司令官の相談室

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

CMDCM Wayne E. Smith, Command Master Chief

New CFAY Web site URL – Effective immediately, the new CFAY Web site URL is *www.cnic.navy.mil/yokosuka*.

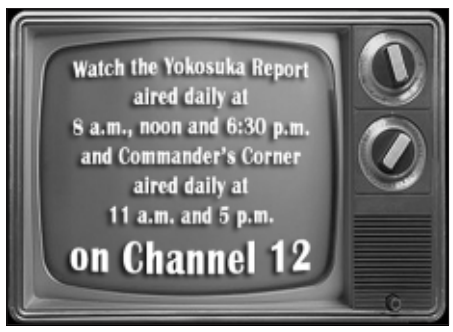
Visa Waiver Program Travel Changes – The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) initiated the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA), a new online system that is part of the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) this past August. The ESTA web-based system is now open for voluntary applications but becomes 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 Travel 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.

Q: Traffic going out Womble Gate was backed up past the tunnel next to the *USS George Washington* Jan. 13. I called Womble Gate and politely requested a patrolman be sent to direct traffic left out the gate, a standard policy for the four years I've been here. Maybe once a quarter this function gets missed and traffic backs up. Signs at the street and pleas to the community have proven ineffective and one person wanting to go straight ruins it for everybody. It is quite easy to know when there is or isn't a patrolman performing this function by looking how far the traffic is backed up. I've thought the fine people at the gate have no way of knowing how far traffic has backed up, so often I call and most of the time a patrolman is sent to redirect and traffic speeds up. This is outstanding. However, on this day traffic did not speed up and the same thing happened the following day. The next day I called the security office directly and was told that the previous night a meeting was held and it was decided to cancel this long standing policy. I want to apologize to all of Yokosuka that my phone call was the source that got this policy cancelled. I'm appealing to the base commander to have this re-evaluated. This simple act saves at least 30 minutes of traffic time. The reason stated is that off base starts after the yellow line and security has no jurisdiction to direct traffic there.

A: Thank you for your concerns. We are re-evaluating Womble Gate policy issue. We are unable to go past the yellow line due to jurisdictional issues, and with the design of the gate, it becomes a safety issue for the patrolmen, vehicles and pedestrian traffic leaving the base.

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.



African-American/Black History Month 2009

By Navy Office of Information

"No aspect of black Americans' quest for justice and equality under the law has been nobler than what has been called, 'the fight for the right to fight'...My hope and expectation is that, in the years ahead, more African-Americans will staff the armed forces at the highest levels." – Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates at the Congressional observance of the 60th Anniversary of the Integration of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Each year, the Navy joins the nation in the observance of African-American History Month. Established as Negro History Week in 1926 by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the event evolved into the establishment of February as Black History Month in 1976. The theme for this year's observance is "The Quest for Black Citizenship in the Americas."

President Barrack Obama, as the first president of African-American heritage, joins a long list of memorable firsts in American history, including many of these Navy firsts:

• **Aaron Anderson** was the first African-American Medal of Honor recipient in the Navy. Anderson served on a boat crew assigned to *USS Wyandank* which was enforcing the Union blockade of the Potomac March 17, 1865, when the crew came under devasting enemy fire.

• **John Henry "Dick" Turpin** became one of the first African-American chief petty officers in 1917.

• The **Golden Thirteen** became the first African-American officers in the Navy in February 1944.

• **Vice Adm. Samuel Gravely** was the first African-American to command a warship and first African-American flag officer. He assumed command of *USS Theodore E. Chandler* (DD 717) Feb. 15, 1961.

• In 1980, **Janie Mines** became the first African-American woman to graduate from the U.S. Naval Academy. She currently is serving as a Navy senior executive with the Secretary of the Navy.

• The **Centennial Seven** were the first seven African-American officers to command submarines. These officers were all in command in 2000 during the centennial of the U.S. Navy Submarine force. Of the seven, three are serving as admirals today.

• For the first time, four African-Americans are concurrently serving in the rank of vice admiral: Vice Adm's **Melvin William Jr.**, Commander U.S. 2nd Fleet; **Adam Robinson Jr.**, Surgeon General of the Navy; **Anthony Winns**, Naval Inspector General and **D.C. Curtis**, Commander Naval Surface Forces.

Affinity groups afford opportunity and professional development. All personnel are encouraged to seek ways to embrace and enhance diversity in the Navy, and to help individuals reach their full potential. Some affinity group events this year include:

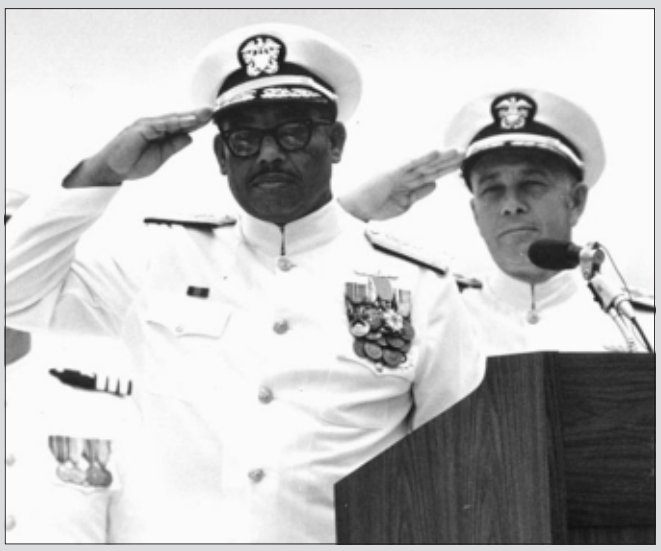
• **Black Engineer of the Year Awards** – annual conference, Feb. 18-22 in Baltimore, Md.

• **National Society of Black Engineers** – national conference, March 25-29 in Las Vegas, Nev.

• **National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Convention: Academic, Cultural and Technological Scientific Olympics** – July 11-17 in New York City.

• **National Naval Officer Association** – annual conference, July 20-24 in Houston, Tx.

• **Blacks in Government** – national conference, Aug. 24-28 in Baltimore, Md.



(Left) Vice Adm. Samuel Gravely salutes during 3rd Fleet's change of command ceremony aboard *USS Reeves* (CG 24) in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, Sept. 10, 1976. Gravely relieved Vice Adm. Robert P. Coogan as commander 3rd Fleet.
U.S. Navy file photo by PH1 Carl R. Begy

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