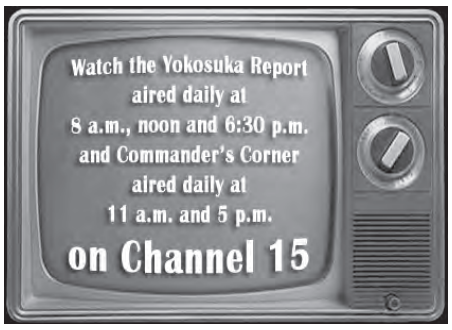
Capt. David A. Owen, Commander, Fleet Activities Yokosuka

CMDCM Gregory Vidaurri, Command Master Chief

Action Line correspondence may be edited for length and readability. Your questions, suggestions and "Bravo Zulu" comments are appreciated. Address concerns with your chain of command or directly with the parties involved, at the lowest level possible. If you don't get results, send an e-mail to CFAYactionline@gmail.com. We welcome your feedback, especially if it is of a general nature and can help others. To contact the Seahawk, call 243-5607/3003 or send an e-mail to: CFAYactionline@gmail.com.



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Heads Up Yokosuka!

Community announcements/Action line

Editor's note: *The Action Line received more than 10 letters recently from community members who expressed their concerns regarding a number of items to include profanity, lack of courtesy being displayed by community members and disrespect showed to people who voiced their concerns about the inappropriate language. Two of these letters are printed below:*

Letter 1: I believe it was December of 2010 and I was off base with our two children at the Ramen shop right outside the Main Gate having lunch. There was a group of active duty men and women in blue camouflage uniforms having lunch. This group had both young men and women. The language emanating from the table was horrible. One of the young men was discussing something about his private parts, and said it very loudly. Both men and women were using curse words. I told both of my daughters to put their "ear muffs on." The Japanese diners and staff seemed to ignore this table. I debated confronting them but I had an uncomfortable experience at the Navy Exchange (NEX) several months ago when a young man followed me around the Home Accents Store cursing louder after I asked him to watch his language. So, because I was off base with my children and without my husband in attendance, I said nothing although I was thoroughly embarrassed and uncomfortable with the bad language from this particular table. On Jan. 6, I was in Subway standing in line for lunch when a group of people (both men and women, not in uniform) were cursing loudly. There were many active duty members in uniform all around but no one said anything to this group. I finally said something to them when I noticed a two or three-year old child in front of me in the line. After one of the young ladies at the table said "She is such a b…" very loudly, as part of her conversation, I walked over to them and pointed out the young boy in line and asked them to watch their language. The young lady apologized, but the rest of the table just looked at me. One young man glared at me. I noticed they immediately left the restaurant after I spoke with them. I also would like to add that I have heard foul language inside and outside the NEX, in the food court and in the commissary. These are all places that I frequent often with my young children. It makes me very uncomfortable to have my children around such profanity. It also raises my personal stress level to be around it. I wish that these young men and women could be encouraged to not use profanity around the base and especially off base while they are representing American military in Japan.

Letter 2: Please let me give you my account of an inappropriate language situation. Just outside of the George I. Purdy Fitness Center, after I'm finished coaching the swim team about 5 p.m., there are sometimes high school age-looking children in the parking lot. The last incident was Feb. 8 at 5:15 p.m. in the middle of the parking lot. I'm not sure if they are high school students or not, but I know they aren't my swim team kids. But the swim team kids (6-14 year olds) have to hear them as they walk to meet their parents in the parking lot.

Response: Thank you for your letters regarding foul language and the disrespectful conduct of people on base. It has come to our attention that community members are concerned about the use of foul language around the installation. In addition, many of the same spouses feel intimidated at times trying to correct a young Sailor or family member who is using foul language. Onboard Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka, everyone is responsible for enforcing good order, discipline and morale. Military Police, Shore Patrol and all individuals in positions of leadership (i.e. parents, teachers, mangers, officers, chiefs and petty officers) should address the use of foul language. What can you do to combat foul language in our community? Try to correct the issue on the spot. For example, simply say "Excuse me, children are around, can you please tone down your language?" In most cases, the Sailor or family member will apologize for not recognizing their surroundings. In the worst case, they may provide unwanted feedback. In this case, simply get the Sailors name (if in uniform) or walk away from the situation. It should not escalate any further. We do request you call base security and inform them of the situation. In addition, we are addressing the use of foul language in the following forums:

- Public Service Announcement slide on base channel 15
- Eagle Nest Meeting (commanding officers)
- Area Orientation Brief /Intercultural Relations (AOB/ICR)
- Areawide CMC meetings
- Recent CFAY CO article in the base newspaper Seahawk
- Ombudsman Assembly Meeting
- Addressing middle and high school students
- Mounting posters in various locations

We are all living in an age when insulting others and sassing family and friends are considered good humor. Cursing is so common that even the most obscene profanities are heard in homes, classrooms and television. Language in general has lost a polished tone and is becoming increasingly vulgar. We have a responsibility as a community to come together and let others know that foul language is not acceptable in our community. We all need to take an active part. So I ask all of you on board Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka to clean up the language and in particular be cognizant of those around you who might overhear this offensive language.

Marriage Enrichment Workshops – Marriage Enrichment Workshops provided by the *USS George Washington* (CVN 73) (GW) Command Religious Ministries Department will be held March 24 and April 21 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Chapel of Hope. Contact the GW Chaplain's Office at 243-7454 or by e-mail to howardb@cvn73.navy.mil to sign up or for more information. These workshops directly contribute to family resiliency and help promote healthy relationships.

USNH Yokosuka Customer, Beneficiary Survey – The Bureau of Medicine and Surgery Medical Inspector General team will be conducting an inspection of U.S. Naval Hospital (USNH) Yokosuka and Branch Health Clinics from March 21-24. They value the input of all beneficiaries who utilize USNH Yokosuka and Branch Health Clinics and to assist in the inspection, they have developed a short internet-based customer/beneficiary survey to help capture customer/beneficiary concerns. In order for USNH Yokosuka to better serve your needs, please take the time to complete the following brief survey before close of business March 18. No personal identifiers are included in this survey and all responses will remain anonymous. This survey should only take a few minutes of your time. To access the online survey, go to: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TCM778B. If you would like to speak with a member of the Medical Inspector General team, please contact them at 1-800-637-6175, DSN 295-9019, or by e-mail to NavyMEDIGHotline@med.navy.mil. For more information, e-mail to nhyokosuka-pao@med.navy.mil.

Robbery from above

By Capt. David Owen,
Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka

In 1963, Alfred Hitchcock directed the movie "The Birds," which became a classic horror film. The story was centered upon unexplained attacks by birds within a small California coastal town.

Here on board Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka, we do not have flocks of non-predatory birds attacking humans, but some of the native avian inhabitants have become rather skilled thieves.

I was walking along Nimitz Street a couple weeks ago when I witnessed a large crow swoop down and grab the ice cream from an unsuspecting individual. All that was left behind was an empty paper wrapper as the thief flew off with his tasty frozen treat.

It's not just crows either. Leave an unattended carton of french fries or a bucket of chicken over at the Berkey Field area and they will likely become a mid-air snack for either the seahawks or seagulls.

As of this date, I've received a couple reports of minor injuries by these quick snatch artists to include requiring tetanus shots, and a few tears having been shed by the occasional child who suddenly lost a portion of their happy meal.

As birds of prey, seahawks do have some pretty sharp talons, so it is wise to take that into consideration when you are eating outdoors.

As temperatures start to heat up, so will the grills. Therefore, please maintain situational awareness and look to the skies - there are winged thieves above you!