司令官の相談室

Capt. Daniel L. Weed, Commander, Fleet Activities Yokosuka

CMDCM Wayne E. Smith, Command Master Chief

Visa Waiver Program Travel Changes – The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) initiated the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA), a new online system that is part of the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) this past August. The ESTA web-based system is now open for voluntary applications but becomes mandatory Jan. 12. Once ESTA is mandatory, all nationals or citizens of participating VWP countries who plan to travel to the United States for 90 days or less for temporary business or pleasure under the VWP will need to receive an electronic travel authorization prior to boarding a U.S. bound airplane or cruise ship. Anyone traveling using VWP will need to ensure to process ESTA at least 72 hours prior to departure. This is applicable not only for official travel such as Temporary Additional Duty (TAD), Emergency Leave travel and medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) but also for your private travel. Visit the U.S. Embassy Web site at http://tokyo.usembassy.gov/e/visa/tvisa-esta2008.html or the Electronic System for Travel Authorization Web site at: https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/esta/esta.html?_flowExecutionKey=_cDF02137F-CF9C-11CE-9929-C2D7A8FDD806_kA0E1E0C7-8022-4497-57F8-7A4123696F7D for more information.

AOB/ICR Class Now Five Days – The weekly Area Orientation Briefings and Intercultural Relations class (AOB/ICR) is now a five-day program. Classes start on Mondays at 8:45 a.m. Tuesday walk-ins will be turned away and will have to attend at a later date. Attendance at AOB/ICR is a prerequisite to attending the Driving Safety Lecture and Test (DSL) on Friday. AOB/ICR is facilitated by Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC). The DSL is facilitated by the CFAY Safety Office. At present, both the AOB/ICR and DSL programs are conducted at the Benny Decker Theater. In the spring of 2009, AOB/ICR and the DSL will relocate to the 4th floor of the new Community Support Facility, Bldg. 3655, across from the commissary. With the new five-day schedule in place, AOB/ICR and DSL will not be held in any week that has a national holiday. If needed, child care vouchers are provided to attendees for the duration of the class. Call 243-3372 for more information.

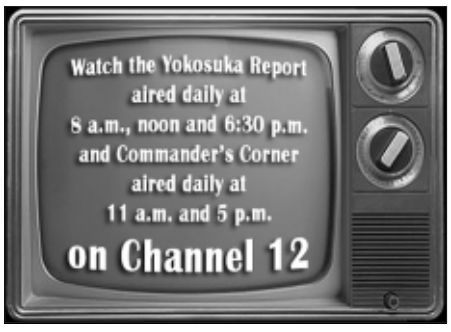
BZ: I recently went on a ski trip with MWR Outdoor Recreation. We also took ski lessons on the trip. I just wanted to tell you how great the instructor "Jim" (didn't get his last name) was. From the moment we arrived in the morning for the trip, he made every effort to locate me and my family and introduce himself. He explained how the day would be scheduled and he was just really excellent about making sure everyone was comfortable and at ease. Later on in the trip, he mentioned that he was only a volunteer! If there is anything you can do to keep him as an instructor, you should. He is really great. He had a mixed class which included my very young daughter but he was able to make sure everyone in the group got enough attention and instruction. He's a natural teacher-very patient and just really positive and stoked to share his love of skiing with others. Great job, we had a great day because of his excellent instruction and people skills.

BZ: I went to the Fleet Recreation Center by mistake. I was supposed to go to the Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC). I went into the Fitness and Wellness Office to see if they could answer my question on how I get a certificate for the Area Orientation Brief (AOB). The woman there was so nice that even though they did not have anything to do with (AOB), she called over to FFSC for me so I would not have to make another trip across base. I think her name was Vickie. She even spoke to them for me because I had a hard time understanding there accents. Because she was kind and helpful, I will come back to this office in the future to get information on fitness.

Q: I am curious as to why with all the renovations that recently took place in the Navy Exchange food court and past upgrades to Main Street USA food court, none of the registers are equipped to take debit cards? The cashiers report this is a constant complaint from customers.

A: Thank you for your response. Currently Sbarro's resturant is the only food establishment set up to accept debit and credit cards and soon will have the ability to accept the Military Star Card. Although the registers in our other food concepts cannot accept debit cards, we have allocated funds to purchase new registers with this capability.

Action Line correspondence may be edited for length and readability. Your questions, suggestions and "Bravo Zulu" comments are appreciated. Address concerns with your chain of command or directly with the parties involved, at the lowest level possible. If you don't get results, send an e-mail to cfay.pao.watch@fe.navy.mil. We welcome your feedback, especially if it is of a general nature and can help others. To contact the Seahawk, call 243-5607/3003 or send an e-mail to: Seahawk-Umitaka@fe.navy.mil.



CFAY's Environmental Management System to improve performance, integrate practices

By CFAY PWD Environmental Division

As stewards of the environment, Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) strives to comply with all applicable U.S. and Japanese environmental laws, regulations, instructions and requirements. In accordance with Executive Order 13423 and Chief of Naval Operations instruction 5090.1C, CFAY is now required to have an Environmental Management System (EMS) that is fully conformed to International Organization for Standardization 14001:2004 by September.

An EMS serves to prevent pollution, ensure compliance with environmental requirements, continually improve CFAYs environmental performance and integrate environmental practices throughout all of CFAYs operations and activities. By identifying environmental processes and aspects throughout the installation, ranking fuel and/or petroleum, oil and lubricant (POL) spill potentials as a significant environmental aspect, CFAYs fully implemented EMS will introduce new measures and processes designed to mitigate it's footprint on the environment.

In addition to new measures and processes, an integral part of the success of CFAYs EMS includes the proper training of all CFAY personnel and residents regarding environmental awareness. All persons who work, live or visit CFAY are responsible for supporting CFAYs EMS.

To learn more, please review the EMS Policy Statement, under the policy link at www.cfay.navy.mil. We are all responsible for the protection of our environment. Let us all continue to work together in making conscious decisions that positively promote it.

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U.S. Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, Japan

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