This night-time Mass Casualty (MASCAL) exercise was planned between the 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team and 5th Armored Brigade, First Army Division West, to test the skills of combat medics responding to a simulated bus crash with multiple casualties ejected from the vehicle on a remote dirt road.

"Once the medics arrived, they began the process of triage," said U.S. Army Sgt. First Class Laura Meyers, Ohio Army National Guard. The Soldiers are mobilized to support Operation Spartan Shield in the Middle East.

U.S. Army Combat Medic Soldiers in the 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team (ABCT), participate in a Mass Casualty (MASCAL) training exercise with the 5th Armored Brigade, First Army Division West, near Fort Bliss, Texas. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Devin Lewis)

MASS CASUALTY

Story by Lt. Col. Cynthia King
30th Armored Brigade Combat Team

Immediately after the radio call came into their Troop Medical Clinic with a report of an accident, combat medics from the 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team donned their gear and departed in three Field Litter Ambulances (FLAs). While they knew the call was part of a training exercise, they didn’t know what they would encounter when they arrived at the mock crash scene outside of Fort Bliss, Texas, September 3, 2019.

"As an OCT, I'm going to be evaluating how they respond to my injuries, if they talked to me, and even if they check my dog tags to see if I have any medical allergies," said Faulk. "By playing a casualty, I'm right there and can observe first-hand and hear everything that they are doing."

Kiser said that the two battalions from the 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team who responded to the simulated crash scene were the 4-118th Combined Arms Battalion from the South Carolina Army National Guard, and the 1-145 Combined Arms Battalion from the Ohio Army National Guard.

"The live patient needed treatment for an open head wound, where you could see his skull and he had a piece of metal sticking out of his thigh, along with a sucking chest wound," said Kiser. "He was labeled urgent-surgical, so he was the one we had to call for MEDEVAC (Medical Evacuation)."

When the UH-60 Black Hawk MEDEVAC helicopter from the 5th Armored Brigade arrived on scene, it performed what is called a dustoff, as the combat medics carefully loaded Faulk on the gurney onto the helicopter, with the rotors whirling overhead. The other mannequin patients were loaded onto the three FLAs. From the time the combat medics arrived on scene to the point all patients were triaged, treated and transported, was fifty-eight minutes, according to Kiser.

"These were two teams who had never worked together before on an exercise like this," said Kiser. "The feedback from 5th Armor was able to use this exercise for training on their own training tasks. The 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team, they went on to complete their own training tasks.

"5th Armor was able to use this exercise for training on their end, including accepting the patient, calling it into range operations, and finishing out the scenario," said Kiser. "It was a great exercise that benefited all of us."

The 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team is headquartered with the North Carolina Army National Guard and comprised of units from the South Carolina, Ohio and West Virginia National Guard. The Soldiers are mobilized to support Operation Spartan Shield in the Middle East.
IDF Officers Participate in Taglit-Birthright Israel Visit to West Point

WEST POINT, NY, UNITED STATES

Story by Michelle Schneider
United States Military Academy at West Point

The U.S. Military Academy had the honor and privilege of hosting nine Israeli Defense Forces officers during their first visit to North America Monday with Taglit-Birthright Israel.

Taglit is the Hebrew word for discovery, and it was a day of many new experiences for the IDF officers. Cadets from West Point have visited Israel through Taglit-Birthright Israel’s program, but it was the first time in the nonprofit’s history IDF officers have visited North America in what they call a reverse-encounter.

Taglit-Birthright Israel is an international nonprofit that started in 1999 and hosts Jewish students from all throughout the world. The goal of the organization is to immerse people into the Israeli culture and way of life while building friendships.

Orifa Bino, the director of Mifgashim, the Hebrew word for Encounter, helped oversee the events that took place during the IDF officers’ 10-day tour in the United States. The purpose of their visit to West Point was to engage in learning opportunities and build cross-cultural relationships.

“They are learning about America not only from the Jewish perspective, but all perspectives,” Bino said. “I want them to learn and to know their similarities to Americans and to know the other Army’s ways through listening to the cadets.”

Several representatives from Taglit-Birthright Israel, West Point personnel, Jewish cadets and the IDF officers met in the morning and learned about the history of the academy as they walked around campus.

They eventually regrouped at a foreign language classroom in Washington Hall where a map of Israel was projected onto a screen. The IDF officers introduced themselves and pointed to the areas they are from. They shared their names, ranks and background and some cadets practiced their Hebrew by doing the same.

The day ended at the grave of Col. Marcus where IDF officers saluted his tombstone before parting ways with the cadets to continue their journey of discovery in North America.

“I want to see the budding of individual personal relationships and for our cadets and visitors to share some mutual understandings about military service,” Ruderman said. “Our countries and militaries share many values, so it makes sense for us to get together and build these relationships.”
ELLSWORTH GETS A TASTE OF LATIN AMERICA

Story by Airman 1st Class
Christina Bennett
28th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

The Ellsworth Latin American Community (ELAC) hosted a ‘Taste of Latin America’ food tasting event at the Base Exchange food court on Sept. 16. The event was held in observance of National Hispanic Heritage Month, which is observed from Sept. 15 through Oct. 15, in recognition of the many cultures, contributions and accomplishments of Latin and Hispanic American people.

Airmen were invited to taste authentic dishes from Cuba, Colombia, Mexico and Puerto Rico. They were also given a brief synopsis of what Hispanic Heritage Month represents.

Maj. Jose Crespo, the 28th Logistics Readiness Squadron commander, provided the opening remarks.

Crespo spoke of accomplishments achieved by Latin American service members throughout history, as well as the rich and diverse cultures of countries throughout Mexico, Spain, the Caribbean, and Central and South America.

In addition to the food tasting event, the ELAC is scheduled to host a Piñata Party on Oct. 4 and an ELAC Harvest Bash on Oct. 11. Both events are set to be held at the Installation Deployment Readiness Center on base.

For more information about events happening during Hispanic Heritage Month, please contact Staff Sgt. Luis Soto, the ELAC president, at (605) 386-2887.
SUICIDE PREVENTION: TALKING ABOUT IT IS THE HARD PART


PORDENONE, ITALY
Story by Airman 1st Class Ericka Woolever
31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Death leaves a heartache that is often difficult to heal from, because it can be tough to forget someone who gave so much to remember.

“I think about him somewhat regularly, even to this day,” said Senior Airman Mason R. Cardounel, 31st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, 56th Helicopter Maintenance Unit electronic warfare journeyman. “I think about what I could have done better; how I could’ve been a better friend and confidant.”

Cardounel knew his best friend since freshman year of high school. They formed a bond over the movie “Black Hawk Down” and their shared dream of joining the military together.

For two best friends, an ordinary day in high school turned into a day that Cardounel would never forget.

“It was towards the end of the school year,” Cardounel said. “I was driving home from school when I got a call from my mom. She asked if I talked to him and I said I talked to him at school.”

Later that day, Cardounel received a phone call that would change his life forever.

“There was a stillness in the room as Cardounel recalled that day, his tone somber as he tried to convey his memories into words. “I asked her what was going on,” said Cardounel. “She said his parents hadn’t heard from him, which I thought was weird, but maybe he walked home from school. Maybe he stopped somewhere, or forgot to tell someone where he was going. I didn’t really think too much of it at the time.”

“A few hours later, no one had heard from him,” said Cardounel. “His parents came home that night, and that’s when they found him.”

The Calendar Year 2017 Defense Suicide Prevention Office Suicide Event Report indicated the suicide-mortality rate for Active Duty in 2017, combined across all Military Services, was 21.9 deaths for every 100,000 people.

The DoD Leader Guide and Postvention Checklist provides information and tools to help individuals gain suicide awareness.

“Learning about suicide, depression and how to support others helped me,” said Cardounel. “I was always the person that held things in, but now I open up and talk about how I feel because it works and makes me feel better.”

People investing their time to build trust is a way to deliberately care for, support, and connect with one another.

“The big thing is trust,” said Cardounel. “That’s the most important thing as far as preventing suicide. When you put your trust in someone else and they see it, you can gain their trust in return.”

Trust begins with conversations, and knowing there are people, organizations and other resources available to help; such as the Airman & Family Readiness Center, the base chapel, Family Advocacy and the National Suicide Prevention Hotline.

“Talking to someone about suicide or depression is not showing weakness,” Cardounel said. “If anything, you’re showing your strength because talking about it is the hard part.”

If you need to reach out to someone please reach out to the numbers below:

Calling from a commercial line
Dial 0434-30-extension (last four)
Airman Family Readiness Center DSN 632-5407
Chapel

Off Base Emergency Commercial 112 for Carabinieri, Fire Department and Medical
National Suicide Prevention and Military Crisis Line-Europe
DSN 118 or 00800-1273-TALK (8255)
National Suicide Prevention Hotline
1-800-273-TALK (8255)
Military One Source
STARBASE: CONNECTICUT NATIONAL GUARD, CIVIL AIR PATROL TEAM UP WITH JUMOKE ACADEMY

HARTFORD, CT, UNITED STATES
Story by 1st Lt. Jennifer Pierce
133rd Airlift Wing, Public Affairs, Bradley Air National Guard Base


Starbase is a STEM program, federally funded through the National Guard, which primarily targets fifth and sixth grade students, Ted Garner, director of Starbase-CT said.

“The goal is to bring the kids in and get them super excited about STEM using an immersive classroom experience. We are putting them through CAD software, chemistry, physics, robotics, programming; providing very hands-on, student centered learning,” said Garner.

Prior to signing the MOU, Mayor Bronin addressed the Jumoke students and faculty members about the importance of initiating the Starbase program in Hartford schools.

“STEM opens up so many doors for our students, and we’ve got some incredibly talented kids,” said Bronin. “I’m grateful and excited that they have the opportunity to not just partner with the National Guard, but to be able to explore science, technology, engineering and math, and discover how exciting that can be for their future.”

This particular signing also signifies a new partnership between Starbase and the Civil Air Patrol, the Air Force auxiliary. This new program will be implemented in certain schools this Fall, said Garner.

“About eight schools are participating in the Starbase program with the Civil Air Patrol, which we are referring to as the 2.0 program. We hope this program proliferates and grows, and we can begin implementing it in more schools in the Spring,” Garner said.

“Overall, the Starbase program has seen significant results when implemented within schools,” said Garner. “There is an increased interest level in STEM, we see student’s growth in critical thinking skills, their abilities, and self-confidence. As an organization, Starbase has seen scholars move on to earn degrees in science and engineering, and begin working in STEM related industries.”

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LSYRIA
Story by Spc. Alec Dionne
Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve

Dedication and Courage: Coalition soldiers enable Partner Force commandos through training
By Spc. Alec Dionne
(Southwest Asia) – Armed riflemen line up outside the house as the sun crests through the burned-out buildings. They approach the stone entrance, which is scoured black by Daesh’s attempted scorched earth retreat. Then men enter the house, kicking down the door, and, with disciplined fluidity, storm the rooms. These are Syrian Democratic Force (SDF) commando cadets, undergoing training from Coalition trainers.

The Coalition against Daesh has been providing training to SDF commando cadets throughout a 2019 summer training cycle. The resolve of the SDF to remove violent extremism from their homeland has remained strong since the rise of Daesh.

“This training will challenge your mind and your body”, said a Coalition instructor while giving feedback during training. “It will teach you how to fight well under stressful conditions”, he added.

The SDF is an alliance of local fighters who hail from many backgrounds. The Coalition’s training contributes directly to the enduring defeat of Daesh by training a lethal Partner Force that can keep the river valley clear of violent extremists.

In a combat situation you will be hungry, thirsty and tired, preaches one Coalition trainer to the commando cadets before a live fire exercise. “On a lot of missions you will get tired and it will go to your head, but we want you to be able to calm yourself down and shoot accurately.”

Initial storming of the burned-out houses starts slowly. Instructors begin by teaching the cadets room-by-room. As with any learning process, there are mistakes, and moments of frustration, but the commando cadets do not appear discouraged. As a result, the commando cadets are ready to try a house on their own the end of the morning.

They will be back early tomorrow for more, for another class with their Coalition trainers.
PEARL HARBOR, HI, UNITED STATES

Story by Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael B Zingaro
Commander Submarine Forces Pacific

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii (NNS) – The Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine USS Tucson (SSN 770) held a change of command ceremony, pier side at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, Sept. 20.

Cmdr. Douglas Pratt, from Nashua, New Hampshire, relieved Cmdr. Chad Hardt, from Aiken, South Carolina, and assumed the duties and responsibilities of the commanding officer following the successful completion of a Western Pacific deployment.

"The crew of Tucson performed admirably through a wide-range of submarine operations during this extended seven-month deployment," said Hardt. "These Sailors formed a cohesive team that rose to the challenge on every occasion, enabling the ship to execute exceptionally well. I am extremely proud to be associated with this group of submariners – they were fantastic representatives of the city of Tucson, the Navy, and the United States."

Rear Adm. Jimmy Pitts, from Nashua, New Hampshire, relieved Hardt as Tucson's commanding officer.

"The crew you see assembled here are some of the finest Sailors I've ever seen," said Pratt. "It amazes me how much talent is onboard. Every day you remind me why the United States Navy's submarine force is so great. I am honored and excited to have the opportunity to be your captain."

Tucson's return to Pearl Harbor marks the completion of five deployments since the last major overhaul period, and 11 total deployments completed since its commissioning on September 9, 1995. Tucson is the second ship of the U.S. Navy to be named for the Arizona city. It is the 59th Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine and the 20th of the improved Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarines to be built. Twelve vertical-launch missile tubes for Tomahawk cruise missiles provide Tucson with great offensive capability. Retractable bow planes give the ship increased maneuverability and under ice surfacing potential.

For more new from the Pacific Submarine Force, visit www.csp.navy.mil.
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FORMER PRISONER OF WAR REFLECTS ON CAPTURE

In honor of Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Recognition Day, a former prisoner of war came to Ramstein Air Base, Sept. 16 to share his experience and visit one of his last duty stations before he retired.

At the time of becoming a prisoner of war, retired Maj. Pete Camerota, was a Captain, assigned to the 22nd Bomb Squadron, 22nd Bomb Wing, at what was then designated as March Air Force Base, California.

Camerota was forced to eject from a B-52 over Vietnam on December 22, 1972.

“My very first thought when my parachute opened was, oh my God, I’m hanging in the straps here, and Joy, my wife, is 10,000 miles away from home and she’s pregnant,” said Camerota.

Camerota evaded his captors for 12 days before being apprehended, after suffering from dehydration and malnourishment.

“I absolutely believe the Survival, Evade, Resistance, and Escape training I went through was very well for me and my family,” Camerota continued his career in aviation, eventually spending his last assignment as a C-21A pilot instructor pilot, mission coordination and safety officer with the 56th Military Airlift Squadron at Ramstein from 1984-1987.

In the U.S., National POW/MIA Recognition Day is observed on the third Friday in September. It honors those who were prisoners of war and those who are still missing in action.

The Department of Medicine at Upstate Medical University has an anticipated opening for a full-time Infectious Disease staff physician that will include an academic appointment as an Assistant/Associate Professor of Medicine. Responsibilities include provision of care to people with a diverse mix of infectious diseases; providing in- and outpatient ID consultation; executing Infection Control and Antibiotic Stewardship policies and procedures; and teaching medical students, interns, residents, and fellows.

Teaching is performed in the context of providing clinical care and during didactic sessions. The balance of clinical and teaching activities is negotiable. Opportunities exist for participation in translational and clinical research within Syracuse and abroad. Clinical leadership opportunities are available. Applicants must have a MD/DO, be BC/BE in Infectious Diseases, and have a New York State license or be eligible for the same. Experience as an independent ID clinician and as attending physician and teacher is preferred. The practice supports ID care at a variety of in-patient settings to include government, private, and Veterans Administration facilities, all within a short walk of the office. The beautiful Central New York Finger Lakes region offers excellent schools, affordable housing, numerous recreational and social activities, and gorgeous seasonal weather. Syracuse and the surrounding areas offer the opportunities of a city without the cost or logistical challenges. Please forward CV and references to: Deborah J. Tuttle, PhR, SUNY Upstate Medical University, Department of Medicine, 550 East Genesee Street, Suite 201, Syracuse, NY 13202 or to tuttle@upstate.edu.

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EEO/AA/VI/ET/DisAb
ORIENT SHIELD
2019, A SOLDIERS

KUMAMOTO, JAPAN
Courtesy Story
Photo By Staff Sgt. Jacob Kohrs

The crew members of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force Type 12 Surface to Ship Missile System and the U.S. Army M-142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System pose for a picture with their vehicles as part of the Orient Shield 2019 media day, Sept. 17, 2019, Oyanohara Training Area, Japan.

KUMAMOTO, JAPAN
Courtesy Story
U.S. Army Japan

Camp Kengun, Japan - U.S. Army and Japan Ground Self-Defense Force soldiers are learning valuable lessons from each other during the bilateral field exercise Orient Shield 19 in Japan, Sept. 5-24, 2019. OS 19 is a premier U.S. Army and JGSDF bilateral field training exercise that is meant to increase interoperability by testing and refining multi-domain and cross-domain concepts.

"While we have been out here, I believe that we both have learned several things about each other's systems," said Staff Sgt. Michael Graham, M-142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System crew chief from 5th Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment, 17th Field Artillery Brigade.

The systems that Graham is speaking about are the U.S. Army's HIMARS and the JGSDF's Type 12 Surface to Ship Missile system. These units have been training together to learn what their tactics, techniques and procedures are when it comes to their different capabilities and operational styles.

"One of the things that I have learned is that the Japanese are really good when it comes to the cover and concealment of their system," said Graham. "I think what they have learned from us is the efficiency of how we load and unload our rockets."

The Illinois Army National Guard's 33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team also joined in the training during OS 19 with the JGSDF's 4th Division, Western Army.

"We are out here with the Japanese showing them how we run convoys, reacting to contact and how we conduct ambushes and recce," said Spc. Luis Leyda, an infantry team leader with the 2nd Squadron, 106th Cavalry Regiment, 33rd IBCT. "We are doing this in a crawl, walk, run style of training, where we go through the motions of the training with our Japanese counterparts. Then when we feel that we all understand it, we will conduct the live fire training." Leyda goes on to explain that they have learned some new procedures about the tactics that the Japanese employ that are a little different from the tactics that U.S. doctrine uses. These battle drills are not necessarily better or worse, they are different, and that's why OS 19 provides great opportunities for allies to share several ideas and methods on battlefield operations.

After two weeks in the field for both the artillery systems and the infantry units, both countries soldiers have learned from each other while having some fun in the process.

"It doesn't have to be mission all the time," said Leyda. "Like us, as infantrymen they have their own rituals and games that they go through and play."

One of the games that the soldiers all played together was called the watermelon game. This is where you have two teams and the first person is blindfolded, spun around and directed to hit a watermelon with a stick. If they miss, the next person in line is up. The first team that smashes the watermelon wins.

"We are learning as much as we can out here," said Leyda. "Yet they are just like any other grunt, they are energetic and loud, just like us and we love it because that energy on energy is awesome!"
NEW YORK, NY, UNITED STATES
Photo by Suzanna Brugler
Naval Medical Center San Diego
190727-N-WX378-0211 NEW YORK (July 27, 2019) (Left to Right) Lt. Cmdr. Monica Ormeno, MC, USN, Naval Medical Center San Diego (NMCSD) child and adolescent psychiatrist; retired Rear Adm. Dawn Wyllie, commissioned corps officer of the U.S. Public Health Service; Cmdr. Paulette Cazaeres, MC, USN, NMCSD medical clinician; Lt. Cmdr. Danielle Barnes, MC, USN, NMCSD pediatrician; and Maj. Carolyn Salter, MC, USA, pose for a group photo at the centennial meeting of the Medical Women’s International Association (MWIA), an international group of women physicians. The meeting was hosted by the American Medical Women’s Association (AMWA), a U.S.-based women physicians’ group, at the Brooklyn Bridge Marriott.

During the event MWIA recognized the dual nature of service, to both their patients and their respective nations, of eight women military and veteran physicians.

(U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Bryan Ilyankoff/RELEASED)
30TH ARMORED BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM CONDUCTS COMBINED ARMS LIVE-FIRE EXERCISE

FT BLISS, TX, UNITED STATES
09.20.2019
Story by Lt. Col. Cynthia King
30th Armored Brigade Combat Team
Subscribe

“It demonstrates the firepower, precision, and lethality of an Armored Brigade Combat Team,” said U.S. Army Col. Robert Bumgardner, commander, 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team, North Carolina Army National Guard, when describing the Combined Arms Live-Fire Exercise (CALFX).

Delta-Troop, 1-150th Cavalry Regiment, 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team, participated in the CALFX in the vicinity of Fort Bliss, Texas, Sept. 20, 2019. Crews operating the M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tank, mortars, and M109 Paladins were able to exercise their weapons’ capabilities on one of the largest military training ranges in the United States.

“We had a tank company in the fight, with mortars and a field artillery battery in support,” said Bumgardner. “The scenario included a passage of lines through the Scout platoons, moving forward to destroy the enemy.”

The CALFX was the culminating event for the unit, as they are mobilized to support Operation Spartan Shield in the Middle East. The tank crews had to meet the table gunnery requirements before advancing to the complexities of the live-fire.

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Clifford Brackman, commander 1-150th Cavalry Regiment, 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team, said that the tanks involved in the CALFX were supported by unit sections with 125mm mortar fire and 155mm cannons from field artillery.

“It is the morale of our Soldiers,” said Brackman when describing the morale of his Soldiers.

Bumgardner equated the importance of readiness and proficiency of these crews to how U.S. armored forces performed during the Persian Gulf War in 1991.

“While technology may have advanced since the tank battles in the Gulf War, one thing has never changed and that is the lethality, physical toughness, and mental resolve of the U.S. Soldier in combat,” said Bumgardner.

Brackman said that the training ranges and facilities at Fort Bliss have been outstanding for his Soldiers. He added that they always look forward to any opportunity to demonstrate their military proficiency and skills.

“This is how commanders build trust in their troops,” said Brackman. “We know these Soldiers are ready for their mission, and combat.”

The 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team is comprised of units from the North Carolina, South Carolina, West Virginia and Ohio Army National Guard. They will support Task Force Spartan in training and working with host nation partners in the Middle East, to assist them maintain stability in the region.
NMCP RECOGNIZES NATIONAL MIDWIFERY WEEK

FT. MCCOY, WI, UNITED STATES
Story by Staff Sgt. Amy Picard
4th Combat Camera Squadron

National Midwifery Week was observed Sept. 30 through Oct. 6. To show appreciation for Naval Medical Center Portsmouth’s (NMCP) midwives, Capt. Christopher Culp, NMCP’s commanding officer; Capt. Carolyn Rice, NMCP’s executive officer; and Capt. Dixie Aune, Director of Nursing Services, provided them breakfast Oct. 4 before the start of their shift. Culp expressed his gratitude for their hard work and dedication to the mission.

“...you guys are in a specialty and a practice that is timeless, as you know,” Culp said. “You know there’s no Monday through Friday, 8 to 4 in what you do. You see long weekends and liberal leave and all sorts of things that apply to lots of the command but never apply to you because your business just never stops so it’s an added reason to come up here and tell you thank you for what you do.”

Rice added her appreciation and shared a quick personal story of her experience with midwives.

“I know the history with midwifery, being a physician, I didn’t get to work as closely with you, but being a mom with three kids, my second child was delivered by a midwife, and I was lucky enough that she took me on and my family on,” Rice said. “I appreciate everything you do and thanks for giving us a little bit of your time this morning before you get started.”
CYBER DOMAIN LINKS COMMUNICATION, IMPROVES PACIFIC REGION READINESS

SAGAMIHARA, KANAGAWA, JAPAN

Story by Sgt. Raquel Villalona
38th Air Defense Artillery Brigade

SAGAMIHARA, Japan – In a U.S. unilateral training exercise, air defense, fires, aviation and maritime elements merged proficiencies to enhance readiness in the Pacific Region.

The 38th Air Defense Artillery Brigade partnered with 17th Field Artillery Brigade, U.S. Army Aviation Battalion-Japan, and U.S. Navy HSM-51 Maritime Strike Squadron, aligned communication capabilities through the use of the Link 16 cyber domain on Sagami General Depot, Sept. 9-21.

"Link 16 is a joint data communication that provides the end user with connectivity to other forces," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Christopher Coker, command and control systems integrator, 17th FAB. "With the use of Link 16, as well as assets such as the MH-60 (Sea Hawk Helicopters) from the U.S. Navy and UH-60L (Black Hawk Helicopters) from U.S. Army Aviation Battalion-Japan, all of those entities coming together, helped us validate and further test what we can actually accomplish as a multi-domain task force."

The exercise offered a collaborative approach to address the complexities of joint operations and enhances ‘Fight Tonight’ unit readiness.

"The training was challenging because when we talk about joint partners and multi-service operations, there’s always a little bit of colloquialism that goes along with that," said Lt. Col. John Franz, U.S. Army Aviation Battalion-Japan commander. "We had to break through some of those barriers, simple things like frequency exchanges and terminology, to make the training much more effective."

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"Multi-domain operations are about punching a hole in the enemies defenses to rapidly exploit that hole and then go back to that defense," said Franz. "That helps our partners and allies here in Japan and other services to be able to bring their assets to the fight and to be able to conduct operations with the Army in order to seamlessly show that we can go attack the enemy and then go back to the defense.”