

# ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS

*718th Civil Engineer Squadron, Kadena AB / Environmental Quality – Overseas*

## **INTRODUCTION**

As the host unit at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, Japan, the mission of the 18th Air Base Wing is to deliver unmatched combat airpower and provide a forward-staging base for sovereign options that promote peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region, ensure the common defense of our allies, and enhance the United States' unparalleled global engagement capability. As the largest combat wing in the Air Force, operating out of the largest Air Force installation in the Pacific, the 18th Wing is ideally suited to accomplish these critical objectives.



Kadena Air Base is the hub of airpower in the Pacific, and home to the Air Force's largest combat wing -- the 18th Wing -- and a variety of associate units. Together they form "Team Kadena" -- a world-class combat team ready to fight and win from the Keystone of the Pacific. Nearly 18,000 Americans and more than 4,000 Japanese employees and contractors make up Team Kadena. The base's estimated economic impact upon Okinawa's economy is more than \$700 million annually.

Kadena Air Base is home to the 718th Civil Engineer Squadron and this year's winners of the Headquarters Air Force General White Environmental Quality Award, United States Forces Japan Pollution Prevention Award, Pacific Air Force's General Eulberg Asset Management Flight Award, and Department of Energy's Federal Energy Management Program Award. The 18th Civil Engineer Group is the largest civil engineer unit in the Air Force. It is comprised of two squadrons, 18th Civil Engineer Squadron and 718th Civil Engineer Squadron, totaling more than 450 military, and 1,000 civilians and local nationals. The squadron provided seamless support to

the largest Air Force combat wing consisting of 12,000 acres (6,000 of them pristine), 1,000 miles of infrastructure, 4,200 facilities, 8,300 Military Family Housing facilities, and 11 Environmental programs. The 718th Civil Engineer Squadron Asset Management Flight provides professional environmental expertise to Kadena Air Base members in the area of pollution prevention, stewardship of natural and cultural resources, energy conservation, and compliance with the Japan Environmental Governing Standards, State of Hawaii environmental regulations, and other regulatory requirements. The environmental flight provides full-spectrum support to all services and the Japanese Self-Defense Force.

The Wing operates within the framework of the United States-Japan security alliance which was formally established in 1960 with the signing of a Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security. The treaty allows United States forces to use facilities and areas in other parts of Japan in order to promote Japanese and American mutual interests, contribute to the defense of Japan and preserve regional peace and security. The 18th Wing supports these objectives by providing a responsive staging and operational air base with integrated, deployable, forward-based airpower. Located in a critical region, 18th Wing airmen and aircraft play a vital geostrategic role in deterring potential threats and maintaining peace and stability. The base's central location also enables the Wing to serve as a staging base for humanitarian and disaster relief efforts throughout the western Pacific, as it did in the aftermath of the December 2004 tsunami that devastated portions of Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, and Sri Lanka.

The 18th Wing's current fleet of aircraft represents a broad spectrum of combat capability -- F-15C/D air-to-air fighters, KC-135 air refueling tankers, E-3 AWACS airborne command and control aircraft, and HH-60 Pave Hawk combat search and rescue helicopters. This robust fleet of aircraft allows the Wing to deter potential threats in the region and respond quickly to any contingency.

The Wing's diverse mission is accomplished by its five groups: operations, maintenance, mission support, civil engineer, and medical. The Wing also provides facilities for U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, Army, and other forces assigned to or transiting Kadena.

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

### **Environmental Management System (EMS), Assessment Activities, and Program Management Improvements**

Kadena's EMS focuses on many diverse and complex environmental issues. The top three significant environmental aspects are: solid waste and recycling, Petroleum Oils and Lubricants (POL), associated issues with spill and storage, tank management, and improving environmental program continuity. Assessing or "checking" activities are an important part of Kadena's overall EMS. Several accomplishments associated with Kadena's EMS and program management improvement efforts are:

- Air Force/Navy/Marine Corps professionally trained on EMS and management system audits were conducted
- Improved awareness through training 3,700 island newcomers about the significance of Okinawa's unique environmental concerns
- Trained 700 hazardous waste accumulation point managers. The training program was lauded by Inspectors General Unit Compliance Inspection members for guiding trainees' "flawless" execution of program
- Enforced a conservation mindset through classroom training on Green Procurement for Government Purchase Card officials
- Educated 950 Civil Engineer customers and 73 tenants on Kadena's environmental protection efforts
- Updated Kadena Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan, protecting treasured tropical reefs and local drinking water sources
- Inventoried all 463 fuel tanks island-wide. Established first local contract for non-compliant fuel tank replacement and reduced costs by \$225,000

- Inventoried eight installations for potential Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB) transformers
- Inspected over 3,000 cubic meters of Asbestos Containing Material waste from Military Family Housing with zero violations, upholding Japanese regulations
- Coordinated reuse of operating radon mitigation units in Military Family Housing, realizing a \$150,000 cost savings
- Partnered with Defense Energy Support Center to provide a Spill Prevention and Response Plan for fuel facilities on eight installations, ensuring response capabilities improved
- Completed rapid response actions during underground storage tank extraction, ensuring that contaminated soil excavation was completed and the cleanup process simplified

### **Pollution Prevention, Waste Reduction Activities**

The 718th CES organized several innovative approaches to achieve pollution prevention and to reduce waste.

- Continued curbside recycling program saving more than \$1.3 million in FY09
- Implemented a breakthrough program to recycle used cooking oil to make bio-diesel fuel for vehicles at the base recycling center
- Implemented Green Procurement principles in groundbreaking ways -- Military Family Housing members now empowered to save energy/water through a \$4M stock in "green" items
- Funded \$150,000 Waste-to-Energy Plant feasibility study
- Reduced Ozone Depleting Substance inventory by turning in 5,833 pounds of excess material



In recognition of Earth Week and the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day, Kadena officials are sponsoring a week of activities to promote greener lifestyles and get entire families involved in the process.

### Earth Day

In commemoration of the 40th anniversary of Earth Day in April 2010, Kadena Air Base and the Okinawa military community partnered with other base organizations to pull off the largest environmental outreach campaign in Kadena’s history.

Installation officials sponsored a week of activities to promote greener lifestyles and get families involved in the process. Events were promoted through magazine articles, web videos, and radio and television segments. The installation’s efforts paid off with overwhelming response to the following events:

- 5K Fun Run: Over 100 individuals kicked off the week with a 5K run
- Jungle Cleanup: Over 120 volunteers removed 2.71 metric tons of trash from two locations. They recycled 61% of this trash
- Shredding Party: The base population turned in thousands of pounds of unneeded, sensitive documents for shredding and recycling
- Story Time: Children listened to book readings about conservation, recycling, and being environmentally-friendly



Kadena Airmen volunteer to pick up trash along the outside perimeter of Kadena Air Base between gate 3 and gate 1 June 6. Heroes of Planet Earth is a program inviting military personnel in an initiative to clean up, restore, and reclaim common outdoor venues used by guests of this host nation. (U.S. Air Force photo/ Tech. Sgt. Rey Ramon)



Second Lt. Phil Collins, 718th Civil Engineer Squadron, reads Dr. Seuss’ “The Lorax” during an Earth Week pajama storytime party at the Kadena Library April 21. More than a dozen children learned about Earth Week, recycling and energy conservation as four Kadena volunteers read children’s books relating to Earth Day. The event kicked off a series of events scheduled throughout the week celebrating the 40th anniversary of Earth Day.

- Reusable Bag Giveaway: The Environmental Flight, Army & Air Force Exchange Service and the Defense Commissary Agency distributed 10,000 reusable bags

- Awards Ceremony: Over 200 students from the Department of Defense District Schools engaged in environmental-themed contests with entries in coloring, posters, found art, and TV commercials broadcast on the Armed Forces Network
- Tree Planting: Distinguished visitors and volunteers from the Air Force, Navy, and Army and the Kadena Middle School Club ZERO (Zoological Environmental Resource Opportunities) planted 22 cherry trees along a popular base running path



Andrew Kuppers, Kadena Middle School student and Club ZERO member, helps plant cherry trees as part of Earth Day activities on Kadena Air Base, Japan. Members from the 718th Civil Engineer Squadron's environmental flight coordinated with Kadena Middle School teachers in giving students the opportunity to participate in the tree-planting project. Club ZERO, which stands for Zoological Environmental Research Opportunities, encourages students to care for Mother Earth through various activities.

- Hazardous Materials Amnesty Collection Party: Base organizations and Military Family Housing residents turned in unneeded or excess hazardous materials. Items were dropped off or exchanged if still usable, avoiding costly disposal
- Family Fun Night/Pizza Party: 100 children enjoyed learning about the natural world and conserving resources with an evening of earth-themed displays, games, crafts, and free pizza
- Underwater Beach Cleanup: Volunteer SCUBA divers removed trash from a tropical reef along the Sunabe Seawall
- Swap Meet: A free meet was hosted for Military Family Housing residents to swap unneeded items for something useful
- HERO and Scout Cleanup: Project HERO (Heroes of Planet Earth) and Boy/Girl Scouts picked up litter at Kadena Marina, making a popular off-base recreation area look great
- Outdoor Recreation Expo: Outdoor Recreation hosted an exposition to educate Kadena residents on how to minimize their impact on the environment

### **Natural and Cultural Resources Program**

As good neighbors for their host nation, US Forces serving in Japan are obligated to act as good stewards of the environmental assets under their control. Kadena Air Base harbors a rich variety of these resources, including protected species, native forests, wetlands, and many cultural sites, including shrines, temples and tombs.

- SCUBA divers conducted underwater cleanups along the Kadena Town seawall
- Divers worked with Kadena Marina Dive Shop to help make personnel aware of the variety and danger of marine life in local waters and the importance of the delicate sea environment



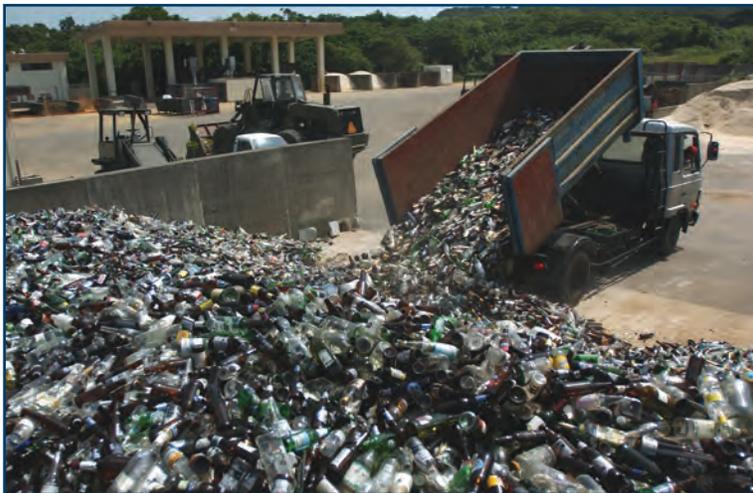
Senior Airman Jeremy East, 18th Communications Squadron, explores the beauty of the underwater world during a recent diving trip here. Dive instructors from the Kadena Marina Dive Shop want people to be aware of the variety of dangerous marine life in local waters and mindful of the delicate environment in the ocean.

- Provided bilingual training for 400 Hazardous Material managers
- Saved Kadena more than \$125,000 in disposal costs
- Authored and synchronized plans guiding \$5.8B in assets with the base and local community, leading the Japanese/United States environmental partnership
- Military Family Housing residents provided with Radon & Asbestos free houses through \$2.5M in environmental programs
- Reused radon mitigation units in new Military Family Housing, realizing a \$150,000 cost savings
- Mitigated elevated radon levels in Child Development Center and Department of Defense District Schools, safeguarding individuals' health

### Community Relations and Outreach

The Asset Management Flight served as Kadena's environmental ambassadors, cooperatively strengthening critical relationships with several Okinawa Prefectural Government environmental regulators and the Environmental Science Center.

- Ensured Kadena's residents are aware of the unique Okinawan environment and the role it places in community relations by training 3,700 island newcomers, 700 Hazardous Waste Accumulation Point Managers, 1,035 Hazardous Material Managers, and executing Kadena's largest ever Earth Day celebration



Hamamura Takemitsu, from the Onna Chikusan company, dumps recycled glass collected from the housing areas on base.