 21

- Air Force officials announced intentions to implement STOP LOSS May 2.

- Staff Sgt. Tony Patrick, 18th Munitions Squadron, was named the 2002 Air Force Male Military Athlete of the Year.

- Col. David Razo, former 18th Wing vice commander, addressed troops' and family members' concerns during a town hall meeting held at the American Forces Network March 12.

- Kadena officials postponed AmericaFest activities planned for April due to political uncertainties.



MARCH 28

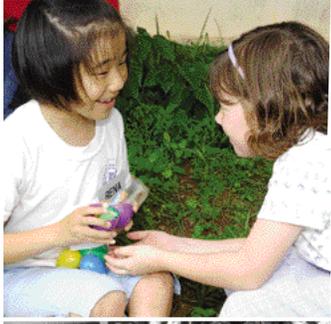
- Three injured Marines were airlifted to Camp Lester Naval Hospital courtesy of the 33rd Rescue Squadron pararescuemen.

- Kadena icon, Jimmy Schwartz, retired from the 18th Civil Engineer Squadron March 31. Schwartz's ties to Kadena began after his mother asked him to get help from servicemembers when he was 7-years-old. Schwartz was later inspired to enlist in the Army and earned the Purple Heart, Bronze Star and Air Medal for his actions in Vietnam.

- Navy Lt. William Gotten received the Air Force's Aviation Well-done Award for his quick actions during a crisis situation while flying an F-15 mission.



Quick Shots



Air Force/ Senior Airman Amanda Cochran

ABOVE: Airman 1st Class Richard Reed, 67th Fighter Squadron weapons load crew member, receives a welcome home from his wife, Tina, and son, Sonny, after returning from a 125-day Air Expeditionary Force deployment.

LEFT: Airman 1st Class Scott Petty and Staff Sgt. Guillermo Hernandez, 18th Logistic Readiness Squadron combat mobility team members, inspect a parachute canopy for damage before packing. The 18th LRS was recognized as the best combat readiness team in the Air Force. More than 27 Kadena units and individuals received Air Force-level awards this year.



Air Force/ Senior Airman Amanda Cochran

APRIL 4

- Members of the 353rd Special Operations Group celebrated an "excellent" rating on their Special Operations Command Operational Readiness Inspection.

- Kadena geared up to give for the Air Force Assistance Fund campaign that supports Air Force charity organizations.

- Capt. Bradley Pyburn was named the Air Force's best communications-electronic maintenance company-grade manager of the year.

- Members of the 909th Air Refueling Squadron held combined training with members of the Japan Air Self Defense Force.



APRIL 11

- Capt. Tom Geiser and Scott Zimber were recognized by local police officials for saving the life of an elderly Okinawan man. Without the duo's help, the man would have suffocated from smoke inhalation inside his burning house.

- The 353rd Special Operations Group's Financial Management office was named the best in the Air Force.

- Senior Airman Lisa Jones, a 18th Munitions Squadron member deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, was featured in this week's issue loading precision guided bombs for the 363rd Expeditionary Equipment Maintenance Squadron.



APRIL 18

- Kadena residents prepared to scrape off old road tax stickers and get this year's blue sticker.

- The 18th Logistics Readiness Squadron's Combat Readiness and Resources flight was named the best in the Air Force.

- Hundreds of Kadena airmen celebrated their return home from the desert after deploying for more than 125 days.

- Hundreds of Kadena people remembered Staff Sgt. Cary Wylie, a 353rd Maintenance Squadron member killed in a motorcycle accident April 10.

- Norman Foote performed at the Schilling Community Center April 12.



APRIL 25

- Kadena pilots share their experience in aerial refueling with Japan Air Self Defense Force pilots during their first air-to-air refueling mission at Nyutabaru Air Base, Japan.

- Maj. Andy Sackett was named the Air Force's best contracting officer of the year.

- American and Okinawan children share a day of Easter egg hunting fun at Kitami Elementary School in Okinawa City April 18.

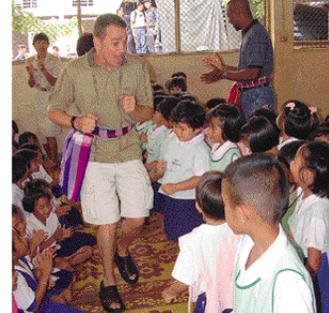
- The Kadena Youth Center held an open house in celebration of the Month of the Military Child.





Air Force/ Staff Sgt. Chenzira Mallory
 Members of the 18th Equipment Maintenance Squadron guide a T-33 trainer version of the F-80 Shooting Star into place at Kadena's Air Park May 3. The wing acquired the aircraft from the Japan Air Self Defense Force's Gifu Air Base, Japan. The same type of aircraft was used as a trainer aircraft here between the mid-1950s and early 1960s.

Quick Shots



Air Force/ Staff Sgt. C.E. Lewis
 Manny Pinero (center), 18th Wing Protocol, grits his teeth as he rows along with other teammates from Kadena men's team during the annual Naha Dragon Boat Races May 3.



Air Force/ Tech. Sgt. Terry Montrose
 Senior Airman Andrew Jones (left) and Tech. Sgt. Richard Eversole, 18th Communications Squadron, work together to administer self-aid and buddy care to a simulated casualty May 21 during Kadena's third operational readiness exercise of the year.

MAY 2

- The 18th Security Forces Squadron was named the Air Force's best in force protection.
- Members of the 1st Special Operations Squadron received a letter of appreciation from Misato's Children Home in Okinawa City April 26.
- This week's edition listed actions to take during the different tropical cyclone conditions of readiness.



MAY 9

- Staff Sgt. Kevin Stewart, 33rd Rescue Squadron aerial gunner, was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for actions during Operation Enduring Freedom.
- Lori Phipps wins Air Force's best civilian youth program director.
- 909th Air Refueling Squadron crews participated in exercise Tandem Thrust in Guam.
- Kadena men and women test their strength during the Naha Dragon Boat races May 3.



MAY 16

- Master Sgt. Daniel Arvin, 18th SFS, was awarded the Bronze Star for his contributions while deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.
- Deployed 18th Civil Engineer Squadron members repaired the Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, runway.
- Gordon Crafton and Regina Green are named Air Force Special Operation Command's best civilian employees.



MAY 23

- Kadena airmen finished their third operational readiness exercise of the year.
- Tech. Sgt. Manny Cunningham, 18th Contracting Squadron was named the Air Force's best contracting NCO of the year.
- Staff Sgt. Rodney Ford was named the Air Force's best command post NCO of the year.



MAY 30

- 353rd Special Operations Group participated in Cobra Gold exercise in Thailand. The group also visited Barnyard Elementary School to donate clothing collected here at Kadena.
- Staff Sgt. Anika Williams was named the Air Force's best airman photographer.



Quick Shots



Air Force/ Staff Sgt. Chenzira Mallory

Naomi Burks hugs a fellow classmate after graduating during the Kadena High School commencement ceremony June 7 at the Keystone Theater. More than 160 seniors graduating KDHS seniors marched across the stage to receive their diplomas as hundreds of friends and family members looked on.



Air Force/ Senior Airman Mercedes McAlister

Athletes and volunteers participate in the opening ceremonies of the 4th Annual Kadena Special Olympic Games at the Riser Fitness Complex June 14. More than 650 special-needs athletes and 2,000 base volunteers took part in the games.



Air Force/ Senior Airman Mercedes McAlister

From left to right, Capt. Ann Gwinnup, Maj. Charles Wortman, Senior Airman Chatea Arevalo, and Capt. Robert Foutch, all members of the 18th Medical Group's immediate casualty team, assist the "injured" Airman 1st Class Eric Roberts, 18th Equipment Maintenance Squadron during a disaster response exercise June 17. Responders from the 18th Civil Engineer Squadron's Fire Protection flight, 18th Security Forces Squadron, 18th MDG and other units had to deal with a massive car accident, collapsed buildings and scores of injured people from a simulated earthquake. Civil engineers also had to fix electrical and water outages around base.

JUNE 6

- Tech. Sgt. Glen DeMars, 18th Operation Support Squadron, was named the Air Force's best weather NCO of the year.

- Mario Saccuman, 18th Logistics Readiness Squadron, was named the Air Force's transportation civilian of the year.

- More than 200 members of the 353rd Special Operations Group participated in exercise Cobra Gold in Thailand.

- This issue featured the first installment of housing safety tips as part of the 101 Critical Days of Summer campaign.



JUNE 13

- Kadena officials geared up for the Special Olympic Games. More than 2,000 volunteers were forecasted to show up to the games.

- Maj. Troy Hawk, 18th Wing Manpower and Organization, was named the Air Force's Manpower and Organization Field Grade Officer of the Year.

- This issue featured the second installment of housing safety tips as part of the 101 Critical Days of Summer campaign.

- More than 160 seniors at Kadena High School graduated during a commencement ceremony at the Keystone Theater June 7.



JUNE 20

- Kadena hosted yet another successful Special Olympic Games this year with more than 650 athletes and 2,000 volunteers turning out.

- The 18th Security Forces Squadron was named the best in the Air Force for the second time this year - large active-duty security forces unit of the year.

- Members of the 961st Airborne Air Control Squadron train alongside their Japanese counterparts in exercise Cope Thunder.

- Kadena medics, civil engineers, security forces and other units participated in a simulated 7.0-magnitude earthquake exercise.



JUNE 27

- The 18th Mission Support Squadron wins the title of best military personnel flight in the Air Force.

- Master Sgt. Bobby Simmons Jr., 353rd Operation Support Squadron, was named the Lt. Gen. Leo Marquez award for the supervisor/manager category.

- Senior Airman Cynthia Nowakowski, 18th Logistics Readiness Squadron, was named the Air Force's junior supply technician of the year.

- More than 340 Kadena NCOs found out they would be pinning on technical or master sergeant stripes in the near future.





Nine-year-old Rika Chinen, from Okinawa's Girl Scout Troop 457, rapples down a tower at Torii Station. Rika's instructor is Staff Sgt. David Blankenship, a combat controller with Kadena's 320th Special Tactics Squadron. More than 100 other Girl Scouts from around the Pacific came to Okinawa to enjoy a week-long summer camp where they enjoyed kayaking, snorkeling, crafts and Okinawan cultural activities.

Quick Shots



An Okinawan child enjoys watermelon during the Independence Day celebration held at Marek Park July 4. More than 7,000 people came out for the 18th Service Squadron's event, which included a concert and fireworks display.



Jessica Lord, a 17-year-old Kadena High School student, steers an all-terrain vehicle while her teammates push it up a hill during Junior ROTC training at a jungle training area north of Kadena.

JULY 4

- Kadena's Professional Military Education Center was renamed after World War II hero, Henry "Red" Erwin, during a ceremony at the center June 26. Erwin's son, Alabama state senator Henry Erwin Jr., attended the ceremony.



- Staff Sgt. Stephen Garrett, 353rd Special Operations Group, was named the Air Force's top public health NCO.
- More than 100 Girl Scouts from bases around the Pacific visited Okinawa for a week-long summer camp at various bases.
- More than 100 Junior ROTC cadets from Okinawa and Korea participated in jungle training at the 353rd SOG's Area One training center.

JULY 11

- Kadena's Base Library wins title of best in the Air Force.
- Base civil engineers and 18th Medical Group officials announced plans to begin fluoridating drinking water throughout the base.



- More than 7,000 people turn out for the 18th Services Squadron's Fourth of July festival at Marek Park.
- This week's edition highlighted the procedures for military and civilians to take when reveille and retreat is played over the base loudspeakers.
- Kadena's Popeyes restaurant won the Popeyes International Gold Plate award for being the best Popeyes overseas.

JULY 18

- Col. Brent Baker took command of the 18th Mission Support Group from Col. Thomas Berardinelli during a change of command ceremony July 11.



- Senior Master Sgt. Thomas McConnell, 18th Munitions Squadron, and Senior Airman Hector Bauza, 18th Medical Support Squadron, were named two of the Air Force's 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year.
- Tech. Sgt. Kim Rauls, 18th Logistics Readiness Squadron, was named the Air Force's best information manager NCO.
- Staff Sgt. Jimmy Counts, 353rd Operation Support Squadron, was named the Air Force's best bioenvironmental NCO.

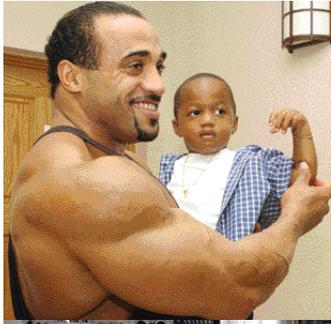
JULY 25

- Master Sgt. Sherri Olson, the 18th Wing's career assistant advisor, was named the Air Force's best aeromedical senior NCO of the Year.
- Capt. Robert Crable, 18th Logistics Readiness Squadron, was named the Air Force's best fuels officer.



- Air Force officials announced the manpower realignments across the Air Force and also announced the retirement of the C-9 Nightingale, which was used for aeromedical evacuation missions at Yokota's 374th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron. The unit later moved to Kadena to utilize the base's KC-135 Stratotankers for evacuation missions.

Quick Shots



Air Force/ Master Sgt. Michael Farris

Master Sgt. James Johns, 17th Special Operations Squadron first sergeant, shows Thai children from the Ban Jing Jai orphanage how to buckle into an MC-130P Combat Shadow Aug. 21. The unit showed the plane to more than 40 orphans during a deployment to Thailand.



Air Force/ Staff Sgt. Chenzira Mallory

Members of the Kadena Chapel youth group reenact the Bible story of Jesus feeding the 5,000 during a vacation Bible school play at Kadena Elementary School Aug. 1. More than 350 children attended the five-day school.



Air Force/ Senior Airman Mercedes McAllister

Dennis Provencher, an Air Force retiree and Guinness Book of World Records holder for the most blood donated, prepares to give a pint of blood with assistance from Staff Sgt. Francisco Lobos at Camp Lester Naval Hospital July 25. The retired Air Force staff sergeant has been donating every 56 days since he turned 35. Provencher's record stands at 29 gallons.

AUGUST 1

- Capt. Richard Hawk, 18th Medical Group, was named the Air Force's first to win the Air Force Group Practice Manager of the Year.
- Staff Sgt. Annie Witte, 18th Medical Group, was named the Air Force's best Aerospace Physiology Airman of the Year.
- The 18th Munitions Squadron won the women's intramural softball championship with a score of 11-10 against the Kadena Panthers.



AUGUST 8

- Tech. Sgt. Charlotte Jones, 18th Operation Support Squadron, was awarded the Air Force's Airfield Management Training Achievement award.
- Senior Airman Sarah Adams, 18th Medical Operations Squadron, was given the Air Force's Outstanding Health Services Management award.
- The 18th Civil Engineer Group demolished the 390th Intelligence Squadron 54-23 and 32-2 to win the men's intramural softball championship.



AUGUST 15

- Typhoon Etou halted Kadena's operational readiness training after dumping five inches of rain and battering the island with 112 mph winds.
- Base housing officials enforce ban on swimming pools more than one-foot deep. Army and Air Force Exchange officials offer refunds for affected customers.
- More than 400 airmen were selected to sew on staff sergeant stripes this year.



AUGUST 22

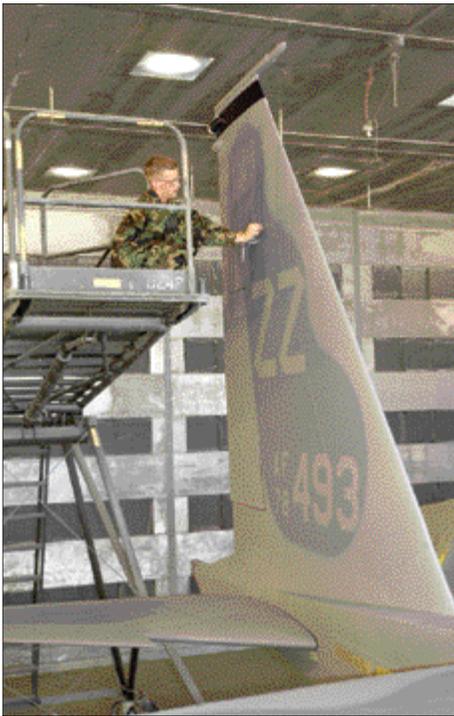
- This issued highlighted the results of a cost of living allowance survey conducted in March. Airmen were forecasted to get a two-point increase in their Nov. 1 paychecks.
- Twenty-four people from Kadena and the local area participated in the Kadena bodybuilding competition Aug. 16.
- 18th Communications Squadron officials reemphasize need for anti-virus software on work and home computers.



AUGUST 29

- A dozen members of the 353rd Special Operations Group visited with Thai children at the Ban Jing Jai orphanage Aug. 21.
- U.S. Forces Japan officials announce plans to move the 374th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron's mission at Yokota Air Base, Japan, to Kadena by October.
- The 18th Wing finished its fourth operational readiness exercise of the year.





Air Force/ Staff Sgt. Chenzira Mallory Staff Sgt. Michael Lindsey, 18th Equipment Maintenance Squadron structural maintenance journeyman, stencils a Kadena F-15 with unit-specific markings in the corrosion control hangar Aug. 26. The repainting included a new tail design directed by Pacific Air Forces.

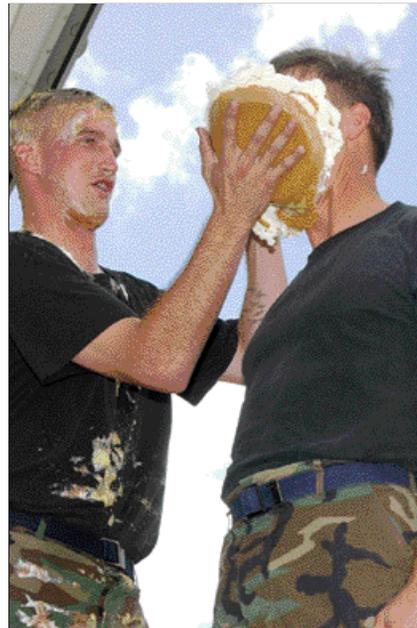


Air Force/ Master Sgt. Jerry Shelton Staff Sgt. Jessie Barcala II, a member of 18th Civil Engineer Squadron's Explosive Ordnance Disposal flight, prepares to destroy an M72 LAW rocket remotely using a hazardous duty robot Sept. 6. Barcala and three other members of the flight teamed up with the Japan Ground Self Defense Force's 101st EOD to destroy rockets that contained one pound of an explosive more powerful than TNT.

Quick Shots



Air Force/ Airman 1st Class Brian Ferguson Staff Sgts. Jose Pastrada (right) and Bryan Herrington, both 447th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron air traffic controllers, control the airspace from the radar approach and control center at Baghdad International Airport, Iraq. Both NCOs are from Kadena.



Air Force/ Senior Airman Mercedes McAllister Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Remington, 18th Wing commander, takes a pie for the team to raise money for this year's Air Force Ball. The lucky pie slinger was Senior Airman Doug Flowers, 18th Logistics Readiness Squadron.

SEPTEMBER 5

- Kadena's Health and Wellness Center staff urged airmen to start their own fitness program in preparation for the new fitness policy effective Jan. 1.
- U.S. Forces Japan officials announced that the U-2 reconnaissance aircraft would be temporarily operating out of Kadena during runway construction at Osan Air Base, South Korea.
- 718th Civil Engineer Squadron officials continued to battle summer heat woes after Typhoon Etou knocked out air conditioning units around the base in August.
- Kadena geared up for the fifth operational readiness exercise this year.



SEPTEMBER 12

- The 18th Civil Engineer Group's fire department was named the Department of Defense's best fire and emergency services fire department of the year.
- Communications Squadron officials announced that basic phone rates on base would increase by 40 percent.
- Four members of the 18th Civil Engineer Squadron's Explosive Ordnance Disposal flight helped Japan Ground Self Defense Force officials destroy explosives found inside a house in the local community.
- More than 20 teams from around the Pacific participated in the Kadena Klassic softball tournament Sept. 1.



SEPTEMBER 19

- For the second time in a month, Mother Nature interrupted readiness training as Super Typhoon Maemi brushed past Okinawa Sept. 10-12.
- Staff Sgt. Marc Garcia, 353rd Operations Support Squadron, was named the Air Force's top intelligence airmen.
- Senior Airman Charles Smith was killed in a vehicle accident Sept. 15.
- Staff Sgt. Ray Bradshaw carried the Air Force sword for the Order of the Sword ceremony honoring Secretary of the Air Force, Dr. James Roche, in Washington D.C. Sept. 13.
- OkumaFest drew more than 20,000 people this year.



SEPTEMBER 26

- Seven students from the Kadena Language Institute worked in Kadena offices to improve their English-speaking skills.
- Kadena honored prisoners of war and those still missing in action during a ceremony at the Rocker NCO Club Sept. 19.
- Postal officials announced this year's holiday mailing deadlines.
- The Air Force Hometown News Release team visited Kadena to collect special interest features from base residents.



Quick Shots



Air Force/ Senior Airman Mercedes McAlister
Members of the 18th Wing try to revive a simulated casualty during Pacific Air Forces' Operational Readiness Inspection that tested the wing's ability to deploy personnel, generate aircraft and survive and operate in a chemical or biological environment. The team of 170 inspectors rated Kadena's overall performance as "Excellent." The 733rd Air Mobility Squadron was rated "Excellent" during their command-level inspection.



Air Force/ Senior Airman Mercedes McAlister
Staff Sgt. Gary Cochran (on forklift), 18th Civil Engineer Squadron, and members of the Kadena fire department, load pallets of aqueous film forming foam chemical fire retardant on a truck for transport to Hokkaido, Japan. A fire following a recent earthquake depleted the island's supply of fire retardant, so Kadena shipped more than 56,000 liters of it to the island.



Air Force/ Staff Sgt. C. E. Lewis
Several couples dance during the Air Force Ball at the Rocker NCO Club Sept. 26. More than 800 people celebrated the Air Forces birthday despite the event being postponed after Typhoon Choi-Wan hit Okinawa Sept. 19-20.

OCTOBER 3

- The 18th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron was activated during a ceremony Sept. 26. The unit formerly operated out of Yokota Air Base, Japan, as the 374th AES.
- More than 800 people celebrated the Air Force's birthday during Kadena's Air Force Ball Sept. 26.
- Hundreds of people attended Senior Airman Charles Smith's memorial service.



OCTOBER 10

- The 2003 Combined Federal Campaign started Oct. 1. The target for this year's campaign - \$350k, 100-percent contact and 35-percent participation.
- Army and Air Force Exchange officials raised gas prices from \$1.44 per gallon to \$1.64 per gallon for mid-grade gas.
- 18th Civil Engineer Squadron officials shipped 56,000 liters of chemical fire retardant to Hokkaido, Japan, after a large-magnitude earthquake.



OCTOBER 17

- The 18th Wing and 733rd Air Mobility Squadron received "Excellent" ratings on command-level operational readiness inspections Oct. 11-17. The team of 170 inspectors rated four major categories: initial response, employment, mission support and ability to survive/operate in a chemical/biological environment.
- Kadena's Youth Sports and Fitness was rewarded by the National Alliance for Youth Sports and Athletic Business magazine.



OCTOBER 24

- Air Force officials released new fitness standards to take affect Jan. 1. Hundreds of Kadena airmen hit the streets wearing new running shoes.
- 18th Services Squadron officials prepared to open the Air Force's first standalone restaurant - Chili's Grill and Bar.
- More than 70 volunteers helped tie rope for the Okinawa City International Carnival's tug-of-war scheduled Nov. 1.



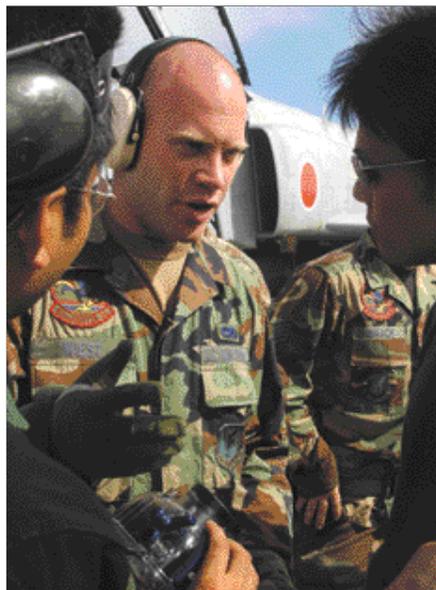
OCTOBER 31

- Pacific Air Forces' Commander Gen. Bill Begert implements new zero-tolerance seatbelt and motorcycle safety policy.
- 18th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron commander, Lt. Col. Robert Mitchell, received the Bronze Star for his actions at a deployed base during Operation Iraqi Freedom.
- 18th Contracting officials announced that new cable Internet and TV services would be offered by mid-April next year.



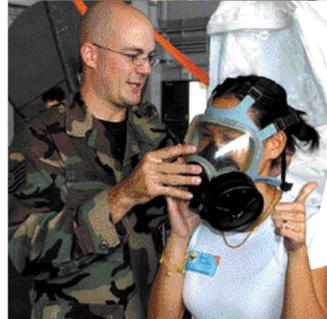


Air Force/ Senior Airman Mercedes McAlister Yasunori Uezu, Japanese assistant fire chief at Kadena's headquarters firestation, accepts a coin from Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld during his brief visit to Kadena Nov. 16. Rumsfeld spoke with Kadena firefighters and aircraft maintainers before departing to speak with Okinawan government officials in Naha.



Air Force/ Master Sgt. Val Gempis Staff Sgt. Michael West conducts familiarization training with Japan Air Self Defense Force F-4 Phantom crew chiefs from the 83rd Wing at Naha Air Base, Okinawa during exercise Cope North in Guam Nov. 20. West was one of a few crew chiefs assigned to Kadena's 67th Aircraft Maintenance Unit to participate in the annual exercise.

Quick Shots



Air Force/ Master Sgt. Michael Farris



Air Force/ Staff Sgt. Anika Williams

ABOVE: Tech. Sgt. Todd Swartz, 31st Rescue Squadron pararescuer, fast ropes from a HH-60 Pave Hawk while rescuing crew members of a simulated aircraft crash off the shore of White Beach Naval Facility, Okinawa, Nov. 6.

LEFT: Members of the 320th Special Tactics Squadron pull a victim from a simulated accident site during Commando Spouse 2003. Nearly 150 spouses from the 353rd Special Operations Group got a first-hand glimpse of what their loved ones do on the job.

NOVEMBER 7

- More than 150 spouses caught a glimpse of the special operations world during the 353rd Special Operations Group's Commando Spouse 2003.



- Air Force Personnel officials selected 12 Kadena senior NCOs for promotion to chief master sergeant.

- Thousands of Kadena residents walked outside Gate 2 to celebrate friendship with their Okinawa City neighbors during the 10th Annual Okinawa International Carnival Nov. 1-2.

- Okinawa-based military members received a boost in their paychecks courtesy of a cost of living allowance survey held in March.

NOVEMBER 14

- Members of the 31st and 33rd Rescue Squadrons, 17th Special Operations Squadron, 18th Operation Support Squadron and a handful of deployed airmen participated in a real-time search and recovery training mission.

- Kadena senior NCOs celebrated making chief with an icebreaker for the 12 selectees at the Rocker NCO Club.

- Tech. Sgt. Tricia Benning was selected as the Air Forces 2003 Enlisted Aide of the Year in the single and overall categories.

- Security forces officials began ticketing and towing cars parked in the Air Passenger Terminal parking lot without proper passes.



NOVEMBER 21

- Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld briefly visited and congratulated Kadena troops en route to talks with Okinawan government officials.

- Combined Federal Campaign officials raised nearly \$3,000 toward their \$350k goal during a charity golf tournament.

- More than 3,000 people turned out to see the Kadena High School Buccaneers football team lose 31-3 against the Yokota High School Panthers in the Rising Sun high school championship game.



NOVEMBER 28

- More than 100 Kadena airmen participated in joint training with Japan Air Self Defense Force crews during exercise Cope North in Guam Nov. 20.

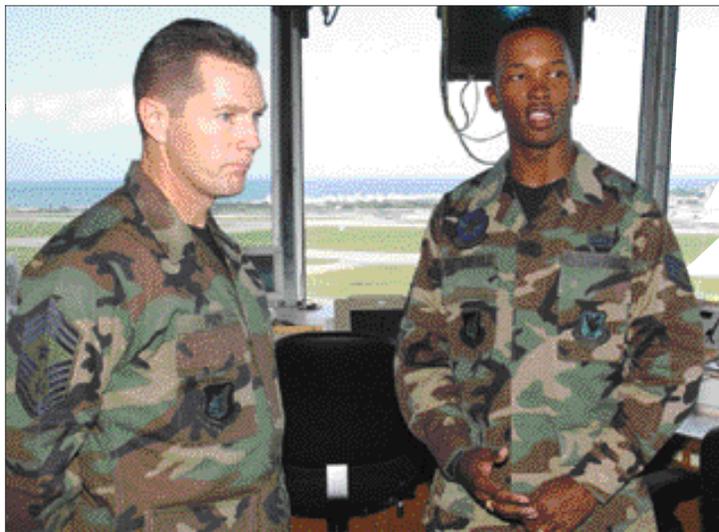
- The 18th Maintenance Group welcomed Col. John Miller, former deputy commander, as its new commander.

- Military and civilian volunteers at Postal Service Center 80 and the Air Postal Squadron worked overtime to get holiday mail and packages to their recipients on time.

- Brig. Gen. Polly Peyer, Pacific Air Forces' director of logistics, presented a plaque to the 18th Component Maintenance Squadron's TF-34 engine element for reaching a 20-year milestone with spare engines.



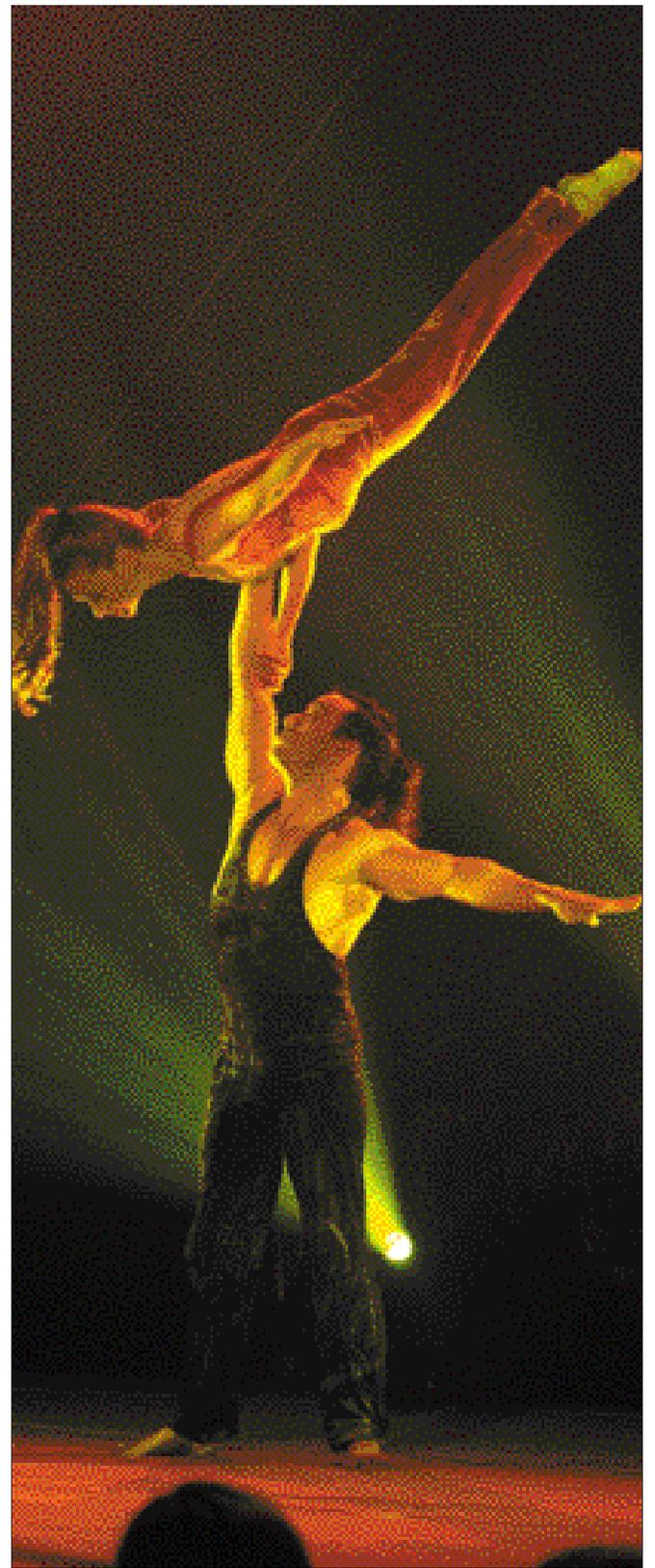
Quick Shots



Air Force/ Airman 1st Class Michael Pallazola Staff Sgt. Derrick Satterfield (right), 18th Operation Support Squadron, briefs Chief Master Sgt. David Popp, Pacific Air Forces' command chief master sergeant at the air traffic control tower during a visit to Kadena Dec. 2.



Air Force/ Airman 1st Class Michael Pallazola Santa Claus gives a gift to an Okinawan child at the Kadena Youth Center Dec. 14. More than 50 volunteers from various squadrons across Kadena came out to the youth center to show children from the Ishimine Children's Home the meaning of Christmas.



Air Force/ Airman 1st Class Michael Pallazola Michael McPherson thrills audiences with his balancing act as part of his Luminaire show that highlighted the 18th Services Squadron's Tinsel Town festival Dec. 5-7. Thousands of Kadena residents came out to the Schilling Community Center to celebrate the holidays with friends and family.

DECEMBER 5

• 18th Medical Group officials announced they had scored high numbers on an inspection led by the Accreditation of Health Care Organizations and the Air Force's Health Services Inspection Agency. The group scored above 90 percent on every category of the inspection thus earning another three years of health care accreditation.

• Civil Engineer officials released details on an upcoming reconstruction project involving Kadena's gates. The \$6.1 million project plans to renovate Kadena's current gates and create an additional two. Construction is slated to begin sometime between March 20 and April 1 of next year and will start with renovations on Gate 2, where a new guard post will be added. The five-phase project will take more than two years to complete and will involve redirection of traffic at certain points.

• Kadena receives a visit from Pacific Air Forces' Command Chief Master Sgt. David Popp Dec. 2. During the one-day tour of the base, Popp spoke with airmen around the base and congratulated them for their hard work and achievements this past year.

• Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Remington, 18th Wing commander, Command Chief Master Sgt. Anthony Bishop and other base leaders surprised drivers with a seatbelt checkpoint across from Chapel 1 Dec. 3.



DECEMBER 12

• Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Remington, 18th Wing commander, signed a holiday safety proclamation permitting security forces officials to crack down on traffic violators, drunk and drugged drivers and people not wearing the proper safety equipment while driving.

• Combined Federal Campaign officials crushed their goal of raising \$350,000 with a grand total of \$404,000 raised. Officials also contacted 100 percent of the base populous - 31 percent of which contributed to this year's campaign with an average of \$174 per person. Capt. Andromeda Augustino attributed some of the success in the campaign to the CFC golf tournament held last month to help catch up on contributions.

• Four Kadena residents received prizes from Pacific Air Forces Services as a reward for participating in the Pentathlon sweepstakes over the last few months. The prizes ranged from \$2,000 to a new desktop computer.

• Thousands of Kadena members came out to see the 18th Services Squadron's Tinsel Town festivities Dec. 5-7. The event kicked off with a holiday parade that went from the O'Conner Gym to the Schilling Community Center which then led into the annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony. One of the big attractions for this year's holiday festival was a performance by Michael McPherson's Luminaire show that featured acrobatics, magic and comedy for everyone to enjoy.

