Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, Japan

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"What is CFAY?" introduces local community to U.S. military

Story and photo by Joe Schmitt, CFAY Public Affairs

Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) Public Affairs Office gave a presentation called "What is CFAY?" to Japanese community members in the Cultural Exchange Center Feb. 24.

The presentation, two speeches about different aspects of CFAY, introduced some of the capabilities and history of the base to about 20 people. Some were from the local area and some of the attendees came from Tokyo and Yokohama.

Kazuyuki Takagi, community relations specialist for CFAY Public Affairs Office, gave a brief on what the base's capabilities are and how that affects security in the area. He explained how many military people work on base and highlighted some of the forward-deployed ships like *USS George Washington* (CVN 73).

"There is always a lot of interest in the base and the ships forward-deployed here," said Takagi. "People can't come on base to see what we do so, they were really interested in the presentation and wrote 'thank you' a lot on the comment cards."

Yuji Kawabe, who also works for CFAY Public Affairs, gave the second part of the brief. He usually works as a photographer but gave the presentation because he was personally interested in the topic.

"I was a little bit nervous but it was very exciting, I wanted to show them this part of history. My main purpose was to show them about Tadamasa Oguri."

Oguri was an influential but not often talked about historical figure. In 1860, Oguri traveled to the United States as the assistant chief of the first Japanese mission to visit the United States. There he saw the advancements made during the industrial revolution. He came back to Japan and helped Japan start its modern ship building industry. He established the Yokosuka Iron Works on the Miura peninsula with the French government. It would eventually become CFAY as we know it today.

"The local people appreciate learning the history of the city," said Kawabe. "Not so many people know about Oguri so, they were happy to get this information."

Teruo Murakami has lived in Yokosuka for several decades but said he has had only a few opportunities to come on base. "The event was short but very interesting," said Murakami. "This event is good for Yokosuka citizens. I would like to see this event regularly."

Yuji Kawabe, a photographer for CFAY Public Affairs, gives a historical brief to Japanese community members as part of the "What is CFAY?" presentation held here at the Cultural Exchange Center Feb. 24.

CFAY Commanding Officer Capt. David Owen closed the event, thanking the attendees for taking the time to attend the presentation. Owen explained that the Japan-U.S. Cultural Exchange Center was established to conduct events like this one to promote the friendship between Japan and the United States.

For people who missed the presentation but want to see the base, community members and their families will be able to visit during the annual Spring Festival open base event March 27.

Military Saves helps *Cowpens* Sailors manage finances effectively

By MC3 Mikey Mulcare,
Navy Public Affairs Support Element Japan

The Military Saves Campaign, designed to inform service members on topics like credit management, car buying strategies, consumer awareness, savings accounts and the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) brought counselors to *USS Cowpens* (CG 63) March 4.

The campaign is normally held the last week of February, but was offered to Sailors on the mess decks of *Cowpens* to make the valuable information more easily available.

"We're here today to get information to Sailors and to help them with their finances and careers," said Michael J. Spiltener, a financial counselor from Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) Fleet and Family Support Center. "Information like this is vital to a Sailor's career because 82 percent of all clearance revocations are from financial issues."

One of the most successful approachs the Military Saves Campaign has used for the past three years is to send helpful financial tips to Sailors via e-mail. This is done by having the Sailor fill out the Saver's Pledge Card. The cards were made available to *Cowpens* Sailors at the event and can be found on the campaign's website www.militarysaves.org.

"This year we're really pushing to get people to sign the Saver's Pledge and for them to pass the word to their friends," said Spiltener. "Getting people to sign up for the Saver's Pledge gets the ball rolling on financial stability and success."

One Sailor took some of the words of wisdom and signed himself up.

"I think this tool is great for anyone who isn't extremely financially savvy," said Fire Controlman 2nd Class (SW) Karl Weber. "Personally, I know a little bit about managing my finances and I think the Saver's Pledge will help me step up to the next level."

FC2 Karl Weber, from Rome, Ga., speaks to a Navy Federal representative during a Military Saves Campaign open house on the mess decks of the Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser *USS Cowpens* (CG 63) March 4. The Military Saves Campaign was created to help Sailors learn how to manage their money and save for the future.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Charles Oki

Aside from Saver's Pledges, Sailors were also presented the opportunity to ask questions and seek help on a wide range of financial topics by consulting a financial specialist.

"This event was excellent, there were a lot of professional advisors here and they answered any question I had, especially those about the differences between TSP and IRA (individual retirement accounts)," said Weber.

The Military Saves Campaign was started in 2007 and this year alone it has more than 12,500 members combined from all four military branches of the Department of Defense.

Read Naval Administrative Message NAVADMIN 011/11, stop by the CFAY Fleet and Family Support Center or visit the website www.militarysaves.org for more information.

INSIDE

U.S. 7th Fleet completes joint training exercise

U.S. 7th Fleet, JMSDF and various commands throughout Japan, the Pacific and United States completed Fleet Synthetic Training-Joint exercise March 3.

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Yokosuka Sailors reflect on legacy of Loretta Perfectus Walsh

At the age of 18, Loretta Perfectus Walsh became the first woman to enlist in the Navy and the first woman to assume the rank of a chief petty officer March 21, 1917.

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