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# 'Launch the fleet' day shows off wing's capabilities

By Staff Sgt. Karen J. Tomasik  
 374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

The quiet of mid-morning ended May 24 as seven C-130 Hercules aircraft took off from the Yokota flightline for "launch the fleet day."

Members of the 36th Airlift Squadron, 374th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and 374th Operations Support Squadron came together, ensuring all the pieces, from maintenance support, aircrew planning and execution to elements of life support and training, fell into place for the mission.

According to the 374th AMXS sortie generation flight commander, 2nd Lt. Nick Morgans, mission preparation began weeks before the launch to ensure the aircraft were ready to fly.

"Once we started the final preparations of the aircraft 24 hours prior to the launch, everything went smoothly because of the hard work and expertise of our maintainers," said Lieutenant Morgans.

While coordinating with the maintainers to make sure enough aircraft were available, Capt. Allen Shew, 36th AS central scheduling chief, worked with crew schedulers to ensure proper makeup of the crews for the best use of experience levels and qualifications.

"Planning this kind of mission takes expertise and long hours," said Lt. Col. Bill Summers, 36th AS commander. "The formation's

lead planner was Capt. Jim Burgess, chief of 374th OSS tactics. His graduation from the C-130 weapons course enabled him to put a complex training plan together that was both safe and challenging for the aircrew."

Maj. Miklos Kiss, 374th AMXS commander, emphasized team effort was key to the mission's success, but also took time to highlight individuals for outstanding achievement.

"Tech. Sgt. Mike Edie spearheaded the loading of live munitions on six of the aircraft and was responsible for training two-dozen other career fields of Airmen to help with the task. Staff Sgt. Jonathan Kolasinski worked 12-hour shifts loading protective armor on three C-130s. During aircraft generation, we had a propeller valve housing change on one of our planes and Staff Sgt. Ken Green's engine troops did an awesome job replacing that item, ensuring we had the seventh plane," said Major Kiss.

"We executed this event like a war-time tasking with the squadron getting a cold-start tasking 24-hours the day before and our maintainers made it happen," added the major. "Master Sgt. Steven Fuentes, our production superintendent, mapped out a seven-ship generation flow plan to gas, inspect, repair, load and seal the aircraft. The busiest man on the flightline is our flightline expeditor, Tech. Sgt. Robert Gardner. His job is to match people with airplanes as the situation dictates, and with 40-year-old planes, he stays very busy."

According to Colonel Summers, the 374th Operations Group led from the front literally, with the 374th OG, 36th AS and 374th OSS commanders crewing the lead aircraft for the entire mission. The 36th AS Life Support and Aircrew Resource Management System (ARMS) personnel also provided exceptional support in launching the mission.

"The life support troops ensured all essential equipment, from helmets to emergency oxygen masks were ready," said Colo-

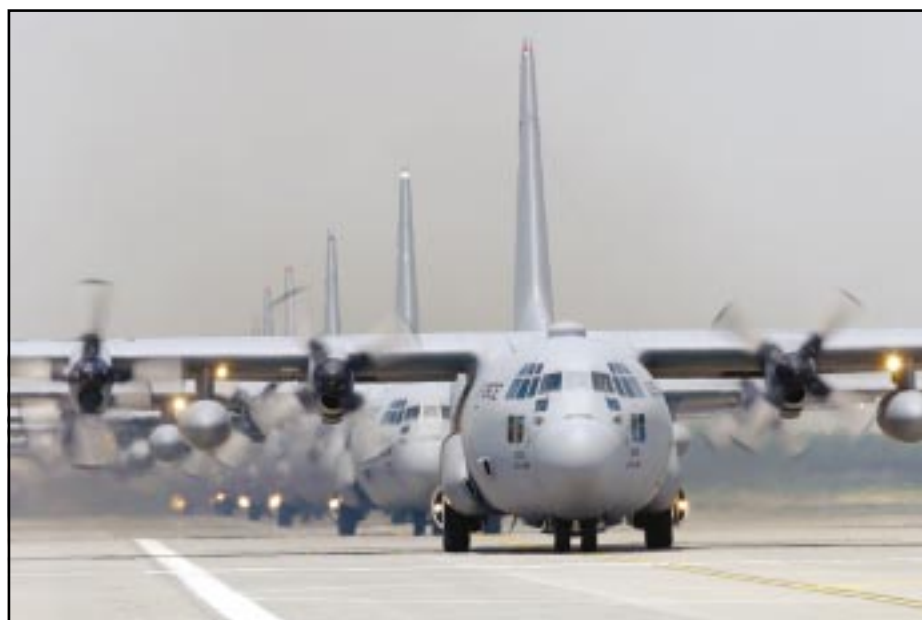


photo by Yasuo Osakabe

**Above, seven C-130 Hercules stationed here taxi down the base flightline for "launch the fleet day" May 24. Left, the seven-ship formation flies over the Yokota flightline.**

nel Summers. "The ARMS office prepared communications security equipment, aircrew orders and ensured pre- and post-mission paperwork were accomplished, providing credit for training for our aircrews."

"Launch the fleet" day provided members across Yokota the opportunity to see the wing's core mission in action and Major Kiss expanded on why the mission was launched.

"This is why we joined the Air Force. Putting airplanes in the sky is what makes the Air Force different from all other services ... it's what we do best," said the major. "Launching a seven-ship is a lot like a triathlon with its intensity in different phases, and in the end you feel great about winning. I believe these mass launches are becoming a lost art. You just don't see them that often, but they are still relevant. America needs to have the capability of putting paratroops and

cargo on target, and a string of C-130s stretching two miles can do just that.

"The only way aviators and maintainers get that proficient at these kinds of missions is by getting the team together and practicing. I'm proud to be part of a strong operations-maintenance team that can launch a fleet so smoothly. It's hard work but we get a morale boost by showing the wing what we can do."

While the mission was originally only scheduled as a six-ship formation, the maintainers pushed it up a notch and gave seven, said Captain Shew. The pride in seeing seven C-130s take off together in formation was felt by many on the flightline but one individual expressed it best.

"It is always nice to see your hard work pay off," said Lieutenant Morgans. "No one expressed this feeling more than Sergeant Fuentes when he stood at attention and saluted the seventh aircraft as it took off."



photo by Airman 1st Class Laszlo Babocsi

# Officers' Club, marketing office claim best in Air Force

By Capt. Warren Comer  
 374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Two units within the 374th Mission Support Group's Services Division won Air Force-level awards for outstanding customer support and unique innovations that set them apart from other bases.

The Officers' Club and Marketing office won the awards for instituting programs like the "U Matter Most!" customer appreciation campaign and hosting more than 1,200 people for the Air Force Ball.

Services Division officials said the award is a reflection of the hard-working people that

make up these two units.

"It's like winning the lotto twice over! I'm deeply pleased that the Officers' Club and our Marketing Department were named best in the Air Force and that I've had the opportunity to work with such a talented group of individuals," said Robyn Sleeth, 374 MSG Services Division director.

With innovations and emphasis on bringing the information to the customer, the Marketing Department redeveloped several marketing programs that helped bring an unprecedented number of people to Services facilities.

"I cannot say exactly what work or accomplishments stood

out as significant, but we are specifically proud of the part we played in helping the team at the Samurai Café prepare for the Pacific Air Forces' Food Service Excellence Award and Hennessy Award evaluations as well as the Texas Hold 'Em program," said Lisa Stevens, Marketing Department director. "We are also very proud of the 'U' program. Because of the impact the program had in the community, the awesome feedback from our customers and the overall success of the program, we feel like this was the crowning jewel of our award."

People who visited the Officers' Club know the programs there

were top-notch, including an Oktoberfest celebration and catering of more than 900 events.

"I'm ecstatic!" said Anthony Cala, Officers' Club director. "This is the second Air Force award in four years. In the short period of time I've been here, I can truly say this was a total effort."

While Yokota residents know the programs Services provides are top-notch, the entire Air Force now knows of the shining stars here who strive to provide their customers with the best service they've ever seen.

"The Officers' Club staff expertly handles daily lunch and dinner service for hundreds of patrons

a week, pulls off catered functions beyond count, and offers outstanding special events that bring in standing-room-only crowds. All of this is business as usual for the staff. The same goes for our Marketing Department - not only does Marketing promote the best Officers' Club in the Air Force, they also provide expert support and guidance to the third largest Services Division in the Air Force," said Mr. Sleeth. "The innovative programs, insightful marketing research and non-stop advertising developed and implemented by our Marketing staff are directly related to the success of the 374th Services Division."



courtesy photo

### A father-son moment

**Capt. Rico Dy, 36th Airlift Squadron C-130 Hercules pilot, gives the oath of reenlistment to his father, Master Sgt. Don Misa, 374th Communications Squadron May 5 in front of World War II-era flag found on Chuuk Island. Sergeant Misa said this is his last reenlistment as he hits more than 22 years in the Air Force this year. "This was a proud moment for both of us," said Captain Dy. "This is my first operational tour out of pilot training, and he was with me every step of the way including two deployments and the tsunami relief missions as my father, mentor and friend. It was an honor to reenlist him." Both father and son will be moving to different bases in the Air Force later this year.**

## 25 Airmen graduate from leadership school

The base Airman Leadership School recently graduated its latest class of senior airmen who will soon join the ranks of noncommissioned officers.

Airmen received classroom instruction from April 24 to May 25.

Award-earning graduates are:

**David Winkfield**, 374th Operations Support Squadron, John L. Levitow Award;

**Shannon Harris**, 374th Communications Squadron, Distinguished Graduate;

**Joshua Woods**, 374th OSS, Distinguished Graduate;

**Bob Fowlkes**, 374th Civil Engineer Squadron, Leadership Award;

**Billy Wheaton**, 374th CS, Academic Achievement Award.

Graduates also included:

**Michelle Aquino**, 374th Mission Support Group; **Amber Bullis**, 374th Dental Squadron; **Luther Chase**, 730th Air Mobility Squadron; **Steven Conine**, 374th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; **Jose Cruzpagan III**, 374th CS;

**Kimberly Divens**, 374th Medical Support Squadron; **Ryan Franz**, 374th CS; **Paul Gaines**, 374th Security Forces Squadron; **Malcolm Haywood**, 374th CS; **Edwin Holt**, 374th CES;

**Chrystanya Morgan**, 374th Logistics Readiness Squadron; **Kenneth Johnson**, 374th MSG; **Timothy North**, 374th CS; **Cesar Ponce Jr.**, 374th CS; **Royal Riley Jr.**, 374th Maintenance Squadron;

**Ian Schaefer**, 374th AMXS; **Shawn Stokes**, 459th Airlift Squadron; **Joie Taylor**, 374th LRS; **Erica Thibodeaux**, 374th SFS; **Joseph Wagner**, Detachment 1, Air Force Band of the Pacific-Asia.

*(Courtesy of the Airman Leadership School)*

## Airmen at Camp Zama vital to SATCOM

By Esther Dacanay  
Camp Zama Public Affairs

Satellite Communications throughout U.S. Forces Pacific are improving overall mission readiness, thanks to a long-awaited upgrade to the 38-foot antenna and AN/GSC-52 satellite terminal equipment located at Operating Location C, 374th Communications Squadron, a U.S. Air Force tenant unit at Camp Zama.

OL-C is among the few SATCOM hubs in the Pacific serving as a major gateway for military communication services, including Secure Internet Protocol Router Network (SIPRNET) for classified information, Non-secure Internet Protocol Router Network (NIPRNET) for unclassified information and various voice and data circuits for intelligence, weather and other special purposes. OL-C SATCOM also operates and maintains a mobile satellite for rapid deployment during contingencies, and can provide access into the global information grid for other units operating in the Pacific area of operations during deployments and bilateral exercise training. In addition, the OL-C Systems Control and SATCOM work centers provide mutual support to the 78th Signal Battalion at Camp Zama.

The old satellite system required more manpower, training time and hardware which took up additional space in the work area and money in long-term maintenance and repair.

"The upgrade has given life back to the system, saving money in the long run for maintenance and repair costs and allowing for more expansion capabilities" said Airman 1st Class Aaron P. Ogden, a SATCOM Apprentice with OL-C. "It also makes my job a lot easier and much safer. For example, in the new Elevated Equipment Room (EER), two people can do work that previously required four technicians."

With the old system, the EER, which houses high-power signal transmission amplifiers and various control circuits for the antenna, was subject to overheating at a temperature of 98 degrees in the summer, even with cooling units. Overheating

could cause a temporary shutdown of the system, affecting satellite signals and compromising communications. The upgrade is equipped with a new cooling system, which monitors the equipment and maintains the temperature at 65 degrees. However, the new system still requires scheduled maintenance from Heating, Ventilation and Cooling specialists.

The GSC-52 upgrade cost \$5 million and took nearly four months to complete, replacing aging and increasingly unsupported analog equipment with digital equipment, extending equipment life up to at least fifteen years, according to Chief Master Sgt. Michael Ostermann, OL-C communications site chief.

"The upgrade provides a far more reliable system," said Chief Ostermann. "We are now in a better position to provide information superiority to all Pacific Command customers and forward deployed warfighters."

OL-C is also anticipating the completion of a second upgrade by the end of May, the Multiplexer Integration Defense Communications Subsystem – Automation System (MIDAS), according to Master Sgt. John D. Harshman, the SATCOM noncommissioned officer in charge.

"MIDAS will enhance the tactical war fighters' capability to communicate via satellite within one-third of the earth's surface inside the Pacific area of operations," said Sergeant Harshman.

"The 374th Communications Squadron plays a vital role in providing world-class communications for U.S. Army Japan," said Lt. Col. Mitchell L. Kilgo, 78th Signal Battalion commander, USARJ. "They operate and maintain the primary point of presence for communications on Honshu. I consider them key members of Team Signal and work very hard to ensure we embrace the concept of one team, one fight."

"It's not Air Force versus the Army," Sergeant Harshman said. "The Army has provided great support to us, and we take great pride in the support we provide to our many customers. We're not blue or green – we're simply a joint force working together towards the successful accomplishment of our mission."

## Nihon-go now

⇒ <b>Color</b> Iro (ee-loh)	⇒ <b>Purple</b> Murasaki (moo-la-sah-kee)	⇒ <b>Black</b> Kuro (koo-loh)
⇒ <b>Blue</b> Ao (ah-oh)	⇒ <b>Orange</b> Orengi (oh-leh-n-gee)	⇒ <b>Gray</b> Haiiro (hah-ee-loh)
⇒ <b>Green</b> Midori (mee-doh-lee)	⇒ <b>White</b> Shiro (shee-loh)	⇒ <b>Pink</b> Pinku (pee-n-koo)
⇒ <b>Yellow</b> Kiiro (kee-loh)	⇒ <b>Brown</b> Chairo (ch-ah-ee-loh)	⇒ <b>Red</b> Aka (ah-ka)

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