



United States Air Force

18th Wing, Kadena Air Base, Japan



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Advisory No: 250403-01
April 03, 2025

F-35s Return to Kadena After Divert to Naha Airport

KADENA AIR BASE, OKINAWA – On April 2, 2025, two F-35A Lighting II aircraft, that had previously diverted to Naha Airport due to inclement weather conditions, returned safely to Kadena Air Base without incident.

“The 18th Wing extends our sincere thanks to the 9th Air Wing and the entire team at Naha Air Base for their exceptional support during the recent F-35 divert,” said Brig. Gen. Nicholas Evans, 18th Wing commander. “Their professionalism and responsiveness were invaluable in ensuring the safety and well-being of our aircraft and personnel.”

The two F-35s are temporarily deployed to Kadena Air Base with the 134th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron, Vermont Air National Guard, to ensure a steady-state fighter presence in the region during our transition to the F-15EX Eagle II.

Please refer additional questions the 18th Wing Public Affairs office at 18wg.pamedia@us.af.mil.