

Fuel Farm at NAF Atsugi

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STORYTELLING

NAVAL AIR FACILITY ATSUGI, Japan – On the west side of the flight line after passing by large, more prominent buildings, sits a smaller structure. It's quiet around this small building which holds approximately three offices.

Just outside of this building is a piping system that runs not only above ground, but below ground as well, distributing fuel from tanks buried underground to trucks waiting to deliver fuel to other vehicles and aircraft around the base.

This building is the admin office for the fuel farm at Naval Air Facility (NAF) Atsugi, and as small and obscured as this building is, the base would not be able to perform a lot of its major functions without them.

“We handle all the refueling for all the aircraft that are here at NAF Atsugi and also all old government vehicles that are assigned here,” said Aviation Boatswain's Mate Fuel Senior Chief Rammil Embile, leading chief petty officer of the fuel farm. “This includes any

ground support vehicles that are used by aircrafts, which are normally handled by AIMD (Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department) and other squadrons here.”

The job of maintain and distribution of fuels seems simple in concept. However, distributing fuel is just as dangerous as any other job in the Navy. Prevention of leaks and explosions are always a precaution that is taken into account.

“When you hook up the nozzle to the aircrafts out there on the flight line, make sure you ground it properly,” said Embile. “You follow safety procedures [and] you make sure you have fire fighting equipment in place before you actually start refueling the aircrafts,”

Aircrafts from not only Carrier Air Wing FIVE (CVW-5) benefit from the fuel farm, but any transient aircraft that passes through NAF Atsugi as well.

During Operation Tomodachi, not only did those working at the fuel farm have to work around military aircrafts, but they also faced a new challenge of having to refuel commercial aircraft.

“It doesn’t really matter who’s the customer,” said Aviation Boatswain’s Mate Fuel 2nd Class William Fulton. “That’s what we do. We just provide them with everything they need.”

For more information please contact the fuel farm admin office at 264-3907.

