Tsurumi Fuel Terminal fosters relationship with Yokohama

Story and photo by Blake Vives, CFAY Public Affairs

Tsurumi Fuel Terminal representatives conducted a tour of their facility for the Yokohama City Council Military Relations Committee Jan. 16, as one of the many relationship building events they hold throughout the year.

The middle of Yokohama's industrial shipping area may not seem a likely location for towering tanks housing almost 30 million gallons of jet fuel (JP8) bound for Yokota Air Base however, Yokohama is the location for the U.S. Fleet and Industrial Supply Center (FISC) Yokosuka's Tsurumi Fuel Terminal.

A strong relationship with Yokohama City is vital to the success of the fuel terminal's mission. "This was a good opportunity to bring the folks on to get to know us," said Fuel Department Kanto Plain Area Director Brian Dodson. "The City of Yokohama officials rode a bus around and learned about our terminal, our mission, our facilities and what we do with them. Hopefully, this will enable them to have answers and ask more intelligent questions of the other members of the city council."

Most of the Yokohama City officials on the tour were new to their positions and were there to become more informed about the military facility located in their city. During the tour the officials saw which facilities hold fuel, learned about the terminal's capabilities to clean up spills and the preventative measures taken to prevent spills. "We do our best to make sure we don't make a mess of the neighborhood," said Dodson.

Dodson believes a strong relationship with Yokohama City is essential; showing residents that the terminal makes safety its most important priority is an integral part in earning and maintaining the city's trust in Tsurumi's operations.

"The community relation events we have are our attempt to establish a better relationship; so, that if anything ever did happen they would know the people and we wouldn't be this mystery behind a gate. They would be able to say, 'We've been in there; we understand,'" said Dodson.

Tsurumi Fuel Terminal Manager Chief Machinist's Mate Israel Santillan echoes the feeling that it is important to reach out to their neighbors. "Developing relationships between the fuel terminal and the local community is a priority," said Santillan.

As the last Navy railcar loading facility, the fuel terminal uses Japanese rail lines to deliver its products to their destination. This process takes timing and cooperation to avoid disturbing the commuter trains and requires a positive relationship with the city.

(Left) Kanto Plain Area Director Brian Dodson and FISC Tsurumi Fuel Terminal Manager MMC Israel Santillan discuss facility maintenance while atop a holding tank for jet fuel (JP8), one of the sights Yokohama City officials saw during their recent tour intended to foster positive relations.

The Tsurumi Fuel Terminal is also dependent on its neighbors for goods and services.

"We deal with the local community, especially the shops there," said Santillan. "Most of our equipment and parts we obtain or buy locally from the area is in Yokohama. They provide services too and of course we utilize their railways for moving our products."

Dodson looks forward to continuing their successful relationship with Yokohama City. "Hopefully, we are mirroring what we do at the higher levels to maintain good relations between the U.S. and Japan," said Dodson.

Faces of FISC

FISC Yokosuka management analyst Atsuko Ueno processes a personnel action report for a FISC employee. Her job is vital because she serves as the link to human resources. Ueno supports the command in recruiting new employees and keeping current employees' professional information up to date.

Photo by Blake Vives

Where are you from?
Fukuoka, Kyusyu.

What is your life motto?
***"Yamamo areba taniari"* (Life is a winding road).**

Why did you want to work at FISC?
I worked at HRO and really liked the personnel field and I had the opportunity to work at FISC.

Where in Japan do you recommend visiting?
Kyusyu.

What is special about Kyusyu?
It is a beautiful area in the countryside, which is relaxing and gets you out of the city. They have many Japanese hot springs there that really help me relax.

Part two: How to avoid excess costs when shipping household goods

Story by Nannette Davis, COMFISCS Office of Corporate Communication

Editor's Note: This is part two of a two-part story.

The process to close out a Permanent Change of Station (PCS) Household Goods (HHG) move can often be longer than expected and often Sailors are at risk of receiving a bill many months after the actual move.

There are several aspects of PCS moves that all Navy personnel need to be aware of to help themselves and to help the Navy. Commander Fleet and Industrial Supply Centers (COMFISCS) Rear Adm. Andy Brown is making PCS move support a top command priority.

"Too many Sailors are getting billed for exceeding authorized weight allowances or making bad decisions; this hurts our Sailors and costs the Navy more to move them," said Brown.

To avoid incurring debts for government-directed moves, here are some tips on staying within your authorized weight allowance.

• Overseas weight restricted areas: If you are moving to, from or between an administratively weight restricted area, ensure any additional weight allowances are approved before shipping. Contact your local personal property office (PPO) for more information. Yokosuka outbound personal property can be reached at 243-7061.

• Excessive packing: If you feel the carrier used excessive packing material for your move, notify the destination PPO prior to delivery. They can instruct the carrier to completely unpack the shipment and verify the weight of the packing materials.

• Pay attention to weight estimates. Remember, weight estimates made by carriers or personal property counselors are not binding; they are for planning purposes only. Excess costs are based on the actual weight of unpacked and uncrated household goods, and cannot be accurately determined until the shipment is packed, picked up, and weighed at a certified scale.

So, what should you do if you receive a notification of indebtedness for a household goods shipment?

Brown, who has paid excess costs himself, is on a mission to advise Sailors. "Review your shipping documents for each move and pay special attention to the household goods inventory sheets," said Brown. "Carefully check your DD Form 1299 [Application for Shipment and/or Storage of Personal Property] to ensure professional books, papers and equipment (PBP&E) or pro gear was annotated. Submit all supporting documentation to the Household Goods Audit Team (HHG-AT) within 30 days of the indebtedness notification."

If you no longer have copies of your shipping documents, contact your local PPO via e-mail at pptas.fiscn@navy.mil. Overseas callers may call commercial (757) 443-5412 or DSN 312-646-5412. You can also log on to their Web site at https://pptas.ahf.nmci.navy.mil/pptcs/.

COMFISCS provides an array of integrated global logistics and contracting services to Navy and Joint operational units across all warfare enterprises.

COMFISCS is responsible for facilitating best business practices and efficiencies across the seven FISCs located in San Diego; Norfolk; Jacksonville, Fla.; Yokosuka, Japan; Pearl Harbor; Bremerton (Puget Sound), Wash. and Sigonella, Italy; and for optimizing the performance of base supply functions and standardizing levels of service across 13 regions and 79 Navy installations.

COMFISCS comprises more than 7,500 military and civilian logistics professionals, operating as a single cohesive team providing global logistics services from nearly 135 locations worldwide.

A component of the Naval Supply Systems Command, headquartered in Mechanicsburg, Pa., COMFISCS is part of a worldwide logistics network of more than 25,000 military and civilian personnel.

The FISC Personal Property Office (PPO), in building 5013, is ready to meet Yokosuka's moving needs. Call 243-5426 for inbound household goods or 243-7061 for outbound household goods.

Photo by Blake Vives