

Chapel ministry reaches out to single and unaccompanied sailors

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OUTREACH

NAVAL AIR FACILITY ATSUGI, Japan – For single and unaccompanied sailors, being in a different country can be tough. They have to learn new languages, new laws, new cultures all without the support that accompanied sailors have. It can sometimes be a little bit intimidating.

This is how it was for Mrs. Brigitte Fitzgerald, when she was a single sailor stationed in Japan years ago.

Now Fitzgerald is a secretary at Zama Middle School, but she still has a concern for sailors who are now in the position she once was. This concern was the inspiration behind the Single Sailors Outreach program.

“Single Sailors Outreach is an outreach ministry for single and unaccompanied sailors,” said Fitzgerald. “Some of us from the chapel ministry get together and make free meals for the single and

unaccompanied.”

Free food is not the only thing that this ministry provides.

“This ministry is where people can come together to have fun,” said Ja’Darius Segars, a religious program specialist seaman apprentice. “They can get away from work and stress and have fun with their friends.”

The Single Sailors Outreach program is still new. The first dinner was held in February. Because of the earthquake and tsunami that happened in northern Japan, there were no dinners held in the month of March, but everything is being started back up in the month of April and there are more ideas in the works.

“It’s still in the planning phase,” said Fitzgerald. “The next idea is to have an outdoor outreach where we’ll get together and barbeque.”

With the food and new ideas in the works, the overall message is still very simple.

“Hey, we’re here,” said Fitzgerald. “We don’t want to count you out. Please come out and let’s fellowship together.”

Single Sailor Outreach dinners are held every third Monday of the month starting at 5 p.m.