

# COLLEGE STUDENTS VISIT NAF ATSUGI

## **Tokyo American Center College Students visit NAF Atsugi, Japan.**

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March 7, 2011

Naval Air Facility Atsugi, Japan - College Students from the Tokyo American Center visited Naval Air Facility (NAF) Atsugi on Mar.4 to improve their basic understanding of the U.S. – Japan relationship.

Twenty-six college students from the most recognized colleges in the greater Tokyo area had the opportunity to visit NAF Atsugi to include tours of Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light FIVE ONE (HSL-51) and Strike Fighter Squadron ONE ONE FIVE (VFA-115).

HSL-51 Pilot Lt.j.g.Steve Aspholm, along with Aviation Machinist's Mate 1<sup>st</sup> Class Shunsuke Ueeda, welcomed the students and gave them a tour of the squadron.

Also the students were given a demonstration on how to properly wear search and rescue equipment by Naval Air Crewmen 2nd Class Thomas Gaeta and Ryan Kuiper from HSL-51's operations department.

“It was a terrific experience to try on the equipment” said You Kobayashi from Takushoku University. “This visit will contribute to my analysis of the U.S.-Japan Alliance.” Kobayashi is writing his Master thesis about President Obama's Foreign policy toward East Asia and Japan. The students also had the unique experience to sit in the cockpit, and learn about the SH-60B helicopter capabilities.

“In our country, we do not have this experience of seeing military aircraft up close,” said Katsuya Nagano, from Keio University. “Now I can have a whole different idea of what is

happening with the American support for our national security.” Nagano has become more interested in understanding the U.S. military’s dedication and service to Japan and world peace.

They also learned about Emergency Management, from David Puckett, NAF Atsugi's emergency management officer who guided the group through the Disaster Preparedness Office and finished with an open discussion on emergency management.

“We would love to do it again,” said Sarah Ohkawa, Tokyo American Embassy event organizer. “I have a great understanding of the base operation now, and I am very grateful for the students.”

Events like this hopefully will improve the basic understanding of U.S. Naval Aviation for the Japanese publicist’s future leaders and improve relations between an already strong alliance.