

Seabees build Torii Gate for Base Galley
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NAVAL AIR FACILITY ATSUGI- Seabees of the Public Works Department on Naval Air Facility (NAF) Atsugi play a key role in keeping the base operational and in a working state. Their well rounded skills help them to tackle and complete the various tasks that are sent their way.

Recently the Seabees were requested to build a fourteen foot wooden Torii gate for the base's Far East galley. Requests such as this one gives two of the Seabees a chance to be creative and show off their talents.

"We've built Torii gates before but their usually steel, we've never made a wooden one since I've been here," said Construction Electrician Constructionman Michael Kuykendall, crew leader of Torii gate project. "I'm an electrician by trade so this project is different for me. I'm definitely learning a lot of things on this project."

"This project is different cause of the wood work," said Builder Third Class Allan Porterfield, Support Crew Leader. "You have to be patient when cutting to get the right angle and it that takes time and effort to make it look good."

With the Torii gate being made out of wood the Seabee's have new obstacles to deal with when it comes to the weather and outside conditions.

"We're concerned about putting wood in the ground because it's going to rot really fast especially with rain and sometimes the snow," said Kuykendall. "We have to make sure the buried portion is weather proofed. The paint on the outside of the exposed portion will be weather proofing enough from the rain and stuff like that."

The Torii gate is currently in the final stages of construction and will be put up later in the year. The hard work from the Seabees will be displayed in front of the galley for many years to come.

CECN Michael Kuykendall, crew leader of Torii Gate project

We got a request from the galley, they submitted a work request and we gather the materials and told them how much it was going to cost

“14 ft tall, by 8 ft wide and 16 ft wide

The beginning of March we got the request for it and then the earthquake hit so we had big delay cause over here at public works we busy doing all kinds of stuff so all our projects we had going on at the time pretty much got put on hold for disaster relief anything we were doing on base so we got back with the project around mid to late april “we’ve done tori gates before but their usually steel, we’ve never made a wooden one “its different, I’m a electrician by trade so it’s a lot different for me. Im not a builder but the other guy on the project is a builder so its more natural for him. Im definitely learning a lot things with this project.

It’s a pretty big tori gate and its taking a lot of lumber. Basically all we used on this is a lumber, screws and a lot of sanding

Well the main thing is the portions we’re putting in the ground that we’re concerned about putting wood in the ground its going to rot really fast especially with rain or sometimes it snows here. That’s the main concern is the post in the ground and make sure those are weather proof. The paint on the outside will be weather proofing enough for the rain and stuff like that and heat

“This is my first project that ive been in charge of. Im a e-3 and its normally not a position I would hold. Its usually held by a e-5 or e-4. Its been different em3 porterfield “Its fun, I like wood working, like I said im a electrician. My dad is a carpenter and I grew up around wood working so I always enjoyed it and its nice to still do it

BU3 Allan Porterfield, support crew leader

This is different cause of the wood work. You have to be patient cutting to get the right angle to cut and it takes time. You have to put effort to make it look good. It's not putting it all together at once and make sure it stays together. Most of the wood we have is not straight so we have to be patient and make good cuts

“This one is you have have more ideas to do but it depends on if the customer wants it or not . You got your idea

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