



United States Air Force

18th Wing, Kadena Air Base, Japan



18th Wing Public Affairs
Unit 5141, Box 30, APO AP 96368, e-mail 18wg.pamedia@us.af.mil
Telephone from Japan: 098 938-1111, Ext 634-3813
Telephone from U.S: 011 (81) 611 734-3813
Twitter: @KadenaAirBase_J

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KADENA AIRMAN REPORTED MISSING, SEARCH OPERATION UNDERWAY

KADENA AIR BASE, Japan – An Airman assigned to the 18th Wing at Kadena Air Base went missing while surfing at approximately 10:00 a.m. at Cape Hedo on Nov. 22, 2020.

The Japanese Coast Guard conducted search and rescue operations during daylight hours yesterday while Airmen from the wing's 31st and 33rd Rescue Squadrons continued search and rescue operations throughout last night and the early morning hours today. The search continues today with our Japanese Coast Guard partners on location in the search area.

“We are doing everything in our power to locate our missing Airman,” said Brig. Gen. Joel L. Carey, 18th Wing commander. “We greatly appreciate the ongoing support from the Okinawan community along with the outpouring of thoughts and prayers. Our rescue squadrons, and the entirety of Team Kadena, will continue working closely with the Japanese Coast Guard to bring our Airman home.”

Further details will be provided as they become available.